

have
your say

Asset Management Policy Engagement Report

July 2026



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Asset Management Policy provides the strategic framework for the responsible planning, management, renewal and replacement of Council's infrastructure and assets. Regular review of the policy is an important component of governance and continuous improvement - ensuring that Council's practices remain aligned with legislative requirements, strategic objectives, financial and service planning and operational delivery.

As part of the policy review process community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken to contribute feedback on Council's draft Asset Management Policy 2026. The feedback received will help inform the final policy and support Council's operational and legislative responsibilities.

This report summarises the engagement activities undertaken, the feedback received, and the key themes identified during the consultation period.

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

PMHC Have Your Say webpage was the key platform used in this engagement, with feedback open from 22 June - 20 July 2026 available to be submitted via

- online submission form
- direct email to Council, or
- PMHC customer service

Engagement approach

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertakes engagement using the industry standard IAP2 Spectrum of Participation (see diagram on next page), which is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines Council's promise and the community's role in the decision-making process.

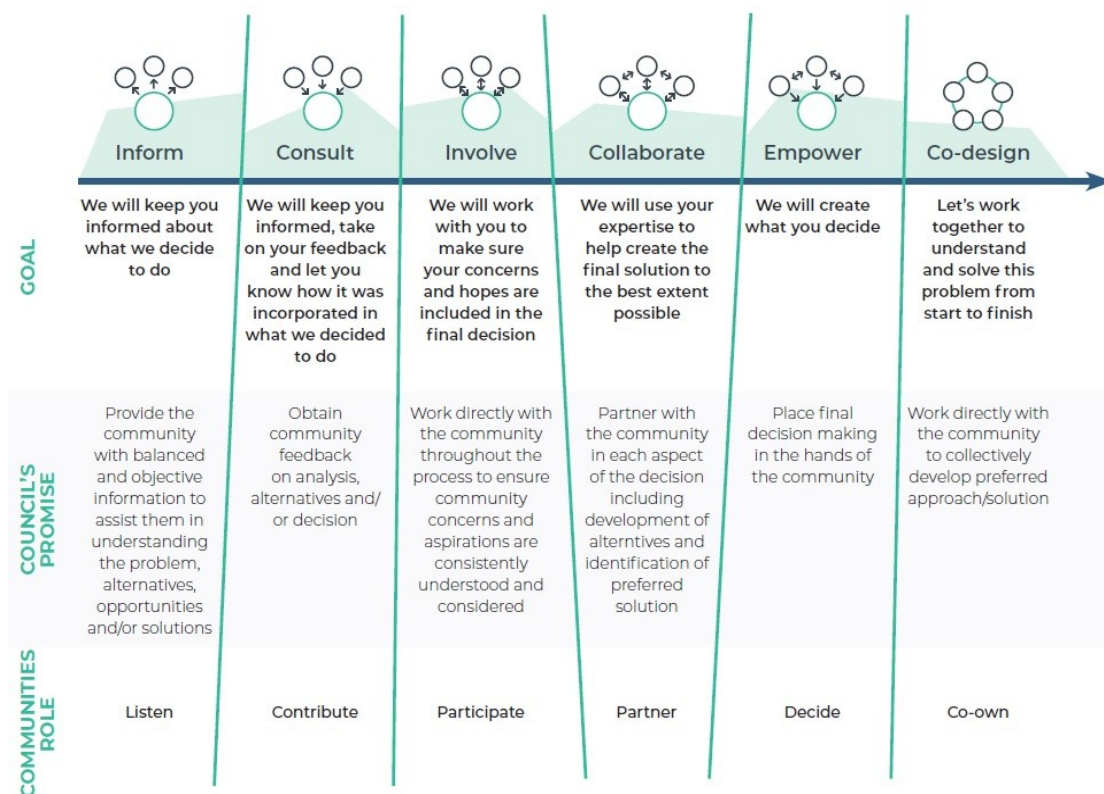
Following the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) matrix, the level of engagement for this policy review was **consult**, for Council to obtain community feedback and the community to contribute to the draft policy.

This means we sought to:

- Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the project.
- Obtain feedback on analysis, alternative and/or decisions.

Our commitment from this process is to:

- Keep the community informed.
- Listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations.
- Let the community know how their input has influenced decisions made in finalising the design.



Have Your Say

PMHC Have Your Say (HYS) engagement page provided context of the policy review, relevant documents, engagement timeline and relevant submission forms.

During the 28-day public exhibition period the HYS page received

169 views

145 visits

3 submissions

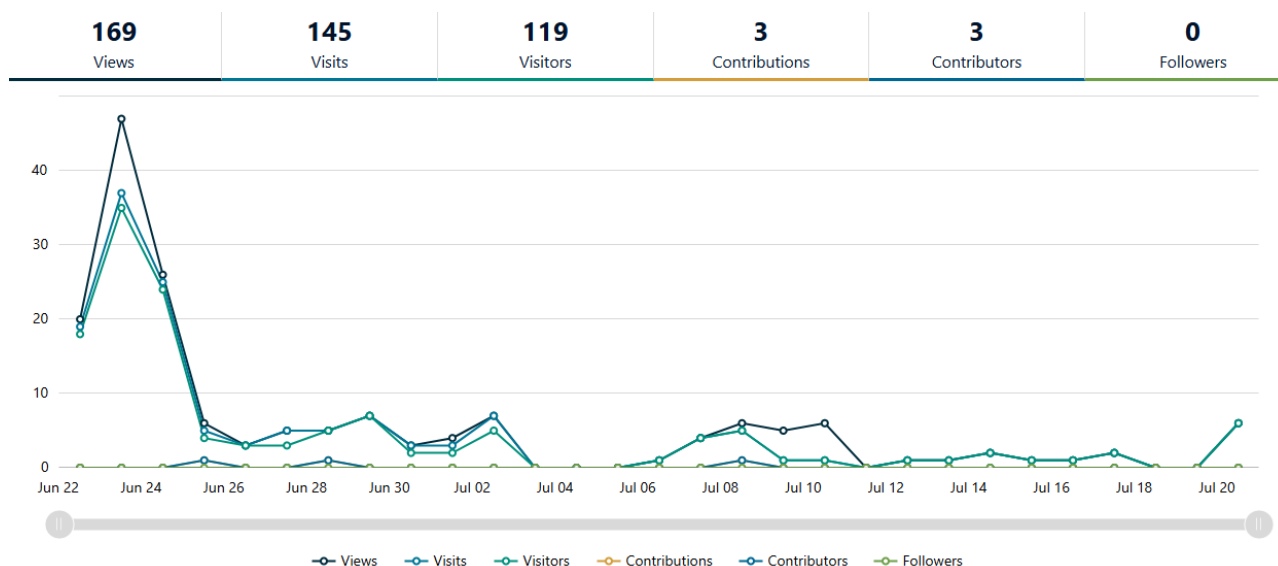


Figure 1: overview of Have Your Say activity during public exhibition period.

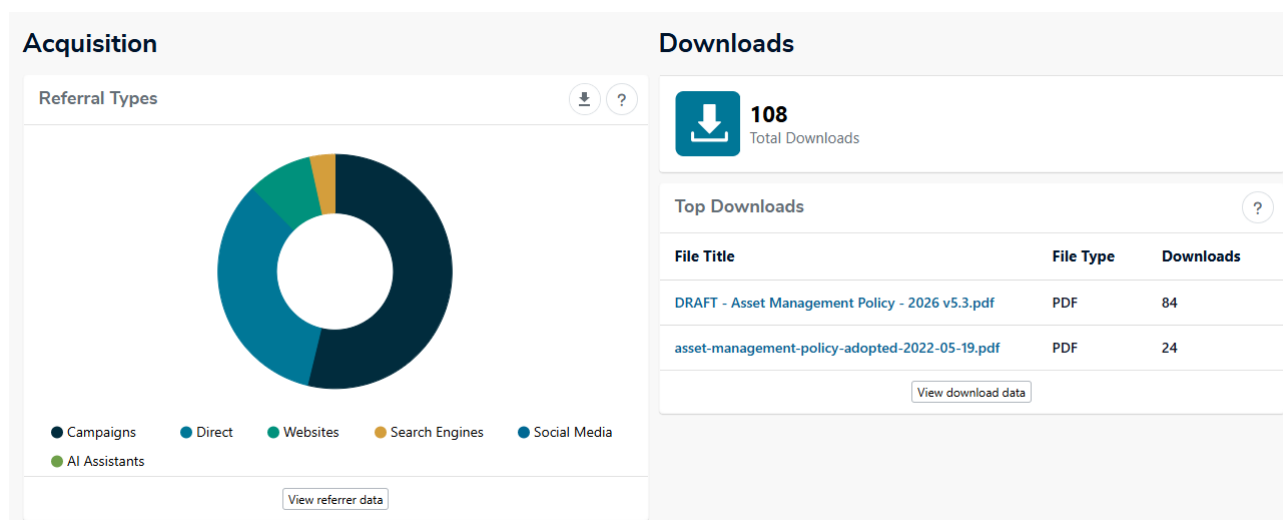
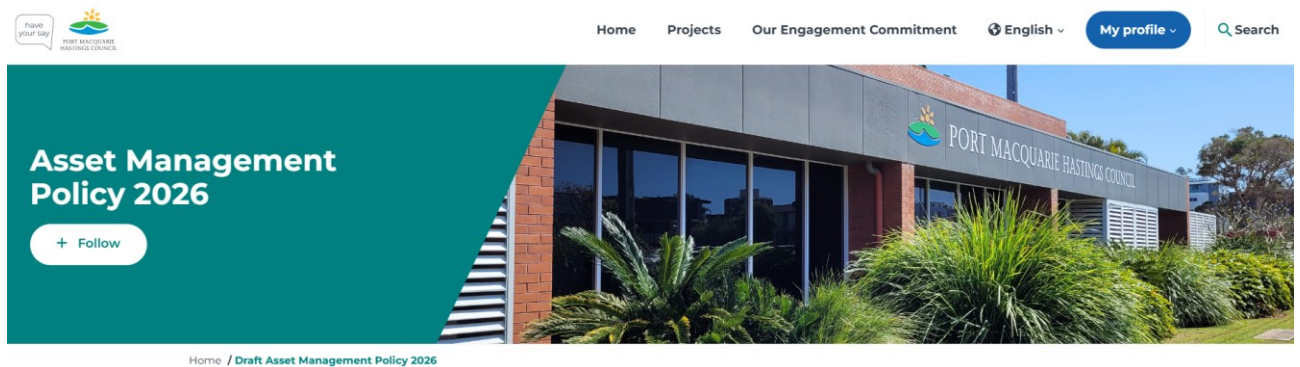


Figure 2: measure of HYS visit and activity

Communications

The Asset Management Policy review public exhibition was communicated through PMHC

- Have Your Say notification subscribers list
- June monthly Have Your Say newsletter
- PMHC Have Your Say page



- PMHC Have Your Say **June Newsletter**: subscriber list of **8,738** recipients

Draft Asset Management Policy now on exhibition



Council manages a wide range of community assets, from roads, bridges and stormwater systems to buildings, parks, open spaces and community facilities.

[The draft Asset Management Policy](#) outlines the principles and responsibilities that guide how these assets are planned, managed and maintained to support the needs of our community now and into the future.

The policy has been updated alongside Council's 2025–2035 Asset Management Strategy to provide clearer, more direct guidance on how Council applies asset management across the organisation.

SUBMISSIONS

A total of **three written submissions** were received during the public exhibition period. Feedback was provided by individual community members and a regional sporting organisation. The submissions identified several key themes relevant to the ongoing development and implementation of the Asset Management Policy.

Submission no.: 12787

I'm writing to register my objection to being charged new fee for SSCMP.

The canals are a public asset, many people use it from rowers, boats, public rental boats as well as many fishing boats in public competitions. It is not only the residents that live on the canals. People who live next to other council assets are not charged extra for residing there.

I find the proposed 6% increase is highly unfair and as we already pay higher rates and other structure fees for access to the canals as it is.

The canals benefit the whole town as it mitigates flooding which is a benefit to the whole town especially the business areas.

I would like to register my opposition against this proposed extra fee.

Thank you

XXXX

Submission no.: 12757

I would love to see better managment of Lake Cathie, at the moment it is closed to the Ocean and looking very sad and discoloured

Submission no.: 12857

Dear Port Macquarie-Hastings Council,

Northern NSW Football appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's Draft Asset Management Policy.

Northern NSW Football supports the intent and direction of the Draft Policy, particularly its focus on whole-of-life asset planning, transparent reporting of funding gaps and renewal backlogs, risk-based prioritisation, defined levels of service and the integration of Asset Management Plans with Council's Long-Term Financial Plan.

Community sport and recreation assets are critical public infrastructure. Football fields, sports lighting, drainage, irrigation, amenities, changerooms, referee facilities and supporting infrastructure provide significant value to local communities by enabling participation, physical activity, social connection, inclusion and community wellbeing.

Northern NSW Football welcomes the Draft Policy's recognition that Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has significant infrastructure, equipment, fleet and property assets that are critical to providing value to the community. The Draft Policy also appropriately identifies that Asset Management Plans will directly inform forward maintenance, renewal and risk mitigation budgets, and that funding gaps, renewal backlogs and risk exposures must be transparently reported through the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

From Northern NSW Football's perspective, it is important that this approach is applied clearly and consistently to community sport and recreation infrastructure. These assets are heavily used, often weather-exposed, and are essential to meeting community demand for organised sport, active recreation and inclusive participation opportunities.

Northern NSW Football also supports the Draft Policy's principle that asset management should prioritise maintaining, renewing and optimising existing assets and networks, while delivering the right infrastructure at the right time and providing targeted upgrades where necessary to meet community needs. This principle is particularly relevant to community football facilities, where renewal and maintenance of existing assets is often just as important as the delivery of new infrastructure.

Northern NSW Football recommends that, in implementing the Draft Asset Management Policy, Council ensures future Asset Management Plans and related planning documents:

- * clearly identify the condition, capacity and renewal requirements of community sport and recreation assets;
- * include appropriate service levels for high-use community sporting infrastructure, including playing fields, sports lighting, drainage, irrigation, amenities, changerooms and referee facilities;
- * transparently report renewal backlogs, funding gaps and risk exposure associated with sport and recreation assets;
- * prioritise infrastructure that supports participation growth, female participation, accessibility, safety, inclusion and community wellbeing;
- * consider the impact of weather, ground closures and increasing participation demand on the long-term sustainability of community sporting assets;
- * align asset planning and investment decisions with local sport participation trends, community needs and facility priorities identified through engagement with local clubs, associations and state sporting organisations.

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The Draft Policy's commitment to defining Levels of Service for each asset class is strongly supported. The policy notes that service levels should reflect community needs and expectations, balanced against funding, whole-of-life cost optimisation and risk. Northern NSW Football encourages Council to ensure that service levels for sport and recreation assets are practical, transparent and informed by the needs of local users.

Northern NSW Football would welcome the opportunity to continue working with Council, local football stakeholders and the broader sporting community to support evidence-based planning for community sport infrastructure across the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Asset Management Policy.

Kind regards,

XXXX

Government Relations Officer

Northern NSW Football

RESULTS SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

Three written submissions were received during the public exhibition period. Overall, the submissions supported the principles of responsible asset management while identifying opportunities to strengthen implementation and communication.

Key themes identified included:

- Equitable funding – Feedback highlighted the importance of transparent and equitable approaches to funding and maintaining public assets.
- Asset maintenance – Submissions emphasised the need for ongoing maintenance and management of Council assets to ensure they remain functional and meet community expectations.
- Strategic asset planning – Support was expressed for whole-of-life asset management, risk-based decision-making, long-term financial planning, and transparent reporting of asset renewal needs.
- Community infrastructure – Feedback recognised the value of community and recreation assets and encouraged consideration of asset condition, service levels, accessibility, utilisation and future demand when planning investment.

NEXT STEPS

The feedback received will be considered by the project team in the ongoing review of the Asset Management Policy and the development of future Asset Management Plans.

The Asset Management Policy 2026 will be reviewed and reported to the August 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting where elected Councillors will consider it for adoption. For information about Council meetings, agenda items, reports and minutes, please visit our webpage www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Council-meetings/Agendas-and-minutes

This Engagement Report, and any associated engagement updates, will be published on the Asset Management Policy 2026 Have Your Say page for public reference.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council

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