

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016





English

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Arabic

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Assyrian

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Chinese Traditional

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Khmer

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Spanish

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Vietnamese

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Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên, xin gọi Dịch Vụ Thông Dịch Viên Qua Điện Thoại ở số 131 450 để được giúp đỡ.



Content

INTRODUCTION		BUILDING ON WHAT WE HAVE HEARD	
Background	3	Building on what we have heard	21
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY What is the Community Engagement Strategy Objective	7 7	EVALUATION AND MONITORING How will be evaluate the engagement methods Timeframe	23 23
What is community	8	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION	
What is community engagement	8 9	PLAN	25
IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum and Council's Principles of Engagement	9	Inform	25
Key stakeholders	10	Consult, involve and collaborate	26 29
Community engagement methods	11	Empower	20
OUR COMMUNITY			
Opportunities, challenges and key consideration	13		
Cultural diversity	13		
Religious diversity and faith based groups	14		
Children	15		
Young people	16		
Disability and aged people	17		
Understand participation barriers	18		
Education organisations and institutions	19		
Business community	19		

INTRODUCTION



Background

Fairfield City Council (Council) must prepare and implement a Community Engagement Strategy based on social justice principles for engagement (Local Government Act 1993) with the local community in developing and reviewing the Fairfield City Plan (City Plan) every four years. The City Plan is a 10 year plan that represents Fairfield City's community's vision, needs and priorities.

Community engagement is an essential part of the way Council does business with the community about planning for the City's future. In 2010 and 2012, Council had undertaken extensive community and stakeholder engagement to identify the long term direction of the community, within its 2012-2022 Fairfield City Plan. The engagement techniques involved surveys, focus groups, web feedback

forms, and events for all stakeholders within Fairfield. Stakeholders included residents (all ages), businesses, government agencies, community organisations and education institutions. Over 3,000 stakeholders took the opportunity to have their say on what they felt was important for the community and where they believe Fairfield City should be heading.

This Community Engagement Strategy has been developed to identify how Council will again engage its community to establish if their vision, goals, priorities and aspirations for the future of Fairfield City have changed and that these are included in the new 2016-2026 Fairfield City Plan.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



Community Engagement Strategy

What is the Community Engagement Strategy?

The Community Engagement Strategy outlines the principles, guidelines and actions Council will undertake in order to ensure that the community and relevant stakeholders are engaged and involved in the development of the Fairfield City Plan. Building on our existing engagement processes and ensuring that it meets with the Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The Community Engagement Strategy is a practical tool which assists Council with identifying stakeholders, including those who are hard to reach. The Strategy aims to ensure that all stakeholders are able to access, participate and have input into the development, implementation and review of the Fairfield City Plan.

Objectives

The objectives of the Community Engagement Strategy are to:

- Undertake engagement in a variety of fun and exciting ways with the community.
- Engage all stakeholders including the hard to reach.
- Ensure all legislative requirements for engagement are met.
- Develop a detailed report on the needs and priorities of the community for the development of the City Plan and other IPR documents.





What is community?

The word 'community' is a very broad term used to define groups of people; whether they are stakeholders, interest groups, citizen groups, etc. A community may be a geographic location (community of place), a community of similar interest (community of practice), or a community of affiliation or identity (such as business or sporting club).

What is community engagement?

For the purposes of this Strategy, 'community engagement' is any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision making and uses public input to make decisions (International Association of Public Participation - IAP2). It is an inclusive process to ensure the community has the opportunity to participate in decisions that impact on their lives.





IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum and Council's Principles of Engagement

The IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum details the different levels of participation that identifies the goals and defines the role of the community in any community engagement activity. The Participation Spectrum supports Fairfield City Council's Principles of Engagement, which details our promise to the community and are included in the spectrum below. Council's Principles of Engagement are based on the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and rights. The Participation Spectrum and Council's Principles of Engagement will guide the Community Engagement Strategy to engage the community on a number of levels for the development of the Fairfield City Plan and other Integrated Planning and Reporting documents.

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
OUR PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC (Fairfield City Council's Principles of Engagement)	Principle 4 - Being open and clear about the level of influence available to those attending each engagement process. Principle 7 - Reporting back to the community 'closing the loop' on what we have heard and how it has influence the Fairfield City Plan.	Principle 1 - Building on previous engagement to avoid duplication and over engagement. Principle 3 - Listening to and understanding the community's view and aspirations to ensure better decision making.	Principle 5 - Ensuring everyone has opportunities to be involved including the 'hard to reach' groups in accordance with Council' Assess and Equity principles.	Principle 6 - Ensuring the best interest of the community will prevail over individual or vested interests.	Principle 2 - Incorporating what the community has to say into the Fairfield City Plan. Principle 8 - Changing the way government and community work together.



Key stakeholders

Our key stakeholders is anyone who has an interest in the issue and who should be included in the engagement process, which include (but are not limited to) the following key groups identified in the diagram below. Engagement of our key stakeholders will rely on staff skills, community profile and demographic data, and expert staff knowledge of the community to identify and locate stakeholders. It is recognised that stakeholders are subject to change and different engagement programs will target different



10



Community engagement methods

There are a variety ways of engaging with our community. Engaging with the community by using multiple methods is necessary and will increase the likelihood of gaining a more representative response. Below is an overview of the engagement techniques Council will employ to engage with our community:

ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES					
INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER	
 Community Newsletters Council's Website Community exhibitions and displays Council Community notice boards Digital media screens Emails Educational Workshops Fact sheets Flyers Information stalls in public places Mail outs / letters Staff community networks 	 Public comment and submissions Focus groups Surveys, including online surveys Public meetings Feedback forms Interviews Feedback and suggestion boxes Community barbeques Advisory Committees Interagency networks Partner with service providers and community groups to engage with hard to reach groups 	 Open public meetings, community briefing sessions and workshops Forums Youth and other targeted reference groups Online discussion forums and blogs Use of social media including Facebook and Twitter 	 Consensus building activities Participatory decision making processes Development and implementation of partnership projects Interagency networks and working groups 	Delegated decisions through Council Committees and meetings.	

OUR COMMUNITY



Opportunities, challenges and key considerations

Cultural diversity

Fairfield City is one of the most culturally diverse areas in Australia. It embodies a mixture of cultures living in harmony. Culture in Fairfield City is rich, vibrant, multilayered and complex, and expressed through different customs, celebrations and traditions. In Fairfield City, our demographic of cultures is constantly changing and evolving as residents arrive and leave.

According to the 2011 Census, 50% of people in Fairfield City, came from countries where English was not their first language, which represents 44 rich cultures from around the world.

Engagement considerations include:

- Translating key information into community languages, where possible, in the major and emerging community languages including surveys, promotional material, Council's City Life and newsletters, social media and website.
- Use interpreters and bilingual community educators.
- Use existing networks to partner with service providers and community groups to engage with hard to reach groups.
- Use ethnic newspapers and radio including translated press releases and community advertisements.
- Seek and understand information on cultural practices of the participants to ensure they are accommodated in any engagement activities.
 For example talking with community Indigenous Elders prior to engagement with the broader Aboriginal community etc.
- Use easy to understand language by keeping it simple, concise and relative to your intended audience.
- Avoid using insensitive language, assumptions or generalisations about people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

- To overcome participation concerns, particularly
 of newly arrived communities that have had
 negative experience with authorities from their
 country of origin. It is general best practice to
 explain the engagement process, their role and
 how the information will be used as well as their
 rights to privacy, anonymity and confidentiality.
- Use of visual aids, opportunities for oral participation and inclusion of interactive activities.



50% of people from a non-English speaking background





Religious diversity and faith based groups

Cultural groups embrace many different religious beliefs. While Australia is regarded as a Christian country all other religions are respected and represented via churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other places of worship. Fairfield City is home to a diversity of 28 religions and religious cultural groups. According to the 2011 Census some of the dominate religious groups includes the Western (Roman) Catholic, which comprises 32% of the population followed by Buddhism 23%, Anglican 5%, Islam 5% and Assyrian Apostolic 3%.

Engagement considerations include:

 Seek and understand information about religious practices of the participants to ensure they are

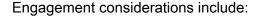
- accommodated in any engagement activities.
- Any catering arrangements must take into account special dietary requirements of different religious and cultural groups, for example a selection of halal and vegetarian should be considered dependant on the target group.
- Providing equal opportunities for men and women to participate.
- Avoid holding engagement activities during periods of significant religious and cultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Easter, Christmas, Buddha's Enlightenment Day, Vesak, Ramadan, Eid, etc.
- Use existing networks to partner with service providers and community groups to engage with hard to reach groups.





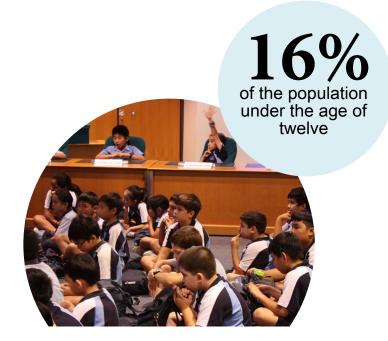
Children

Fairfield City has a higher rate of children at 16.1% of the population under the age of 12 in comparison to Greater Sydney (ABS, Census 2011). Council recognises the importance of children's participation and asking them more than just their ideas and views but actually listening to them, taking them seriously and turning their ideas and suggestions into reality. It is also about providing them with the ability to influence some of the things that affect them and at the same time helping adults understand children's issues through their lens.



- Topics or issues need to be real and relevant to children.
- Using existing ethnic organisations and networks such as regional ethnic councils, refugee and migrant associations, churches and other places of worship (for example mosques and temples) to get their ideas about involving children.
- Recognise that children, like adults, may have different views about an issue and make it clear that you appreciate their individual views.
- Address the specific needs of children with disabilities.
- Ensure activities and interactions adhere to the accepted guidelines of professional and ethical practice.







Young people

Young people continue to shape our community with their new ideas and energy. All young people have strengths, talents and abilities, when encouraged and promoted as capable and confident citizens of Fairfield City. Their energy and enthusiasm allows them to lead the way of innovation, creativity and volunteering.

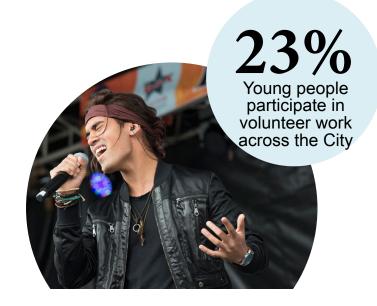
According to the 2011 Census, young people (12-24 year olds) represent 19.3% of the total population of the Fairfield City. The Strategy for Youth People in Fairfield City 2013-2017 provides the strategic direction and formalise Council's commitments to development and support of young people in Fairfield City.

Engagement considerations include:

- Form and utilise existing partnerships with youth service providers and schools to provide innovative and relevant engagement activities for young people.
- Ensure activities and interactions adhere to the accepted guidelines of professional and ethical practice.
- Utilise existing youth programs offered by Council such as recreational, sporting, social activities and events.
- Undertake engagement activities in youth friendly spaces including easy access to public transport.
- Utilise a range of social media including Facebook and Twitter, smart phone applications and SMS notifications to get young people involved and keep them engaged.

19% of the population are young people







Aged and people with a disability

Fairfield City Council is committed to creating a City that is inclusive and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

Ageing people present important opportunities for Council. Ageing people offer rich life experiences, well-developed skills, knowledge and wisdom, all of which significantly contribute to the rich fabric of the community. Importantly, ageing people make a considerable contribution to the local community by being actively involved in voluntary work.

Council acknowledges that people with disabilities are a significant part of the Fairfield community with a very different point of view of the challenges and opportunities into the future. They can provide a wealth of knowledge and experience that may just need to be captured using different engagement methods to ensure they have an opportunity to have their say.

According to the 2011 Census, 15.5% of the population in Fairfield City are either aged people (70 and over) or require help in their day-today lives due to a disability.

Engagement considerations include:

- Seek and understand information about religious and cultural practices of the participants to ensure they are accommodated in any engagement activities.
- Provide inclusiveness, accessibility and opportunities for people with disabilities when selecting engagement location and activities.
- Providing equal opportunities for them to participate.
- Use existing networks to partner with service providers and community groups to engage the aged and disabled.





Understanding participation barriers

Fairfield residents are the third lowest under the Index of relative Socio-economic Disadvantage in NSW. These disadvantages include poverty, housing stress, poor access to health and education, previous experiences of trauma, health problems and disabilities and unemployment. The aim of the community engagement activities is to capture a wide cross section of the community in terms of age, gender, cultural and religious diversity in order to develop a meaningful City Plan.

When developing engagement activities the following needs to be taken into consideration:

- Use a pre-registration process to identify people with particular needs. As a result, measures should be put in place, for example access for people with a disability, dietary requirements, etc.
- Obtain consent from all participants at registration, where photos or film footage will be taken and provide options for people who do not want their image recorded. Ensure to deliver this information at registration and through clearly visible signage.
- Provide engagement activities during and after business hours and on weekends.
- Provide engagement activities by going out to the community in heavy traffic locations and shopping centre.
- Provide facilitator training to all staff involved in engagement activities.
- Only collect relevant personal information needed for the purpose of the engagement.
- Questionnaires should be developed and managed in a process to avoid bias.

- Utilise senior staff to assist in facilitating engagement activities to reinforce to the community that their feedback, ideas and suggestions are being heard and considered.
- Utilise a range of methods of communication and do not rely on written and verbal material only.
- Provide hard copies of promotional material and documents, which can be accessed by those without computer or internet access as 24.7% of the population do not have regular access to the internet.
- Understanding political sensitive concerns when engaging networks/groups that had a negative experience or dealing with a government agency.
- Deliver information in a clear and accessible language. Always use common, every day, jargon-free language. Be clear and straight to the point and avoid language that may be patronising or confusing.



Education organisations and institutions

Fairfield City has a total of 122 educational institutions – 58 early education centres, 44 Primary Schools, 19 Secondary Schools and a TAFE. We also have other education resources including education and language providers, and lifelong learning classes.

Engagement considerations include:

- Tap into existing library activities and networks.
- Use of schools and other learning institutions such as TAFE and English language training providers as sites for the delivery of engagement activities as well as to promote or disseminate information, e.g. school newsletters and noticeboards.
- Use of age appropriate methods and materials considering levels of education competency of participants.
- Use visual aid and demonstrations.

122 educational instituations across Fairfield City

Fairfield City Council Community Engagement Strategy

Business community

Businesses are increasingly recognising the importance of corporate social responsibility and importance of businesses getting involved in community issues. Fairfield City has an estimated 13,840 local businesses registered. Fairfield City has a large industrial estate at Wetherill Park and Smithfield.

Engagement considerations include:

- Use plain language and practical content.
- Utilise the local Chamber of Commerce a method to engage business, which a strong networks between local businesses and other existing business/industry networks (both local and regional).
- Engagements should be organised as a breakfast or evening event to encourage participation of the business community.



BUILDING ON WHAT WE HAVE HEARD



Building on what we have heard

The development of the Community Engagement Strategy is built on years of activity. Fairfield City Council has a wealth of information which continues to inform the direction for the City. The Community Engagement Strategy harnesses the success of existing networks and previous engagements to provide the foundations to build upon.

In 2010 and 2012, Fairfield City Council undertook a comprehensive engagement to inform the Fairfield City Plan 2012-2022. This involved surveys (both residents and businesses), a series of focus groups with residents, government departments, community organisations, schools and youth representatives, website feedback form and youth event. More than 1271 residents took the opportunity to have a say on what they feel is important to the community and where they believe Fairfield City should be heading.

This community engagement asked residents to define what they like about living in the city, what they would like to change and then to prioritise what they want to see achieved in the future. As a result a list of the top ten priorities was identified.

Priority 1 - Improved Community Safety

Priority 2 - A Clean and Attractive Place

Priority 3 - Better Health Services

Priority 4 - Less Rubbish Dumping

Priority 5 - Cleaner Environment

Priority 6 - Improved Roads

Priority 7 - Better Public Transport

Priority 8 - Access to Schools, Universities and TAFE

Priority 9 - More Parking

Priority 10 - More Activities for Children and Youth

This Community Engagement Strategy has been developed to identify how Council will again engage its community to establish if their vision, goals, priorities and aspirations for the future of Fairfield City have changed and that these are included in the new 2016-2026 Fairfield City Plan.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING



How will we evaluate the engagement methods

Council will use a variety of methods to evaluate the engagement methods and activities. These include the follow measure but not limited to:

- Relevancy of engagement methods appropriate to the target group.
- Verbal and written feedback from all stakeholders on the effectiveness of the engagement activities.
- Participation levels in engagement activities (number of participants).

- Achieve the identified engagement objectives within this strategy.
- Inclusive community representation
- Level of qualitative and quantitative information collected.

These evaluation results will be used to improve future engagement strategies and methods as a way to learn from our experiences.

Timeframe

As per the Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009, Council's are required to complete its engagement with the community prior to the next suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, which are to be adopted in June 2017.

To meet this timeframe the following milestones for the Fairfield City Plan 2016-2026 are identified:

Timeframe	Milestones
Dec 2015	Community Engagement Strategy Adopted
Feb - April 2016	Community Engagements
May 2016	Community Engagement Outcomes and Community Survey Results
June – Sept 2016	Review City Plan (Community Strategic Plan in line with the community's main priorities and aspirations)
Nov - Jan 2017	Exhibit City Plan
Feb 2017	Adopt City Plan

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN



Action Plan

Council will utilise the following techniques and actions to engage the community and identify their needs and priorities, but is not limited to these actions:

INF	ORM				
	Action	Targeted Stakeholders	Responsibility	Timeframe	Performance Measures and Targets
1.	Develop and implement the Communications Plan which includes: - Local and community bilingual newspapers - Community radio - Council's website - Social media and Eventbrite - Council's publication (City Connect and City Life) - Community newsletters - Staff networks - Digital media screens - Events	All	Communication and Marketing Manager	December 2015 – April 2016	 Communications Plan Developed # People reached (target 100,000) # Activities (target 11) % Effectiveness
2.	Inform and notify key stakeholders through: - Mail out/ letters - Emails - Flyers - Staff networks - Posters - Meeting requests	Community organisations, businesses, Schools and education providers, government agencies, Council staff and Councillors	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February - March 2016	 # People reached (target 5000) # Activities (target 6) % Effectiveness
3.	Participate and promote community engagement in public stalls at Council and community events.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February -April 2016	# People engaged (target 400)# Events% Effectiveness
4.	Develop a Community Participate Register for future engagements.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February -April 2016	 # People signed up to register (target 1000)



CONSULT, INVOLVE AND COLLABORATE					
	Action	Targeted Stakeholders	Responsibility	Timeframe	Performance Measures and Targets
1.	Deliver open forums and public meetings across 3 locations within Fairfield City.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February - March 2016	 # People (target 300) # Locations (target 3) % Satisfied with engagement activities (target 85%) Gaps and needs identified
2.	Undertake conversational survey across key town centres.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February 2016	 # People (target 600) # Locations (target 5) Gaps and needs identified
3.	Develop and undertake online pop-up survey on all computers at Council's libraries.	All	Manager Library Services	February 2016	 # People (target 1000) # Locations (target 5) Gaps and needs identified
4.	Participate and develop engagement activities at Council's events such as Bring it On Festival, Lunar New Year, Harmony Day, Seniors Week, Australia Day, etc.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February - March 2016	 # People (target 1000) # Events (target 5) % Satisfied with engagement activities (target 85%) Gaps and needs identified
5.	Provide access to public surveys and submissions boxes at Council's facilities such leisure centres, Libraries, museum and gallery, community centres, etc.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February 2016	 # People (target 200) # Locations (target 5) Gaps and needs identified



CON	CONSULT, INVOLVE AND COLLABORATE					
	Action	Targeted Stakeholders	Responsibility	Timeframe	Performance Measures and Targets	
6.	Host public surveys and community BBQs at 2 locations across Fairfield City.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	March 2016	 # People (target 200) # Locations (target 2) Gaps and needs identified 	
7.	Hire and utilise promotion staff member to promote the surveys across all of Council's facilities.	All	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February – March 2016	# People (target 1500)Gaps and needs identified	
8.	Host engagement activities for existing workshops and programs at Council's libraries.	Cultural and linguistic diverse communities	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	March 2016	 # People (target 200) # Sessions (target 5) Gaps and needs identified 	
9.	Partner with service providers and community groups to engage with hard to reach groups.	Community organisations and groups	Managers Social and Cultural Development	March 2016	 # People (target 500) # Sessions (target 5) Gaps and needs identified 	
10.	Develop and email an online survey to all Government stakeholders.	Government Agencies	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	January 2016	# People (target 50)Gaps and needs identified	
11.	Undertake focus groups with the Chambers of Commerce.	Businesses	Manager Place and Strategy	March-April 2016	 # People (target 50) # Sessions (target 2) % Satisfied with engagement activities (target 85%) Gaps and needs identified 	



CONSULT, INVOLVE AND COLLABORATE					
Action	Targeted Stakeholders	Responsibility	Timeframe	Performance Measures and Targets	
12. Host a business breakfast forum.	Businesses	Manager Place and Strategy	March 2016	 # People (target 50) # Sessions (target 1) % Satisfied with engagement activities (target 85%) 	
Develop and implement engagement activities with Councillors and Council staff.	Councillors and Council staff	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	March 2016	 # People (target 150) # Sessions (target 2) % Satisfied with engagement activities (target 85%) Gaps and needs identified 	
 Undertake focus groups with Council's advisory committees and interagency meetings. 	Community organisations and groups, Youth, Seniors, and Government Agencies	Managers Social and Cultural Development	April 2016	 # People (target 200) # Sessions (target 5) Gaps and needs identified 	
 Deliver engagement activities at Council's child care centres. 	Children	Manager Children and Family Services	February 2016	 # People (target 160) # Sessions (target 7) Gaps and needs identified 	
 Deliver engagement activities at 4 local Schools (primary and secondary). 	Youth	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	April 2016	 # People (target 400) # Sessions (target 4) Gaps and needs identified 	



EM I	EMPOWER					
	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Performance Measures and Targets		
1.	Develop a community engagement outcomes and community survey report to Council.	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	May 2016	Report developed on time		
2.	Inform and assure the community about the results from the community engagements activities in 5 open public forums across Fairfield City.	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	June 2016	# People# Sessions% Agreed with the results		
3.	Place the reviewed Fairfield City Plan on public exhibition in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	November 2016	 City Plan is exhibited and feedback is considered. 		
4.	The new elected Councillors to adopt the proposed reviewed Fairfield City Plan.	Manager Corporate Planning and Improvements	February 2017	City Plan is adopted		



Fairfield City Council's Community Engagement Strategy is available for viewing at Council's website www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/cityplan

Enquiries about information contained in this report or other related matters should be directed to Council by contacting 9725 0222.

Design and Production

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