



**GLADSTONE**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE  
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

**On Tuesday 5 August 2025**

**Commencing at 9.00am**

**Leisa Dowling  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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**Elected Members**

Councillor - Mayor M Burnett  
Councillor G Churchill  
Councillor K Davis  
Councillor M Wagner  
Councillor M Holzheimer  
Councillor N Muszkat  
Councillor S McClintock  
Councillor L Patrick  
Councillor C Cameron

**Officers**

L Dowling (Chief Executive Officer)  
R Millett (Executive Secretary)  
T Whalley (Manager Governance and Risk)  
M Holmes (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk)  
K Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle)  
N Kloppers (General Manager Assets and Environment, Acting)  
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)  
K Marxsen (Manager Strategy and Improvement)  
C Irving (Strategic Program Lead - Waste)  
B Janson (Manager Community Partnerships)  
A Moore (Manager Environment and Conservation)  
F Barker (Manager Arts and Entertainment)

**G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE**

Nil

### **G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

#### **Cr Patrick**

Councillor Leanne Patrick declared a declarable conflict of interest in Agenda Item G/4.1. ADOPTION OF 2025/26 STRATEGIC ADVOCACY PUBLICATION as her husband's business, McDonald's Boyne Island, is situated in close proximity to the proposed Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre (BTAC) which is proposed within the 2025/26 Strategic Advocacy Publication.

Cr Patrick advised that although she has a declarable conflict of interest, she believes she would reasonably be perceived to be impartial because the BTAC project has long been a priority for Council and is only one of 12 priorities included in the publication. Cr Patrick additionally advised that Agenda Item G/4.1. is not relating to a decision as to whether or not the BTAC project proceeds or a decision that could have a big impact on her husband's business. Cr Patrick requested to remain in the room and participate in the decision.

#### **GM/25/5519 Council Resolution**

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Davis

That notwithstanding Cr Patrick's declarable conflict of interest, it is in the public interest for Cr Patrick to remain in the room for Agenda Item G/4.1. and participate in the decision without restriction.

**CARRIED**

**For the Motion:** Cr Muszkat, Cr Davis, Cr McClintock, Cr Cameron, Cr Holzheimer, Cr Wagner, Cr Churchill, Mayor Burnett

**Against the Motion:** Nil

**Ineligible:** Cr Patrick

**Absent:** Nil

## **G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES**

Luminous was on Thursday 17 July 2025 to Saturday 19 July 202. Another successful event at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens and even though it rained on one of the nights, people still managed to make it out there and then the Saturday night was very busy. I've said on radio, Councillors, that we probably need to extend it next year as it's that popular. We really need to think about the effort that our team go to putting that light show on at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens, it's a lot of effort to put it all up and it's over in 3 days, maybe we might need to think about a fourth day but that is something to think about during the budget for next year.

The Boyne Valley 50 was on Saturday 19 July 2025 and shout out to Milepost Events and congratulations Councillor Simon McClintock on the 50km run.

National Tree Day was on Sunday 27 July 2025 and thank you Cr McClintock, Councillor Melissa Holzheimer, Councillor Glenn Churchill and Councillor Leanne Patrick who were involved in that event.

On Tuesday 29 July 2025 was the LeasePLUS 2025 Central Queensland Health Staff Recognition awards and we had 2 winners from Gladstone. The Transforming Health Award went to the Gladstone Nurse-led Walk-in Clinic Team, an amazing facility there in the Valley, offering same day care for non-life-threatening conditions and they've done amazing work. As we know that used to be the service you would receive back in the day from the old ambulance station before everyone started going to the emergency department. It's great to see the nurse-led clinic acknowledged with an award. And the Health, Safety and Wellbeing award went to Ann-Marie Rawson and Deanna Price, Pharmacy Wardsperson and Pharmacy Assistant from the Gladstone Hospital Pharmacy team for their work in upgrading the pharmacy storage space. Congratulations to them.

Wednesday 30 July 2025 was the Institute of Instrumentation, Control, and Automation Technology Expo at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC). Thank you, Cr McClintock, Cr Patrick and Cr Holzheimer, for representing Council at that event.

On Saturday 2 August 2025 and Sunday 3 August 2025, the Port Curtis Orchid and Foliage Society Inc Premier Show was on. Thank you, Cr Patrick and Cr Holzheimer, for attending, it was a big show for the Society.

In the next couple of weeks, we have the First 5 Forever Teddy Bears Picnic at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens which is on Wednesday 6 August 2025 from 9.30am to 11.30am. It's a very popular event.

Coffee and Conversations is on in Barney Point on Saturday 9 August 2025 from 9.30am to 11.00am.

And, very importantly, the Gladstone Region Show Holiday is on Monday 11 August 2025. For those watching online that don't know the reason why the Gladstone Show Holiday is not in line with the Gladstone Show is because a long time ago, Council took a vote to change the Gladstone Show Holiday or the Gladstone Regional Holiday to line up with the Monday of the Ekka because after a survey of the community, the overwhelming support from the community was for it to be on a long weekend. The Mount Larcom Show did not want the show holiday, the 1770 Festival did not want the show holiday, so we took the opportunity to listen to the community and move the show holiday to the Monday which is in line with the Ekka as the holiday has to be in line with an agricultural or industrial show. And that is why it's on Monday 11 August 2025. I hope you enjoy your day off for those who get a day off.

## **G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 15 JULY 2025**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Executive Secretary

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CM7.2

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#### **Purpose:**

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 15 July 2025.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 15 July 2025 be confirmed.

#### **GM/25/5520 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **G/3. DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

## **G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **G/4.1. ADOPTION OF 2025/26 STRATEGIC ADVOCACY PUBLICATION**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager People and Strategy

**Prepared By:** Manager Strategy and Improvement

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** ED6.1

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#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the proposed Strategic Advocacy publication for 2025/26.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the attached (Addendum 1) 2025/26 Strategic Advocacy priorities publication.

#### **GM/25/5521 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Cameron

Seconded Cr McClintock

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**



## **G/4.2. JAPAN INVESTOR ENGAGEMENT (SEPTEMBER 2025)**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager People and Strategy

**Prepared By:** Economic Development Manager

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** ED1.2

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### **Purpose:**

To seek approval for two representatives of Gladstone Regional Council to travel to Tokyo and Osaka, Japan during September 2025 to participate in investor discussions and engagements associated with resources and energy sectors.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council authorise Mayor Matt Burnett and Economic Development Manager Kristy Marks to represent the Gladstone Region in Tokyo, Japan including attendance at Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai region, in September 2025, participating in investor discussions and engagements associated with resources and energy sectors. International flights to be booked as business class.

### **GM/25/5522 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Muszkat

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **G/4.3. CONTRACT VARIATION AND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE APPROVAL - CONTRACT 72-25 - WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Manager Contracts and Procurement and Strategic Program Lead – Waste

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CM21.1

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#### **Purpose:**

This report seeks a resolution from Council, in accordance with the Council's Register of Financial Delegations to approve estimated expenditure and provide formal notification by way of variation to contract 72-25 with JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd ("JJ Richard") for the provision of Garden Organics ("GO") collection services.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Provide formal notification to JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd of its intention to proceed with garden organic collection services ("the Services") from 1 July 2026; and
2. Authorise estimated expenditure of \$8,344,226 ex GST to undertake the Services; and
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a contract variation with JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd for the Services to commence from 1 July 2026 for a period of six years and seven months commencing 1 July 2026 and expiring 31 January 2033.

#### **GM/25/5523 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Muszkat

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **G/4.4. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY FOR 11 JUNE 2025**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Principal Internal Auditor

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CM26.2

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**Purpose:**

To provide a written report of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held 11 June 2025, pursuant to section 211(1)(c) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council receive the summary of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting that was held on 11 June 2025.

**GM/25/5524 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr McClintock

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## **G/4.5. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Governance Business Partner

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CM28.2

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### **Purpose:**

To consider the proposed amendments to the Community Investment Policy.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. adopt the Community Investment Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report;
2. appoint Cr \_\_\_\_\_ to the Community Investment Program Panel; and
3. appoint Cr \_\_\_\_\_ and Cr \_\_\_\_\_ as alternative Community Investment Panel members.

### **GM/25/5525 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Davis

That Council adopt the Community Investment Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report.

**CARRIED**

### **GM/25/5526 Council Resolution:**

Moved Mayor Burnett

Seconded Cr Churchill

That all Councillors be appointed to the Community Investment Program Assessment Panel on a rotational basis.

**CARRIED**

## **G/4.6. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - FUND THEMES 2025/26**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Community and Lifestyle

**Prepared By:** Governance Business Partner and Manager Community Partnerships

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** GS4.1

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### **Purpose:**

To consider the themes to be applied to the Micro Grants Fund and the Connected Communities Fund under the Community Investment Policy and Program in 2025/2026.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council, in respect of the Community Investment Policy and Program:

1. adopt the themes for the Micro Grants Fund for 2025/2026 to be:
  - a. Youth Led;
  - b. Community and Wellbeing;
  - c. Heritage;
  - d. Economic Development;
  - e. Sport and Recreation;
  - f. Planning and Capacity Building;
2. adopt the themes for the Connected Communities Fund for 2025/2026 to be:
  - a. Community Safety;
  - b. Community Infrastructure;
  - c. Access and Inclusion;
  - d. Reconciliation.

### **GM/25/5527 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Muszkat

That Council, in respect of the Community Investment Policy and Program, adopt the following themes to be applied to Round 1 of the Micro Grants Fund and the Connected Communities Fund in 2025/2026:

1. Capacity;
2. Place;
3. Connect;
4. Wellbeing; and
5. Planning

**CARRIED**

## **GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 5 AUGUST 2025**

Mayor Burnett welcomed Lieutenant Colonel Berndt Kronen, who has been heavily involved in Talisman Sabre 2025. Lieutenant Colonel Berndt Kronen presented a plaque to Council, on behalf of the Director of Exercise, Brigadier Damian Hill, and the entire Australian Defence Force (ADF). Lieutenant Colonel Berndt Kronen thanked Council and the community for the support shown for Talisman Sabre 2025.

Mayor Burnett thanked Lieutenant Colonel Berndt Kronen and highlighted Council's support for the ADF and highlighted the local cadets, noting that their facilities were utilised during Talisman Sabre 2025. Mayor Burnett mentioned that the ADF, particularly the Navy vessels that are sailing in the East Coast, are welcome to stop in the Gladstone Region anytime.

**The meeting was adjourned for morning tea at 10.22am and reconvened at 10.50am.**

## **G/4.7. REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Community and Lifestyle

**Prepared By:** Manager Arts and Entertainment

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CC7.16

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to present a revised Regional Arts Development Fund Terms of Reference to ensure the document remains current, fit-for purpose and aligned with Council's and Arts Queensland goals for the fund.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Adopt the Revised RADF Terms of Reference as presented in Attachment 1 to this report; and
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to approve RADF rapid response and out of round applications, up to \$2,000.

### **GM/25/5528 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Muszkat

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **G/4.8. PROPOSED LEASE TO CLAVA (LOT 5 RP601549)**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Assets and Environment

**Prepared By:** Manager Environment and Conservation and Land Management Officer

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CP8.2

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**Purpose:**

To consider and resolve to lease a portion of Lot 5 on RP601549 forming part of Byellee Wildlife Reserve to Clava Ltd trading as Yaralla Sports Club.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Resolves that s236(1)(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* applies to the proposed lease of part of Lot 5 on RP 601549 to Clava Ltd trading as Yaralla Sports Club ("Yaralla") on the following terms and conditions:
  - a. An initial term of five years;
  - b. An option for a further term of five years;
  - c. At a rental of \$1.00 per annum payable on demand;
  - d. Such other terms and conditions that the Chief Executive Officer deems appropriate in the circumstances.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to the Lease.
3. That Council continues to negotiate the purchase of the Lease areas with Yaralla and bring a further report to Council to discuss the options.

**GM/25/5529 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Churchill

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**



## **G/4.9. LEASE ARRANGEMENT - 1770 NOMINEES PTY LTD**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Assets and Environment

**Prepared By:** Manager Environment and Conservation

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** CP8.2

---

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to consider the disposal of part of Lot 1 on SP 297173 situated adjacent to 535 Captain Cook Drive, Seventeen Seventy to 1770 Nominees Pty Ltd.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Resolves that s236(1)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 applies to the proposed lease of part of Lot 1 on SP 297173 to 1770 Nominees Pty Ltd ("the Lease") on the following terms and conditions:
  - (a) A term of 10 years;
  - (b) At a rental of \$2,500 (ex GST) for the first year, increasing by 3% annually;
  - (c) Such other terms as the Chief Executive Officer deems appropriate in the circumstances; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute all matters associated with or in relation to the Lease.

### **GM/25/5530 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Mayor Burnett

That Council:

1. Resolves that s236(1)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 applies to the proposed lease of part of Lot 1 on SP 297173 to 1770 Nominees Pty Ltd ("the Lease") on the following terms and conditions:
  - (a) A term of 10 years;
  - (b) At a rental of \$1,800 (ex GST) to reflect 6% of the 3-year average land value as per the valuers report, for the first year, increasing by 3% annually;
  - (c) Such other terms as the Chief Executive Officer deems appropriate in the circumstances; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute all matters associated with or in relation to the Lease.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT**

### **G/5.1. TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Cr Simon McClintock

**Council Meeting Date:** 5 August 2025

**File Ref:** RD4.4

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#### **Purpose:**

Councillor Simon McClintock submits the following report.

#### **Councillor's Recommendation:**

That the report from Councillor McClintock regarding the Transport and Environment Group be received.

#### **GM/25/5531 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Burnett congratulated Council officer Chloe Hutchinson, who won the 2025 Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year award at the recent Central Queensland Regional Queensland Training Awards. Mayor Burnett mentioned that Chloe has completed her traineeship and has gone on to help mentor new trainees and has done sensationally well. Mayor Burnett noted that Council was also a finalist in the Large Employer of the Year category.

Councillor Michelle Wagner mentioned that she had the pleasure of attending the induction ceremony for the Gladstone State High School Student Leaders for their upcoming year. Cr Wagner noted that she was lucky enough to be on the panel that selected the outgoing leaders and commended them on their evolution and growth throughout the year. Cr Wagner congratulated outgoing leaders Matthew McGregor, William Mapleson, Jolene Devney and Vashti Frost noting that they will be amazing leaders of the future.

Cr Wagner congratulated 2025-2026 School Captains Kayden Gibson and Stevi Cameron; Vice Captains Lewis Windsor and Tamsin Roberts; and Indigenous Captains Samantha Fogwell and Zaailian Flight. Cr Wagner highlighted that the school has been trying to develop leaders from very early in their high schooling with the Year 7 having more than 20 nominations for school leaders, and that the school try to include them in different positions to try and develop that leadership capacity.

Councillor Leanne Patrick mentioned that she attended the celebration of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) week and gave them a shout out. Cr Patrick noted that they took over ownership of the new appliances and highlighted that there are some new safety features which are very impressive. Cr Patrick thanked the Queensland Fire Department and Commissioner Steven Smith.

Cr Patrick gave a shout out to the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) Calliope on celebrating 100 years and wished them another 100 years of service to our community and success.

## **G/6. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

## **G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

## **G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

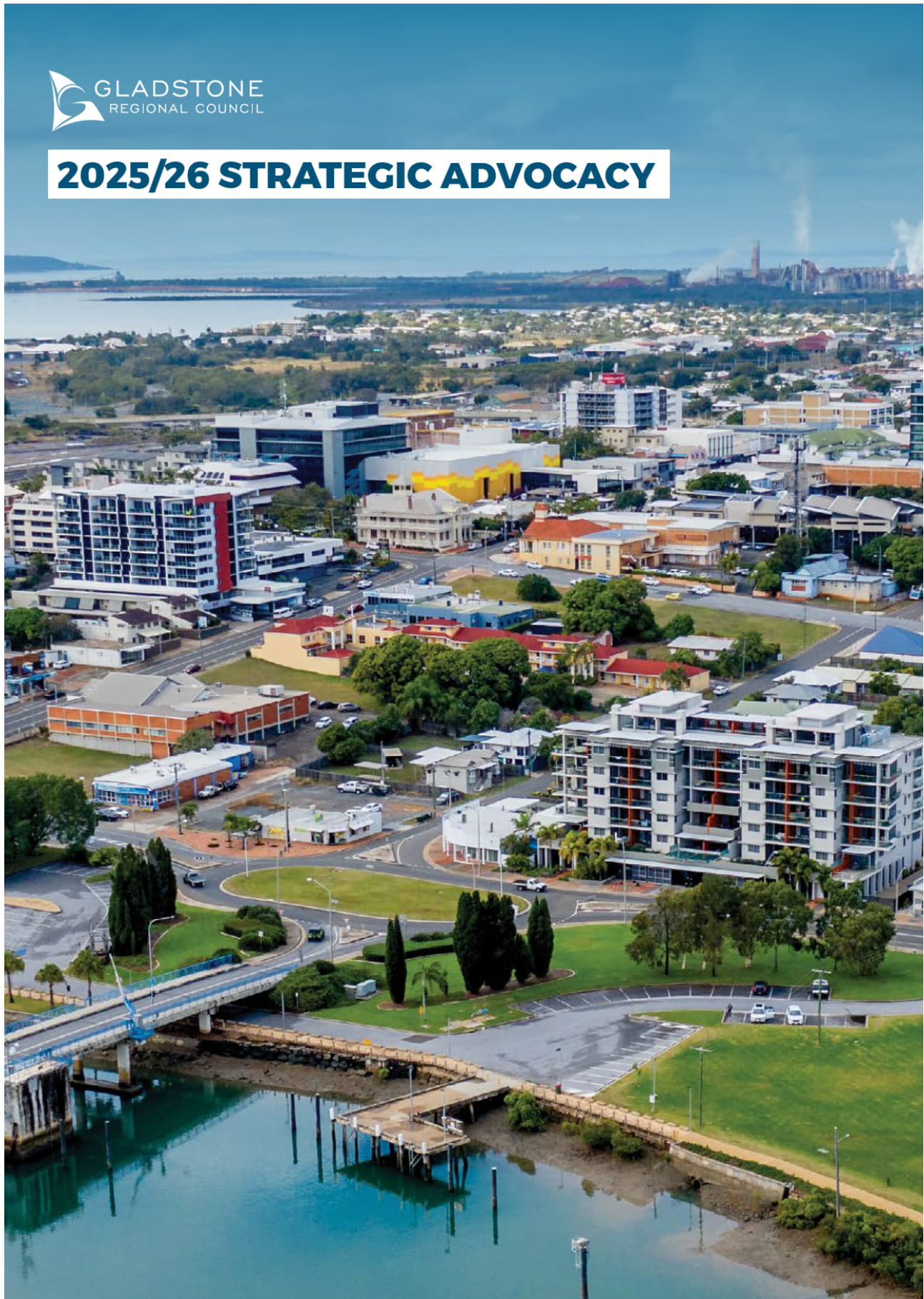
Nil

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.45am.**

## ATTACHMENTS

### Addendum 1



## 2025/26 STRATEGIC ADVOCACY





Dear Valued Stakeholder,

It is a privilege to introduce you to Gladstone Regional Council's 2025/26 Strategic Advocacy publication outlining critical priorities for the Gladstone Region.

As the tier of government closest to the community, our Council has a unique and trusted understanding of the challenges our region and residents face. We take our responsibility to drive meaningful advocacy on behalf of our region seriously and we will always listen to, and champion for, the communities we serve.

We need support, engagement and investment in our priorities from the State and Federal Governments, including the Opposition, key stakeholders, industry and investors to make this change possible.

The priorities we are advocating for are not something we've thought about overnight – they are well planned, well detailed and are crucial to future-proofing our region.

They are not just policy changes or future developments – they are matters of equity, access, and quality of life for regional Queenslanders. Our community deserves the same standard of services and infrastructure as those in metropolitan areas.

With an annual economic output of more than \$20B, our message is simple – support the region that supports the State and National economy.

The Gladstone Region has proven it's well positioned for continued growth and represents an attractive investment destination.

It boasts a diverse regional economy, a natural deep-water port, highly skilled workforce, strong local supply chain, a significant amount of land available in the Gladstone State Development Area (GSDA) and a range of leisure, lifestyle and living opportunities.

I'm taking a stand for my community, and I call on you to take urgent, coordinated action to help turn our priorities into reality.

As a Council and region, we stand ready to partner, but meaningful change will only be achieved with increased leadership, funding, and policy action from all stakeholders.

I welcome your enquiries and most importantly, your action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'M. Burnett'.

Matt Burnett  
Mayor Gladstone Regional Council

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Gladstone Regional Council would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Ballal, the Gurang, the Gooreng Gooreng and the Taribelang Bunda people.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Gladstone Regional Council is committed to cultivating a culture of inclusion and connectedness, acknowledging that our communities are richer when diversity is embraced.

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## Securing Sustainable and Equitable Investment in Wastewater Infrastructure

### Our Ask

**\$80M over the next three years to fund urgent wastewater infrastructure upgrades.  
Reintroduction of a dedicated, ongoing State subsidy program for wastewater investment.**

### The Situation

The Gladstone Region is at a critical crossroads. Council's wastewater infrastructure is ageing rapidly, and regulatory demands continue to rise. The cost of maintaining existing assets, without improvements is projected to exceed \$207M over the next decade. Meeting regulatory requirements through full asset replacement is beyond the scope of Council's long-term financial plan as it would place Council and our community in an unsustainable financial position. Without coordinated investment, the **delivery of essential services and the protection of our environment are at serious risk.**

### The Solution

Council is seeking a coordinated, co-funded approach with the State Government to deliver sustainable, fit-for-purpose, environmentally sensitive wastewater infrastructure. This partnership is essential to support regional growth and ensure compliance – without shifting disproportionate costs to local ratepayers.

## Addressing Regional Waste Challenges through Scalable and Supported Solutions

### Our Ask

**Undertake an investigation into the current state of kerbside commingled recycling across Central Queensland, followed by an options assessment and the development of a funded Regional Commingled Recycling Infrastructure Plan, with Gladstone as the processing location for Central Queensland. Regional equity – access to and development of processing solutions.**

**A partnership funding model that supports Gladstone Regional Council's implementation of a Garden Organics bin service – 75 per cent in year one, 50 per cent in year two and 25 per cent in year three.**

**The State Government to reinstate and continue the full waste levy payments to regional councils, and revise what are currently unachievable waste diversion targets for regional councils.**

### The Situation

Regional Queensland faces a growing challenge in delivering economically viable waste processing solutions at scale. Without access to affordable and regionally appropriate infrastructure, Councils are limited in their ability to meet waste diversion targets and effectively manage the financial impacts of the waste levy.

Communities are already shouldering increasing costs to maintain core waste services. Without targeted investment and long-term policy certainty, this trend will continue placing further pressure on regional households and limiting progress toward a more sustainable waste system.

Recent shifts in support and policy direction from the State Government have created further uncertainty for regional Councils. A renewed commitment to consistent funding, regional collaboration, and policy stability is essential.

### The Solution

We are calling for the State to work in partnership with regional Queensland to co-develop scalable, cost-effective waste solutions and provide the certainty needed to plan and invest for the long term.





## Positioning Central Queensland as a Strategic Asset in Australia's Defence Future

### Our Ask

**Formal recognition of Gladstone and the broader Central Queensland region as a priority location for Defence investment and operations, including:**

- **Establishment of a stronger, more permanent Defence presence in Central Queensland**
- **Inclusion in future Defence manufacturing and logistics planning**
- **Ongoing engagement with the Central to Defence Working Group to coordinate regional delivery and maximise strategic outcomes.**

### The Situation

Gladstone and the broader Central Queensland region are strategically positioned to play a pivotal role in Australia's Defence future. The region boasts one of the nation's premier multi-commodity deep-water ports, complemented by the explosives-enabled Port of Rockhampton (Port Alma). It is underpinned by a mature industrial base and a highly skilled workforce with expertise in heavy engineering, logistics, and advanced manufacturing.

Proximity to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Rockhampton International Airport, and direct access to the Coral Sea further elevate Gladstone's suitability as a Defence and Defence Industries hub.

Already a trusted partner in Australia's energy and export supply chains, the region's capabilities are readily transferable to Defence applications – ranging from vessel maintenance and logistics to Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) infrastructure. Through the Central to Defence Working Group – a collaboration of three Councils and Regional Development Australia Central and Western Queensland – our region is advancing a united, strategic approach to national security.

### The Solution

Targeted Defence investment in Gladstone will deliver dual-purpose benefits: strengthening the operational reach and resilience of the Australian Defence Force, while unlocking economic diversification and building enduring industry capability in regional Queensland.

We call on the Federal Government and Defence stakeholders to partner with local and regional leaders to harness existing infrastructure, skilled labour, and collaborative governance models in support of national defence objectives.





## Delivering a Fit-for-Purpose Heavy Vehicle and Over Size Load Corridor in Gladstone

### Our Ask

**Investment in a fit-for-purpose heavy vehicle uplift to the Port of Gladstone to support OSOM loads and continued major project transport needs for regional Queensland.**

### The Situation

The Gladstone Region's strategic role as a gateway for industrial freight is being constrained by the lack of a dedicated heavy vehicle and Over Size/Over Mass (OSOM) transport corridor. Currently, OSOM freight must traverse critical community roads and infrastructure not designed for such loads – placing significant strain on community assets intended for everyday use.

With demonstrated growth in containerised freight and continued industrial expansion, this pressure is set to escalate. Without action, local amenity, safety and asset longevity will be compromised and industry competitiveness diminished.

### The Solution

Council is calling for State investment in a fit-for-purpose heavy vehicle uplift to the Port of Gladstone. A dedicated freight corridor is essential to protect community infrastructure, improve freight efficiency and support the region's growing economic role.



## Enabling a Strategic Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy

### Our Ask

**Gladstone is not asking if the transition will happen – we are asking for clear direction, coordinated action and the tools to ensure our communities thrive in the economy of tomorrow. We need:**

- **Policy certainty**
- **Ongoing Government funding**
- **Infrastructure investment**
- **Unified Government messaging.**

### The Situation

The Gladstone Region is uniquely positioned to lead Australia's low-carbon transition. As a proven and expanding energy hub, we are leveraging our skilled workforce, industrial capability, rich resource base, integrated supply chains and world-class deep-water port to support the industries of the future.

Significant research, planning and investment has already been made across numerous green energy and manufacturing projects, alongside decarbonising existing fossil fuel prominent projects. However, uncertainty – particularly from shifting government policy settings – is undermining investor confidence and jeopardising progress across all energy sectors. A coordinated, long-term commitment from all levels of government is essential to maintain momentum and attract private investment.

Local Governments play a critical role in climate adaptation, community engagement, driving local content and enabling new industries. Sustained funding and policy clarity are needed to support infrastructure upgrades, repurposing of legacy assets and development-ready land to meet the needs of a transitioning economy.

### The Solution

A coordinated, government-supported transition that leverages Gladstone's unique assets to drive sustainable economic growth. This includes:

- Long-term policy certainty to support investor confidence
- Strategic funding for local governments to lead regional economic and community adaptation
- Infrastructure investment to repurpose and retrofit legacy assets
- Support for land use planning and enabling infrastructure for new and changing industries
- A unified narrative across all levels of government about the economic future of Australia, particularly the Gladstone Region.





## Harvey Road Sports and Events Precinct

**Project estimate: \$50.5M**

### Our Ask

**\$3.4M to secure approvals and complete detailed designs for the project to be construction investment ready.**

### The Situation

The greater Gladstone Region needs a major outdoor venue to unlock regional economic opportunities by driving spending, creating jobs, boosting tourism and gaining national exposure through hosting major sports events, outdoor activities and carnivals.

### The Solution

The Harvey Road Sports and Events Precinct development will deliver the Gladstone Region and greater Central Queensland with a year-round, multi-sports and events precinct with broadcasting capabilities.

The precinct will be suitable for national, state and regional games, carnivals and large outdoor events with a crowd capacity of up to 10,000 people.

This large-scale social infrastructure project will position the Gladstone Region to be one of only four facilities in Queensland to offer six full-size rugby league fields available in the one precinct.

Fruition of the project will create significant economic/sports tourism benefits and improve the liveability and attractiveness of the Gladstone Region.



## Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre

**Current funding: \$15M Australian Government funding through the Priority Community Infrastructure Program.**

### Our Ask

**Match the Australian Government funding of \$15M for the construction of the Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre.**

#### The Situation

Development of a public swimming pool has long been identified as one of the highest social infrastructure needs for the thriving coastal communities of Boyne Island and Tannum Sands. While residents enjoy access to a diverse range of locally based sport and recreation facilities, parklands and natural open spaces, access to a public swimming pool remains a minimum 25 minutes' drive to Gladstone, the nearest urban centre. With the unfavourable distance of travel and limited public transport between Boyne/Tannum and Gladstone, equitable access to a public swimming pool continues to be an ongoing disadvantage for the 10,000 plus residents that live in the area.

#### The Solution

The Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre will be a year-round multi-functional aquatic centre purposefully designed to be a central hub for families, schools, clubs and visitors to connect, recreate and learn, enhancing the health, fitness, social and psychological wellbeing of the community.

The proposed facility will include a 50m outdoor heated pool, all-abilities access (pool ramp) and pool shading for sun safety and comfort as well as shaded turf seating areas and spectator embankment.





## Harbour Arbour

**Project estimate: \$10.7M**

**Current funding: \$5.3M Australian Government funding through the Growing Regions Program – Round 2.**

### Our Ask

**\$5M to meet the remaining project estimate and enable construction to commence.**

#### The Situation

Council owned utilities infrastructure in Goondoon Street between Lord and Yarroon Streets are nearing end of life and scheduled for replacement. As part of this work, vital streetscape revitalisation upgrades will be undertaken to deliver a safe and shady pedestrian linkage connecting the harbour to the Central Business District (CBD).

#### The Solution

The transformation of the harbour end of Gladstone's main street into a vibrant tree-lined boulevard will be an activator of economic activity, generating benefits for retail, business, hospitality, entertainment and tourism.

The project will stimulate urban renewal, help to revitalise the city centre, recognise the city's heritage as an important asset and improve the quality of public spaces and streets.

Once complete, Harbour Arbour will also provide a more inviting pathway for all CBD participants, including future cruise ship passengers to explore the CBD beyond East Shores.





## Health

### Delivering Equitable, Accessible and Locally Led Health Outcomes for the Gladstone Region

The people of the Gladstone Region are being left behind in access to fundamental healthcare. Residents are routinely forced to travel outside the region to receive treatment. There are not enough General Practitioners, specialists, allied health, or mental health professionals to meet demand. Wait times are growing, costs are rising and continuity of care is diminishing.

Behind these issues lie systemic barriers: critical workforce shortages, lack of local infrastructure, few professional development pathways and no clear strategy to grow and retain a skilled health workforce in the region.

Gladstone needs empowered, localised solutions and a genuine shift in decision-making power enabling regions like Gladstone to influence the health outcomes of our own communities.

This is a matter of regional equity, wellbeing, liveability and resilience.



## Housing

### Unlocking Affordable and Accessible Housing in Regional Queensland

The Gladstone Region continues to face a housing crisis. The cost of construction is soaring, and private developers are not releasing or developing land at a pace that meets community need. This is placing pressure on the availability and affordability of housing – for workers, families, and vulnerable residents alike.

Without intervention, these challenges will continue to limit regional growth, exacerbate workforce shortages, and increase housing stress for our community.

Our region is ready to grow – but access to housing must not be the barrier.

A coordinated, funded response is essential to ensure all Queenslanders have a fair chance at safe, affordable, and secure housing.





## Fair Funding

### Stopping the Shift

#### Fair Funding for Local Government Responsibilities

Local Governments are being increasingly burdened with responsibilities that were traditionally the domain of State and Federal Governments – without the funding to match. From community services to infrastructure and regulatory compliance, more is being expected of Councils, often without consultation or financial support.

This cost-shifting is unsustainable. It places unacceptable pressure on local resources, risks service quality and forces Councils to choose between core responsibilities and community needs.

If local government is to continue delivering for communities, it must be resourced to do so – fairly, sustainably and with a seat at the table.



## Inland Rail

### Unlocking Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone

#### A Nation-Building Opportunity

The extension of Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone represents a transformational opportunity for Queensland and the nation – linking regional producers directly to a world-class, deep-water export gateway.

There is strong stakeholder support, growing private investor interest and a clear economic case.

What's missing is active government facilitation to unlock this potential.

The opportunity is real, the interest is there and the time is now. With government leadership, the Inland Rail extension to Gladstone can deliver long-term national productivity, regional jobs, and global competitiveness.





## 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.



## ECONOMIC PROFILE

**\$6.7B**

in Gross Regional Product (GRP)

**27,958**

Regional jobs

Approximately

**68,065**

residents

**38 years**

is the median age compared to  
38.9 years for regional Queensland

**78,486**

is the expected population of the  
Gladstone Region by 2046

**566,000**

average visitors to the region per annum



**4,141**

Local businesses,  
with the top employers being:



**4,200**

Manufacturing jobs



**3,363**

Construction jobs



**2,863**

Health Care and Social Assistance jobs



**2,668**

Retail jobs



**2,441**

Education and Training jobs



**2,416**

Transport and Logistics jobs

Source: [app.rempln.com.au/gladstone/economy/summary](http://app.rempln.com.au/gladstone/economy/summary)

While care has been taken to ensure all content is complete and accurate, Gladstone Regional Council provide no guarantee that this publication is without error.



## REGION OVERVIEW

From Krombit Tops in the west to the coral lagoons of the Southern Great Barrier Reef, the Gladstone Region is as varied as it is beautiful.

The Gladstone Region is situated on the traditional lands of the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, and Taribelang Bunda peoples.

Located approximately 500km north of Brisbane City, the Gladstone Region has a population of approximately 65,500 people and a total land area of almost 10,500km<sup>2</sup>.

The city of Gladstone, the areas of Boyne Island and Tannum Sands and the town of Calliope are the main population centres in the region with approximately 57,500 people living in these localities.

Nearly 8000 people live in smaller communities in the region such as Miriam Vale, Baffle Creek, Deepwater, Mount Larcom, Turkey Beach, Rosedale and surrounding communities as well as the beachside localities of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy.

The Gladstone Region has a Gross Regional Product (GRP) of \$6.773B with just over 4000 local businesses and nearly 28,000 regional jobs, with about 15 per cent of these in manufacturing. In addition, 20.9 per cent of the Gladstone Region workforce are technicians or trades workers.

The region has a strong record of job creation and investment opportunities, with relaxed living, recreational and tourism options enhancing its liveability and potential for future growth.

In recent decades, the economy has been built around heavy industry with access to a deepwater harbour for import and export trade. Several energy projects, hydrogen, biofuels, solar energy and new waste management practices have been proposed for the GSDA, positioning the city of Gladstone as an energy hub and taking the economy in an exciting new direction.

An Eco-Certified destination, the Gladstone Region features plenty of green open spaces, including nationally recognised Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens, award-winning playgrounds and coastal locations where sailing and boating activities are enjoyed.

Residents and visitors can see historical sites, go bush walking, mountain climbing or snorkel the reef to experience the outdoor environment.

The region's strength is a great sense of community, with a 'can-do' attitude.



