

## Kitchen Table Conversation Kit

### Background

We are close to completing Gloucester's Local Community Plan. We're now seeking community feedback from as wide a range of Gloucester residents as possible, to:

- review the draft plan
- identify which of the actions to prioritise
- and identify anything that might have been missed for consideration to include in the final report.

We think that asking you to host kitchen table conversations using this kit is a responsible engagement activity to undertake during this pandemic. We hope you'll be able to host some small groups of people you're already seeing regularly anyway – rather than us visiting town and holding larger public events.

### What is a Kitchen Table Conversation?

Hosting a conversation is really easy and is designed to be the just as relaxed as having a catch up with friends. This kit is a guide for you to host your own conversation with some friends, family, your community group, work team or any other group you might like to bring together. This is a great way to gather the collective wisdom of your community and build upon your big ideas.

### Role of the host

The host is responsible for initiating the conversation. You don't have to have an official role within a group, you just need to be motivated to bring people together for a conversation. The participants you invite could be part of an organised group you are in, or it could be a casual group of friends or neighbours.

### Steps to hosting your own kitchen table conversation (please comply with current COVID-19 restrictions)

- Set a meeting date and send out your invitations – a handful of people works well
- Gather up the equipment you need, including, blank paper, pens etc. You can be as creative as you like in recording your ideas.
- Grab a cuppa and some biscuits - conversations are much better had over food!
- Either ask everyone to bring their phone to complete the online activity – or contact us for hard copy feedback forms.

## Tips to making it a success

### Start with the attached poster

Explain the context of local community plans on the poster and show everyone the timeline. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted how long this community plan has taken, but Gloucester is doing a magnificent job to complete the plan.

### The Draft Plan

Share the content of the Draft Plan. There's many ways you can do this – but reading it out loud cover to cover isn't a great idea! Some ideas for sharing the content are:

- provide copies / the web link to the project page and draft plan with your invitation – and then have a discussion on arrival
- give participants time to leaf through it and informally chat about the content
- show everyone the key parts to the plan and let them have some time to check out the content themselves.

The intent of a kitchen table conversation is not to reach agreement. Differences in opinion make great conversations and help us to build upon our ideas to make them even better. Jot down the opinions expressed, even if you think it is irrelevant.

### Allow everyone to have their say

Participants can either complete the activities online on our project page or complete a hard copy activity kit.

### Thank you!

We'd like to thank you for hosting a kitchen table conversation to add the final touches to Gloucester's Local Community Plan.

Please pass on our thanks to all your participants as well.

## More information

Project page: [www.haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/gloucesterlcp](http://www.haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/gloucesterlcp)

Local Community Plan program: [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/lcp](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/lcp)

Contact: [Melissa.bawden@midcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.bawden@midcoast.nsw.gov.au) or 02 7955 7211

## Attendance register (for COVID-19 purposes)

### Gloucester LCP – Adding the final touches

**Date:**

**Location:**

Name	Your address	Telephone contact

Please return this register with your activity kit copies, or photograph / scan and send to:  
[Melissa.bawden@midcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.bawden@midcoast.nsw.gov.au)