

2025 LGAQ Annual Conference – Motion Template

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Kim Marxsen – Manager Strategy and Improvement
Submitting council (required)	Gladstone Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	XXXX
Date of council resolution (required)	15/07/2025
<input type="checkbox"/> Does this motion have state-wide relevance? For a motion to be accepted, it must have state-wide relevance / this box must be ticked.	
Title of motion (required)	Support for a Staged Approach and Funding to Maintain Critical Wastewater Infrastructure
Motion (required)	<p>That the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) calls on the State Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge that many existing wastewater assets continue to provide essential services to communities and that upgrading them to current compliance standards requires a realistic, staged approach; Provide increased and ongoing funding to ensure communities have safe, reliable, and sustainable wastewater infrastructure; and Support a compliance pathway that balances legislative requirements with the need to protect public health and the environment, while ensuring upgrades are delivered in a financially and logistically achievable way.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	<p>That the State Government provides targeted funding and greater policy flexibility to ensure communities continue to receive safe, reliable wastewater services. This includes investment in upgrading essential infrastructure—both existing and ageing assets—to meet compliance requirements in a way that supports long-term sustainability and public health outcomes.</p>

	<p><i>The motion also seeks State recognition that a staged, risk-based approach to legislative compliance is necessary - where immediate full compliance is not financially or logistically feasible. This approach will help protect environmental standards while ensuring critical infrastructure remains functional and affordable for the communities it serves.</i></p>
<p>Background (required) 350 word limit</p>	<p><i>Local governments are responsible for the provision and maintenance of critical wastewater infrastructure that protects public health, supports development, and safeguards environmental values. However, many councils face aging infrastructure, increasing compliance expectations, and limited funding to undertake required works.</i></p> <p><i>For some councils, maintaining existing levels of wastewater service delivery—not accounting for growth—requires estimated investment in the order of \$80 million over the next three years. These upgrades are essential just to meet current service levels and legislative requirements, with no allowance for improvements, future population or industrial growth.</i></p> <p><i>While councils are committed to meeting their environmental and public health obligations, the scale of investment required demands strong and ongoing support from the State Government. Further, a more flexible, staged compliance approach would enable councils to prioritise high-risk areas and manage upgrades that achieve the best environmental outcomes, responsibly over time, rather than facing unrealistic one-off compliance deadlines that strain community budgets and workforce capacity.</i></p> <p><i>Without this support, communities may face delays, service disruptions, or significant rate increases to fund critical infrastructure that should be a shared responsibility, ultimately the environment and the community will be disadvantaged.</i></p>
<p>Case study/ Example (optional) 350 word limit</p>	<p><i>For example, Gladstone Regional Council is projecting more than \$80 million in wastewater infrastructure investment over the next 3 years solely to maintain current levels of service. This figure does not include upgrades required to accommodate projected growth or improved environmental outcomes. The council's existing revenue streams are insufficient to meet this demand without either reducing service delivery in other areas or significantly increasing rates. A staged approach to compliance and financial support from the State would</i></p>

enable a more balanced and equitable solution for ratepayers.