

Media Release

14 August 2025

Council sets strategic advocacy for 2025/26

Gladstone Regional Council has adopted its 2025/26 Strategic Advocacy publication outlining critical priorities for the Gladstone Region.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the priorities Council is advocating for are not something we've thought about overnight – they are well planned, well detailed opportunities that are crucial to future-proofing our region.

“As the tier of government closest to the community, not only does our Council have a unique and trusted understanding of the challenges our region and residents face, but importantly we connect with the region's aspirations for liveability, sustainability and economic growth,” Councillor Burnett said.

“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.

“It is vital that the Gladstone Region receives support, engagement and investment from the State and Federal Governments, including the Opposition, key stakeholders, industry and investors if we are to turn our priorities into reality.”

In 2025/26 Council will advocate for:

- **Defence** – Establishment of a stronger, more permanent Defence presence in Central Queensland.
- **Harvey Road Sports and Events Precinct** – Funding to progress the project towards being construction investment ready.
- **Wastewater** – Funding to upgrade ageing infrastructure ensuring services support population growth.
- **Waste** – Regionally appropriate waste solutions and funding to reduce costs on ratepayers and enable sustainability targets.
- **Transport Corridor** – Dedicated heavy vehicle corridor to the Port of Gladstone.
- **Low-Carbon Economy** – Clear direction, coordinated action and the tools to ensure our communities thrive in the economy of tomorrow.
- **Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre** – Funding to deliver a new aquatic centre ensuring fair access to vital recreational and health facilities.

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- **Harbour Arbour** – Funding to replace critical end-of-life infrastructure and revitalisation of Goondoon Street between Lord and Yarroon Streets.

Cr Burnett added that while not in Council's direct influence, advocacy efforts will also be on other community priorities including improving health outcomes, accessible housing, fairer funding and the extension of Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone.

"Our region deserves the same standard of services and infrastructure as those in metropolitan areas and we're ready to partner to make this change possible."

Visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/economic-information to learn more about Council's 2025/26 Strategic Advocacy.

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