

Environmental Sustainability Strategy Community consultation summary – May 2014

The Strategy's Strategic Community Engagement and Communications Plan (M13 / 3486) was developed according to the guidelines and requirements of the Greater Shepparton Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Toolkit. The desired level of community participation is involve/collaborate. We aim "to work collaboratively with staff, community groups, organisations and stakeholders to plan, develop and manage projects and programs".

The Strategy development process has had a strong emphasis on community engagement and Council staff, stakeholder organisations and the Greater Shepparton community will be provided with three opportunities to participate in the development process.

1. Environmental Sustainability Surveys

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee produced two surveys in 2012 to gain an understanding of Council's environmental sustainability management performance and to ensure that the contents of the Strategy reflect the community's environmental priorities and values.

- 143 community members participated in the "community environmental sustainability values and behaviours survey"
- 27 staff members from all five Council directorates contributed via the "Council staff environmental sustainability survey".

Please refer to the M13/57465 and M13/57466 for summary reports of the feedback received via these surveys.

2. Discussion paper consultation

The discussion paper was written by the SRC to provide Council, Council stakeholders and the wider community with background information relevant to the development of the Strategy. Key outcomes from the six-week discussion paper community consultation period (March, April 2013):

- Fifty-two people attended the four community workshops held at:
 - Dookie (18/03/13, 16 attendees)
 - Shepparton (20/03/13, 15 attendees)
 - Mooroopna (20/03/13, 12 attendees)
 - and Tatura (10/04/13, 9 attendees).
- Eighty-five community responses received.
- The community responses contained 1,072 specific comments.
- Comments relating to Council's efforts to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy were very positive.
- A companion "What you said" report containing specific comments and responses received about the discussion paper was also available to the community during the Draft – Strategy consultation period.

Please refer to the discussion paper consultation summary report (M13/25310) and "What you said" document (M13/61596) for further information.

3. Draft - Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014 - 2030) and Action Plan (2014 - 2017) consultation

The Draft - Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014 - 2030) and Action Plan (2014 - 2017) was released for community consultation during January and February 2014. The Draft Strategy was emailed or posted to a pre-existing list of stakeholders and community groups, available at Council offices or provided upon request. Community input was also encouraged via traditional and social media avenues.

- Fifty-five responses received
 - 21 individual community members
 - 12 agencies, organisations or community groups
 - 22 Council staff
- These responses contained 420 specific comments.
- Comments relating to Council's efforts to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy were very positive. Positive comments related to the comprehensiveness, structure and honesty of the document and consultation process.
- A Strategy companion "What you said" report containing specific comments and responses will be available to the community once the Draft – Strategy is released for community consultation.

Please refer to the Draft Strategy "What you said" document (M14/30550) for further information.