

COUNCIL POLICY LG524**DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION****KEY FOCUS AREA** LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**Purpose**

This policy provides a set of principles to guide discretionary consultation by the Town. to assist Council in making decisions.

Policy

Council values and encourages feedback from the community and will implement appropriate consultation practices to engage.

Council supports the CEO determining which level of participation is appropriate for the situation based on the levels of consultation outlined below:

INFORM	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions.
CONSULT	To obtain public feedback on analysis, consult alternatives and/or decisions.
INVOLVE	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.
COLLABORATE	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
EMPOWER	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.

Where Council's decision making is involved, the Town's administration is responsible for:

- Identifying the consultation opportunity (is it mandated, discretionary or a mix of both).
- Implementing practices to ensure an appropriate level of consultation.
- Clearly communicating to the community the purpose and aim of the consultation activity.
- Recommending the appropriate level of consultation.
- Determining and implementing the consultation methodology; and where necessary.
- Reporting to Council on the outcomes of the consultation process.

Document Control Box			
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and subsidiary legislation		
Organisational:			
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