

**Victorian Alpine Resort
Stakeholder Engagement Draft Policy**
May 2019



Draft policy

Victorian alpine resort - Stakeholder engagement policy

DRAFT for consultation with alpine stakeholders

Purpose

This policy outlines the commitment of the Victorian alpine resort sector to engaging with its stakeholders.

Scope

This policy applies to all (*insert appropriate ARMB/ARCC*) staff and Board (or Council) members in their dealings with stakeholders, and any other parties who undertake activities on their behalf. It applies to engagement activities on projects, policies and decisions. This includes but is not limited to strategic planning, significant infrastructure projects, and planning for services.

Definitions

Alpine resort sector – as a collective this includes the following five public sector entities: the Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council (ARCC) and the four Alpine Resort Management Boards (ARMBs): Mt Hotham, Falls Creek, Southern and Mt Buller/Mt Stirling Boards.

Stakeholder – Individuals, communities, interest groups and organisations who are interested in or impacted by the activities of an organisation and the decisions it makes.

Stakeholder engagement – Involves stakeholders in problem solving or decision making and uses their input to make better decisions.

Public participation – Another term for stakeholder engagement.

Levels of engagement – The [International Association of Public Participation \(IAP2\)](#) spectrum shows a range of legitimate levels of engagement. They include:

Inform – To provide balanced and objective information to assist stakeholders in understanding problems, alternatives and/or solutions

Consult – To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions

Involve – To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure their interests are understood and considered



Collaborate – To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of a preferred solution

Empower – To place final decision-making power in the hands of the public.

Our vision for engagement

A Victorian alpine resort sector in which stakeholders are actively and genuinely engaged in decisions that affect them, resulting in stronger and more constructive relationships, shared knowledge and better outcomes.

Guiding principles

The alpine resort sector’s approach to stakeholder engagement is guided by the principles outlined in the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (VAGO) [Better Practice Guide](#), and by the [International Association of Public Participation \(IAP2\)](#). These principles are based on the premise that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. The level at which a stakeholder is engaged is determined by considering the impact on stakeholders or their interest in the matter, the decision to be made and the goal to be achieved.

In conducting engagement, ARMBs and the ARCC will demonstrate the values of:

Responsiveness – responding to stakeholder input in a timely and constructive manner

Transparency and integrity – helping stakeholders understand the scope of a decision-making process and reporting how their input influenced the decision.

Openness – willing to seek the views of those affected by decisions, and open to providing them with relevant information to support this process.

Accountability – having clear objectives, following through on commitments made at the outset of the engagement, and being clear about the responsibilities of stakeholders in the process.

Inclusiveness – proactively seeking out those affected by the decision and providing meaningful opportunities, accessible channels and time for their involvement.

Awareness – being aware of legislative responsibilities to engage.

Alpine resort management sector’s commitment to engagement

The ARMBs and ARCC will:

- Approach engagement in a planned manner and incorporate it into project planning.
- Engage with stakeholders on matters that interest or affect them, including strategic planning, significant infrastructure projects, long-term financial planning and service planning .



- Be clear about stakeholders’ level of influence on any project or decision at the outset, using the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation as a reference, and inform them how their input was used.
- Engage with stakeholders in a manner that is timely, genuine, proactive and transparent.
- Endeavour to continually improve engagement practice, acknowledging that if it falls short, ARMBs and ARCC will work with stakeholders to understand why and find solutions.

Authorisation and review

The *(insert designated responsible position e.g. CEO)* is responsible for overseeing this policy and for the development of systems and materials to support its implementation.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

	Responsible person	Date
Prepared by	<i>ARCC Secretariat/ARMB</i>	<i>Date 2019</i>
Approved by	<i>Chair/Board</i>	<i>Date 2019</i>
Review due date	<i>ARCC Secretariat/ARMB</i>	<i>Date 2021</i>