

Council Policy: Stakeholder Engagement

Purpose & Scope

To ensure all relevant stakeholders, where appropriate, are provided with a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in and contribute to problem solving, planning and decision making by the WMRC.

To ensure stakeholder confidence in the timeliness, effectiveness, consistency, and value of open, two-way stakeholder communication.

This policy applies to WMRC Councillors, staff and consultants contracted by the WMRC; and anyone else who might undertake activities on behalf of or for the WMRC.

The scope is guided by Section 1.3 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* which states:

This Act is intended to result in:

- a. Better decision-making by local governments;*
- b. Greater stakeholder participation in the decisions and affairs of local governments;*
- c. Greater accountability of local governments to their communities; and*
- d. More efficient and effective local government.*

The policy ensures the WMRC encourages stakeholder participation and/or provides meaningful, and appropriate communication to stakeholders when making decisions, undertaking planning, delivering services, infrastructure and other projects.

Strategic Objectives

- SCP 1 – Achieve a comprehensive cost-effective waste management service across the region
- SCP 2 – Increase the number of Councils, businesses and people using our services
- SCP 5 – Develop a strong and capable organisation
- SCP 6- Contribute to the development of effective policy and advocate on our member Councils' behalf

Relevant Legislation

- Local Government Act 1995 S1.3(2)

Policy

The WMRC recognises the importance of tailored, effective, transparent, and inclusive stakeholder consultation to ensure the wider stakeholders' feedback is considered in the decision-making process.

The WMRC commits to engage on matters that affect stakeholders in a manner that is accessible and meets legislative requirements, while adapting to answer the needs of our changing and diverse stakeholder groups.

This Policy reflects the aspirations identified in the WMRC's *Strategic Community Plan 2021–2030*. WMRC is a shared-service organisation and stakeholder consultation plays a vital role in the way we work including making decisions.

In stakeholder engagement, the WMRC is guided by *the International Association of Public Participation* (IAP2) principles and core values to inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower stakeholders:

- we seek out and facilitate the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including decision makers and those potentially affected by or interested in a decision;
- we provide participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way;
- we listen to and acknowledge stakeholder concerns and aspirations, and acknowledge how their contribution will influence the final decision;
- we work together with the stakeholder to formulate solutions, and incorporate their advice and recommendations into WMRC decisions to the maximum extent possible; and
- we ensure that stakeholder concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the final outcomes.

Associated Procedures

- Member Council Elected Members and staff engagement procedure
- WMRC Staff engagement procedure
- Other stakeholder engagement procedure

Adopted / Modified

This policy is required to be reviewed every 3 years.

	Meeting Date	Resolution #	Implementation Responsibility
Council Adoption	03/02/2022	Item 10.7	Chief Executive Officer