

Helen J. Wythe & Associates

Consulting, Facilitating and Training Services

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Our Services > Convening Facilitation Events > Consultation *Involvement = Ownership = Commitment*

A Consultation should be initiated before any Project Plan is prepared to facilitate an understanding of community values and concerns so that they can be addressed and where necessary incorporated into appropriate commitments. It also allows the project to be better understood by the community.



Benefits of a Community Consultation Program

A properly conducted consultation program can enhance the likelihood of informed discussion leading to better definition and greater support of the project, either as proposed or subject to agreed compromise. It should be recognised that consultation does not necessarily produce solutions that are acceptable to all parties.

*Thanks to the Planning Alternative Tomorrows With Hope (PATH):
Jack Pearpoint, John O'Brien and Marsha Forest*

Nevertheless, a formal and effective community consultation program during all stages of a project, can benefit the project in a number of ways:

- It can assist in gathering relevant local information which can facilitate the planning, operation and rehabilitation;
- It can collect and disseminate useful and factual information as the basis for better understanding by both the proponent and the community;
- It can assist in deciding alternative strategies;
- It can assist in the early identification of stakeholders;
- It can reduce delays and costs of redesigns, enforced negotiations and even possible litigation resulting from widespread community opposition;
It can reduce some of the uncertainties in the approvals process by addressing any possible contentious issues (or even indicating that a project may not be feasible) at an early stage;
- It can instil community confidence in the proponent and gain wider community support for the project; and
- It can identify potential social impacts of the proposal and allow the rapid development of strategies to mitigate these impacts.

*Creating productive individuals, teams, workplaces,
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HELEN J. WYTHER & Associates can assist you with defining the objectives of a consultation program. The objectives of a community consultation program should include such items as the provision of factual, accurate information about the project up to and including an evaluation of community acceptance of the project.

Consultation may be needed to raise and confront difficult issues. *HELEN J. WYTHER & Associates* will provide facilitation services which will ensure that any confrontation is effectively mediated so that concerned and/or affected people are given the opportunity to be heard and have their views respected. While a consultation may be a difficult process, it can also be very constructive.

For further details on the design and facilitation of a Consultation session, please e-mail us at info@hjwythe.com.

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