



## Gladstone Area Water Board

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Community to inform liveability initiatives

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has called on the help of a group of community minded individuals to help increase liability in the region.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jim Grayson said the Community Consultative Forum (CCF) comprised of 14 representatives from a diverse cross-section of local community groups and organisations that would help shape the organisation's future contribution to the region.

"The purpose of the CCF is to create a forum for community representatives to provide advice and feedback on GAWB's operations and opportunities to enhance our performance and role in the community," Mr Grayson said.

"The CCF's will focus on areas where GAWB can improve liveability in the region through what we call 'community value projects'.

"There are two types of community value projects that will be explored by the group, including opportunities to modify our existing operations and activities at little or no cost to add value for the community or new activities that utilise our assets or organisational capabilities to improve outcomes for the community".

Mr Grayson said any proposed changes to the organisation's operations would need to demonstrate customer support to be considered as part of their five-year price monitoring submission.

"GAWB provides bulk raw and drinking water to local industry and to the Gladstone Regional Council; we are the sole provider of bulk water and so we're considered a monopoly business," Mr Grayson said.

"Because of this, every five years we are required to submit our pricing structure to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) for their assessment to ensure our prices are set at an appropriate level; we are currently working on our 2020 – 2025 submission.

"If we want to implement any initiatives that are outside our primary role of delivering bulk water, we need to demonstrate customer support, which is why we are enlisting the help of the CCF to inform our proposal."

The CCF comprises 14 representatives from a diverse cross section of community groups and peak organisations including:

1. Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited
2. Fitzroy Basin Association
3. Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership
4. Gladstone Regional Council
5. Volunteer Marine Rescue
6. Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust
7. Roseberry Community Services
8. Gladstone Multicultural Association

9. Central Queensland University
10. Gladstone Region Youth Council
11. Gladstone Industry Leadership Group
12. Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry
13. Anglicare Central Queensland
14. Regional Development Australia

Mr Grayson said GAWB would also conduct consultation with the general public and bulk water customers to inform their submission

GAWB is expected to submit its 2020 – 2025 price submission to the QCA in approximately xxxxxx 2019.

Ends.

**For more information, please contact:**

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