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24 December 2019

**Revving up for Towards Zero Race Torquay**

Councillor Margot Smith won’t have to look far for inspiration as she prepares to saddle up for her sixth Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race (CEGORR) Swisse People’s Ride.

The Anglesea Ward councillor will travel to Torquay on Thursday 30 January 2020 for the inaugural Towards Zero Race Torquay – the official precursor to the CEGORR.

“The start/finish line area on the foreshore will be absolutely buzzing and that’s where I’ll be, no doubt in awe of the world-class cyclists as they speed past,” she said.

“We are so lucky to welcome the world’s best female and male riders to the Surf Coast for this race. It’s going to be incredibly inspiring, seeing them up-close multiple times and witnessing the exciting finish.”

Towards Zero Race Torquay is a 13km circuit, with the women to complete eight laps while the men will complete 10. The best place to catch the action will be the Event Village, located on the foreshore area near The Esplanade-Price Street intersection. Another popular viewing point will be Bell Street.

“The best thing about this event is that you don’t have to be a cycling fan like me to enjoy it,” Cr Smith said. “As well as the race action, there will be a great afternoon and evening of entertainment. From delicious food stalls and boutique bars, to music and kids’ activities, I encourage residents and visitors to make the most of it.”

Heading in a clockwise direction, the Race Torquay course starts on The Esplanade near the Price Street intersection and takes in Bell Street, Great Ocean Road, Duffields and Messmate Roads, before heading back via South Beach Road, Horseshoe Bend Road and The Esplanade.

“Council has worked with Visit Victoria, Regional Roads Victoria and Victoria Police to develop the safest possible course, while minimising disruption to local residents, traders and visitors,” Cr Smith said.

“The race will be held on a semi-closed circuit so there will be traffic management restricting access along the course. In some cases, there will diversions. We ask everyone to be patient and plan ahead or better still; leave your car at home on race day.”

After soaking up Race Torquay, Cr Smith will contest the 65km People’s Ride on Saturday 1 February.

“My preparation is a little behind schedule so I took my bike to Tassie over the festive period, to get some kilometres in,” she said.

“The People’s Ride is always a great way to start the year, especially if your New Year’s resolution is to get fitter. Of course the route for the two longer distances is memorable too, taking in the stunning Surf Coast and hinterland.”

For more information on Race Torquay – including traffic impacts – visit [**www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au/about/%20traffic-alterations**](http://www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au/about/%20traffic-alterations/). People can also sign-up for the Swisse People’s Ride via the CEGORR website.

**Towards Zero Race Torquay – Thursday 30 January 2020**

* Elite women (8 x 13km laps): 12pm start, approx. finish 2.45pm
* Elite men (10 x 13km laps): 4.50pm start, approx. finish 7.45pm

**Not for publication:**

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