

## MEDIA RELEASE

25 June 2019

### Community Engagement Forums coming to a town near you!

Waratah Wynyard Council passed a motion in the June Council meeting to commence community forums to increase and improve engagement.

The biennial community “Drop in Sessions” will kick off in Wynyard at 6pm Monday 29 July 2019 and will be followed by forums at Boat Harbour Beach, Sisters Beach, Yolla, Waratah and Somerset.

The motion to openly engage with the community was put forward by Councillor Allie House with the purpose of building trust, demonstrate transparency and to ensure that council operate in an informed manner when making decisions. The 2019 Waratah-Wynyard Council Community Satisfaction Survey, due for release in July, outlined the community’s desire for more opportunities to interact in meetings with elected members and have greater participation in decision making.

“In order to build trust, demonstrate transparency and ensure council operate in an informed manner, is best practice to openly engage with our community at all times - not just at times of change or on contentious matters.

The October 2018 election “Candidates Forum” attracted in excess of 100 attendees at extremely short notice. This provides some demonstration as to the extent which our community are not apathetic to local government, and their desire to attend events of this nature and utilise opportunities to personally engage with Council” Cllr House stated.

Mayor Robby Walsh added “By having good communication and engagement practices and by encouraging open conversations and interactions on local issues Council will improve service delivery and help inform, empower and connect the community.”

It is envisaged that the setting will be informal to facilitate a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Staff and Councillors will be available at these sessions.

Further information on dates and forum locations can be found by viewing our website [www.warwyn.tas.gov.au](http://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au), phoning Council on (03) 6443 8333 or by calling into council any weekday from 9am to 5pm.

**Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on TBA 2019**

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