
From: Paul Terrett
Sent: Friday, 17 February 2023 8:17 PM
To: Submissions LGBoard
Cc: 'Paul Terrett'
Subject: Future of Local Government Review Enquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the Board at Longford on Wednesday 15 February 2022, I would like to make two suggestions in relation to possible reform as follows:

Co-operative Service delivery

As a hybrid system the councils could still exist with an elected council and Mayor however the service delivery is done by a legislated co-operative model where services are delivered by one entity and the Mayors of the Councils are its Board. The member Councils are the joint owners and shareholders.

Council employees and General Managers are centrally employed and paid. This would allow greater career planning and a streamlined approach to achieving council staffing goals, it would allow employees better career development and improve employee retention.

A co-operative body would facilitate such things as skills training, capacity building and joint contracting. This model would mean that a regional approach would be encouraged facilitating grants and funding arrangements.

Councils would still have the autonomy to make decision for their local area and local representation, but the co-op would be the provider of the service.

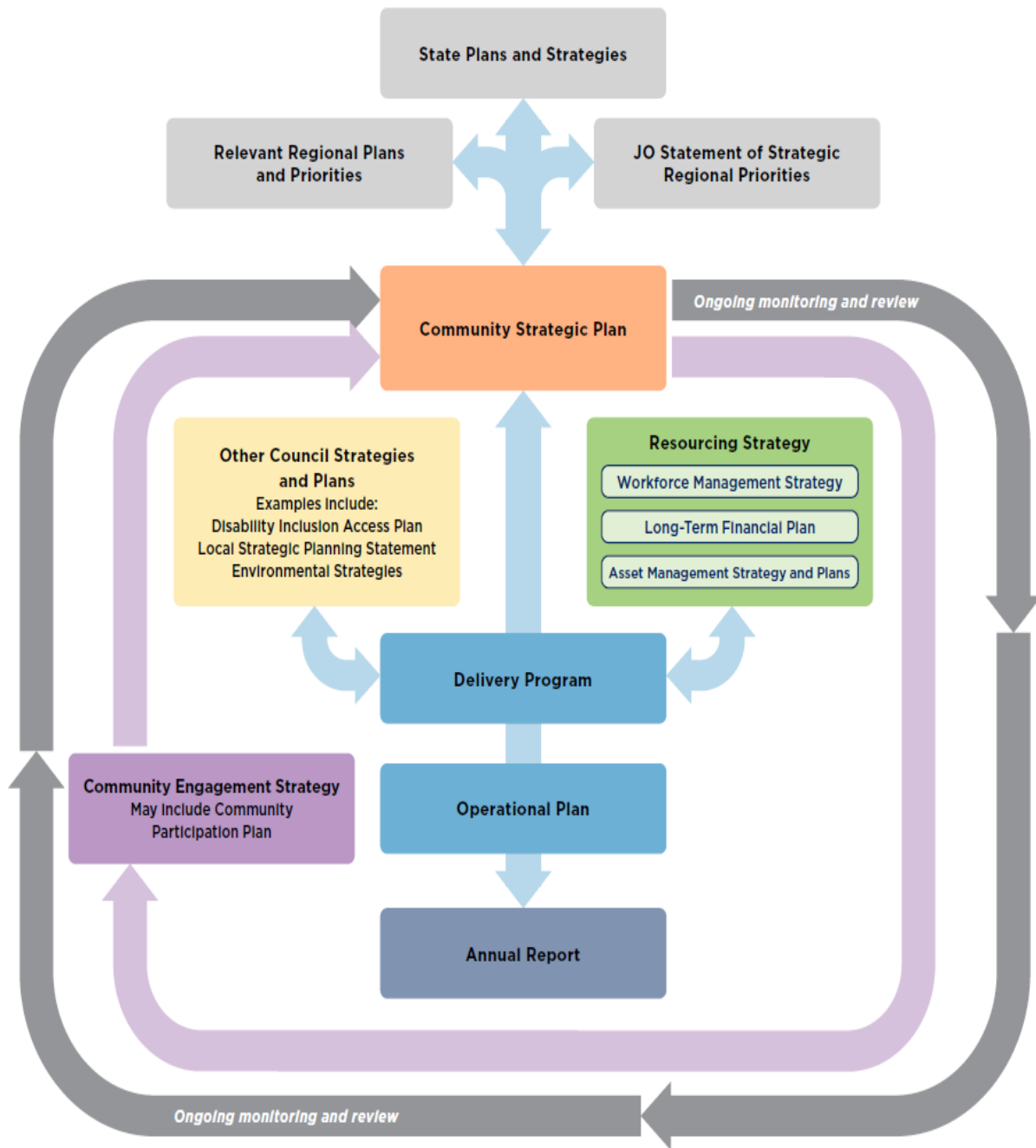
This model is like the Regional Organisation of Councils model in NSW which deliver a regional approach and enhances co-operation between councils.

Integrated Planning and Reporting

One of the major changes in NSW local government has been the impact of integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) link <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/integrated-planning-and-reporting/>

The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework changed the way Councils planned, documented and reported on their plans for the future. The Framework came into practice in 2009 and many councils have refined the way they create and review these plans over the subsequent years.

In essence the IP&R Framework begins with the community's, not councils, aspirations for a period of at least 10 years. It includes a suite of integrated plans that set out a vision and goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant. The IP & R framework is as follows:



The IP&R Framework is underpinned by strong community engagement. Engagement with residents as well as business, state agencies and non-government organisations is essential to creating plans that will truly represent the aspirations and needs of the local community.

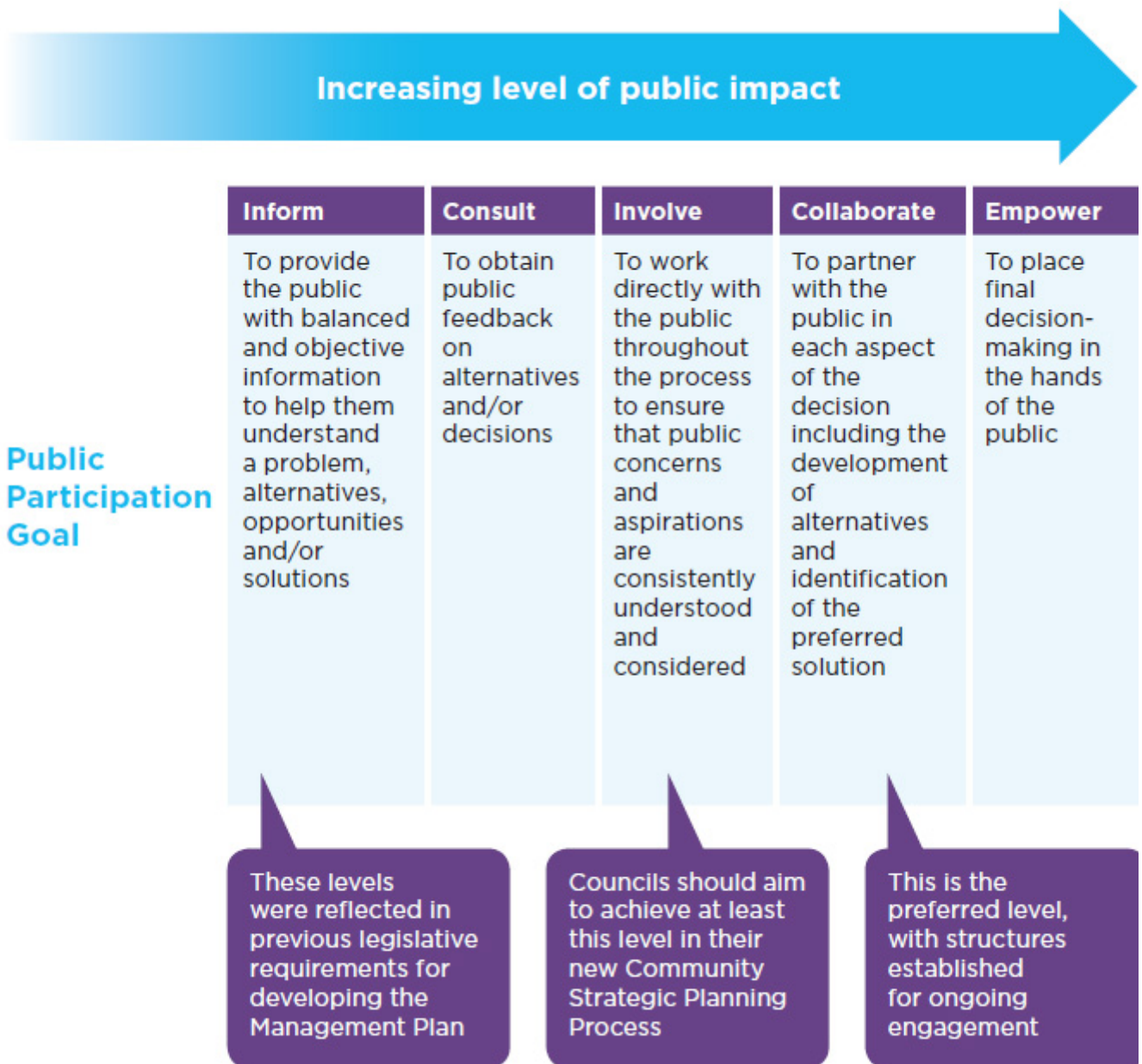
Each council is required to create a strategy for how they will engage the community in creating and reviewing their Community Strategic Plan. This strategy must:

- be based on the social justice principles of access, equity, participation, and rights.

- identify relevant stakeholder groups in the community.
- outline the methods that the council will use to engage each of these groups.
- allow sufficient time to effectively undertake the engagement.

It is important to understand the difference between informing the community about what the council is proposing and empowering the community to play an integral role in determining the goals, strategies, and actions to be undertaken.

Community empowerment tools are provided by the International Association for Public Participation. (IAP2). The IAP2 website (<http://www.iap2.org.au>) is a useful resource for community engagement activities. The NSW Government’s Community Builders website (www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au)



The IP& R model has been taken up by many states. It has been operating for over a decade being modified and improved to give councils the best strategic planning model that involves the community as well as transparency and accountability.

Regards

Councillor Paul Terrett

