

# MEDIA RELEASE



GLADSTONE  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**The  
Next  
Economy**

**EMBARGO: 23 February 2022 at 5:00AM AEST**

## **Have your say: Energising the Future Economy of the Gladstone Region**

Gladstone locals are invited to share their thoughts on the future energy system and how the region can take advantage of emerging changes to generate new economic opportunities at upcoming community forums hosted by The Next Economy, on 19 and 20 March, 2022.

These forums are part of a new initiative of Gladstone Regional Council - *Energising the Gladstone Region's Future Economy*. Feedback from community, government, industry and other stakeholder groups will guide the Council on what is required to adapt to a changing energy sector and to support our region over the next ten years.

"This project is leading the way in Central Queensland, using an inclusive and interactive planning process to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition. We'll be designing a roadmap for the Gladstone Region over the next ten years to help navigate changes in the energy sector that directly impact the local economy," said Dr Amanda Cahill, Chief Executive Officer of [The Next Economy](#).

"We are already seeing a lot of change across Central Queensland. The Gladstone Region is particularly well positioned to take advantage of new economic opportunities as we shift to new energy solutions, but we also need to plan ahead to manage the potential impacts on our regional economy and build community resilience," added Dr. Cahill.

Attendees at the community forums at [Agnes Water on Saturday 19 March](#) and [Gladstone on Sunday 20 March](#) will explore the impact that changes to the energy system are having on the region and have their say about what they want for the future.

Gladstone Region Deputy Mayor Kahn Goodluck said The Next Economy will present the most recent information on energy trends, as well as how renewable energy and other emerging technologies have the potential to boost the local economy.

"The forums will cover topics such as supporting and developing the local workforce, energy affordability, diversifying the economy, and protecting land and water resources," Cr Goodluck said.

“For those who prefer an online option, we encourage you to join the online forum on Wednesday 30 March.”

The Gladstone Regional Council initiative is delivered in partnership with The Next Economy and is made possible with funding from the Australian Government’s Building Better Regions Fund.

We welcome everyone to participate in the forums, whether you’re an interested resident, First Nations representative, worker, farmer or local business owner. The forums are free to attend, but registration is essential to ensure that we can organise the forums in line with COVID-safe practices.

For more information and to register, please visit Gladstone Regional Council at

<https://conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au/energising-gladstone-region-future-economy>

## Event details

**Date:** Saturday 19 March 2022

**Location:** Agnes Water

**Time:** 9am to 2.30pm

**Venue:** Agnes Water Community Centre

71 Springs Rd, Agnes Water

**Date:** Sunday 20 March 2022

**Location:** Gladstone

**Time:** 9am to 2.30pm

**Venue:** Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct,

Maxine Brushe Rooms, Gladstone

**Date:** Wednesday 30 March 2022

**Format:** Online community forum

**Time:** 6.00pm to 9.00pm

## ENDS

Media liaison – Matt Harris (Gladstone Regional Council). Ph. 0457 924 214

Available spokespeople - Dr Amanda Cahill, The Next Economy