

Community engagement on *Fit for the Future* - Some examples from councils

Bankstown City Council

Bankstown City Council, located in south west Sydney, has been given two options under *Fit for the Future*, no boundary changes or merge with Canterbury Council. The Council has developed a dedicated [Fit for the Future website](#) via their community engagement portal, 'Have your Say'. The site includes [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that will be updated throughout the project, an [online survey](#) asking the community which option they currently prefer and details of upcoming [engagement activities](#). The Google translate function on the website is a useful resource for the diverse Bankstown community. Bankstown Council has also used a variety of other community consultation tools including information booths, community meetings and workshops, telephone poll and a dedicated [FFTF phone line and email address](#) with residents also encouraged to write directly to the General Manager with suggestions or questions. A survey to gain initial community views was also included in the rates notice.

In December 2014, the Council adopted its [Fit for the Future Community Consultation Plan](#) which is being rolled out across three stages:

- Stage One: Information Exchange
- Stage Two: Options and Feedback
- Stage Three: Feedback on Draft Proposal

Bankstown Council is also engaging with its staff through an Employee Engagement Group and internal resources including *Fit for the Future* intranet website, employee information handouts, staff reference cards and ongoing staff briefings.

Boorowa Council

Boorowa Council, located in the Tablelands, has been recommended to merge with Harden Shire Council and Young Shire Council, or establish a Rural Council. To-date, Boorowa Council has conducted four community forums, with a [community briefing paper \(PDF, 144KB\)](#) provided to the public prior to these forums. The community has also been invited to make written submissions to Council on what they think Council should include in the *Fit for the Future* submission. Boorowa Council has a dedicated [Local Government Reform page](#) on their council's website, where a copy of the [Community Forum Presentation \(PDF, 2.7MB\)](#) is provided, as well as a copy of their [Merger Business Case report \(PDF, 4.5MB\)](#).

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Liverpool Plains Shire Council, located in North West Slopes region, has been recommended to potentially merge with Gunnedah Shire Council or remain independent and form a Joint Organisation to work in partnership with Namoi Councils, with a detailed Council improvement proposal. The council held workshops for its employees, prior to launching their *FFTF* community engagement activities in March. As documented on their ['Have your Say' website](#), Liverpool Plains Council is running [diverse events](#) including pop-up stalls, a business breakfast and community meetings. Council also entered a *Fit for the Future* team in the local [Relay for Life](#) event and the local Quirindi Canter. To engage children and youth, council ran a writing, poster and photography competition for high school students and a [poster competition for primary students](#) with the theme '*Your Shire, Your Town, Your Say, Your Future*'.

Queanbeyan City Council

Queanbeyan City Council, located in south-east NSW, has been recommended to merge with Palerang Council. Queanbeyan Council is currently informing their community via a [Fit for the Future page](#) on council's website, through Mayoral Messages, a [brochure \(PDF, 323KB\)](#) and a page of '[Frequently Asked Questions](#)' which quotes council resolutions to-date and the steps Queanbeyan Council and neighbouring council, Palerang, have taken to consider the recommendations.

Queanbeyan Council is also planning to distribute an information package which will invite the public to share their views on three options via a reply paid envelope. This information pack will be distributed in a number of ways. It will be mailed to ratepayers, provided on the council website, and available in hard copy at the customer service centre and library. Council will be conducting a *FFTF* web survey as well as a Community Satisfaction Survey which will focus on services but include some *FFTF* related questions. Members of the public will also be able to attend two *FFTF* community forms held in late May.

Randwick City Council

Randwick City Council, located in Sydney's east, has been recommended to merge with Botany Bay, Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra. Randwick City Council has established a [Local Government Reform webpage](#), as well as a dedicated "Randwick City's Future" [community consultation webpage](#) which contains [Frequently Asked Questions](#). In December 2014 and January 2015, council held community information stalls and mailed an [information pack](#) to every resident. Council has now started to gather community feedback through a [community survey](#) which is available online and in a second information pack mailed to residents, as well as through focus groups and a telephone poll.

Note – these are a *sample* of community engagement activities throughout the state. Please contact the LGNSW 'Fit for the Future' team for more examples.

Links to Other Councils

Other councils which have been conducting diverse community engagement for *FFTF* include:

1. **Canterbury** <http://www.canterburyconnects.com.au/helping-decide-City-future>
2. **Corowa** <http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au/business/development/201522090951.asp>
3. **Guyra** <http://www.myguyra.com/---!fff/csIs>
4. **Hurstville** <http://www.hurstville.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture.html>
5. **Pittwater** http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/local_government_reform/have_your_say
6. **Rockdale** <http://www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/pages/FitForTheFuture.aspx>
7. **Temora** <http://www.temora.nsw.gov.au/>
8. **Uralla**
<http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au/files/uploaded/file/News%20&%20Events/HAVE%20YOUR%20SAY%20ON%20THE%20FUTURE%20OF%20URALLA%20SHIRE%20COUNCIL%20MARCH%202015%20WEBSITE.pdf>
9. **Waverley** http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/council/local_government_reform
10. **Wingecarribee** <http://yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/fit-for-the-future>