June 28, 2010

Photograph: Gladstone Regional Council’s Manager Development Assessment Helen Robertson and Planning & Development portfolio spokesperson Councillor Craig Butler give the new Smart eDA online development application service a trial run in the lead up to Thursday’s launch to residents.

Gladstone to roll out new electronic development assessment system

Gladstone Regional Council will roll out a new electronic development system on July 1 to speed up the planning application process and reduce costs for councils and industries.

Planning and Development portfolio spokesperson Councillor Craig Butler said Smart eDA, a State Government online service that streamlines the development process in Queensland, allowed for an application to be prepared and lodged electronically.

“The service will also help identify referral agencies applicable to proposed developments,” Cr Butler said.

"Paper-based development applications are generally difficult to handle, disperse and monitor and place significant demands on councils, in terms of staff and costs.

"The Smart eDA website provides a single portal for industry and applicants to use across local government jurisdictions.

"Applicants can prepare and lodge their development applications online and also track their progress."

Cr Butler said the system would transform the existing paper-based integrated Development Assessment System process into an intuitive and interactive, internet-based process and enabled the integration of council and State Government systems.

"The electronic system provides Queensland with a more efficient, transparent and consistent development assessment process that will reduce the cost of development,” Cr Butler said.

For more information on the Smart eDA system visit www.dip.qld.gov.au.

MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council’s Community Relations Section on 4976 6946.