

# Communications & Engagement Plan

## Background

The Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) is forecast to grow by 11,800 people over the next 15 years (Wagga Wagga Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2019 – 2034 (LICP)). Residential development will be accompanied by new employment generating development. This growth will generate additional demand for a range of local infrastructure, including roads, shared paths, open spaces and community facilities. The majority of this infrastructure is funded by Section 7.11 and 7.12 infrastructure contributions paid by developers.

Developers either make a monetary payment of Section 7.11 or 7.12 infrastructure contributions and Council will provide the required infrastructure, or they can offer to enter into an agreement with Council and construct infrastructure on behalf of Council and therefore the community. These agreements are known as Developer Agreements. A Developer Agreement is a voluntary agreement between Council and a developer. There are two types of Developer Agreements. There are Planning Agreements (where a developer offers to provide a material public benefit and is not included in the LICP) and Works in Kind Agreements (where the developer offers to construct infrastructure identified in the LICP).

The draft Developer Infrastructure Agreements Policy has been developed to provide a framework to manage both types of Developer Agreements. The draft Policy has been developed in consultation with stakeholders from across Council and Greg New from GLN Planning, a Specialist Contributions Consultant who has a long history of working with Wagga Wagga City Council on the infrastructure contributions framework. The draft Policy has also been on internal exhibition. The draft Policy has been endorsed by Council's Infrastructure Contributions Panel and reviewed by the Executive before being reported to Council. All feedback received has been considered and included in the draft Policy.

## Why engage?

To ensure the framework proposed in the draft Policy is transparent, consistent and fair developers are invited to review it and provide feedback when it is on public exhibition.

Feedback from developers will be considered carefully and the draft Policy will change if required based on the feedback before they are adopted by Council.

## Key messages

The key messages are:

- The draft Policy will replace Council's current two separate Policies relating to work in kind agreements and planning agreements
- One Policy for both types of Developer Agreements is considered best practice
- The draft Policy has been designed to be as clear and easy to understand as possible – the language used is as simple as possible
- Process diagrams have been used to illustrate the steps involved in the process
- We want to engage with developers and will consider their feedback

The draft Policy aims to:

- provide a simple, consistent, and transparent framework for Developer Infrastructure Agreements
- facilitate timely provision of infrastructure aligned to Council's strategic planning objectives
- enable developers to provide infrastructure contributions both included in, and outside those required by a contributions plan

- support development by providing flexible and innovative solutions
- ensure developers are treated fairly and consistently in their dealings with Council
- ensure developer-provided infrastructure aligns with Council's strategic plans and policies.

## Stakeholders

The major stakeholders are the developer of the city.

## Methods

Based on previous consultations the stakeholders are keen to participate in consultation about the contribution framework. An email inviting them to a workshop session, and/or a one on one discussion or drop in session has worked well in the past. The email will provide all the documentation and invite feedback. The various options to engage ensure everyone has the opportunity to discuss with Council staff before submitting a written response.

In the past developers have provided individual feedback in writing via a letter or they have combined to provide an industry wide response.

A Council your say page will ensure everyone has the opportunity to review the documents in one place and enable an easy response.

An add in Council news is required to meet legislative requirements, as is the public exhibition period of 28 days.

## Timeline

The following table provides details of the community engagement timeline.

Item	Delivery Timeframe
Report to Council	7 March 2022
Launch your say website	12 March 2022
Advertisement in Council news	12 March 2022
Public exhibition period begins	12 March 2022
Stakeholder email sent	11 March 2022
Stakeholder session 1	Week beginning 21 March 2022
Stakeholder drop in session	Week beginning 28 March 2022
Stakeholder session 2	Week beginning 18 April 2022
One on one stakeholder sessions	14 March 2022 – 22 April 2022
Advertisement in Council news	23 March 2022
Public exhibition closes	22 April 2022
Submissions close	22 April 2022
Report to Council	16 May 2022

## Materials

No materials are required to be purchased.

## Resourcing

The following table provides details of the community engagement resourcing requirements.

Item	Position Responsible
Report to Council	Director Regional Activation, Contributions Coordinator
Launch your say website	Contributions Coordinator
Advertisement in Council news	Contributions Coordinator
Stakeholder email sent	Contributions Coordinator
River Road developer meeting	Director Regional Activation, Manager City Strategy Contributions Coordinator
Stakeholder workshop 1	Director Regional Activation, Manager City Strategy Contributions Coordinator
Stakeholder drop in session	Contributions Coordinator, Regional Activation Business Support
Stakeholder session 2	Director Regional Activation, Manager City Strategy Contributions Coordinator
One on one stakeholder sessions	Contributions Coordinator, Regional Activation Business Support
Advertisement in Council news	Contributions Coordinator
Collate submissions	Contributions Coordinator
Update documents are required	Contributions Coordinator, Infrastructure Contributions Panel
Report to Council	Director Regional Activation, Manager City Strategy, Contributions Coordinator

## Risk Assessment

The following are the major risks of the engagement project.

- Developer Agreements and infrastructure contributions are complex and to communicate the process is difficult. There is a risk errors may be communicated. To address this a cheat sheet will be developed and distributed to all staff involved in the engagement.
- Feedback from stakeholders may mean the draft Policy not adopted by Council. If this occurs there is a risk that Council will receive an offer to enter in a Developer Agreement and the Policy will be not updated.

## Budget

Budget is required to place two advertisements in Council news.