

## 2. Determining the process



### 2.1 Determining a process

The Act allows for each local authority to decide for itself, the process they wish to use to facilitate the identification of community outcomes. This allows each Council to adopt a process that suits their individual communities' needs. The only specific requirement of the Act is that if practicable, agreement to the process must be sought from other organisations and groups capable of influencing the identification or promotion of community outcomes. Beyond this, each Council is free to determine its own process.

A draft process was formulated and presented to the Council workshop in January 2005<sup>2</sup>. It was agreed that this process would be undertaken.

The process took into account the following points/criteria;

- Effective participation and consultation with the general public,
- Additional effort to reach sectors of the community who have shown to be traditionally more difficult to reach, or those who may have additional barriers that could prevent them from actively participating,
- Obtaining accurate and representative feedback throughout the district,
- Efficient use of public money – awareness that some ratepayers felt expenditure on this consultation was unnecessary. As there is a statutory responsibility to undertake this process, we wished to maximise the value of the investment in the process as much as possible,
- Avoiding duplication,
- Flexibility of process to respond to differing needs, and to adapt the process if required,
- Taking into account what had and had not worked in the past and adapting to suit situations.

The process focussed on individuals, groups and sectors within the district. The main thrust was an information flyer and feedback form that would be distributed throughout the district. Additional media and publicity would be undertaken.

Past experience had shown poor community response to drop-in-meetings etc, so rather than initiating public meetings, the Mayor and Councillors agreed to utilise existing community networks and community meetings to advocate the consultation opportunity to groups and individuals.

The consultation had a time frame of nine weeks for consultation, with additional time planned for producing the information flyer, and collation of the

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<sup>2</sup> Attachment One

report. The process reflected a desire to provide the community with clear and concise information on what was a reasonably complex process, but still providing them with enough information to make an informed contribution to the process.

## **2.2 Agreement of other organisations**

The LGA requires Councils to identify and if possible secure the agreement of other organisations and groups capable of influencing the identification or promotion of the community outcomes.

To some extent it is possible that all organisations and groups within our community could fill this role. Council acknowledged that at a community level, there was a wide range of groups and organisations that were stakeholders to the process.

The process of identifying community outcomes for Buller was limited by timeframe, staff capacity and funding. We were also facing some large education issues – for many agencies and groups (as well as for Council) the process was very new, and many had not heard of community outcomes before. For this initial consultation, it was decided that it would be practicable to identify and seek the agreement of key agencies working within the District, who would mostly likely be impacted by the process, and who would be most capable of influencing the promotion of the community outcomes through their own policy, planning and funding processes.

For this initial consultation, this was limited to other agencies/department with a significant presence in the district, and a significant community service or support role.

Agreement on process was sought from the following group;

- NZ Police (local)
- Ministry of Social Development (local WINZ and regional MSD)
- West Coast Regional Council
- Department of Conservation (local)
- West Coast District Health Board
- Iwi
- Transit New Zealand
- Community & Public Health
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Land Transport Safety Authority
- Buller REAP

This group was invited to a meeting, where a presentation on the proposed outcomes process was given. Opportunity was provided for them to raise any issues they may have had, and for general discussion. In general, feedback was positive, and comments were received on the inclusive nature of the process.

Council recognises that once the community has established their outcomes and priorities, future consultations are likely to involve other local/community groups, organisations and agencies who are more aptly able to influence and promote the outcomes.