

## Chapter 14: Community involvement in transport decisions



Community involvement has played a major part in drawing up this IRTP. But meaningful community involvement does not stop there. Input from communities will be sought at all planning scales from the regional plan to more local planning studies and the individual project scale. Community input will also be sought during the implementation of services, for example when planning new bus routes, reviewing car parking arrangements, implementing bus or high occupancy vehicle priority systems, and setting coordinated timetables and fare arrangements.

Community consultation on transport matters has sometimes been viewed as a process of “selling” a pre-determined solution or project to the local community. There has also been a failure to consult early enough, before a decision to proceed with a particular project has been taken. The need for the project must be established and alternative ways of meeting the project’s objectives seriously considered before a preferred option is selected.

The specific needs of women, the elderly, people with non-English speaking backgrounds, people with mobility difficulties, people needing child care facilities, and people who are not available during normal working hours must be met to allow them to participate in consultation activities. There must also be clear rules to be followed by transport agencies when conducting consultation processes and developing transport projects.

The IRTP has developed guidelines which outline improved processes for community consultation. These are supported by detailed draft processes and procedures being developed by Queensland Transport and Department of Main Roads. Formal guidelines such as these should be followed by all agencies to ensure a structured approach which covers all the important issues.

### **ACTIONS:**

- A 14.1 Adopt formal consultation processes and guidelines
- A 14.2 Convene a Regional Transport Reference Group
- A 14.3 Convene community advisory groups within local government areas
- A 14.4 Convene open house workshops/information sessions on all significant transport projects
- A 14.5 Make information on transport projects freely available to the community
- A 14.6 Provide support for endorsed community reference groups
- A 14.7 Establish procedures for meeting the costs of attending meetings