

<b>Circular Details</b>	18-22 / 22 August 2018 / A603486
<b>Previous Circular</b>	N/A
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
<b>Contact</b>	Council Governance – 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Information

## Release of the *Charter for Public Participation – a guide to assist agencies and promote citizen engagement*

### What's new or changing

- The NSW Information and Privacy Commission has released its *Charter for Public Participation – a guide to assist agencies and promote citizen engagement* (the Charter).
- The Charter aims to assist NSW agencies to seek effective public input into the development and delivery of policies and services. The Charter also contains:
  - a framework for developing a policy on public participation
  - a guide to encourage, enable and embed effective citizen engagement in policy design and development
  - a practical and flexible roadmap to guide agencies in embedding public participation in agency frameworks
  - practical information, steps and tools for planning effective engagement with communities, and
  - useful examples of successful public participation.

### What this will mean for your council

- Councils may wish to consider the Charter in developing community engagement strategies to inform strategic planning, policy development and other decision-making.

### Key points

- Community engagement is a key element of the work undertaken by councils. Under yet to commence amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*, councils will be required to establish and implement a community engagement strategy for engagement with the local community when developing all plans, policies and programs and for the purpose of determining their activities (other than routine administrative matters).

## Where to go for further information

- The Charter and further information is available at:  
<http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/charter-public-participation-guide-assist-agencies-and-promote-citizen-engagement>
- Councils may also wish to contact the NSW Information and Privacy Commission on 1800 472 679 or [ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au).



**Tim Hurst**  
**Chief Executive**