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For immediate release

Ready Communities set to Activate the Macleay

The Macleay Valley has been selected as the first Ready Communities program.

Ready Communities is an initiative supported by Evolve Network, Rural Economies Centre of Excellence at University of Southern Queensland, and GEN Australia.

Ready Communities was founded by [Kerry Grace](#) and [Dr. Chad Renando](#) in 2023. Both founding partners have broad experience in regional community and economic development serving in a range of roles across business development, leadership, industry, academia, education and community engagement.

The Ready Communities Program is a catalyst for people to solve problems and generate opportunities that are relevant to their local community. The program provides a common-sense, community led approach with resources, tools and outcomes that stay in the community long after the program.

In the Macleay the program will be called **Ready Macleay**.

“We are delighted to have the first Ready Communities program, Ready Macleay in our region. There are so many positive opportunities to explore across the Macleay Valley and over ten months this program will complement councils exiting initiatives; to draw out a range of ideas and support them to come to life. We will be working with the Ready Communities team to support to their local initiatives across CBD activation, agriculture and food, youth pathways, housing and creative industries.”

The 10-month project culminates in the delivery of the national **Social Impact in the Regions** conference which will bring around 300 people to the Kempsey township between 4-6 September.

The program includes a 12-month legacy program with outcomes around clarity and understanding; connection and connectivity; capacity and capability; collaboration for purpose and advocacy and promotion.

Community Conversations around the key themes: Housing, Youth futures; CBD activation; creative industries and agricultural communities will be held in Kempsey in the week of 26 February. For more information and to book your spot contact kgrace@evolvenetwork.com.au or visit www.socialimpactintheregions.com.au