

QLDC Council
27 November 2014

Report for Agenda Item: 15

Department
CEO Office

15: Significance and Engagement Policy

Purpose

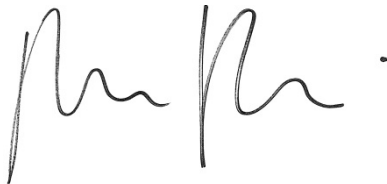
- 1 To adopt the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy.

Recommendation

2 That Council:

- a. **Agree** to adopt the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy subject to amendment as agreed.

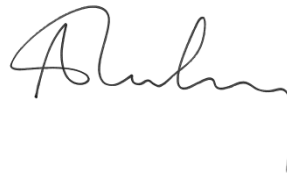
Prepared by: Meaghan Miller



Director CEO Office

5/11/2014

Reviewed and Authorised by:
Adam Feeley



Chief Executive

14/11/2014

Background

- 3 The Council has a Policy on Significance (2009). The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill requires all Councils to develop a new policy called the Significance and Engagement Policy under the new section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002. Councils are required to adopt the new policy by 1 December 2014.
- 4 The new policy outlines what the Council will consider when deciding what is significant in terms of decision-making and when the community will have an opportunity to contribute to decision-making and how. The new legislation is deliberately less prescriptive about how we consult so that we can communicate across multiple channels in ways that our communities have told us they prefer.
- 5 In May 2014 the Council took the opportunity to pre-consult with our communities on significance and engagement through the Annual Plan Consultation round. The

feedback was factored into the policy. The draft policy was adopted for consultation on 25 September, 2014 with the consultation period being 29 September – 31 October 2014.

Comment

- 6 The second round of consultation on Significance and Engagement attracted four submissions; two were neither supporting or opposing and two provisionally supportive. All submissions were circulated to elected members and made publicly available on the Council's website (appendix A).
- 7 All submission points were considered. In general points raised in submissions were matters considered to be already implicit in the policy. Note it is recommended, based on the submission from Federated Farmers that a reference to 'pre-consultation' be added to page 9, namely: *Council may choose to undertake pre-consultation to help shape options for consultation.*

Financial Implications

- 8 None

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions

- 9 The policy adheres to the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No 3) section 76AA Significance and Engagement Policy, namely that every local authority "*must adopt a policy*". The policy also adheres to section 83 Special Consultation Procedure, section 86 Use of Special Consultation Procedure in relation to making, amending or revoking bylaws and section 156 Consultation Requirements when making, amending, or revoking bylaws made under the Act.

Council Policies

- 10 The following Council Policies were considered:

- Policy on Significance 2009
- 2013/14 Annual Plan

Consultation

- 11 Council consulted on Significance and Engagement in the 2013/14 Annual Plan.
- 12 Qualitative interviews were undertaken with Community Group representatives regarding communication, engagement and consultation.
- 13 Council publicly notified and consulted on the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy from 29 September to 31 October 2014.

Publicity

Council will promote the availability of the policy, which will be on the Council website www.qldc.govt.nz

Attachments

- A Submissions
- B Draft Significance and Engagement Policy