



2022/23 Strategic Priorities

Proudly GRC

Proudly Growing the Gladstone Region

With a vision to Connect. Innovate. Diversify. Gladstone Regional Council's culture is proudly defined by community connectedness, a drive for innovation and the celebration of diversity.

Council is committed to working with the community to balance the region's lifestyle and opportunity for the 64,186 residents who call it home.

Covering 10,489 square kilometres, the region encompasses a vast landscape, from coastline to country, rural townships to major industry.

Council aims to make real connections with the community and our environment which are safe, ethical, responsive, visionary, inclusive, community centric and efficient.

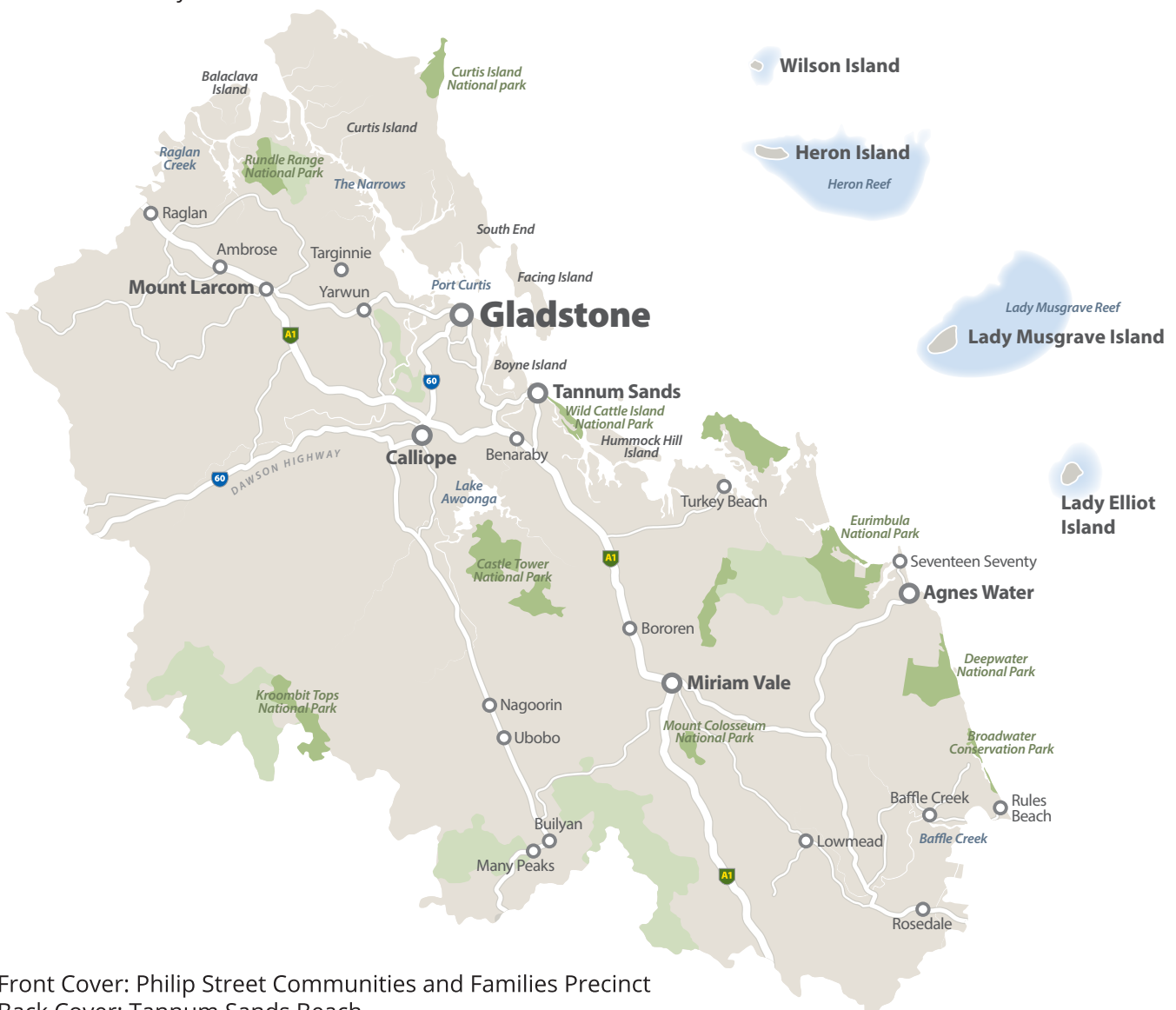
It is continually seeking innovative opportunities that support smart infrastructure decisions and operational excellence. A focus on diversification is helping to grow the region and expand opportunities.

10,489KM²

Gladstone Regional Council
Boundary Area

513.9KM

North of Brisbane



Front Cover: Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
Back Cover: Tannum Sands Beach

Economic Profile

\$5.543B in Gross Regional Product (GRP) representing 24.1% of Central Queensland GRP and 1.5% of Queensland's Gross State Product (GSP)

Provides an estimated **27,834 regional jobs** representing 27.4% of people working in Central Queensland and 1.3% of the people working in Queensland

 **64,186 residents**, 2.5% of regional Queensland's total population

Median age 36.8 years compared to 39 years for regional Queensland

In 2041, the population of the Gladstone Region is expected to reach **75,327**

Average of **566,000 visitors** to the region per annum

3,661 local businesses

Top employers;

 Manufacturing **4,009 jobs** (14.4%)

Construction **3,323 jobs** (11.9%) 

 Retail **2,758 jobs** (9.9%)

Transport & Logistics **2,465 jobs** (8.9%) 

 Education & Training **2,283 jobs** (8.2%)

Health Care & Social Assistance **2,189 jobs** (7.9%) 

Competitive Advantages and Economic Assets

The Gladstone Region has many natural and economic assets which provide a competitive advantage:

- Natural deep-water port which is one of the largest, multi-commodity ports in the world
- Strategic location in proximity to considerable natural resources across Central Queensland and the Surat Basin
- Industrial land in the Gladstone State Development Area and Strategic Port Land adjacent to existing enabling infrastructure
- Pivotal to the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone
- Existing heavy industry and supporting infrastructure
- Strong supply chains to support industry and a highly skilled workforce
- Locally based construction capacity to deliver major projects
- World class tourism destinations on the Southern Great Barrier Reef.

Enabling Infrastructure

Regionally Significant Supply Chain Infrastructure

Gladstone Heavy Vehicle Transport Corridor

\$125M - \$454M

The development of a dedicated Gladstone Heavy Vehicle Transport Corridor will provide improved heavy vehicle freight access from Central and Western Queensland to the Port of Gladstone.

Road network improvements will allow Type 1 Road Train access via the corridor to reduce logistics' costs and time.

The current method of decoupling road trains on the Dawson and Capricorn Highway network hampers the productivity and efficiency of transport supply chains. The corridor will create a safe and efficient route for heavy vehicles accessing the Port of Gladstone.

BENEFITS

- Improved road safety
- Unlock regional economic benefits
- Freight cost savings for regional communities with Type 1 Road Train access
- Reduced cost of fuel, cement, fertiliser and ammonium nitrate to the farmers, rural citizens and industry
- Reduced cost to farmers to transport their grain to port
- Potential to achieve significant savings in shipping container freight costs, creating new industry and expanding on existing opportunities
- Reducing the number of truck movements and CO₂ emissions per tonne of cargo by using Type 1 Road Trains.





Inland Rail Extension to the Port of Gladstone

Linking the inland rail to the Port of Gladstone will unlock long-term regional economic benefits and improve road safety while reducing land and sea transport congestion in south east Queensland.

Freight linkages provided by the inland rail project will drive regional economic development and regional supply chain development along the future Inland Rail Corridor through to the Port of Gladstone, linking regional Queensland to the world.

A fully integrated, efficient and cost-effective east coast supply chain would improve not only the regional economies along the rail network but would also be a strategic asset in the state and national economies. Connecting the inland rail to Brisbane (Acacia Ridge) represents 50 per cent of the cost of inland rail (Melbourne to Brisbane) for just 10 per cent of the distance but still doesn't connect directly to a northern port. Connecting the inland rail to Australia's most expandable port in Gladstone will be more cost effective and achieved faster.

BENEFITS

- Delivers the inland rail vision up to three years quicker
- Reduces the cost of inland rail by \$4.8B
- Enables \$15.6B resource investment in regional Queensland
- Provides up to 18,300 extra jobs in regional Queensland
- Develops the Port of Gladstone as the fourth major container port for eastern Australia
- Reduces freight times to Asia, lowering supply chain costs ex Gladstone
- Could remove coal trains from Brisbane suburban network.

Boyne Tannum Aquatic Recreation Centre (BTARC)

\$21.08M

Boyne Island and Tannum Sands are thriving coastal communities with nearly 10,000 residents. They are located 26km south east of Gladstone and are home to nearly 3,000 working families. The median age of residents is 36 years. This area is primarily a residential centre for the nearby Boyne Island Aluminium Smelter and Gladstone industries. The two localities are separated only by the Boyne River. It is also a tourist hub with a patrolled beach and is a well-known fishing venue providing access to the Great Barrier Reef, Lake Awoonga and the Boyne River.

Analysis of aquatic recreation services in the region and beyond, identified significant gaps in facilities available. This supported the long held and strong community desire for an aquatic recreation centre in the area. Further demographic analysis and population projections highlighted the importance of these facilities that support key groups, including younger and older community members. This points towards the importance for hydrotherapy and rehabilitation facilities to support the variety of demographics and learn to swim opportunities for community safety and wellbeing.

Council has adopted a Concept Design focused on providing a facility that can meet both the current and future aquatic recreation needs of the Boyne/Tannum community on Council's preferred site at Lot 900, Coronation Drive, Tannum Sands.

The adopted Concept Design includes:

- FINA standard, 8 lane 50 metre outdoor heated pool with bulkhead
- Distinct recreational zone with a twin waterslide attraction
- Kiosk and general amenities, green space with shaded turf seating areas and spectator embankment
- All abilities access (pool ramp) and pool shading for sun safety and comfort
- Carparking and landscaping.

BENEFITS

- Delivers an important piece of social infrastructure for a regional community and economic development
- Improves community health and wellbeing outcomes
- Improves community water safety outcomes.

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Harvey Road Sports and Events Precinct

\$50.5M

A Business Case has been prepared for the potential redevelopment of The Harvey Road Sports and Events Precinct. The redevelopment aims to deliver the Gladstone Region and greater Central Queensland with a year-round multi-sports and events precinct (with broadcasting capabilities). The precinct would be suitable for national, state and regional games and carnivals and large outdoor events with a crowd capacity of up to 10,000 people.

This large-scale social infrastructure project will improve the liveability and attractiveness of the Gladstone Region and enhance Central Queensland's rugby league heartland status. The precinct will also continue to support grassroots local and regional sports participation and accommodate local day-to-day use.

BENEFITS

- Increase revenue from a new and diverse mix of major outdoor events and entertainment markets
- Host premier sporting games, fixtures and events
- Attract economic development opportunities
- Economic stimulus through major construction
- Ongoing operational employment
- Increased multiple club viability and sustainability
- Increased sport, recreation and cultural participation
- Presents cultural and artistic opportunities for the region through new events and festivals
- Improved liveability, social capital and community wellbeing

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Strategic Policy

Enabling Prosperity

Establishing the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Base North - Port of Gladstone

Australia is facing a rapidly changing strategic environment emphasising a need to adapt the nation's Defence posture. To generate and sustain the next generation of military advantage, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) needs new defence facilities geographically positioned to meet emerging strategic and security challenges in the South Pacific region.

The planned growth in Australia's Royal Australian Navy (RAN) fleet poses challenges in physically accommodating new armaments. Central Queensland offers force posturing opportunities that can enable the ADF to better shape, deter and respond to emerging security threats.

Gladstone is the ideal location for a new east coast RAN base due to its proximity to the South Pacific, deep, dual shipping lanes, available development land, affordable housing and ability to leverage civilian industrial capacity.

The Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) is a Queensland Government owned Corporation that manages the Port of Gladstone. The Port of Gladstone is the most expandable Port in Australia covering 4,449 hectares of land, with eight main wharf centres. Four of these wharfs are owned and operated by the GPC.

An operational ADF presence in the Gladstone region is a step-change necessary to support the region's transition economy and diversify beyond its resource and industrial heritage.

OUTCOME

A permanent Royal Australian Navy (RAN) base in Gladstone (Fleet Base North), to be the primary home to the RAN's east coast fleet.





Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure

New water storage and distribution systems and infrastructure are required to expand irrigated agriculture across the region, provide water for industrial uses and support a larger population in the Central Queensland region.

The emerging Hydrogen and Bio Futures sectors require secure access to significant volumes of water and delivery systems to the proposed Renewable Energy Zones and Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts. These new economy industries and precincts will also require significant common user wastewater treatment facilities and trade waste facilities.

OUTCOME

Provide dedicated ongoing funding for new and existing water and wastewater infrastructure to support population and economic growth, and address ageing water and sewage infrastructure.

Ageing in Place Strategy

From 2016 to 2036, Gladstone's population is expected to grow by 0.7 per cent per annum. As at 2041, it is expected to reach 75,327, an increase of 12,039 people from 2016.

During the same period, the population of Seniors (70 to 84), empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69) is forecast to have the largest increases of 4,460 and 1,712 people respectively. This is likely to drive demand for health, aged care, related care and support services.

Council acknowledges the opportunities and challenges presented by the ageing of our population. With high numbers of retirees and Baby Boomers choosing to make a sea change to the state's south-east corner, the Gladstone Region is facing the loss of volunteers, caregivers and other dedicated residents. This will require Council to work with the various key agencies across the region to encourage our seniors to age here.

Our older community members are looking for supportive lifestyle opportunities; from accessible and connected transport options to maintaining their health and fitness; improved attitudes about older people in the community, aged care options at a range of price points, home care programs to support independent living, respite care and support for carers.

OUTCOME

Our older people play a vital role in our communities and significantly contribute to our vibrant region.

Council is seeking expressions of interest from qualified retirement and aged care accommodation providers to enter into an agreement with us to build, operate and maintain an aged care facility on land adjacent to the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct.

Renewable Energy and the Transitioning Economy

The Australian Government's Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme presents an innovative opportunity to invest in renewable energy in the Gladstone Region. The region has a significant industrial energy demand, both now and into the future. There are several renewable energy projects under development and or consideration that will support and diversify the Gladstone Region's future industrial development.

Aligning with the global transition to a low-carbon future, the Federal Government has identified the Gladstone Region as a future Hydrogen Hub. The region has the potential to become a green chemicals hub replacing imported ammonia, caustic soda and sulphuric acid and exporting green chemicals and liquid hydrogen.

Hydrogen is a clean, renewable fuel that can be used in transport, power supply and a range of industrial processes. It is key for a range of industries that provide vital input to various manufacturing processes and our regional mining and agricultural sectors.

Regional research and strategic planning are urgently needed to identify the energy transition impacts on regional industries, jobs and skills requirements, future opportunities and transition training pathways. Additional infrastructure is needed, along with Government support to repurpose, retrofit and reuse existing infrastructure to meet the needs of new industries and economic opportunities.

OUTCOME

Supporting investments and policy initiatives will be needed in developing an advanced and sustainable hydrogen industry in the Gladstone Region. Government and political leadership and support is crucial, alongside consistent policy frameworks and investment to enable a just transition in regional Queensland.





Manufacturing and Skills Development

The Gladstone Region is a manufacturing powerhouse. There is significant opportunity for it to leverage the skills and capabilities developed from its extensive industrial past, to create future opportunities in the manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing accounts for the largest share of employment in the Gladstone Region (4,009 jobs or 14.4 per cent of the total). It represents 13 per cent (\$647 million) of local industry value-added and contributes 38 per cent of the region's export value.

This sector, however, is at risk due to global disruption from technological and environmental transitions. The Gladstone Region is uniquely positioned to spearhead a campaign to lead the way in identifying areas where the region can leverage existing expertise and capability to discover new market opportunities.

Central Queensland University (CQU) is unable to meet local demand due to the current caps on federally supported places. Removing the caps will enable CQU to provide more courses in the region, which not only builds the region's skill base but would also slow youth migration to the capital cities and support local population growth.

OUTCOME

Policy driven by regional industrial diversification to support manufacturing and investment initiatives which promote advanced manufacturing of renewable energy generation components, green chemicals and general manufacturing.

Funding for skills development in modern technology areas will be required to support the evolving renewable energy economy.



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