

## MEDIA RELEASE

July 6, 2018

### **New incentive scheme designed to kick start development within region**

The desire to compete on a level playing field prompted Gladstone Regional Council's adoption of a new non-residential development incentive scheme this week.

The Infrastructure Charge Economic Development Incentive Scheme, adopted at Tuesday's (July 5) general meeting, enables Council to consider the provision of incentives to encourage development in specific focus areas, particularly retirement facilities and tourism development.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the provision of discounted on levied charges for specific land uses that would be enabled by the scheme was common practice in neighbouring local government areas including Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Rockhampton and Mackay.

"The incentive scheme enables Council to provide a 50 per cent discount on infrastructure charges up to a maximum of \$500,000 per allocation for new development applications as well as those already existing and those approved but for which construction has not started," Councillor Burnett said.

"The scheme varies in certain aspects from those that have been employed in other local government areas but, like theirs, it will require applicants to meet certain criteria such as completing the related building works within two or three years of receiving approval.

"This provides incentive for the developer to ensure that the retirement home, tourism development or other project deemed to be of benefit to the Gladstone Region community is delivered in a timely fashion."

Gladstone Region Deputy Mayor Chris Trevor said it had become apparent that such a scheme was necessary to help kick start development within the region.

"Previously, the Gladstone Region has not required such a scheme due to the presence of construction projects such as the three LNG plants and the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal," Cr Trevor said.

"But, given we have moved into a period where development has gone quiet, Council has received regular enquiries from project applicants and the development industry in general about whether Council would consider implementing such a scheme.

"This scheme enables Council to provide applicants with an incentive to deliver development within the region, especially those land uses which may be underrepresented."