

Commitment to Community Participation Policy

❖ MAROONDAH MISSION (CORPORATE PLAN 1999-2002)

“Maroondah City Council will be an efficient and dynamic leader **in partnership with its community** in ensuring quality environmental, economic and social lifestyles for its people.”

❖ STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS - OUR SERVICES (CORPORATE PLAN 1999-2002)

“**Community needs**, together with legislative requirements, will determine Council’s approach.”

❖ WHY COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION?

Council is committed to effective community participation because it:

- ◆ recognises that residents have a right to participate in decisions which may affect them;
- ◆ ensures that Council is informed about the needs and aspirations of its residents;
- ◆ provides the opportunity for early, open and ongoing dialogue in a range of settings and with residents from diverse backgrounds;
- ◆ provides a greater likelihood that the final decisions made will be reflective of the needs and aspirations of the local community;
- ◆ assists in building a balanced partnership between Council and the community;
- ◆ creates a sense of community ownership of outcomes and Council actions;
- ◆ ensures that one sector of the community is not over shadowed by others, thereby reducing the potential for conflict and confirming Council’s commitment to social justice.

❖ BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation involves communicating and consulting with residents in a variety of ways for a range of purposes. Council is committed to gathering and co-ordinating information, collaboration, negotiation and public

education to ensure community ownership of process and outcome. Community participation in “Local Government” through these means can achieve a number of important benefits for Maroondah City Council and the community as outlined below.

◆ **Information Gathering**

Collecting information, knowledge and ideas assists Council in planning, policy development and decision making. It allows Council to identify local needs and expectations in relation to a specific issue.

◆ Information Co-ordination

Co-ordination of information allows Council to manage and prioritise the numerous requests, suggestions, demands and ideas that are generated from the local community. Once co-ordinated, the priorities can be presented to the local community for negotiation and confirmation.

◆ Collaboration

By collaborating with the local community and relevant government and non government agencies, Council ensures that planning and implementation of policies and programs reflects the needs of the local community.

◆ Negotiation

Negotiation with the local community and relevant government and non government agencies, ensures that Council's final decisions in respect of policy and program directions are reflective of the priorities of the local community.

◆ Community Education

Education activities ensure that the local community is adequately informed of Council's plans and the rationale for final decisions. The sharing of information and knowledge empowers residents to be active and responsible.

❖ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Different levels of participation and forms of consultation are appropriate depending on the issue being addressed, the objective of the community participation activity, and the nature of information involved.

The attached table (Table 1) identifies the levels of community participation for specific Council activities.

Table 1: Levels Of Community Participation For Specific Council Activities.

Area	Level of Community Participation				Examples of Processes
	No/ Limited Consultation	Information Sharing/ Education	Targeted Community Consultation	Full Community Consultation	
Internal Council Operations Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources (staff recruitment) • Operational/Financial Management 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Employment procedures, position descriptions and organisational structures available to public
Council Programs and Activities Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and Environmental Planning Services • Aged and Disabled Services 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Service brochures and pamphlets available ◆ Maroondah Community Guide ◆ Maroondah Focus ◆ Press releases ◆ Public notices
Statutory Processes Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Planning Consultative Meetings • Re-zoning applications/Land sales 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Public meetings ◆ Request for submissions and/or comment (advertised) ◆ Targeted letter box drops ◆ Press releases
Policy and Strategy Development - Issue based Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure and Culture Strategy • Family and Children's Services Strategy 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Public meetings/forums ◆ Request for submissions and/or comment (advertised) ◆ Issue based workshops ◆ Surveys (issue or service based)
Policy and Strategy Development - General Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroondah Vision 2020 (review) • Maroondah Planning Scheme NB: The community participation in policy and strategy					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Public meetings/forums ◆ Annual Report available for comment (includes audited financial statement) ◆ Corporate Plan available for comment ◆ Request for submissions and/or

development (general and issue based) ensures that the community's voice is fully represented in Council Programs and activities (above).

comment (advertised)
◆ Survey - Resident and Business satisfaction