
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY - COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform Council of the process for engaging our community stakeholders to revise our Community Strategic Plan 2030.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009 the NSW Division of Local Government introduced a new planning and reporting framework. This framework requires that councils develop a suite of plans to meet the objectives of their communities into the future. The highest level plan, the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), identifies our community's main priorities and aspirations for the future.

COMMENTS:

The Community Engagement Strategy (CES) outlines how Ku-ring-gai Council will involve our community in the development and review of its Community Strategic Plan 2030. The CES details the principles, guidelines and actions we will undertake to ensure all members of our community have an opportunity to provide input into the revised CSP.

The CES process will increase community awareness on the goals and aspirations of the CSP and help Council meet its legislative requirements for delivering the CSP.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the Community Engagement Strategy for the Community Strategic Plan review.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Council of the process for engaging our community stakeholders to revise our Community Strategic Plan 2030.

BACKGROUND

The Community Engagement Strategy (CES) outlines how Ku-ring-gai Council will involve our community in the delivery of the revised Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The CES details the principles, guidelines and actions we will undertake to ensure all members of our community have input into the development of the CSP.

The CSP is the highest level plan that a council will prepare. The plan identifies our community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and maps strategies for achieving these aspirations. Our CSP will reflect the strengths and opportunities in our community and alleviate the issues and pressures that negatively affect our residents and stakeholders.

Although the CSP is developed by Council, and many of the priorities are delivered at a local government level, Council is not solely responsible to deliver all elements of the CSP on its own. A range of other government agencies (Federal and State), organisations, agencies and community stakeholders all have important roles to play in delivering on the priorities in the CSP.

Ku-ring-gai Council's first CSP was adopted in 2009. An initial review of this plan has identified a number of gaps and areas that require further analysis and feedback by our community stakeholders. This CES will seek endorsement of these revisions by the community as well as addressing gaps in service delivery outside of Council's direct control.

Our Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DP & OP) is our approach to incrementally achieving the goals and aspirations of the CSP which are attributable to Council over the next four years. The findings from the upcoming CSP community engagement process will inform the DP & OP, with both documents presented in 2013 for review and adoption by Council.

COMMENTS

The Community Engagement Strategy aims to:

- partner with the community to deliver a revised CSP that reflects the changes in the community over past four years;
- build on our current visions and aspirations for the area from recent consultation;
- tap into local knowledge and expertise;
- increase community awareness of the goals and aspirations of the CSP; and
- meet legislative requirements for delivering the CSP.

The engagement approach detailed in the CES is robust and transparent. We will ensure all community stakeholders have an opportunity for comment and input. Our approach will be in line with the NSW Division of Local Government's Integrated Planning & Reporting manual and guidelines, which are underpinned by two key principles:

Item GB.7

S02165
8 November 2012

1. NSW Social Justice Principles.
2. International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum.

The NSW Social Justice Principles of inclusion and democratic representation are:

- **Equity** – There is fairness in decision making and prioritising and allocation of resources.
- **Access** – All people have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.
- **Participation** – Everyone has the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decisions which affect their lives.
- **Rights** – Everyone's rights are recognised and promoted.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Section 402 *Local Government Act 1993*, legislates the objectives and requirements for the development and content of the Community Strategic Plan, and that following an ordinary election of councillors, the council must review the CSP before 30 June following the election.

Section 406 *Local Government Act 1993*, legislates the objectives and requirements of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Guidelines.

The NSW Division of Local Government requires that Council must have an endorsed Community Engagement Strategy under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is considerable reputational and operational risk to not implementing the CES. The CSP is the community's vision for Ku-ring-gai and reflects the thoughts and opinions of our local stakeholders. This can only be adequately achieved through the implementation of the CES.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council will engage an independent consultant to facilitate a series of workshops and community stakeholder meetings throughout February and March 2013.

The expected financial investment is approximately \$30,000, and will be funded through existing budgets.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A CSP has major social implications and will dictate how Council addresses and alleviates key social issues affecting our community. The CES will provide opportunity for community stakeholders to discuss strategies and actions for addressing these issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental impacts from the implementation of this engagement strategy.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The consultation process will be divided into a series of phases outlined below:

Phase	Activity	Timeframe
1	Community workshops and online discussion forums	January – March 2013
2	Community discussion paper and CSP review	March 2013
3	Public exhibition – Draft CSP	April – May 2013
4	Public exhibition – Draft DP & OP	May 2013

It is proposed to build on past consultation and integrate results and recommendations from these engagement activities into the development of the revised CSP.

Council has consulted regularly and extensively over the past four years to establish policies, plans and strategies that shape the future of Ku-ring-gai. The current CSP stemmed from robust and best practice research including our *Sustainability Vision Report 2008*, an intergenerational examination of our community now and into the future.

The community stakeholders to be included in this process are wide and varied. They not only include people living within our local government area, but also people that use our services, are members of our clubs and run local businesses. Our stakeholders include but are not limited to the following groups:

- rate paying and non rate paying residents;
- local community organisations, clubs and groups;
- business groups and chambers of commerce;
- regional organisations i.e. NSROC; and
- State agencies relevant to the State Plan, and neighbouring councils.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

A steering committee has been established to guide the CSP review process and provide input into the engagement strategy. This committee, along with consultation from council departments, identified key gaps in our existing CSP which directed focus for the engagement strategy.

As part of the implementation of the CES, input will be sought from council departments responsible for specific service elements of the CSP, along with regular communication with councillors.

SUMMARY

The Community Engagement Strategy (CES) is our commitment to involve our community stakeholders and partners in delivering a revised Community Strategic Plan. The CES outlines why we are consulting, how we intend to consult and who we will consult with.

Delivering a CES is a statutory requirement and a critical step in delivering all our integrated planning documents by 30 June 2013.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the Community Engagement Strategy for the Community Strategic Plan review.

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Attachments: A1 Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2012 - 2013 2012/283536

