

ASSET PLANS

Getting Maximum Value From Your Community Engagement Feedback

This guide is for our colleagues in Local Government. You've adopted your Vision, your Council Plan, your Health and Wellbeing Plan. Well isn't this relaxing, time to book a holiday you think! Nope. It's time to get cracking on planning for your Asset Plan.

We've come up with a plan, where you can have your holiday and a great Asset Plan too! We always encourage councils to re-use their engagement data to get value for effort, we've already tested this for you.



What's the timeline:

- An Asset Plan is required to be adopted by 30 June 2022. Plan is effective from 1 July 2022.
- Councils will need to complete their background research now and plan their engagement program, for implementation in early 2022.



Scope

The first Asset Plan must be developed in accordance with your councils community engagement policy.

If possible councils should use deliberative engagement for their 2022 Plan

Future Asset Plans must be developed using deliberative engagement.

A great solution for councils is to re-use any engagement data they have already collected, for the development of their Asset Plan including:

- Any engagement feedback previously collected **using a deliberative process** for the long-term Community Vision, the four-year Council Plan or the 10-year Financial Plan.
- **Other engagement feedback** previously collected during 2020-2021 from community surveys, workshops, group discussions, community pop-ups or other engagement activities.





What we tested

After a comprehensive engagement process conducted in early 2021, Moyne Shire Council asked us to review their engagement data, look at any feedback related to their area's physical assets and summarise this feedback for consideration in the draft Asset Plan. This is what we did:

- Residents' feedback from the Community Vision process had been classified into four main themes – People, Place, Environment and Economy.
- For the Asset Plan, we needed to re-classify all the feedback we received and look at it through an 'asset management' lens.

We knew that a key component of community visioning was about improving or maintaining the physical assets of the area:

- its natural assets such as foreshore, green spaces and clean air and water.
- its built assets such as roads and bridges, community buildings, sports pavilions, cycling paths and playgrounds.

So we had designed the engagement questions for the 2050 Community Vision and the Council Plan process to reflect this:

- We directly asked Moyne residents about the community facilities they would need over the next few decades.
- Residents talked about Council assets and other assets owned by State or Federal Governments.

- 1 We looked at the feedback from the 2050 Community Vision-Council Plan community survey and the community pop-ups.
- 2 We looked at the documented conversations between members of the Community Vision Deliberative Panel.
- 3 We focused on particular engagement questions – questions about investment priorities and relative importance, questions about the community facilities needed most, and what needs to be addressed in the shorter-term (next four years).
- 4 We re-organised the feedback into commonly used asset categories – comments about roads and bridges, walking and cycling paths, playgrounds, recreational open space, sports pavilions, community services buildings, natural assets such as rivers, beaches and State parks.



What we tested



5 We focused on Council-owned and operated physical and natural assets.

6 We looked at the quantitative answers from the community survey and the counts of mentioned asset categories from the community pop-ups and the Deliberative Panel discussions.



The assets and facilities that were more consistently mentioned across the different engagement questions were:

- Roads - maintenance and upgrade
- Paths and trails - footpaths, walking and cycling paths, Rail Trail
- Recreation facilities/open space and
- Playgrounds
- Parks, natural spaces, coast/foreshore
- Community buildings for health and welfare.



Other asset categories were mentioned in the engagement feedback but less often than the priorities shown here.

In addition to the technical assessments and facility usage data that should be used to develop an Asset Plan, there is clear evidence of the Moyne community's priorities.



We also reviewed the draft Council Plan and Budget to see what asset management actions had already been identified for action in the coming year.

One important benefit of a deliberative engagement process for asset planning is being able to explore and 'trade-off' one priority against another.

You could then re-engage your Community Panel and explore the 'trade-offs' and prioritisation of asset renewal, delivery or decommission.





Still need help?

- [Talk](#) to Conversation Co about a plan for your Asset Plan
- Register with <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020> to receive updates on key Act implementation, professional development updates, opportunities to provide feedback or co-design
- Watch Webinar 'LGV Connects - Asset Planning' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPO5VFYOJJE>
- Read the Technical Description document for Section 6.4 Asset Plan (s92) available at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/local-government-act-2020/integrated-strategic-planning-and-reporting-framework>
- Consult with your colleagues and share your approach with them, compare and learn from other 'like' councils

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