

REPORT**MACEDON RANGES SHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING****COUNCIL CHAMBER, GISBORNE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 40 ROBERTSON STREET, GISBORNE****13 NOVEMBER 2019 6.30PM – 8.30PM****Background:**

Macedon Ranges Shire Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (HWBAC) members agreed that the current function of the Committee was not living up to the expectations of the Council or the representative community members. In October 2019, Council contracted Desley Renton from Renton and Co., to research, design and facilitate a meeting between Councillors, Council officers and its Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee.

The above meeting was held on 13 November 2019 with the purpose of bringing together members of the HWBAC, Council staff and Councillors and obtain agreement on a renewed direction for the Committee. The meeting objectives were:

- Participants have the opportunity to be heard
- Participants feel listened to and valued
- Participants agree on a way forward
- Participants collectively identify priority actions.

Attendance:

The following were invited:

Committee: Shaylyn Blyth, Judit Brown, Geoff Caddick, Dr Tony Croke, Sue Feiner, Kyle Hayes, Sonia Hennessy, Jayne Howley, Annamarie Perlesz, Paul Stuart, Kristina Vingrys, Rachael Wauchope, Ronelle Wetton and Marie Zoethout

Councillors: Cr Helen Radnedge (Chair), Cr Janet Pearce (Mayor), Cr Jennifer Anderson, Cr Henry Bleeck, Cr Natasha Gayfer, Cr Roger Jukes, Cr Mandi Mees, Cr Andrew Twaits and Cr Bill West

Officers: Margot Stork (Chief Executive Officer), John Hausler (Director Corporate Services), Angela Hughes (Director Planning and Environment), Karen Stevens (Director Community Wellbeing) and Shane Walden (Director Assets and Operations)

The meeting was attended by the eight Councillors, the CEO, all Council Executive and nine community members.

The agenda:

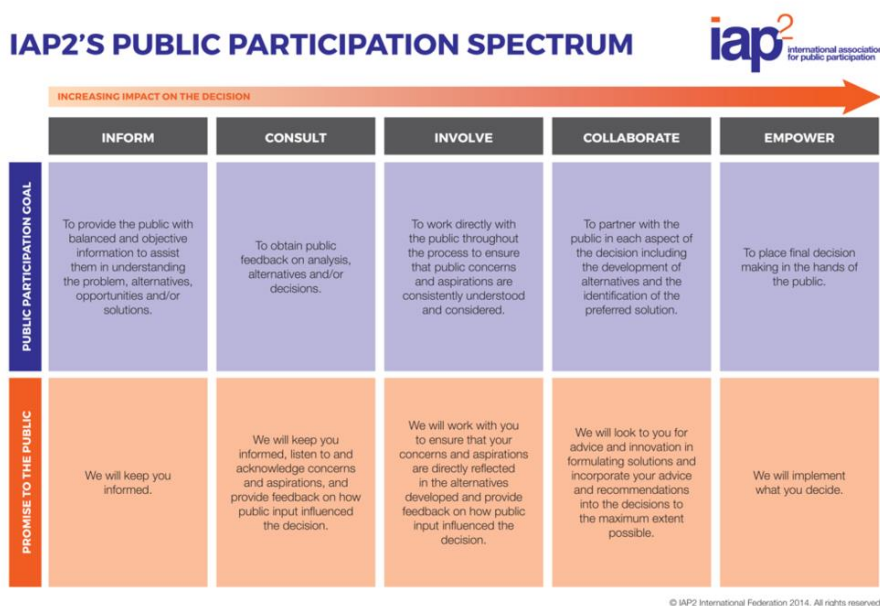
See attachment 1. The agenda was developed collaboratively with Council to step participants through a deliberative process to 'bring out the best thinking' of the group and facilitate collective agreement.

Participants identified that when things are going well in group decision making forums, they have the following:

- a clear agreed purpose
- a plan/roadmap
- clarity of roles
- respect for others
- sharing of views
- open mindedness
- a willingness to compromise
- a decision-making structure
- a feedback loop
- accessibility.

Assessment of the current role of the Committee:

Participants used the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum to assess their individual, and collective expectation of the role of HWBAC members.



The IAP2 Spectrum is a tool to help determine the level of influence the community has in a decision-making process.

The majority of meeting participants felt that they currently sit on the 'Inform – consult' end of the IAP2 Spectrum. All participants expressed a desire for HWBAC members to have more influence in the decision-making processes of Council. When asked what the appropriate level of influence was, those in attendance expressed a preference to be at the 'consult- involve' level.

One community member identified that the 'collaborate' level on the Spectrum identifies Advisory Committees as an appropriate tool for this level of influence.

Future role of Macedon Ranges Shire HWBAC:

Participants collectively agreed that the following roles were appropriate to deliver an effective and practical operation of the HWBAC.

- Identify HWBAC priority actions from the current Council Plan.
- Contribute ideas to future Council Plans.
- Identify local health and wellbeing issues that are not represented in the Council Plan (gaps).
- Brainstorm and put forward ideas for testing/piloting.
- Engage with broader community and provide feedback to Council.
- Advise on community engagement techniques with the broader community.
- Advocate for better health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

Discussion following this indicated a preference from HWBAC members to be involved in Council initiatives/issues at an earlier stage, rather than being informed or consulted on issues as part of a final review. Council expressed a desire to consult with HWBAC members as a 'deep dive' following broad community consultation. It was identified that when the group was established its role was to provide a 'health and wellbeing lens' to the whole of Council operations.

Priority actions to support the effective functioning of the Committee:

Participants collectively identified that they required the following to undertake the role identified above.

- Council clearly articulate its needs and aspirations for the HWBAC.
- Council articulate the available resources to support the HWBAC.
- Commence work on a vision statement for the HWBAC.
- Commence a review of HWBAC Terms of Reference.
- The review of the Terms of Reference include the identification of success measures.
- Undertake an audit of HWBAC member skills and assess against identified skills as part of the renewed Vision and Terms of Reference.

In addition, participants identified that the group would benefit from:

- information to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of the role of Local Government
- exposure to decision making frameworks and co-design principles
- horizon scanning of issues and opportunities
- the establishment of a 'member only' on-line portal to exchange information and ideas between meetings.

Recommendations:

1. That Council take into account the views expressed by the HWBAC members for greater influence in the decision-making process.
2. That Council provide clear direction to the HWBAC on what it needs from them to support its commitment to the Macedon Ranges community.
3. That Council identifies resources to support the operation of the HWBAC.
4. That Council initiates a Vision conversation and a review of HWBAC Terms of Reference.
5. That Council consider developing a short training package for HWBAC that includes modules on 'understanding Local Government' and, 'an introduction to collective decision making'.
6. That Council pilot the 'revamped' HWBAC for one year and undertake a review.

Additional observations:

- All participants expressed a willingness and desire to 'do things differently'.
- Some members of the HWBAC were not aware of important Council legislation, policies and processes, including Council's electoral, planning and budget cycles; and Council's Community Engagement Framework.
- Some participants suggested that an 'Advisory Committee' may not be the most effective tool to support Council and questioned whether an episodic 'focus group' approach to engagement may be more appropriate.
- An 'Advisory' Committee is a tool identified at the 'collaborate' end of the IAP2 Spectrum. Council may want to consider a name change for the group to reflect the level of influence more accurately.

Sincerely

Desley Renton

