

## Youth Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, 01 March, 2023

**Location:** Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

## Minutes Attachments

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## Purpose

To represent the interests and views of young people to Council and the Community



# Terms of Reference

- **Membership:** Young people aged 12 – 25 years from local High Schools, Youth Services, and the wider community
- **Capacity Building:** Participation in the YAC should be an empowering experience for the members
- **Meetings:** Quarterly in person YAC meetings on a rotating schedule across the LGA. Additional virtual working group meetings are offered to ensure ongoing communication and consultation.
- **Code of Conduct:** Informal meeting format that meets Council's Code of Meeting Practice Policy



## Priority Areas – Youth Shoalhaven

In October 2022, the YAC agreed on the following priority areas for young people in the Shoalhaven.

What matters to YOUth?

1. Health and Wellbeing support, in particular Mental Health support
2. Education, Training and Employment Opportunities, in particular improving education systems and pathways
3. Belonging and Connection to Community, in particular acceptance and respect
4. Climate Change and Sustainability
5. Public Transport

# Strategic Planning

- These priority areas inform strategic decision making by Council
- The YAC does not have a current Strategic Plan in place
- Previously Council worked within the YAC Action Plan 2019 – 2022 which outlined potential opportunities to take action on priority areas in the Council’s Shoalhaven 2027 Community Strategic Plan.



# Policies and Procedures



The YAC is guided by the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (POL21/29)







# Community Engagement Strategy - Draft

Have your say



[shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)    

# Community Engagement Strategy



- The OLG requires all councils to have a new Community Engagement Strategy with each incoming Council.
- Will replace our existing Community Engagement Policy (2012)
- Details why we engage and our approach to community engagement.
- Will be underpinned by a Community Engagement Framework.

Effective and meaningful engagement is at the heart of local government and the IP&R process. It helps communities shape their own futures and informs the vision and direction of council.



## Why we engage



# Our **community vision**

"We will work together in the Shoalhaven to foster a safe and attractive community for people to live, work, stay and play. Where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle." – Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2032

## Our **goals**

We want to provide an opportunity for everyone to be involved in the decision-making process and welcome robust and considered conversations about the process and ultimate outcomes.

Our goals are to:

- Hear a diverse range of views, opinions and ideas on the community's needs and wants
- Identify shared values, benefits and outcomes and how we can best work together
- Be open, transparent and accountable.
- Create greater community ownership, understanding and acceptance of Council decisions.



## What we aim to achieve



# Our objectives

We recognise the value the unique perspective of each person in our city and encourage participation in decision making through planned and purposeful consultation activities. The diverse needs of individuals are carefully considered and accessibility is prioritised to ensure that everyone is involved and heard.

Our community engagement strategy sets out a whole of Council commitment to:

- Provide information in a way that's easily accessed and understood to build awareness and knowledge of our policies and plans.
- Encourage collaboration and the exchange of ideas through inclusive processes.
- Build mutual respect through ongoing engagement activities.
- Be responsive and respectful of diverse views.



# Strategic alignment



This strategy directly addresses community focus areas and strategies outlined in the Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2032, as summarised below.

Key Priority	Focus Areas	Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform and engage with the community about the decisions that affect their lives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for the community to have genuine engagement on Council planning and decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide engagement opportunities for the community both online and face to face</li> <li>Explain to our local community the impacts of strategic planning as required by legislation and ensure appropriate consultation is undertaken and information is available</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide clear, consistent, relevant and accessible information to the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous improvement of Council's website, social media and media content</li> </ul>

This community engagement strategy aligns with the below policies, strategies and plans

- Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2032
- Shoalhaven City Community Participation Plan 2019
- International Association of Public Participation principles



# Our engagement framework



	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public participation goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.



# Stakeholders



# Inclusive participation



**We strive towards active, transparent, and consistent communication with our community. This two-way conversation needs to be clear accessible and delivered to a standard that meets the requirements of our growing region.**

## Ways we engage

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website &amp; social media</li> <li>Advertisements, editorials, signs, letters, notices &amp; emails</li> <li>Customer contact centres and libraries</li> <li>Translated communication material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Get Involved engagement portal</li> <li>Project committees</li> <li>Council meetings</li> <li>Public exhibition and submissions</li> <li>Surveys</li> <li>Drop-in sessions &amp; pop-up stalls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Website &amp; social media</li> <li>Project subscription options</li> <li>Webinars</li> <li>Council meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participatory decision making</li> <li>Advisory committees</li> <li>Community and stakeholder reference groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toolkits</li> <li>Regular Updates</li> <li>Advisory committees</li> <li>Community and stakeholder reference groups</li> <li>Council meeting deputations</li> </ul>





# Evaluation and reporting

## When we measure

The amount of interest in community engagement activities is unique to each campaign as it depends on the nature and impact of the subject of consultation. Regardless of the scale of consultation, evaluation is done throughout engagement activities to assess the success of the campaign and make adjustments to the communication approach as necessary.

## How we measure

We use an extensive set of tools to determine the effectiveness of our engagement activities by applying measures such as the:

- reach achieved through promotion
- level of interest shown by community enquiries
- number of people involved in the consultation activities
- quality of information provided through the community feedback.

## Reporting

The findings and outcomes of community consultations are provided to the community in a timely way through a number of ways, including:

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of collected feedback via the Get Involved community engagement platform
- Promoting findings and outcomes through media channels
- Reporting back to Council through its meeting process



# What we do next

Consultation closes 15 March 2023

Community Engagement Framework – mid year.





# Ideas and questions

