

Community Engagement Report



Road Discontinuance Policy

Project Overview

The Road Discontinuance Policy details how the discontinuance and disposal of roads that are 'no longer reasonably required for public use and access' will be processed. It outlines the process and ensures transparency and fairness.

Currently, Council receives applications to discontinue roads that appear unused so that they can buy the land once the road status has been removed. Generally, these applications come from adjoining property owners.

This Policy is consistent with Council's Property Strategy and Plan, and provides guidance to the community requesting to purchase a 'road'. The term 'road' includes but is not limited to, a right of way, street, easement of way or footpath.

Quick Engagement Stats

From 15 May to 20 June 108 people visited the site on Engage Frankston with 151 total views. Of these visitors, 3 provided feedback and the Policy was downloaded from the Engage Frankston platform 44 times.

Summary of outcomes

The number of views and downloads suggests acceptance of the Policy. However it is acknowledged that roads are a complex topic. Through the feedback received we were able to clarify the Policy to make the information more broadly accessible. Specifically, the concept of 'public purpose' was updated to 'public benefit' and defined in the Policy.

Feedback indicated concern that the Policy would allow Council to sell roads that may be required for a public use. A response was provided to a respondent to explain this is an overarching Policy to guide future proposals and each request will be assessed on the Policy criteria. The content of the Policy supports that, if after investigation a road proposed for discontinuance is required for public use, it is a public road and will not be considered for discontinuance.

Community Consultation Process

From the 15 May 2023 to 11 June 2023, an engagement page was set up on the Engage Frankston Platform to ensure the Draft Policy meets community expectations. The community were invited to provide feedback, recommendations or suggestions about the Draft Policy and provided the opportunity to be directly contacted about their feedback. A direct e-mail notification to 406 Engage Frankston subscribers with a corresponding area of interest was also provided.

Recommendations and Next Steps

Following the updates made to the Policy in response to community feedback, specifically updating and defining 'public benefit', it will now be recommended that Council consider adopting the Policy. The community will be kept informed of the outcome via Council's website and the Engage Frankston Platform.