

Media Release

7 December 2020

Celebrate online platform's first birthday and help shape its future direction

Gladstone Regional Council's online *Conversations* platform has turned one and now you have a chance to help shape its future direction.

Launched in late November 2019, *Conversations* is a virtual space where community members can have their say and stay up to date with Council projects.

Residents can take part in community engagement activities, share their ideas and experiences and read more about Council's projects.

Gladstone Region Councillor Desley O'Grady thanked residents for supporting *Conversations* during its first year, which saw 31 engagement projects launched on the platform.

"During its first 12 months *Conversations* had 1683 community members share their thoughts, preferences, likes and dislikes with Council," Councillor O'Grady said.

"Topics covered included flood mitigation, coastline protection, animal management regulations, Council assets, footpath and skatepark design, the value of water and much more.

"The top five projects based on website visitation were Our Coast, Our Future, the Philip Street Communities and Family Precinct, Virtual Neighbourhood Centre, Agnes Water to Baffle Creek Link Road and the Agnes Water Beach Visitor Carpark."

Cr O'Grady said that an opportunity now exists for residents to help shape the future direction of *Conversations* with a period of community engagement taking place between now and 10 January 2021.

"This is a great chance to hear from the community about how engagement projects should be promoted across the region," she said.

"The *Conversations* platform will have a short engagement survey to complete that asks about preferred engagement methods, preferred time to participate in engagements and by participating in the survey you'll go into the draw to win gift vouchers from Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre."

In addition to the online survey, Council will have a physical presence at upcoming community events, allowing residents to have their say in a more interactive way.

<MORE>



For further information contact Council's Brand and Communications Team on 4970 0700 or media@gladstone.qld.gov.au

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In-person Community Engagement sessions will take place at:

- Christmas in the Country at Builyan (Boyne Valley), Saturday 12 December, 2pm-5pm
- Discovery Coast Rotary Markets (Seventeen Seventy), Sunday 13 December, 8am-noon
- Tondoon Rotary Markets (Tondoon Botanic Gardens), Sunday 20 December, 7am-noon.

Cr O'Grady said the Christmas in the Country event, held in partnership with The Salvation Army, will also feature an art workshop.

"Art by Marion will host two 60-minute art workshops with a Christmas theme" Cr O'Grady said.

"The sessions – running from 2.30pm-3.30pm and 4pm-5pm – are free with spots limited to 16 people per session and participants are encourage to arrive early to be set up in time."

Visit <https://conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au/1st-birthday> to complete a survey and have your say via Council's *Conversations* online platform.

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