



Media release

Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Community consultation central focus of inquiry

Community consultation practices across Victoria are in focus as part of a new parliamentary inquiry.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee is [encouraging public submissions](#) to be made by Friday 6 June 2025.

The Committee is looking at how state and local government, statutory authorities and essential service providers consult with communities, as well as the use of non-government providers to conduct consultations on behalf of government agencies.

“Decision making is always made better through community engagement and consultation, and how that consultation balances different needs and interests is vital,” Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

“We’re intending to examine current consultation practices, see if there are any particular groups or regions who have less of a chance to participate in consultation activities, and whether there are any options to improve their level of engagement.

“We’ll also look at best practice community consultation in other jurisdictions in Australia and other comparable countries.”

Standards of conduct, including preparedness for community consultation and the use and effectiveness of the Engage Victoria platform are also being reviewed by the Committee.

“If people can identify areas for improvement, this is a chance for them to have their say,” Mr Batchelor said.

The inquiry’s full terms of reference are on the [Committee’s website](#).

Issued: 14 April 2025