

2.0 Worksheet – Developing your approach to engagement

This is a tool to help you:

- review and understand the potential perspectives of the community and other stakeholders.
- discuss and agree on the approach to engagement.

A council should respond to the questions in the worksheet with its project team and others who understand the perspectives of the community and other stakeholders.

While responses will vary for different community and other stakeholder groups, a council should discuss with the Department their assumptions about overall impacts, interests and the potential for conflict. Answers to questions should also draw on the results of any previous engagement.

Question	Explanation	Assumptions and project considerations in relation to this question
<p>Impacts on the community or other stakeholders can be direct, indirect, cumulative or perceived. Impacts may be experienced differently depending on the characteristics or experiences of the affected community and other stakeholders.</p> <p>You should respond to questions 1 – 4 of this worksheet considering: 1) the number of different impacts 2) the severity of the impacts 3) the number of affected community members or stakeholders. You should also consider the findings of any available and relevant specialist studies.</p>		
1.	<p>What is the potential for direct impact on the community or other stakeholders?</p> <p>Direct impacts are those caused directly by the proposed project.</p> <p>Examples include noise, dust, vibration, visual impact, overshadowing, traffic disruption, property acquisition and service availability or disruption.</p>	

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2.	What is the potential for indirect impact on the community or other stakeholders?	<p>Indirect impacts are those that are not caused directly by the project going ahead, but may be attributed to it.</p> <p>Examples include loss of business or custom and changed property values.</p>	
3.	What is the potential for cumulative impact on the community or other stakeholders?	<p>Cumulative impact result from a combination of past, present and future project impacts.</p> <p>Examples include gradual loss of open space, incremental increase in road congestion and changing neighbourhood character.</p>	
4.	What is the potential for perceived impact on the community or other stakeholders?	<p>Perceived impacts are those that are real for the person experiencing the impact regardless of evidence which might suggest otherwise.</p> <p>Examples might include health impacts from wind farms and property damage from being located above deep tunnelling.</p>	

Interest in a project will vary depending on who is interested and the nature of that interest.

A council should respond to questions 5 – 8 of this worksheet considering: 1) the range of different interests 2) the number of community and other stakeholders with interests.

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The responses will contribute to determining the level of engagement needed to address this interest.

A council should continue to monitor and evaluate the level of interest in the project as it might change as the project progresses. Monitoring and evaluation might occur through ongoing analysis of stakeholder issues, dialogue with those with an interest, and reviews of social and traditional media.

5.	What is the current or likely interest that the community or other stakeholders might have in the project?	<p>Interest in a project might be determined by the extent that it could come under public scrutiny and could be either positive or negative.</p> <p>Interests might be generic e.g. 'I'm interested in knowing how the project progresses' or specific e.g. 'I'm interested in understanding how ecology is affected by the project'.</p>	
6.	What is the current or likely concern that the community or other stakeholders might have about the project?	<p>Concerns about a project are those elements the community may disagree with, oppose, not understand or be worried about.</p> <p>Concerns might be generic e.g. 'I don't think this project should go ahead' or specific e.g. 'I am opposed to the loss of vegetation caused by this project'.</p>	
7.	What is the current or likely influence that the community or other stakeholders might have over the project?	<p>Influence over a project might be granted to communities or other stakeholders, or expected by communities or other stakeholders because of their interest.</p>	

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		Influence may be exerted through the engagement opportunities, or by lobbying, protesting, posting on social media or obtaining traditional media coverage.	
8.	What is the likely involvement that the community or other stakeholders might expect or require?	<p>Involvement expected or required by communities or other stakeholders may reflect the level of involvement in past projects e.g. they were actively involved, or they were offered limited opportunities for involvement.</p> <p>Attention should be paid to involve interested parties when they are part of, or represent, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/s, young and old people, people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities or any other potentially vulnerable group.</p>	
<p>Questions 1 – 8 of this work sheet focus on the level of impact and interest of the community and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Questions 9 – 10 of this work sheet assess the variation in impacts and interests as they affect different parts of the community.</p> <p>You should consider the potential for conflict or disagreement and the level of engagement needed to address this.</p>			
9.	What is the likelihood that impacts will vary between the community and/or other	Impacts of a project across the same or adjoining communities might be experienced differently e.g. parts of the	

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	stakeholders within that same community?	community might be negatively affected by the construction or location of the proposed project, while others might benefit from the outcomes of the project or through compensation.	
10.	What is the likelihood that interests will vary between the community and/or other stakeholders within that same community?	Interest in a project across the same or adjoining communities may vary depending on who is interested and what they are interested in e.g. parts of the community might support the current project, while others might be interested in exploring alternatives.	