

Gladstone Regional Council is developing a Community Development Strategy to guide future community development activities in the region. The five year Community Development Strategy will be developed from research and the engagement of stakeholders and the community. It will consider community needs now and into the future. The Strategy will guide the operations of Council in relation to aspects of community development such as community priorities, programs, facilities, networks and partnerships. Council is seeking input from the people of the Gladstone Region, organisations and associations to help guide the development of the Community Development Strategy. A number of engagement opportunities have been scheduled throughout February and March. The establishment of a Community Reference Panel, which will meet from March - May 2020 is an integral component of the engagement program.

#### **Purpose of the Community Reference Panel**

The purpose of this planning group is to act as an advisory group for the development of the Community Development Strategy and Action Plan.

#### **Scope of project**

This project includes the development of a Community Development Strategy and Action Plan for the Gladstone Region. It will be a five year Strategy which will guide Council's community development activities, commitments and programs. It will be used by Council to assist in decision making and guide Council's priorities for community development across the Gladstone Region.

#### **Role of the Community Reference Panel**

The Community Reference Panel will be a representative group of people from across the Gladstone Region who will assist in the development of the Strategy.

The Community Reference Panel will:

- Contribute to identification of priorities and actions
- Review and provide feedback on outcomes of research on changing/evolving demographics, challenges, and opportunities;
- Review and provide feedback on outcomes of community engagement activities; and
- Assist in the establishment of the draft Community Development Plan including priority areas, key initiatives, goals and measurement for success, partnerships and opportunities through a deliberative workshop.

#### **Level of influence of the Community Reference Panel**

In addition to research, the Community Reference Panel is one of a number of engagement methods that will contribute to the development of the Community Development Strategy and Action Plan.

The Community Reference Panel will:

- Advise on current and emerging issues;
- Provide feedback on ideas that emerge from the broader engagement activities;
- Explore and assist in the creation of a vision for the Strategy;
- Assist in the shaping and development of the Strategy and Action Plan

### **Time commitment**

Participants will need to attend six 2 hour meetings. Meetings will occur throughout the region. Each meeting will include a light lunch. The meetings have been scheduled for:

1. 3 March noon-2pm in Gladstone
2. 18 March noon-2pm in Miriam Vale
3. 1 April noon-2pm in Mount Larcom
4. 15 April noon-2pm in Boyne Island
5. 29 April noon-2pm in Gladstone
6. 13 May noon-2pm in Gladstone

Online interaction through a web based platform can also be arranged for participants.

### **Focus of panel meetings**

Each meeting will have a different focus and outcome. Panel meeting sessions will focus on:

1. Orientations and review of engagement activities
2. Discussion about community development priorities in the Gladstone Region
3. Reflections on engagement activities
4. Gap analysis
5. Deliberative workshop to assist in development of draft Strategy and Action Plan.
6. Presentation of Strategy and Action Plan and reflection/evaluation.

### **Membership of the group**

Engagement Plus will facilitate the establishment of the Reference Panel and recruit up to 20 members from the community and key stakeholders to participate in the Community Reference Panel. Membership of the Community Reference Panel will be cross sectoral with representatives from sporting, cultural, business, services and geographic distribution.

### **How to apply**

Please complete an application form to apply to participate in the Community Reference Panel. Applications close on Friday, 21 February 2020. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by Friday, 28 February 2020.

### **Further information**

For further information about this project please contact Council on 4970 0700 or visit Council's engagement website [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/)