Responding to Country across a project timeline

The diagram shows **3 pathways** with different steps to follow when responding to Country. It includes when you need to engage with community and when it is not necessary to do so.

1. Start of the project

All project teams should **adopt a Country-centred approach**, whether there is direct engagement with community or not.

The pathway (A/B/C) you take is determined by **legislative need**.

2. Work out if you need to engage

If there is no legislative need to engage with the community, there may still be instances where they would like to be involved because the project is important to them (pathway B).

All projects can benefit when engaging with community, however it's not always necessary to do so. Projects that may not be important to community include low impact projects such as single dwellings and minor upgrades to existing buildings (pathway C).

3. Community's level of involvement

Together with the community, determine their **level of involvement** (high, medium or low). Be open to negotiations until the community is comfortable with the process of engagement and how the outcomes for Country can be achieved. Other factors that can influence the level of community involvement will be the project timing and availability of community members.

4. Design approach

If the community has agreed with high to medium levels of involvement you should take a **'designing with Country'** approach that is guided by community.

If the community has agreed a low level of engagement you should continue with a **Country-centred approach** and keep the community updated, if they ask for it.

If there is no need to engage, continue with a **Country-centred approach** using the framework as a guide.

5. Outcomes for Country

Working with community when **'designing with Country'** will help you achieve all 5 outcomes for Country.

Whereas a **Country-centred approach** can achieve some outcomes for Country like Healthy Country, Cultural competency and Better Places.

1. Healthy Country
2. Healthy Communities
3. Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage
4. Cultural Competency
5. Better Places

6. Document the process

Document the whole process as 'evidence' for easy assessment. Do this in accordance with your Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) protocols.

Pathways

A. Responding to Country *with* community (Legislative need)

- All projects start with a **Country-centred approach**
- There is a **legislative need** to engage with community
- Community has time and resources, and the project is important to them → **Mid/high engagement:** Take a **Designing with Country** approach with community
- Community has limited time and resources, however they are interested in following the project development → **Low engagement:** Continue with **Country-centred approach** with updates to the community if they ask for it

B. Responding to Country *with* community (No legislative need)

- All projects start with a **Country-centred approach**
- There is **no legislative need** to engage with community but they want to be involved
- Community has time and resources, and the project is important to them → **Mid/high engagement:** Take a **Designing with Country** approach with community
- Community has limited time and resources, however they are interested in following the project development → **Low engagement:** Continue with **Country-centred approach** with updates to the community if they ask for it

C. Responding to Country *without* community (No legislative need)

- All projects start with a **Country-centred approach**
- There is **no legislative need** to engage with community and the project is low impact
- **No engagement with community**
- **No engagement:** continue to take a **Country-centred approach**

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NEW SOUTH WALES

Connecting with Country Framework

For more information refer to:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/government-architect-nsw/ policies-and-frameworks/connecting-with-country

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