



Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Michelle Wagner

## WELCOME

Welcome to the 2015/16 Annual Report of Gladstone Regional Council. This report details our performance in meeting the strategic priorities outlined in our Corporate Plan 2013|2017, our challenges, our aspirations for the future and provides an analysis of our financial performance.

The objectives of this Annual Report are to:

- Report on our performance in delivering the Corporate Plan;
- Provide financial results for the year;
- Share Council's vision, 'To be the best local government in Queensland';
- Promote to local, state, national and international stakeholders our vibrant region as a great place to live, work, play and invest;
- Recognise the significant achievements of our staff; and,
- Meet statutory requirements under the *Local Government Act 2009*.

To provide feedback, for further information on any of the content or to obtain a copy of the report, please email [info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au) or contact Council's Corporate Performance Unit on 07 4970 0700.

Hard copies of the report are available for viewing at all Council administration centres and venues (contact details are listed on page 219). The report can also be viewed online on Council's website ([gladstone.qld.gov.au](http://gladstone.qld.gov.au)).

## THEME

The 2015/16 Annual Report is centred around the theme 'Transition', representative of our steady passage through a period of economic and political change.

It represents our ability to continue to move forward with resilience, both despite of and because of a changing operating environment, to continue to deliver the high quality services and infrastructure that our community has come to expect.

We will continue to deliver on our mission to improve our community in a sustainable way and strive to be the best local government in Queensland.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Our annual report is one of the primary tools for sharing the story of our community. This year part of our narrative is presented through images of the Gladstone Region that have been submitted by members of our community. We trust that you will enjoy taking a journey through the Gladstone Region through the eyes, and the camera lenses, of our community.

## COVER

The cover photograph was submitted by local photographer, Sarah Warry of Sarah Warry Photography. Captured at sunset at Lake Awoonga, the image represents a discovery of unexpected beauty in the ordinary. It illustrates that under the right conditions, such as the transitioning of day to night, the ordinary can become extraordinary. In much the same way, Gladstone Regional Council seeks out opportunity in the ever changing conditions in which we operate, making everyday transitions to harness challenges and embrace the potential for our community.

## PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Our planning framework ensures that strategies and financial resources are aligned to achieve Council's vision, 'To be the best local government in Queensland'. The framework includes long, medium and short term plans which set direction for what we do and what we aim to achieve as an organisation for our community.



*These plans and reports can be viewed by following the 'Corporate Publications & Reports' link under the 'About Council' tab on Council's website [gladstone.qld.gov.au](http://gladstone.qld.gov.au)*

## OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The Annual Report is produced as a multi-purpose report to the benefit of each of our stakeholders through the provision of comprehensive, accurate reporting on our strategic, operational and financial performance.

Our stakeholders include:

- our community, those who call the Gladstone Region home and those who visit us;
- ratepayers;
- community groups and organisations;
- local service providers;
- investors, both current and future;
- industry and commerce; and,
- Local, State and Federal Government bodies.

## HOW TO READ OUR ANNUAL REPORT

This report is essentially divided into four key sections:

1. General information p 6
2. Discussion about Council's performance p 88
3. Detailed financial performance (Community Financial Report and Statements) p 128
4. Statutory information p 208