

City of Greater Bendigo Mayor, Cr. Rod Fyffe

and

The Research Committee of the newDemocracy Foundation

INVITE YOU

to participate in an innovative, randomly-selected jury-style process

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO CITIZENS' JURY

TOPIC:

The Citizens' Jury is asked to advise Council on:

What should Council spend our money on to shape the community's future?

SELECTION PROCESS:

You have been randomly selected to be involved because you are a citizen of the City of Greater Bendigo. This invitation has been sent to 3,000 people just like you in the local community.

The newDemocracy Foundation will conduct a random selection (similar to a jury selection) from all acceptances received to this invitation in order to approximately match the population profile of the Greater Bendigo local government area. This ensures the group of 24 citizens selected is representative of the wider community.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The unedited recommendations of the jury will be published by Council. A response to your recommendations will be given in person by the incoming Mayor and Councillors and a detailed written response to your recommendations will be provided by March 2017.

It is the intention of Council to implement as many of the Jury's recommendations as possible - however the final decision rests with the elected Mayor and Councillors.

HOW:

You will be provided with open access to Council information and given time to reach informed, consensus style recommendations in a process designed and run by representatives of newDemocracy (not Council) to allow the group to make its own decisions.

At the conclusion, a one off payment of \$400 will be made to recognise your time and commitment to this process. Meals will be provided at the Citizens' Jury meetings.

RSVP:

Please register your interest and availability by **Friday 20 May** online at www.newdemocracy.com.au/rsvp or by calling **0467 066 185**.

For further information on the selection process and project contact **newDemocracy** via projecthelp@newdemocracy.com.au or call on **0467 066 185**.

Your registration of interest and contact details will remain private.

WHEN AND WHERE?

The Citizens' Jury will meet in person on six occasions:

Saturday 9 July 2016 - 9:00am - 5:00pm
Banquet Room, Capital Theatre, 50 View Street, Bendigo

Thursday 28 July 2016 - 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Banquet Room, Capital Theatre, 50 View Street, Bendigo

Thursday 11 August 2016 - 5:30pm - 9:00pm
California Gully Mechanics Institute, 8 School Road, California Gully

Thursday 25 August 2016 - 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve, 353 Midland Highway, Huntly

Saturday 10 September 2016 - 9:00am - 5:00pm
Senior Citizens Hall, 121 High Street, Heathcote

Thursday 22 September 2016 - 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Reception Room, Council Offices, Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo

A session with the Mayor and Councillors will be held in 2017 to discuss your recommendations and Council's response.

WHY DO THIS?

You should do this because it is the single best opportunity to inform Council on a controversial issue which impacts on the whole community. What you recommend will be public and taken to the Council unedited for their consideration.

Many decisions taken by the Mayor or Council are open to criticism by someone. The only 'good' policy is one that the community agrees is fair. That's subjective, and the people best placed to decide it are people from the general community.

The newDemocracy Foundation is a non-partisan, non-issue based research organisation exploring less adversarial and more representative modes of public decision making. The Foundation does not receive funding from government or any political parties. More information is available at www.newdemocracy.com.au

A process like this will not turn the Citizens' Jury members into subject matter experts, in much the same way that criminal trials do not turn jurors into forensic experts, but after over 30 hours of learning and discussing you will be well placed to make an informed decision and give the Council a clear-cut recommendation.

Council, interest groups, community groups and community members will be invited to make their case, but making recommendations is in the hands of you, the randomly selected Citizens' Jury - not the organisers, facilitators or Council.