

Me mōhio koe | What you need to know

Greater Wellington’s Significance and Engagement Policy determines when and how we should engage the community on decisions, issues, proposals, and activities. It enables us and our communities to understand the significance that we place on certain issues, proposals, decisions and matters. Typically, the higher the significance of a decision, the higher need for community engagement.

The current policy was adopted in 2014, and last reviewed in 2019. We are proposing changes to the policy to better reflect our current operating environment and our partnership with mana whenua.

He aha ngā panonitanga e tūtohutia ana e mātou? | What changes are we proposing?

After reviewing the policy internally the Council are proposing the following changes:

1. How we measure the significance of decisions, issues, proposals, and activities.

We are proposing to add four new criteria and have updated to the existing criteria.

Criteria	Option 1: Status quo	Option 2: Updated criteria and descriptions (preferred option ¹)
Impact on the Region	The impact of the decision on the current and future wellbeing of the region	What level of impact will this issue, proposal, decision, or matter have on the current and future environmental, economic, cultural, and social wellbeing of the Region?
Community Interest	The extent to which individuals, whanau, hapū and iwi, organisations, groups and sectors within the community are particularly interested in, or affected by, the decision and any history of public concern	To what extent do individuals, organisations, groups, or sectors have interest in, are already involved in, or are affected by, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter?
Level of alignment with plans and strategies	Community are particularly interested in, or affected by, the decision and any history of public concern	How aligned is this issue, proposal, decision, or matter with the priorities in the Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy and Long Term Plan?
Consistency with existing Greater Wellington policy and strategy	The extent of inconsistency and the likely impact	<i>It is proposed that this criteria be removed and incorporated into the above “alignment with plans and strategies” criteria description as above.</i>
Financial implications	<i>Not a current criteria</i>	Does the cost of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter change (increase or decrease) OPEX by \$1.5 million or CAPEX by \$10 million?
Levels of service	<i>Not a current criteria</i>	Does the issue, proposal, decision, or matter change the level of service that Council is delivering to the Region?
New to Long Term Plan	<i>Not a current criteria</i>	Does this issue, proposal, decision, or matter require additional budget or add a new service that is not in the Long-Term Plan?
Mana whenua/ Māori interest	<i>Not a current criteria</i>	Does this issue, proposal, decision, or matter, impact, or hold cultural significance for our mana whenua partners or mātāwaka in the Region?

¹ We have also added key considerations for each of the updated criteria for Council Officers to consider. See the draft Significance and Engagement policy to see these key considerations.

Advantages of adopting the preferred option:

The new significance criteria have been added to ensure that our criteria meet the legislative definition of significance, to reflect best practice, and to capture the decisions that should require some level of community engagement. We have also removed one criteria about the alignment with Greater Wellington policies as we determined this should be captured in alignment with plans and strategies and was not a strong criteria for determining significance.

Disadvantages of preferred option:

No known disadvantages of adopting the preferred option.

2. How we partner with mana whenua.

Council Officers will refer to the **Te Whāinga Rongomaio Partnership and Engagement framework** (an internal framework currently in development with Greater Wellington's Te Hunga Whiriwhiri department) rather than this policy to determine the best approach as to when and how our mana whenua partners will become involved in issues, proposals, decisions and matters.

Option 1: Status quo – existing policy statement:	Option 2: updated policy statement (preferred option)
<p>Greater Wellington has appropriate processes in place for engaging with Māori. This includes processes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support our partnerships with mana whenua, as set out in the Memorandum of Partnership 2013• Fulfil statutory requirements to consult with mana whenua (such as under the Resource Management Act 1991)• Enable taura² here to participate in issues of interest to the regional community.	<p>Council has six mana whenua partners across the Region. They sit alongside us at both governance and operational levels. As such, the way we work with our mana whenua partners is different to how we engage with community. When necessary, Council staff will refer to and consider, Te Whāinga Rongomaio regarding partnering with our mana whenua.</p>

Advantages of adopting the preferred option:

The updated policy statement and supporting framework will ensure that Greater Wellington's mana whenua partners are represented and their status is publicly recognised.

Disadvantages of preferred option:

There are no known disadvantages of adopting the preferred option.

On top of these changes, we have updated how we engage with the community, and reviewed our list of strategic assets. You can find more details in the draft Significance and Engagement Policy document at: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/>

Have your Say

We want to hear your views on our newly proposed criteria, and how we should go about engagement. We are particularly interested in the methods of communication you would prefer, and how you would like to be informed of upcoming decisions (i.e. online, public meetings, social media use).

Public consultation on the policy runs from 3 April 2023 to 23 April 2023.

- Provide feedback online via our 'Have Your Say' platform at: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/>
- Register for an online discussion with your Councillors on 3 May 2023 and 4 May 2023 at: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/>
- You can also post your submission form to us at: Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646, Wellington 6142
- Or drop it off to one of our offices at:
 - Wellington- 100 Cuba Street
 - Masterton- 34 Chapel Street

The Council will consider all feedback and deliberate on the proposed changes to the Significance and Engagement Policy in May 2023.

Please contact Corporate.Planning@Gw.govt.nz if you have any other feedback or questions relating to the policy.

² Also known as māṭawaka. Refers to Māori who live in the Wellington Region but are not affiliated to the iwi or groups holding mana whenua status here.

- Section 1: Personal information
- Section 2 How should Greater Wellington engage with you?
- Section 3: What do you think of the proposed changes to the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?

Section 1: Personal Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Section 2: How should Greater Wellington engage with you?

We engage with the community in many ways such as keeping you informed about significant changes that we are making, asking for feedback you on important decisions, involving you in creating a solution to a problem, and asking you to collaborate in design of solutions. The level and method of engagement depends on how significant the decision we are making is.

In the questions below, please indicate your preferences for engaging with Greater Wellington and what your expectations are:

1. How would you most like us to reach out to you on upcoming opportunities to engage? (Indicate your top five)

- Email
- Greater Wellington Website
- Posterboard in your neighbourhood
- Paper pamphlet in your mailbox
- Newspaper (regional and local)
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Tik Tok
- Other, please specify:

2. How would you like to share your ideas and views with us? (Indicate your top 3)

- Online survey
- Online focus group
- In-person focus group
- Being on a regular community forum or committee
- Talking to Council about your opinion in a formal Hearing process
- Talking to Council about your opinion in an informal online forum
- Email personal submission

3. What can we do to make it easier to share your views and ideas with us?

Section 3: What do you think of the proposed changes to the Significance and Engagement Policy?

1. Do you support the proposed four additional criteria as below to our Significance and Engagement Policy?

Yes No Please comment

We use a set of criteria in the Significance and Engagement policy to determine the level of significance of the decisions that we make. Typically, the higher level of significance, the higher level of engagement needed.

New Criteria	Description of proposed updates:	Key Considerations
Financial implications	Does the cost of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter change (increase or decrease) OPEX by \$1.5 million or CAPEX by \$10 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High capital or operational expenditure • Alignment with current financial strategy • Whether the decision or proposals results in major increases in debt levels or rates
Levels of service	Does the issue, proposal, decision, or matter change the level of service that Council is delivering to the Region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal or major decrease of a service to the community • The addition or major increase of a service to the community • A major change in the way a service is being delivered to the community
New to Long Term Plan	Does this issue, proposal, decision, or matter require additional budget or add a new service that is not in the Long-Term Plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major capital or operating expenditure that is not planned for in the Long Term Plan • Changes in service delivery that are not in the Long Term Plan
Mana whenua/ Māori interest	Does this issue, proposal, decision, or matter, impact, or hold cultural significance for our mana whenua partners or mātāwaka in the Region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which mana whenua partners are in the areas of the Region that the decision or proposal impacts • The level of impact on those mana whenua partners, including areas that hold cultural significance to them • The impact of the proposal or decision on mātāwaka in the Region

- You can find more details in the draft Significance and Engagement Policy document at: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/>

2. Do you support the proposed updates to our existing criteria as below to our Significance and Engagement Policy?

Yes No Please comment

We use a set of criteria in the Significance and Engagement policy to determine the level of significance of the decisions that we make. Typically, the higher level of significance, the higher level of engagement needed.

Existing Criteria	Description – as per 2019 Policy:	Description – proposed updates:	Key Considerations
Impact on the Region	The impact of the decision on the current and future wellbeing of the region	What level of impact will this issue, proposal, decision, or matter have on the current and future environmental, economic, cultural, and social wellbeing of the Region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of people, communities, organisations, businesses that are impacted by the decision or proposal The degree in which they are impacted by the decision or proposal Whether the decision is irreversible and would impact on future generations
Community Interest	The extent to which individuals, whanau, hapū and iwi, organisations, groups and sectors within the community are particularly interested in, or affected by, the decision and any history of public concern	To what extent do individuals, organisations, groups, or sectors have interest in, are already involved in, or are affected by, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High levels of previous or current public interest Large division in community views on the decision or proposal Whether there is a moderate impact on a large proportion of the community, or a high impact on a small proportion of the community
Level of alignment with plans and strategies	Community are particularly interested in, or affected by, the decision and any history of public concern	How aligned is this issue, proposal, decision, or matter with the priorities in the Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy and Long Term Plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The degree in which the decision or proposal works to achieve the priorities in the Long Term Plan The degree in which the decision or proposals is in line with the principles of the financial strategy and infrastructure strategy
Consistency with existing Greater Wellington policy and strategy	The extent of inconsistency and the likely impact	It is proposed that this criteria be removed and incorporated into the above “alignment with plans and strategies” criteria as above.	

- Refer to Section 2 - Determining Significance - of the draft Significance and Engagement Policy document at: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/>

3. Do you support how we reflect our partnership with mana whenua in the new Significance and Engagement Policy?

Yes No Please comment

- Greater Wellington’s relationship with our mana whenua partners has changed significantly since the previous Significance and Engagement Policy. This section specifies that council has six mana whenua partners across the Region. They sit alongside us at both governance and operational levels. As such, the way we work with our mana whenua partners is different to how we engage with community. When necessary, Council staff will refer to and consider, Te Whāinga Rongomaioro (an internal framework currently in development with Greater Wellington’s Te Hunga Whiriwhiri department) regarding partnering with our mana whenua.
- Refer to Section 3 - Partnering with mana whenua - in the draft Significance and Engagement Policy document at: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/>

4. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposed Significance and Engagement policy?