



FROM THE COAST

Community Surveys

Community surveys are one way local governments can find out what their community think about certain projects, services and facilities. The information gathered help us as Councillors make decisions on behalf of our community.

Whether you are a ratepayer, visitor or resident of Esperance, we encourage everyone to participate in surveys when the opportunity arises. Only by getting as many completed as possible can we be sure the opinions and views are really representative of the community, making them a reasonable base for the development and determination of decisions that need to be made.

Surveys are a positive way for the community to have a say and are much more worthwhile than posting complaints on social media. Not only are we unlikely to see comments posted anywhere other than official Shire forums, but comments are usually limited to a small portion of the community. While it can appear that a topic is “going viral”, in essence it is restricted to the relatively small number of members of that forum and can be far from representative of our broader community.

Instead of using the time to compose and post a Facebook post, why not spare the time shaping the future of our town? Completing surveys is an easy way to have your say and an efficient way to let the Shire learn more about what is important to you. This can only result in better decisions made for Esperance’s future.

If you don’t know much about a survey topic or don’t care about the issue it covers, believe it or not, you are our most important survey responder. Unless we hear from you, the vocal minority will end up having more impact on decision making which could result in Council wasting time and ratepayer dollars on something that isn’t actually important to our community at large.

The new Shire website has a Community Surveys section. At the moment the Lake Monjigup Community Development Group have a survey available about the Lake Monjigup Reserve. In early 2015 a bushfire tore through the area, damaging the environment and infrastructure. Shire staff have been working hard with the help of many community groups to reopen Stage 1 of the Reserve. They have had to remove damaged infrastructure including the boardwalk, remove weeds and debris, and replace fencing, toilets, buildings and signage. The bushland is recovering well and now we need to find out how the area was used before the fires and what we can do to make it an even better destination within Esperance.

So next time you’re waiting for a lift, a phone call to be returned, or just killing time waiting for the washing to finish, why not log on to www.esperance.wa.gov.au and take a community survey in the Your Council section of the Shire of Esperance website?