Community Engagement and Social Licence to Operate

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National Enabling Technologies Strategy – Public Awareness and Community Engagement program

AFGC Nano Forum, Feb 2013, Sydney
Public attitudes to nanotechnology
Public Attitudes to Science, Biotechnologies and Nanotechnologies

2012 Survey results are due for release early March and will be available at:

Community Engagement and Social License to Operate
Based on surveys,

- Consumers have some awareness of nanotechnology
- They would like to know more
- They are fairly positive about it (a bit nervous about food)
- They have some concerns about safety
- They generally support labeling, and think it should be regulated, even if they won’t necessarily use it
- They don’t have a lot of trust in industry
- They don’t know much about regulations
Why engage with the public?

- Industry needs to understand citizens when considering new technologies/innovations
- Engagement goes further than market research, it can build trust (transparency & responsiveness)
- Citizens want information about new technologies/innovations and their implications to be available
- Citizens have a right to have a say on things that will/may affect them
- Engagement can lead to better decisions and relationships
Social License to Operate

- Ongoing acceptance/approval of the affected community
- Self-regulation (beyond compliance)
- Intangible, informal, dynamic (relationships)

Legitimacy (agreed standards of behaviour)

Credibility (true and full info, commitments kept)

Trust (working together)

- Cost vs risk
Science and Technology Engagement Pathways (STEP)
Community involvement in science and technology decision making
# STEP into the Future

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<th>Month</th>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>Nanotechnology and Environment forum</td>
<td>Perth</td>
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<td>Mar</td>
<td>Synthetic Biology scoping workshop</td>
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<td>Jun</td>
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<td>Oct</td>
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Principles

Good community engagement is characterised by:

• Commitment & integrity
• Clarity of objectives and scope
• Inclusiveness
• Good process
• Quality information/knowledge sharing
• Dialogue and open discussion
• Impact on decision making
Citizen deliberation with random selection

- Representativeness
- Disinterestedness
- Informed
- Public reasoning
- Transparency
- Procedural justice
Deliberative dialogue

• Encourage diversity of views then seek common ground
• Reasoning towards agreed position
• Change the way people think and talk about the topic
• Tap into the intelligence of individuals and the group
• Bring new voices and new perspectives, embrace critics
• Draw on positive communication and creativity
• Help the best ideas to emerge