

# SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT UPDATE NO.2 August 2009

Welcome to the second edition of the "Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan Update". A Project Team is preparing a "Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan" (or "SISPlan") for the Gladstone Regional Council Area over the next year. We welcome your input at all stages of the Project. Read on to learn where the project is at now and how and when you can be involved...

## What is the SIS Plan project?

The SIS Plan project is being undertaken to develop a social infrastructure strategy to guide investment decisions for providing strategic social infrastructure in the Gladstone Regional Council area. This includes the former Gladstone City, and Miriam Vale and Calliope Shires.

It is also anticipated that the SIS Plan will better inform contributions to regional social infrastructure by future private development proponents and better prioritise scarce social infrastructure funds in line with identified priorities.

## Who is undertaking the project?

The SIS Plan is a joint project between the State Government (Department of Infrastructure and Planning), the Gladstone Economic and Industry Development Board (GEIDB) and Gladstone Regional Council.

The consultants commissioned to prepare the SIS Plan are Buckley Vann Town Planning Consultants, Briggs & Mortar Pty Limited and Andrea Young Planning Consultants.

For the purposes of this project, social infrastructure includes a wide range of built facilities, services and networks of organisations.

## Feedback Form 1 Responses - What you told us

In the first update a Feedback Form was attached seeking community feedback to some questions around what additional services or facilities would enhance the attractiveness of Gladstone and what the priority item might be.

We have received some responses from residents across the region and there were a number of common themes for additional services and priorities:

- Aged care facilities, in particular accommodation such as retirement villages
- A multi-purpose sport and recreational complex and more swimming pools
- Skate parks
- Facilities for young people including, recreation, leisure, sporting, employment and training services
- Health services – in particular specialist medical practitioners
- A more diverse range of leisure and recreational facilities such as concerts, twilight cinema, a South Bank type development and cultural events particularly suited for families
- More diverse housing including affordable housing and crisis accommodation
- Improved public transport, for example on weekends, and also more effectively connecting centres across the region
- Additional educational services, in particular high schools at various centres around the region

Many of these themes were repeated in focus groups workshops with service providers (see over).

The Study will now move into a stage of validating these results, benchmarking and further analysis.

**Do you have something to say?**  
If you would like to add your comments, please email our team at [KRolley@buckvann.com.au](mailto:KRolley@buckvann.com.au)

## Local Service Providers

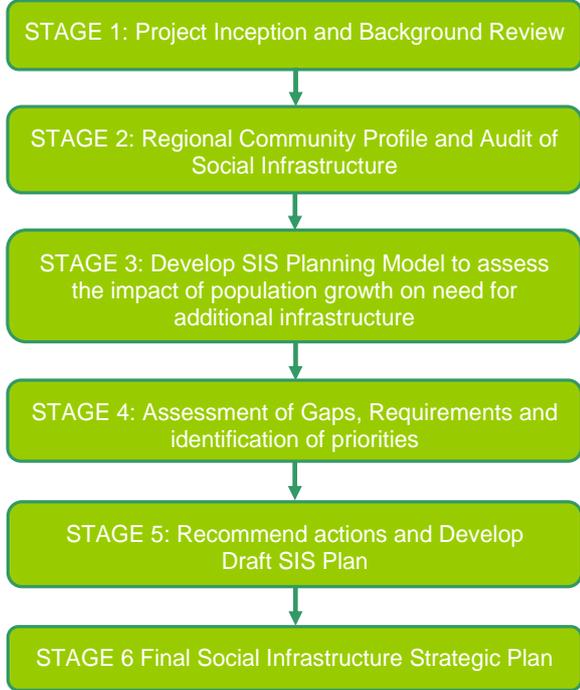
### Focus Group Workshops

In June a series of sector based workshops were held with local service providers in the region. Some of the key findings from these workshops were:

- Growth and industrial development in the region has had many positives for the community such as parklands, education and employment facilities and some community buildings.
- Many people have moved from 'disadvantaged' to 'advantaged'.
- It was felt, however that the gap between the two had widened.
- Some issues arising from development include: housing affordability, cost of living increases, strains placed on families by shift work, lack of social support services for new residents and planning and infrastructure not keeping pace with growth.

## The process

There is a six stage process to undertake the project. We are currently finalising work on Stages 2 and 3.



Community Workshops across the region will be held in the coming months as part of Stage 4. Details will be provided soon.

## A range of needs and opportunities were identified through the Focus Groups such as:

- More things to do and places to go for young people
- Improved access to health services
- An integrated aged residential facility and a not for profit retirement village
- Development of an educational hub in Gladstone focusing on green industry
- Improved public transport including weekend and after hours services to outlying towns
- Housing needs including more emergency housing, transitional housing and short term housing for workers on short term contracts
- Greater focus on health and well-being including opportunities for family leisure and outings, recreational facilities for all ages and family support.

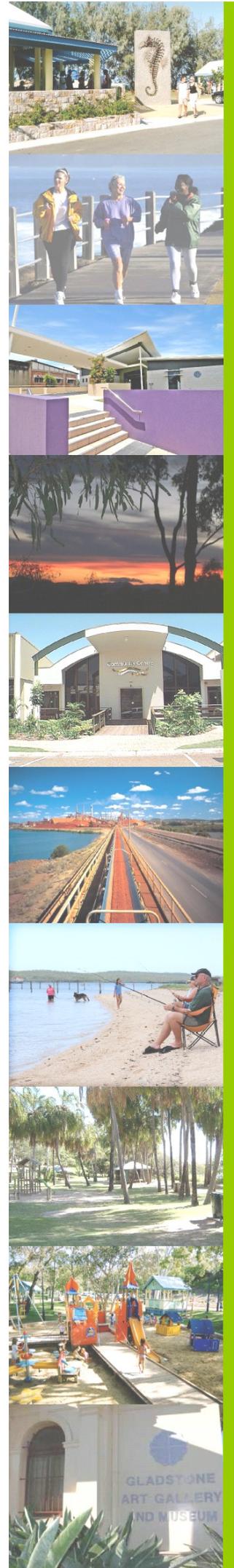
The next step is to take these apparent wants and needs and compare them to established benchmarks for a community like Gladstone Region. Recommendations will provide an objective view of what the region is lacking and in what priority order these things should be rectified. Separately, the project team is also developing a model that will assist Governments (both State and local) guide investment decisions of their own, as well as contributions from future industrial projects.

## For further information

Further Updates will be prepared throughout the study process. Information is also available online at the project webpage: [www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au/sisplan](http://www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au/sisplan)

Enquiries can also be made to members of the Steering Committee and Project Team:

- Liza Valks or Kylie Rolley at Buckley Vann Town Planning Consultants on 3852 1822
- Garry Scanlan at GEIDB on 4971 2318
- Cale Dendle at Gladstone Regional Council on 4970 0769
- Debi Honan at Department of Infrastructure and Planning on 3405 5638





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