

## Community Engagement

### Head of Power

The Local Government Act 2009 includes as one of its core principles, “democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement”.

### Key Supporting Council Document/s

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Community Plan 2012 – 2022 expresses a commitment to review the Community Plan regularly in partnership with the community under the direction of the Community Engagement Policy.

### Definitions

*Community engagement* is any process where Council involves the community in problem solving or decision making and uses community input to make a decision.

*Community engagement spectrum* is a range of activities extending from informing the community of change; providing the community opportunity to comment on a range of alternatives; through to empowering the community to make a final decision. Increasing participation by the community in decision increases the expectation by the community that their input will be used to influence the decision.

*Communities of interest* are defined as individuals; groups of individuals, organisations political entities and other stakeholders that have an interest in the outcome of a decision. This can include residents; rate payers; businesses; interest groups; and may include other levels of government. These stakeholders may have a diversity of interests and can be impacted by a decision in different ways.

### Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to broadly define Council’s approach to the engagement of the community and has application across the full range of policy, planning, programs and services delivered by Lockyer Valley Regional Council.

### Policy Statement

---

Group: Executive  
Unit: Strategy & Policy

Approved: Ordinary Meeting (Resolution Number 2669)  
Date Approved: 12/09/2012

Effective Date: 12/09/2012  
Version: 1.3 Last Updated: 21/02/2013 Ordinary Meeting (Resolution Number 74)

Review Date: 30/09/2014

Superseded/Revoked: Community Engagement Policy adopted 29 June 2011.

# Policy document

## Statutory S 04

---

Lockyer Valley Regional Council views community engagement as a fundamental aspect of Council's role and is an essential element in the planning and delivery of community-focused services and operations. Council believes that community engagement is essential for building strong communities, delivering good governance and embedding community recovery and community resilience. Strengthening the community-Council relationship is the responsibility of all Council staff and elected members.

Council is committed to ensuring that community engagement strategies are of a high quality and are implemented in consideration of recognised good practice. Council will ensure that a range of appropriate community engagement methods are offered that are appropriate and responsive to the needs of the diverse communities that constitute the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area.

Engaging the community will ensure Council achieves its mission to partner with our community to enhance our rural lifestyle by delivering quality services, well managed growth, sound environmental outcomes, responsible business management and committed leadership. When engaging the community, Council will:

- Apply broad scope of engagement objectives and techniques of the Public Participation Spectrum developed by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2);
- Use an appropriate level of engagement; and
- Adopt methods that encourage and enable maximum community participation.

### **Related Documents**

International Association of Public Participation Matrix

---

Group: Executive  
Unit: Strategy & Policy

Approved: Ordinary Meeting (Resolution Number 2669)

Date Approved: 12/09/2012

Effective Date: 12/09/2012

Version: 1.3 Last Updated: 21/02/2013 Ordinary Meeting (Resolution Number 74)

Review Date: 30/09/2014

Superseded/Revoked: Community Engagement Policy adopted 29 June 2011.