

Community Engagement Framework 2026-36 Draft

Working with you to shape
decisions for our community



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Kurna Nation and its people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land in the ancient area that has only recently become known as the City of Onkaparinga.

We recognise that this local living culture has developed over tens of thousands of years and that in today's contemporary context, Kurna and other Aboriginal people are actively engaged in community life and bring their rich cultural heritage to the connected community and sustainable future to which we aspire.

We are mindful of Kurna people's spiritual relationship with country when we make decisions about this region and that protecting places of importance to Kurna culture has an impact on the wellbeing and prosperity of Kurna and other Aboriginal people.

Mayor's foreword

Community engagement is an important part of local democracy and helps shape the future of our city.

At the City of Onkaparinga, we want our communities to feel informed, included and heard on the decisions that affect them.

Your input helps council better understand local priorities, lived experiences and aspirations, leading to more informed decisions and better outcomes for our city.

Our Community Vision 2034 – Connected community, sustainable future – reflects the aspirations of our community and guides council's work and decision-making. Ongoing community engagement plays an important role in helping us deliver that shared vision for the future.

This Community Engagement Framework includes an adaptation of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation, and explains how council will work with the community, what you can expect from us, and how you can participate in decisions, plans and projects.

We are committed to engagement that is clear, inclusive, respectful and transparent, and to continually improve how we work with our communities.

I am passionate about including community voices in the work of council, and encourage you to get involved, share your views and help shape the future of Onkaparinga.

Moira Were AM
Mayor, City of Onkaparinga



What is community engagement?

Community engagement is the process of informing you about decisions that affect you and, where possible, inviting your input to help shape and improve those decisions.

Not every decision requires community engagement. Whether we seek your input depends on factors such as the level of community impact or interest, legal requirements, available resources, and whether there is an opportunity for the community to meaningfully influence the outcome.

The value of community engagement

The City of Onkaparinga is a diverse and growing community, rich in local knowledge, lived experience and ideas.

Our Community Vision 2034 — Connected community, sustainable future — sets the long-term direction for our city and guides council's work and decision-making. Developed through broad community input, the vision reflects the aspirations of our community and the future we want to create together.

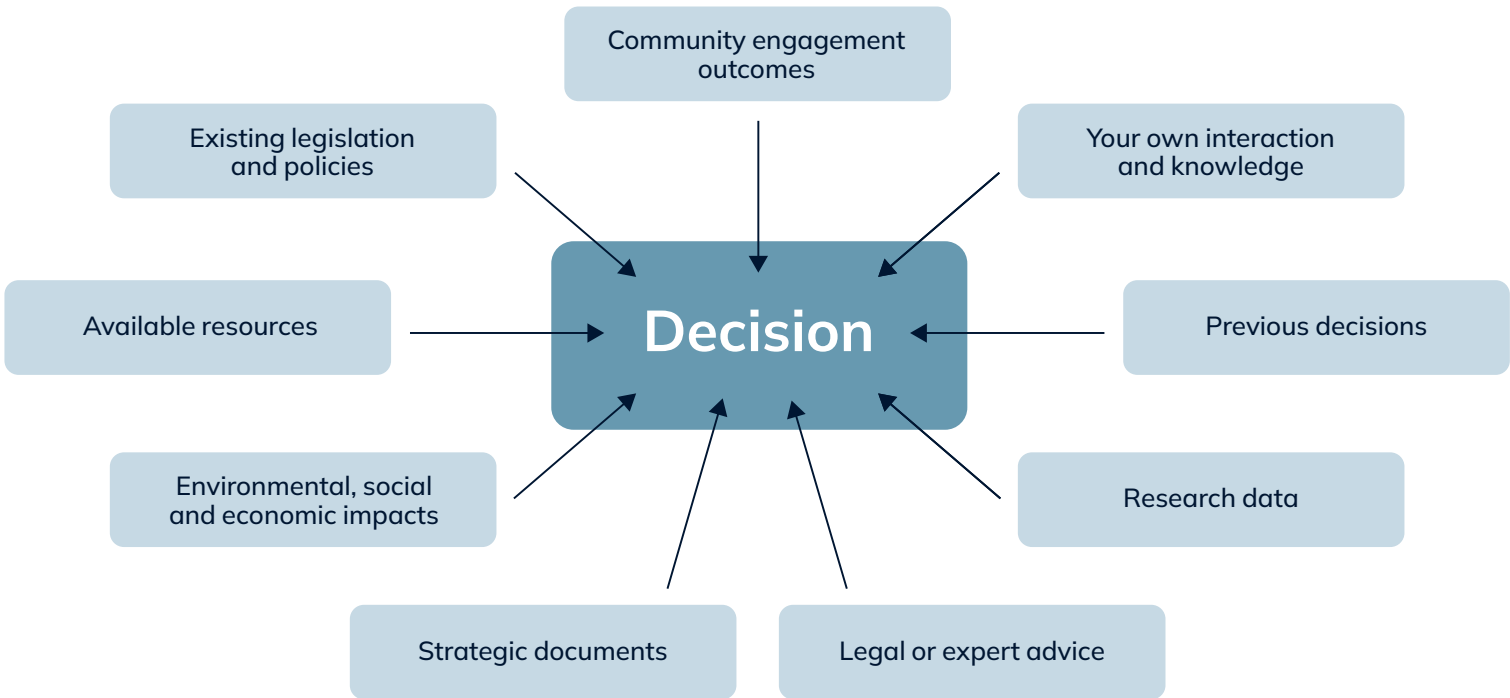
Active citizenship is an important part of good decision-making. Through community engagement and your participation, we learn from local experiences, hear a diverse range of views and better understand the needs, priorities and aspirations of our community.

People who are informed and get involved can help shape decisions that affect their lives, neighbourhoods and future. Meaningful engagement also helps strengthen civic participation, community connection and pride in our city.

By listening to community perspectives and drawing on local knowledge and experience, council can make more informed decisions and deliver better outcomes for our community.

We are committed to engaging with transparency, accountability and respect to support good governance, strengthen trust, and help deliver the shared aspirations of the Community Vision 2034.





How decisions are made

Community engagement is one important part of decision-making, but it is not the only factor.

Along with community feedback and local knowledge, decision-makers may also consider:

- legislation and council policies
- budget and available resources
- safety, technical and environmental factors

- strategic plans and previous decisions
- research, analysis and expert advice
- the needs of the broader community, both now and into the future.

How you can help shape decisions

Not every project is the same, so the way you can participate will vary. We match our approach to the size and impact of the project.

How we engage depends on:

- how many people are impacted
- the level of community interest
- legal requirements
- complexity of the project and available resources.

For every project, we will clearly explain:

- what stage the project is at
- what you can influence
- what has already been decided.

Our engagement process

Community engagement is one important part of decision-making, but it is not the only factor.

Balancing different community needs

Sometimes the views of people directly affected by a project may differ from the needs of the wider community.

When this happens, decision-makers must balance local impacts with broader community benefit.



Your participation

We're committed to letting you know about engagement opportunities that may affect you.

We know you are more likely to participate when you feel strongly about an issue or believe it will significantly impact you. While not everyone will choose to participate, all community members are encouraged to have their say.

When limited feedback is received, we may proceed on the understanding that the level of community concern or interest is low.

Who makes the decision

Councillors are elected to represent your interests and it is their responsibility to make decisions.

Your input through community engagement is critical, providing Council with valuable information and feedback to support and help shape their decisions.



What happens after you provide feedback?

We:

- prepare an Engagement Report collating and analysing the data
- share what we heard with you
- provide all of the information to decision-makers
- communicate the decision with you and explain what changed (and what didn't)
- outline the next steps.

We aim to get back to you within 6 weeks of engagement closing and within 4 weeks of a decision being made.

Your role

Your input helps council better understand community views, local knowledge and lived experience:

- read the information provided
- take part in a way that suits you
- tell us what matters
- share your views respectfully
- stay informed.

Method	Percentage
Your Say Onkaparinga	61%
Email	55%
In person	31%
Letter	8%
Over the phone	8%

