

Community involvement in local character

February 2019

Community values and ambition for future character is at the heart of creating unique places. Local and state governments are committed to pursuing a best-practice approach to understanding and cultivating local character through early and continued engagement with you, the community.

What are the goals of engagement?

The *Local Character and Place Guideline* outlines the importance of hearing from community in the development of future character through various planning instruments. The Character Assessment Toolkit specifies that decision-makers will need to ensure engagement:

- focuses on the best interests of the community
- is inclusive and represents a diverse range of people
- is clear on the purpose including what is and is not negotiable
- is open to observations, comments and ideas coming from the community
- is available to all - consider the time, place and language of the conversation including all records of the conversation
- is transparent - open, honest and meaningful

How can you participate?

You may be invited to provide feedback at various stages of the planning process, depending on which strategic plan is being developed or revised. The following information outlines when and how you can participate in sharing what you value about your local area and inform planning for desired future character.

Regional and District strategic plans

Regional and District strategic plans determine the strategic direction and priorities for the region or district which include infrastructure, liveability, productivity and sustainability. This may have a flow on impact to your local area and the level of change that needs to be accommodated within an area.

Regional and District strategic plans must be placed on public exhibition for 45 days, during which time you will have the opportunity to provide feedback. When providing comments, you should consider the importance of establishing priorities at the regional or district level, which will feed into and set the context for the local plans.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (Community Strategic Plan)

Integrated Planning and Reporting under the Local Government Act sets out a council's aspirations and priorities for the community. You may wish to be involved in the development of community strategic plans to shape how you want your local character area to look like in the future.

Council will engage with you on creating this framework and any engagement process will be clearly communicated to you. Your views are important to Council and will assist in informing the objectives and strategies of the Plan.

Local Strategic Planning Statement

A Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is the bridge between strategic plans and local planning. It translates the higher-level strategic directions and priorities for an area and outlines a future vision, including setting the desired local character.

Community involvement in local character

February 2019

LSPS must be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, during which time you will have the opportunity to comment. When providing feedback, consider detailing your local character priorities and vision for your local area.

Local Housing Strategy

A local housing strategy (LHS) is council's response to how the housing components of district and regional strategic plans will be delivered locally. They are also informed by the community strategic plan.

The draft LHS should be publicly exhibited so that the wider community can provide feedback. Any preceding community and stakeholder engagement process should be clearly communicated to you. Council may also decide to exhibit a draft supporting planning proposal, or the council's Local Strategic Planning Statement at the same time.

Local Environmental Plan

A local environmental plan (LEP) shapes local character through land use zones, objectives and development standards and details how and where development should occur.

LEPs are required to be publicly exhibited for 28 days or as specified in their gateway determination, during which time you will have the opportunity to comment. When providing feedback, consider how the zonings and development standards will impact on the character you want for your local area.

Development Control Plan

A development control plan (DCP) provides detailed planning and design guidance to support the planning standards in the LEP.

DCPs are required to be publicly exhibited for 28 days, during which time you will have the opportunity to comment. When providing feedback, consider how the controls will impact on the character you want for your local area.

Local Character Statement

A Local Character Statement is an optional, standalone document to provide a statement of an area's existing and desired character.

There is no mandatory requirement to consult with the community. However, council and state government will generally ask for your feedback. When providing comments, you should detail how you want your future local character to be shaped for your local area.

When will these plans, statements or strategies or framework be on public exhibition or comment?

Council or state government will inform you when these documents are on exhibition or open for comment.

This may be done through a variety of methods, including advertisement in a local or state newspaper, on the organisation's website, through a newsletter, social media, email or direct mail.

How will feedback be used?

Council or state government will consider your feedback after the exhibition period is over. Some of the documents mentioned above will have a feedback report and detail how your input was considered.