



Secretary BPKTCA <secretarybpktca@gmail.com>

ACF Policy and Operating Model

3 messages

Tomerong Community Forum <tomorongforum@hotmail.com>
To: "scc-ccbs@kangaroovalley.nsw.au" <scc-ccbs@kangaroovalley.nsw.au>

25 March 2026 at 16:08

All,

For your information, the email below has been sent to the CEO and all Councillors on behalf of the CCB Working Group.

We have formed the view that, following publication of the ACF model on Council's website, some Councillors may assume that the model as currently drafted reflects the Working Group's position.

While the CCBs support the ACF model in principle, the purpose of this email is to make it clear that a number of important refinements are required and that the current Council version does not fully reflect the position previously discussed with CCBs.

On behalf of the CCB Working Group

Begin forwarded message:

From: TCF Email <tomorongforum@hotmail.com>

Subject: ACF Policy and Operating Model – Working Group Feedback

Date: 25 March 2026 at 4:02:08 pm AEDT

To: Andrew Constance <andrew.constance@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Patricia White <mayor@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Gillian Boyd <gillian.boyd@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Luciano Casmiri <luciano.casmiri@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Serena Clancy <selena.clancy@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Kaylee Dunn <karlee.dunn@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, denise kemp <Denise.kemp@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Debbie Kilian <Debbie.Kilian@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Ben Krikstolaitis <ben.krikstolaitis@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Matthew Norris <matthew.norris@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Bob Proudfoot <bob.proudfoot@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Brett Steele <Brett.Steele@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Jemma Tribe <jemma.tribe@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Patricia White <mayor@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Peter Wilkins <Peter.Wilkins@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au>, Gary Bickford <garybickford@me.com>, Fiona Ellis <fce3530@hotmail.com>, Chris Grounds <solum306@gmail.com>, David Swarts <davidswarts56@gmail.com>, John Wells <johnjwells@hotmail.com>

Dear Andrew and Mayor White,

Thank you for publishing the draft Accredited Community Forums (ACF) Policy and Operating Model on Council's website for community review.

The Working Group supports the ACF model in principle and recognises Council's intent to provide a more consistent and contemporary framework for place-based engagement. However, having reviewed the current draft, we consider that further refinement is required to ensure the model operates as an effective engagement mechanism rather than being perceived primarily as a compliance framework.

At present, the document places considerable emphasis on governance, controls and complaints handling, but is less clear on the purpose and value of ACFs as a channel for meaningful, place-based community input. While ACFs are advisory, the current framing risks diminishing the perceived value of participation. A clearer commitment to Council considering and responding to forum input would strengthen confidence in the model.

A related issue is the treatment of support for ACFs. The current wording indicates that Council "may" provide assistance. In practice, access to meeting venues and a modest level of financial support are core enabling elements of the model and should be framed accordingly, particularly to ensure that smaller communities and existing groups can participate effectively.

The transition from existing CCBs also requires further clarity. The model does not yet set out how non-incorporated or less resourced groups will be supported through this process. There is also a practical timing issue, with requirements such as incorporation and public liability insurance needing to be in place by 1 July, which may be challenging for some groups to achieve without transitional support. A clear and practical transition pathway will be important to maintain continuity and avoid unintended loss of established community structures.

The proposal to allow more than one ACF within a geographic area represents a significant change from the current model and was not part of earlier Working Group discussions. In our view, this risks fragmenting community representation, creating competing voices and increasing administrative complexity. The existing approach of a single forum aligned to a defined geographic area provides clarity and encourages collaboration within communities, and should be retained, supported by clear expectations around openness and representation.

Finally, the accreditation and compliance framework would benefit from simplification. While accountability is important, the current approach may be perceived as overly discretionary and centrally controlled. A more transparent, criteria-based model, supported by a clear checklist and proportionate response to issues, would better reflect the intended partnership between Council and community.

In summary, the Working Group supports the direction of the ACF model but considers that these refinements are necessary to ensure it is enabling, practical and sustainable. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further prior to the model being finalised or presented to Council.

Kind regards,
CCB Working Group

Secretary BPKTCA <secretarybpktca@gmail.com>

25 March 2026 at 17:12

To: Lynn Cowley <bericlynncowley@bigpond.com>, Carrie Smith <carriejansma-smith@hotmail.com>, claire stephenson <clairestephenson1@yahoo.com.au>, Judith Carroll <judith.carroll3@gmail.com>, David & Linda Keith <david@keith.id.au>, Tony Sattler <tony@sattler.net.au>, Kylie Brindley <kyazza.333@gmail.com>