



# Community Engagement Strategy

Wollondilly Shire Council



Easy English

## Hard words



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
  
- we write what the hard word means.

## You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

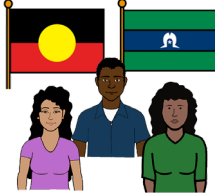
- read this book
  
- know what this book is about
  
- find more information.



We will write contact information at the end of this book.

# We acknowledge First Nations people

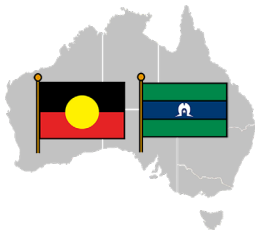
**Acknowledge** means we understand the importance of **First Nations people's**



- culture



- language



- history.



First Nations people are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In Wollondilly Shire the First Nations people are from

- the Dharawal nation
  
- the Gundungurra nation.

## About this book



This book is from Wollondilly Shire Council.



This book is about **community engagement**.

Community engagement means how we will talk with people who are in Wollondilly Shire to



- live



- work



- study



- play.



Community engagement is also when we

- ask people in Wollondilly what they think

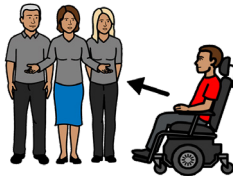


- tell people in Wollondilly when we do something new.



When we ask you what you think we will

- listen to what you tell us



- be **inclusive**.

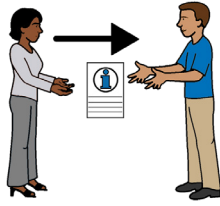
Inclusive means that everyone

- can be part of something



- knows we will listen to them.

We will also be **accessible**.



Accessible means that we will

- give you information in different ways



- ask you questions in different ways



- make sure everyone can understand the information and questions.



We want to talk to you so we can

- understand what is important to you



- make our work better



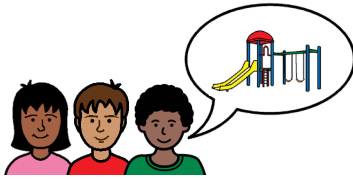
- find answers to problems



- help you understand what we are doing.



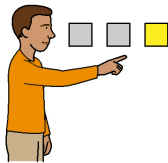
We will talk to different people about different issues.



For example, if we want to make a playground we will talk to young people.

## Community engagement can be hard

Reasons it can be hard to talk with the community include



- people do **not** always want the same thing



- some of our work is hard to understand



- people might **not** want to talk with us.

Community engagement is also hard because we talk with people in lots of different ways.



For example, we need to make sure people can talk to us

- in a way we both understand



- online

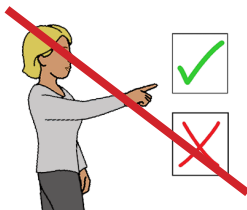


- in person.



For some issues we **cannot** ask the community what they think, including

- in an emergency



- when we **cannot** choose what will happen.

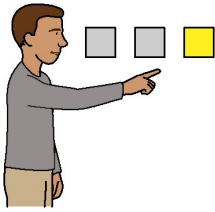
For example, we **cannot** choose if the government will build a new hospital.





For some issues we will **not** ask the community what they think.

For example, when we have already talked to the community more than once.



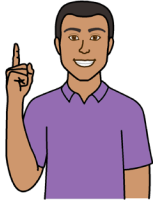
If we do **not** ask you what you think we will try to tell you

- what we decide to do
- why we decide to do it.



## We want to make community engagement easier

To make community engagement easier we will



- help you understand what we are asking



- help you understand how you can tell us what you think



- try to tell you what we decide



- tell you how your ideas help us.

## When we want to talk to the community

When we want to talk to the community we will think about who we want to talk to.



For example, we might want to talk to people from **diverse groups**.



Diverse groups might mean

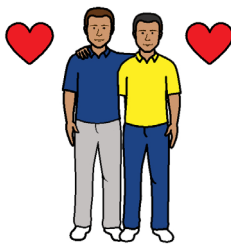
- young people



- people with disability

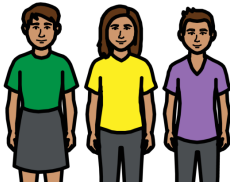


- First Nations people



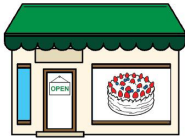
- people with a different **sexuality**.

Sexuality means who you are attracted to.



Diverse groups can also mean people of every **gender**.

Gender means what you think and feel about who you are as a person.



We might also want to talk to people who have a business.



When we talk to the community we will

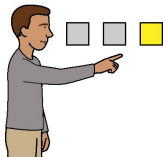
- think about how we will talk to them



- talk to them



- think about what they tell us



- decide what we will do.

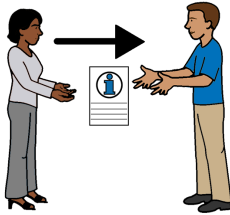


We will also tell the community what we decide to do.

## How you can help us make decisions



There are different ways that we will ask you to help us make decisions.



We might

- give you information about what we are doing



- ask you for **feedback** about what we are doing.



Feedback is when you tell us what you think.



We might also

- make sure we understand what you want from us



- ask for your ideas
  
- let you make decisions with us.

## Why we talk to the community



The community can tell us how we can make Wollondilly better.



We want to

- make sure that our work will help people in Wollondilly



- know what people from diverse groups need.



For example, people with disability.



We always want to get better at how we talk to people.



We will think about what people in Wollondilly need in everything we do.



## More information

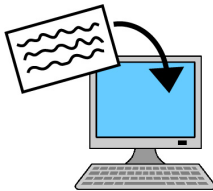
For more information contact  
Wollondilly Shire Council.



Call 02 4677 1100



Website [wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](http://wollondilly.nsw.gov.au)



Email [council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au)



## If you need help to speak or listen

Use the National Relay Service.



Website [accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk](http://accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk)



Call 1800 555 660

Give the relay officer the phone number you  
want to call.

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