



Scenic Rim Regional Council
Draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme
Communications Strategy



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1 Purpose

This Communications Strategy has been prepared to inform Council, the community and the Chief Executive of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) of the proposed communication activities for the formal public consultation of the draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme (planning scheme).

The preparation of a draft planning scheme creates the opportunity to bring together stakeholders from Council, local communities and economic, social and environmental industries in the planning process. It is a way of making sure that everyone who lives, works, or owns property in the Scenic Rim can have a say or actively participate in decision making processes that will shape the future land use policy for the region.

It is widely recognised that the level of stakeholder ownership and alignment to community values are critical success factors of the effective implementation of the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme. Therefore, this Communications Strategy aims to maximise the potential of greater stakeholder ownership of the planning scheme by using consultation methods that offer time and spaces for inclusion and input beyond the statutory requirements.

This strategy provides an overview of:

- a) previous community consultation activities undertaken to inform the drafting of the planning scheme;
- b) the statutory requirements for the consultation of a draft planning scheme;
- c) the proposed consultation activities for Council's formal public consultation of the draft planning scheme; and
- d) the proposed framework for reviewing and responding to public submissions in the draft planning scheme.

This strategy was informed by the *Community Engagement Toolkit for Planning* prepared by DSDMIP, dated July 2017.

2 Background

On 24 July 2017 Council resolved in accordance with section 18 of the *Planning Act 2016* (the Act) to commence the preparation of a new Scenic Rim Planning Scheme. Council had been preparing the draft planning scheme under the repealed *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and the *Statutory Guideline for Making and Amending Local Planning Instruments* (MALPI) and the process had substantially progressed to the State Interest Review stage.

Since the draft planning scheme and Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) had not yet commenced public consultation, it was considered that preparing these instruments under the new Act was the best way forward.

The benefits of this approach include:

- a) a planning scheme that is better aligned with current State planning instruments;
- b) a planning scheme that reflects the concepts and terminology of the new Act; and
- c) avoiding confusion within the community by having a planning scheme that references the new Act, rather than the repealed *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* - particularly during the public consultation of these draft instruments.

Considering the advanced status in the preparation process of the draft planning scheme, this Communications Strategy focuses on the consultation activities proposed for the statutory public consultation of the draft planning scheme. Information about the consultation that was undertaken to inform the preparation of the draft planning scheme to date is provided in **Section 3** of this report.

3 Previous Consultation

Ongoing consultation has occurred throughout the drafting process with the community, State government, developers, interest groups, internal staff and Councillors to foster engagement and ownership of the key tenets of the draft planning scheme, and to attain valuable information to inform its content. The consultation activities undertaken between 2013 and 2016 are outlined below.

3.1 Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

From June to September 2013 Council conducted a targeted stakeholder consultation process aimed at identifying the needs, issues and opportunities for each of the four land uses - rural, residential, commercial, and industrial. Council's land use planners conducted interviews with developers, State agencies (e.g. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection), community organisations, key landholders, not-for-profit organisations, community care organisations and local interest groups. The purpose of this consultation was to identify planning scheme issues in relation to trends in their business.

A consultation report was drafted to outline the process undertaken, to summarise the feedback provided and to outline how the feedback would be used. Further, Council officers presented the findings of the consultation and research to local interest groups.

3.2 Planning Scheme Directions Paper

From 26 March 2014 to 2 May 2014, Council sought feedback from the community, stakeholders and interest groups on the Draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme Directions Paper. During the consultation, Council held informal information sessions at Beaudesert, Boonah and Tamborine Mountain Libraries and had static displays at the Beaudesert, Boonah, Tamborine Mountain and Canungra Customer Services Centres and Libraries.

The purpose of the Planning Scheme Directions Paper was to articulate the key commitments and policy directions for the new planning scheme. It also outlined the planning and development challenges faced by Scenic Rim region, and how Council, through its planning scheme, intends to respond to these challenges. The draft Directions Paper identified matters Council anticipates the new planning scheme will address, and provides information as to how the planning scheme intends to address those matters. A finalised Directions Paper was adopted by Council, which considered the matters raised during the community consultation period. A copy of the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme Directions Paper is available on Council's website.

3.3 Community Workshops

In November 2014, a number of community workshops were held to workshop local planning considerations with the local community. The sessions were conducted as interactive mapping workshops focussing on local planning relevant to the locality in which the session was being held, e.g. Boonah. The main objectives of the workshops were to:

- a) inform the community of drafting and mapping requirements for the planning scheme project, including state provisions, policies and interests as well as identifying local considerations;
- b) involve the community by guiding them through an interactive mapping exercise utilising mandatory planning tools and terminologies to capture meaningful local considerations and what is valued by the community in specific localities; and
- c) positively position Council during workshop discussions and present best practice planning views to guide outputs which are meaningful to each of the local areas.

3.4 Consultation with the State government

Consultation with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) and relevant state agencies has been ongoing throughout the drafting process. The Strategic Directions Paper and the draft Strategic Framework were provided to DSDMIP for feedback and Council officers were provided with informal State interest review comments, which assisted in ensuring that State interests were met during the drafting process. Meetings with State Agencies to identify early issues were also conducted during 2013-14.

3.5 Consultation with Internal Departments and Councillors

Consultation with internal Council stakeholders has been ongoing throughout the drafting process to ensure that planning scheme matters affecting other departments (e.g. Engineering Services) have been appropriately addressed. Most of this consultation has occurred informally, however, the Planning Scheme Steering Committee comprising key internal stakeholders was also used as the forum to formalise decisions relating to various aspects of drafting the planning scheme, including key contents and policy positions.

Consultation with Councillors has been ongoing throughout the planning scheme drafting process with regular workshops conducted to provide progress updates, as well as obtaining feedback on proposed policy positions.

4 Statutory Requirements for the Public Consultation of a Draft Planning Scheme

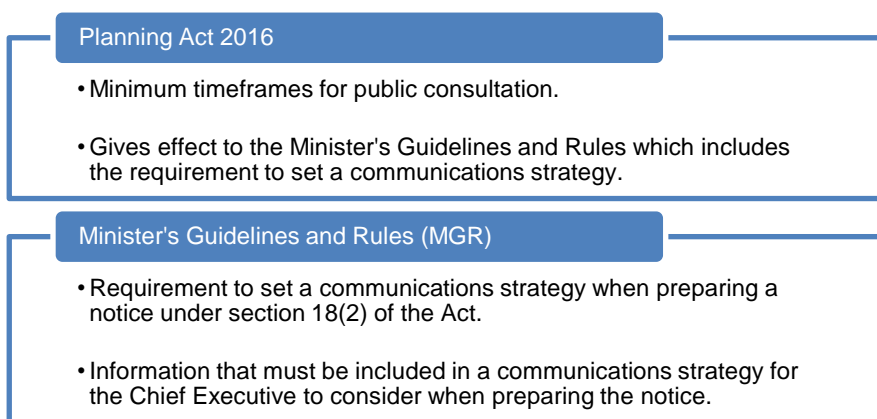
4.1 Relationship between the Planning Act 2016 and Minister's Guidelines and Rules

Section 18 of the *Planning Act 2016* sets out the statutory requirements for making and amending planning schemes and it specifies:

- a) the minimum timeframes for public consultation of a planning scheme; and
- b) the requirement to set a communications strategy as necessary supporting information for the Chief Executive to consider with the notice under section 18(2) of the Act.

Chapter 1 of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules sets out the statutory provisions for making or amending a planning scheme and shows the key points in the process where community engagement needs to be carried out by local governments for a specified minimum period.

Figure 1: Organisation of statutory consultation requirements



4.2 Planning Act 2016

The minimum public consultation requirements in section 18(5) of the Act and are reproduced below:

(5) *The notice, or amended notice, must state at least—*

- (a) *the local government must publish at least 1 public notice about the proposal to make or amend the planning scheme; and*
- (b) *the local government must keep the instrument available for inspection and purchase for a period (the consultation period) stated in the public notice of at least—*

 - (i) *for a proposed planning scheme—40 business days after the day the public notice is published in a newspaper circulating in the local government area; or*
 - (ii) *for a proposed amendment—20 business days after the day the public notice is published in a newspaper circulating in the local government area; and*
- (c) *the public notice must state that any person may make a submission about the instrument to the local government within the consultation period; and*
- (d) *a communications strategy that the local government must implement about the instrument; and*
- (e) *the local government must consider all properly made submissions about the planning scheme or amendment; and*
- (f) *the local government must notify persons who made properly made submissions about how the local government dealt with the submissions; and*
- (g) *the local government must give the Minister a notice containing a summary of the matters raised in the properly made submissions and stating how the local government dealt with the matters; and*
- (h) *after the planning scheme is made or amended, the local government must publish a public notice about making or amending the planning scheme.*

4.3 Minister's Guidelines and Rules

In order to satisfy the requirements for the preparation of a notice under section 18(2) of the Act, the Minister's Guidelines and Rules specify that a Communications Strategy must be submitted to the Chief Executive for consideration. The Communications Strategy must enable the Chief Executive to consider:

- a) the nature of the proposed planning scheme or proposed planning scheme amendment;
- b) the likely level of community interest and engagement for the proposed planning scheme or proposed planning scheme amendment;
- c) if community engagement is proposed to be inclusive and appropriate, and undertaken in an open, honest and meaningful way;
- d) if the proposed planning scheme or proposed planning scheme amendment may affect a person's rights under the Act; and
- e) how the strategy will comply the consultation period requirements in section 18(5)(b) of the Act.

This Communications Strategy provides the necessary information for the Chief Executive to consider when preparing the notice under section 18(2) of the Act.

5 Implementation

The proposed communications strategy for the public consultation of the draft planning scheme aims to use multiple methods to engage stakeholders and maximise potential for important feedback that will be used to make any necessary changes to the planning scheme.

This section provides an overview of the methods that are proposed to be used and the type of feedback that is expected to result from each method.

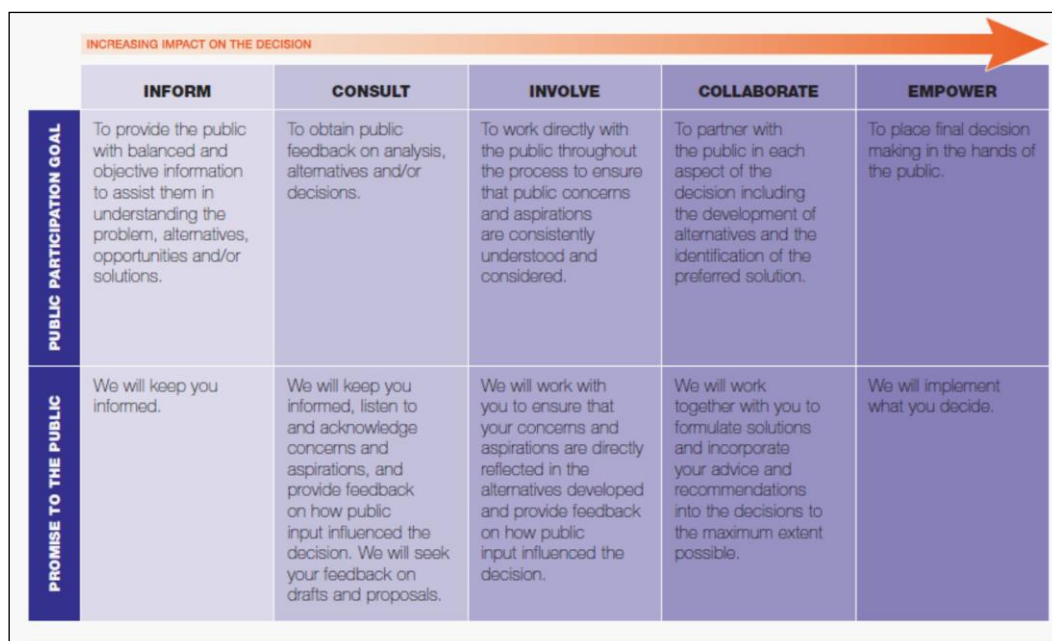
5.1 Application of IAP2 Principles


The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Federation and Australasian chapter offers concepts, principles and current industry practice in relation to community engagement. IAP2 defines community engagement as:

"Any process that involves the community in problem-solving or decision-making and uses community input to make better decisions".

IAP2 has developed a Public Participation Spectrum, which helps groups such as local government define the stakeholder's role in any public participation process. It is widely used as the model for determining the most effective form of consultation and communication for projects.

Figure 2: IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum



INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	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.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Source: IAP2 International Federation 2014

The draft planning scheme has been prepared to align with the community vision for the region, which was derived from key corporate documents such as Council's *Community Plan 2011-2016* as well as stakeholder feedback from previous consultation (refer to **Section 3**) during the drafting stage. In terms of the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum, the intent of the previous consultation was to 'inform', 'consult' and 'involve' the community on the best way forward for planning policy in the region.

5.2 Scope of Engagement

The previous community consultation activities undertaken to inform the draft planning scheme resulted in information that was used to determine and confirm the 'bigger picture' strategies of the planning scheme, which are contained in the Strategic Framework (e.g. the character of towns and villages and the nature of the rural economy). The technical aspects of implementing these strategies such as land use zoning, levels of assessment and development codes were drafted in light of the identified policy position.

Since a draft planning scheme is now complete, the scope of the proposed consultation is to undertake the statutory consultation of the draft planning scheme and gain feedback from the community via 'properly made' submissions on the proposed land use policy outlined in the planning scheme.

Council's role will then be to weigh up a range of factors such as the environment, economy, employment, transport, housing and equitable access to development opportunities across the region. Many of these factors will have legislative requirements (e.g. state interests, including the Regional Plan and State Planning Policy) that need to be complied with. It will be the town planner's role to provide a balanced response to the matters that are raised and legislative requirements, whilst still ensuring that the draft planning scheme delivers on the key policy positions determined from the previous community consultation and Council's direction.

5.3 Stakeholder Identification and Communication Methods

Table 1 identifies the stakeholders involved in the public consultation of the draft planning scheme, the key issues they are likely to be interested in, and the proposed method of communication that will be used during the consultation period.

Table 1: Stakeholder Issues and Proposed Methods of Communication

Stakeholder Group	Key Issues	Method of Communication
Land owners and potential land owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct impacts on private property (i.e. zoning and overlay changes, including natural hazard information such as bushfire and flooding); • Uncertainty surrounding policy implications on existing land use rights; • Need to alert all landowners of the public consultation of the scheme for the opportunity to make a submission; • Lack of understanding about the operation and effect of town planning schemes in general. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated release of public notices and advertisements in local newspaper, and Mail Chimp subscribers; • Prominent information on Council's website (and Facebook and Twitter), including information sheets with links to further information and a timeline for implementation; • Provide the opportunity to meet with Council's Strategic Planners to seek clarification about any aspect of the draft planning scheme and how to prepare a submission;
Special interest groups and Service providers (including local indigenous groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in specific policy relevant to their particular interests and the regulatory framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of static displays at Council's Administration Centres / Libraries. • Direct land owner engagement involving a generic brochure posted to all ratepayers. The brochure will provide general details about the planning scheme and how to make a submission and will also provide more specific information about key changes, particularly the changes to zones and hazard overlays and where to find further information.
General community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in the policy and regulatory framework applicable to development in their communities. 	
Development industry and Business community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in potential development opportunities and constraints in the local area arising from draft policy changes. 	
State and local government agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to conduct State Interest Review efficiently in order to ensure that State Interests have been addressed in the draft planning scheme. • Impacts the planning scheme may have to neighbouring Councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of all required documentation in a useful format to the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning as per the current Statutory Guideline for Making and Amending Planning Schemes. • Correspondence to neighboring Councils seeking any feedback.

5.4 Proposed Consultation Period (timing)

The minimum statutory timeframe for the consultation of a draft planning scheme is 40 business days, which allows for approximately 8 weeks. The commencement of public consultation is

dependent on approval from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

5.5 Proposed Consultation Activities

Given the purpose of the public consultation of the draft planning scheme is to inform the community of the proposed land use policy for the region and provide the opportunity to make submissions on any aspect of the draft document, the proposed consultation activities are designed to maximise the potential to obtain meaningful submissions to inform the final planning scheme. Accordingly, the consultation activities outlined in **Table 2** below are proposed.

Table 2: Proposed Consultation Activities

Consultation Activity	Description
1. Public notices	Public notices in accordance with the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> to be published in all locally circulating newspapers.
2. Whole of Council Ads	Notices will be published in the Beaudesert Times, Fassifern Guardian, The Hinterlander, Canungra Times, Tamborine Mountain News and Tamborine Times during the weeks of consultation.
3. Brochure posted to land owners	Direct land owner engagement involving a brochure sent to land owners. The brochure will provide general details about the planning scheme and how to make a submission and will also provide more specific information about key changes, particularly the changes to zones and hazard overlays and where to find further information.
4. Information sheets	Information sheets about the draft planning scheme to be provided on Council's website from the commencement of the consultation period to provide answers to Frequently Asked Questions.
5. Website presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominently display the draft planning scheme on Council's Website. Provide details about how to prepare a submission, information sheets and Council's plan for the timing of the implementation of the draft planning scheme. Provide the opportunity to make electronic submissions in Council's 'Have Your Say' link.
6. Static display	Establish static displays at customer service centres and libraries providing hard copies of the planning scheme for viewing; information on how to prepare a submission; and information sheets about the draft planning scheme.
7. Talk to land use planners at local centres and libraries at kiosks	During the public consultation period, set up kiosks in key local centre areas with land use planners available to answer any questions about the draft planning scheme and how to prepare

Consultation Activity	Description
	a properly made submission.
8. Social Media	Notification of the consultation activities to be published on Facebook and Twitter.
10. Internal Communications	During the public consultation period, notify internal staff of consultation activities through the staff bulletin and provide guidance on where to direct any enquiries.

6 Consultation with Local Indigenous Community

6.1 Legislative Requirements

Valuing, protecting and promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge, culture and tradition is a new addition to planning legislation in Queensland that is now embedded in the purpose of the *Planning Act 2016* (s.5(2)(d)). This means that the preparation of the draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme must demonstrate how it advances the purpose of the Act in regard to this objective. At present, there is an absence of guidelines or policy directions on how s.5(2)(d) will be implemented, particularly at the local government planning scheme level.

The *SEQ Regional Plan 2017* has clear policy objectives about indigenous stakeholder engagement at a regional level. Recognition of some places of regional value has been reflected in the regional plan and this was achieved through consultation with stakeholders at a regional scale. The regional plan identifies some indigenous landscape values where permission has been given by the traditional owners; however it is not a complete record of such values in the region.

At the local government scale and particularly in the Scenic Rim region, consultation with traditional owners and interest groups is more complex as there is no single group that represents the interests of the indigenous community of the local government area. Further, Native Title has not yet been determined to exist over the land under the *Native Title Act 1993* (there are two claims currently progressing), and there are no indigenous land use agreements in place, or grants of land made under the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*.

The Strategic Vision for the draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme includes that traditional owners are engaged to enable their cultural knowledge and connections to the land inform the planning for communities and the sustainable management of natural assets and natural economic resources. However, at an operational level, the planning scheme relies on the implementation of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*¹ to achieve this outcome in identifying and protecting cultural

¹ The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (the Act) requires anyone who carries out a land-use activity (the developer/land owner) to exercise a duty of care in relation to the protection of aboriginal cultural heritage. Land users are required to take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure their activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. This includes cultural heritage regardless of whether it has been identified or recorded in a database. The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* is administered by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) and the requirements of this act apply separately and in addition to the *Planning Act 2016*. Assessment by Council of proposed development against the relevant planning scheme does not include any assessment of aboriginal cultural heritage matters, as under the Act, the onus is on the land user (not Council) to ensure that they have taken all necessary steps to satisfy their duty of care. At a minimum, this would include carrying out a search of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage database and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage register, both of which are maintained and managed by the Cultural Heritage Unit of the Queensland Government Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP). If there is a high risk that the activity may harm cultural heritage, consultation with the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party may be necessary. Further to the recorded cultural heritage found in the register, if the landowner locates

heritage values, rather than the inclusion of a planning scheme overlay that would trigger the assessment of impacts of development on identified cultural heritage on the land.

The preparation of a cultural heritage overlay was not pursued in the drafting of the Scenic Rim Planning Scheme due to the sensitivities and protocols associated with formally mapping and making publicly available cultural heritage values on land.

6.2 Proposed Consultation Activities and Scope of Engagement

It is recognised that there has been limited history of embedding indigenous cultural heritage values or targeted involvement in the preparation of local planning policy to date.

Council therefore proposes a fit-for-purpose approach to suit the public consultation strategy of the draft planning scheme, which takes into account:

1. the advanced status of the policy of the draft planning scheme (i.e. limited scope to introduce new policy);
2. the absence of targeted indigenous consultation undertaken in the preparation of the draft planning scheme to date; and
3. the complexity and protocols associated with engaging with the multiple (sometimes conflicting) interest groups known to Council.

It is proposed to post a personalised letter to local indigenous interest groups advising of the opportunity to participate in the public consultation of the draft planning scheme. A copy of the information brochure that will also be sent to all ratepayers and interest groups will also be provided and the opportunity to speak to Council's land use planners about the draft planning scheme will be offered.

The scope of this engagement will include:

1. providing the opportunity to comment on the policy of the draft planning scheme; and
2. identifying future opportunities for developing a framework to advance the Strategic Vision of the planning scheme and the purpose of the *Planning Act 2016*; and
3. providing information about the development assessment framework, in particular the operation of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* in the context of this framework.

The local interest groups that will be contacted will be determined in collaboration with the State Government.

cultural heritage on the site at any time (during and after construction), all activities must cease and DATSIP must be contacted immediately.

7 Submissions

The formal feedback that is sought from the public consultation of the draft planning scheme will be in the form of written submissions that must be considered and responded to accordingly. The issues raised in the submissions will be collated and consolidated in a Consultation Report, and a response will be given for each issue. The responses may involve changes to the draft planning scheme, deferment for consideration for a future amendment to the draft planning scheme, or reasons why the submitter's issues have not been reflected in the draft planning scheme.

In accordance with the Act, Council must respond to each submitter advising how their submission has been dealt with (a copy of the Consultation Report will be issued to each submitter) and all submissions and the corresponding responses must be provided to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning to support the Council's request to the Minister to adopt the planning scheme.

The review and preparation of responses to submissions is likely to take at least four weeks.

7.1 'Properly Made' Submissions

Under the *Planning Act 2016*, Council must consider and respond to all properly made submissions to the planning scheme which may include making changes to the draft planning scheme. In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Act, a properly made submission is one that:

*"(a) is signed by each person (the **submission-makers**) who made the submission; and*

(b) is received—

(i) for a submission about an instrument under section 18, a State planning instrument, or a designation—on or before the last day for making the submission; or

(ii) otherwise—during the period fixed under this Act for making the submission; and

(c) states the name and residential or business address of all submission-makers; and

(d) states its grounds, and the facts and circumstances relied on to support the grounds; and

(e) states 1 postal or electronic address for service relating to the submission for all submission-makers; and

(f) is made to—

(i) for a submission made under chapter 2—the person to whom the submission is required to be made under that chapter; or

(ii) for a submission about a development application—the assessment manager; or

(iii) for a submission about a change application—the responsible entity".

The main purpose of requiring properly made submissions is to ensure that issues can be responded to effectively and enable Council to provide written feedback to submitters. It also ensures that submissions are directed at the content of the draft planning scheme and discourages submissions in the form of a petition as the name and address of each person contributing to a submission must be provided.

Further, the provision of the name and address assists Council in determining the perspective from which the submission is coming from (i.e. whether it is the land owner, a developer, an interest group, a person residing outside the region etc.), and this assists in making an informed decision about whether any changes to the policy would be in the public interest.

Notwithstanding, there is nothing in the *Planning Act 2016* preventing Council from considering submissions that are not 'properly made', so any feedback that has the potential to improve the draft planning scheme can be considered in its finalisation.

7.2 'Significantly Different' Changes to the Draft Planning Scheme and Potential for Further Consultation

It is reasonably expected that some changes will be made to the proposed planning scheme through the Council's assessment of public submissions. If changes have been made to the draft planning scheme that has been released for public consultation, Council must determine whether those changes result in the draft planning scheme being 'significantly different' to the consulted draft. If changes have resulted in the proposed planning scheme being significantly different, additional public consultation is warranted as the public would not have had the opportunity to comment on proposals which may impact on them directly.

Some examples of changes to the draft planning scheme that would be considered 'significantly different' are:

- a) zone and precinct changes affecting a significant proportion of landowners;
- b) changes to levels of assessment for land uses (especially if being raised to impact assessment);
- c) substantial changes to a policy matter which is of widespread public interest throughout the local government area and would be likely to generate multiple public submissions.

It is possible that the submissions to the draft planning scheme may raise a number of issues that could result in significant changes to the planning scheme, such as zone or precinct changes. Given these changes are likely to be classed as 'significantly different', it would be prudent for Council to re-advertise the aspects of the planning scheme that have changed using a targeted consultation method.

This process is likely to add a minimum of six weeks to the public consultation timeframe, however, it would ensure the delivery of a planning scheme that has given the community the opportunity to provide feedback on every aspect of the proposed land use policy and avoid deferment of matters to a future amendment to the planning scheme.

7.3 Finalisation of Draft Planning Scheme and Adoption

Once all submissions have been reviewed and the draft planning scheme amended accordingly, Council must decide whether to adopt the response to submissions and write to the Minister seeking approval to adopt the proposed planning scheme. There may also be other changes made to the planning scheme resulting from new or changed planning circumstances, or addressing drafting errors before Council decides to endorse the scheme to proceed to the next stage. Council must provide the Minister with a Consultation Report that provides a summary of the consultation activities that were undertaken, a copy of all 'properly made' submissions and Council's response to submissions, and details of the changes made to the draft planning scheme.

8 Conclusion

This Communications Strategy for the Draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme has been prepared as part of the requirements for making a notice under section 18(2) of the Act and will be published on Council's website to provide information about the public consultation of the planning scheme.

It is considered that the proposed consultation methods and timing:

- a) reflect the likely level of community interest and engagement for the proposed planning scheme;
- b) are inclusive and appropriate, and undertaken in an open, honest and meaningful way;
- c) ensure that a person's rights under the Act will be communicated in the most effective way possible; and
- d) comply with the consultation period requirements in section 18(5)(b) of the Act.

The consultation activities proposed in this Communications Strategy seek to maximise opportunities to inform the public about the proposed land use policy for the region and encourage feedback through the preparation of submissions. The activities provide an extension to the minimum statutory requirements of the Act in a way that the local community can familiarise itself with the draft planning scheme through a number of avenues and submissions can be made in writing (including electronically).