

**FILE NO:** PSC2014-01123  
**TITLE:** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**POLICY OWNER:** COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

**PURPOSE:**

Port Stephens Council is committed to supporting activities and programs that enable and strengthen our community to meet challenges and generate solutions to issues in our community. The Community Development and Engagement unit work in partnership with the community to enhance and celebrate the identify, locality and different interests in our Local Government Area (LGA).

**CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:**

Local government, as the level of government closest to the people, is ideally positioned to support community development activities that engage the knowledge and skills of a community to address identified needs and enhance community wellbeing.

Support is based on the core principles of:

- Wellbeing of individuals and whole of community – providing the opportunity for individuals to feel connected to their community, a place where they want to live, work and play.
- Equity and Access – providing a sustainable mix of assets and resources (economic, human, built, natural and cultural), that appeal to all demographics and socio-economic groups within a community.
- Social justice – recognising the rights of individuals, organisations and businesses to voice their opinion on matters that impact on them.

**SCOPE:**

Council adopts a three tiered approach to community development:

- **Level 1 Community Development – Council provides an advisory role.**

This involves providing information and referral for community partners to business units across the organisation to assist in the delivery of a wide range of organisational actions.

- **Level 2 Community Development – Council provides an enabling role.**

This involves providing ongoing strategic partnerships with community members, organisations and business and is guided by plans, agreements, and strategies to deliver on key operational objectives. This is the core business of the Community Development and Engagement unit and the four key focus areas include:

- Support and improve how we work with Aboriginal people and communities in partnership with the 355c Aboriginal Strategic Committee;
- Support and promote local arts and culture, include place activation and public art, through the implementation of the Cultural Plan and in partnership with the 355c Strategic Arts Committee;
- Improve the lives of children and young people through the implementation of the Youth Strategy and in partnership with the Youth Advisory Panel; and
- Support and facilitate Community Service Providers to meet NSW Government's Family and Community Services (FACs)<sup>1</sup> objectives to build strong community in partnership with community interagencies and networks.

- **Level 3 Community Development – Council provides a lead role.**

This involves facilitating a response to an identified need of Council's and occurs on a less frequent basis than either Level 1 or 2 approaches.

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

This policy provides overall approach to community development, which is to:

- Strengthen community with particular emphasis on supporting vulnerable populations.
- Provide financial assistance and other resources to community to develop projects that are based around placemaking and celebration of local identity and community strengths.
- Encourage stronger communication links between service providers to optimise service delivery in the community, particularly amongst community services and cultural agencies.
- Develop partnerships with community-based groups, non-government organisations, academic institutions and other government agencies.

### **POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 1) The Community Development and Engagement Unit are responsible for providing advice, support and promotion of the core principles of community development.
- 2) This Policy is implemented by all areas of Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Family and Community Services Objectives see [facs.nsw.gov.au/facs-statistics](http://facs.nsw.gov.au/facs-statistics)

- 3) The Community Development and Engagement Unit are responsible for the implementation, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the Policy.

**DEFINITIONS:**

An outline of the key definitions of terms included in the policy.

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|-----------------------|---|
| Community             | Can be defined by place of residence, shared common interests or common identity, including cultural identity.  |
| Community Development | The strategic building of community through partnership, and sharing of resources to achieve a common goal.   |
| Wellbeing             | Is realised when social, economic, environmental and cultural factors combine to enable individuals and communities to fulfil their potential.  |
| Placemaking           | Is working with the local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote better social, economic and environmental outcomes. |

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

- 1) Local Government Act 1998
- 2) Port Stephens Strategic Plan
- 3) Port Stephens Youth Strategy
- 4) Port Stephens Cultural Plan
- 5) Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- 6) Ageing Strategy
- 7) Social Impact Policy

**CONTROLLED DOCUMENT INFORMATION:**

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| <b>RM8 container No</b>   | PSC2014-01123                                    | <b>RM8 record No</b> |  |
| <b>Audience</b>   | Councillors, staff and community                 |                      |  |
| <b>Process owner</b>  | Communications Section Manager                   |                      |  |
| <b>Author</b>   | Community Development and Engagement Coordinator |                      |  |

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| <b>Review timeframe</b> | Two years        | <b>Next review date</b> | February 2020 |
| <b>Adoption date</b>    | 13 February 2018 |                         |               |

**VERSION HISTORY:**

| <b>Version</b> | <b>Date</b>      | <b>Author</b>                                    | <b>Details</b>              | <b>Minute No.</b> |
|----------------|------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1              | 13 February 2018 | Community Development and Engagement Coordinator | New Policy – first version. | 010               |