

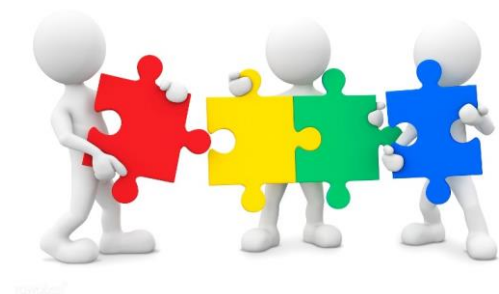
INFO PACK



A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS ON COUNCIL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



A guide for residents and ratepayers on how to approach your local Council to find out about Smart Cities plans in your community



A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS ON COUNCIL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This Info Pack offers guidance to residents and ratepayers on how to engage with your local Council and community to start a conversation about SMART Cities and the rollout of SMART technologies in your community. The following steps are not in any priority order and are provided as suggestions to consider in your approach.

Get to Know & Engage with your Local Councillors

Get to know who your Elected members are and their area of interest. This can be done via your local council website. Contact your Councillor(s) in your Ward to set up a meeting in person to start a conversation and to ask whether your council has any plans to implement Smart technologies or has a Smart City program. You can get 1-2 other residents to attend this meeting to build a relationship, to gain information, explain the situation and to express any concerns and get them onside.

Determine Best Approach

Determine how best to approach your Council. Your Councillor may provide some advice so start there. The public have the opportunity to raise concerns about issues in their area at Council meetings. This can be done by way of a deputation request to speak at a Council meeting or submitting a petition. It is best to start from a place of educated and informed action.

You could also consider writing a letter to the Mayor, Councillors and the CEO. Also, contacting your local State and Federal MP and the Premier.

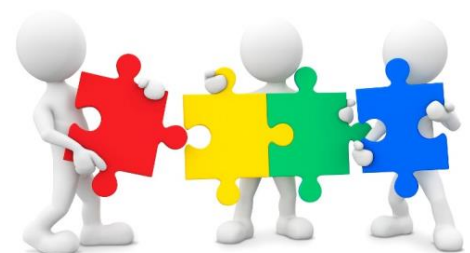
Educate yourself, investigate and gather information

South Australian councils are embracing Smart technologies to improve efficiencies and community services. Some councils are way ahead of others with their implementation plans. So, before you approach your Council be informed and get familiar with your council's strategic plans and any implementation plans. You will need to investigate and gather credible information from source documents to raise discussion and provide you with the evidence to support any concerns.

See Info Pack *“What you need to Know about Smart Cities”* for useful information.

Get familiar with Your Council's Strategic plans

Research your Council's strategic plans on their website to check if your council has any Smart city plans or are rolling out any Smart technologies.



Search for existing or proposed strategic plans, council approvals and documents that support the use of SMART technologies. Look for state, local and regional plans (they won't spell out the full agenda). Stay vigilant as each council may use different language in their strategic plans & initiatives so it may not be so transparent. Councils will speak in glossy terms, benefits and use lovely pictures of a connected community. Concept of Smart City applications – see back page.

Research and examine:

- Strategic plans 2030, 2040, 2050 (City Plan and all other plans)
- Council meetings past and upcoming agendas and minutes (including sub-committees)
- Community consultation
- Any climate Change/ emergency initiatives
- Any sustainable development initiatives
- Any digital strategy
- Related Policies
- Any infrastructure renewal projects that may include smart technologies
- Related tenders and contracts awarded
- Budgets and Financial reports



TIP: On your council's website, search for keywords such as "SMART", "economic development" "sustainable" "climate change" "climate emergency" "sustainable urban/ regional development" "revitalisation" "renewal" "transformational" "innovative technology" and "digital" "environmental, social, and governance" "ESG score" "carbon credits" "equitable" "inclusive" "one health" "disruption".

Rally your Neighbours and Set up a Group

Set up a small group in your area to work together to develop a council and community engagement strategy to approach your council to have your say.

As discussed above, unpack any Smart cities agendas in your council's plans. Research and examine source information.



TIP:

- Use source documents.
- Look at government plans affecting your area.
- Only state information that you can verify.
- Walk people through the information.
- Do not sensationalise – no need to sensationalise as there may be enough in the documents for concern (don't use anything that can be perceived as "conspiracy theory").
- Ask questions – e.g. how can I have a say in this transformation that is happening in my community?
- To understand Smart Cities, you need to be aware of and understand the technology.
- You need to see the global plans in the local plans.
- Smart cities and smart technology is only part of the bigger picture.



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- Make the link to what is planned locally to what is planned globally and the full implications.
- Look for links to [the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainability Development](#)
- You need to read beneath the lines as the benefits are sold to us as measures of convenience and necessary for climate change, equity and access, cost savings, security, and environmental protection.
- Do this gradually and how you are connecting the dots to the bigger picture.
- Only say things that can be verified to its credible source.
- Be alert to legislation and changes that impact on related matters.

Share the workload in a group

1. Look at council plans.
2. Look at State plans.
3. Look at global plans.
4. Research more extensively the technology
5. Come together and what you've learned to put the pieces back together.
6. Determine your next steps.



Gather Community Support

Gather support in your community – flyer letterbox drops in your area; and consider holding community meetings to raise awareness and educate other residents in your council area. Do not sensationalise or create fear – stick to the facts.

Develop a Petition

Petitioning to Council may be a good way to gain community support in your local area. Check with your Council for their petition requirements to ensure your petition is accepted and added to a Council meeting agenda.

Deputations

The public have the opportunity to raise concerns about issues in their area at Council meetings via a deputation.

A deputation allows residents or ratepayers (or a group) to speak at a Council meeting with prior approved time allocation. A presentation and material handout to elected members may be allowed at the Council meeting as part of the deputation. You may wish to attend a Council meeting to ask questions and present your concerns. Be clear on what points you wish to raise during a council deputation. Check on your Council's website for its deputation request process and guidance.

Objection Letter

You may consider making your concerns and objections known to your Council by writing a letter. In the objection state that you do not consent to invasive surveillance technologies and question other

matters of concern. This could also take the form of a withdrawal of consent notice. Support your claims with source documents (as appendices).

Forward information to Councillors and local MP

Another way is to email and/or prepare hardcopy information hand-outs for Councillors and local MP. Ensure that the information is from credible sources.

Attend Council Meetings

Attend council meetings to stay up to date on what's going on in your area. Read the Council Meeting agenda on their website prior to attending so you know what agenda items will be discussed.

Most councils do not allow comments or questions from the public during a council meeting without prior approval. Contact your Council to discuss the process on how you go about this (see the section on requesting a Deputation).

Stay Calm

Most important of all when engaging with your council (and the community) is that you stay calm and approach all Councillors and staff with respect. Many Councillors may not be aware of the long term consequences of Smart Cities. Be the voice of reason.

More Information

Some of the content in this Info Pack has been based on [the presentation - Researching global agendas as they unfurl into your towns and cities](#). Watch the [video](#) for the full content. (Credit to Kate Mason)

Refer to Info Pack *“What you need to know about Smart cities – the Good, the Bad & the Ugly”* for more information.

Join a local community action group and be part of the conversation

If you are a resident or ratepayer in any of the following councils, you can form part of a local community group.

- Tea Tree Gully
- Salisbury
- Playford
- Gawler

Please contact **North East Alliance Movement (NEAM)** at neamgroups@gmail.com for more information about joining a local group.

Concept of Smart City applications



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