



## Gladstone Area Water Board

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### GAWB to add value to the region

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is asking residents to suggest ways they can contribute to the quality of life in the Gladstone region.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jim Grayson said as part of the organisation's planning they were engaging with the community and seeking suggestions on ways they could help improve the social, environmental or economic outcomes of the region.

"This community engagement process is about identifying ways we can leverage value from our existing assets, operations or expertise," Mr Grayson said.

"We want the community's insights as to how they think we can add value to the region.

Mr Grayson said there were latent benefits associated with GAWB's existing operations and expertise and this community engagement is about crystallising those benefits and taking advantage of them on behalf of the whole community.

"We have large recreational areas at Lake Awoonga and Boynedale, 23,000 ha of land surrounding the lake, 300km of pipeline running throughout the city and extensive knowledge and experience in the environmental sciences, particularly water quality management," Mr Grayson said.

"What we're asking is for the community to consider if there are ways we could add value to region by utilising these assets or skills alongside their primary purpose, which of course is to deliver water to the region.

"I personally would love to see our staff's expertise in water quality management utilised to help reduce the impact of stormwater runoff in the harbour and on the Great Barrier Reef.

"We're not required to do this under legislation but I certainly see that we have the expertise and the environmental value would be enormous.

Mr Grayson said when talking about value it needed to be considered in its broadest spectrum; value to both customers and the community.

"Our customers, who comprise of Gladstone's major industry and the Gladstone Regional Council, ultimately pay for the supply of water and our operations and need to see value in any proposals we put forward to them," Mr Grayson said.

"Our community live here, they are the ones impacted by the decisions we make and projects we implement or don't implement on a daily basis, now and into the future.'

Residents are invited to make submission to GAWB online at [www.gawb.qld.gov.au](http://www.gawb.qld.gov.au) from now until 5 October.

Mr Grayson said any suggestions received from residents would be reviewed by a Community Consultative Forum (CCF).

“The CCF is a group of 15 representatives from a diverse cross section of Gladstone community groups and peak organisations,” Mr Grayson said.

“The CCF’s will review all of the submissions received and critically analyse before prioritising those they see would provide the greatest benefit.

CCF Member and representative on behalf of the Gladstone Healthy Harbours Partnership, Ms Lyndal Hanson, said it was a great opportunity for the community to be involved.

“I personally see many opportunities through this consultation that could benefit the community including education, small and medium business opportunities and recreation opportunities at the dam just to name a few,” Ms Hanson said.

“I would encourage the community to take up the GAWB’s offer and input ideas forward.

“It is important that the community and agencies work together to support and enhance the Gladstone Region.

Mr Grayson said GAWB would present the prioritised project ideas to their bulk water customers (including Gladstone Regional Council who supply directly to residents) to seek their support.

Ends.

**For more information, please contact:**

GAWB Communications Officer – 0438 673 776



*Community Consultative Forum Members Darryl Branthwaite (GAPDL), Patrick Hastings (Gladstone Industry Leadership Group), Cr Peter Masters (Gladstone Regional Council), Colleen Tribe (Roseberry Community Services), Owen Niven (CQU), Lyndal Hanson (Gladstone Healthy Harbours Partnership), Margaret Pengelly (Boyne Valley Discovery Centre), Holly Lambert (Fitzroy Basin Association) and Carl Carter (Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry) tour GAWB’s facilities.*