

Media Release

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Council launches new online mapping feature for renewable projects

Gladstone Regional Council has launched a new online mapping feature to show the location and number of renewable energy proponents in the Gladstone Region.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the new online mapping feature is an engaging feature on Council's website designed to inform the community about the locations of proposed and approved projects.

"This mapping system is a great way for residents to learn more about proposed renewable energy projects within our region as we continue to experience interest and investment in this sector," Mayor Burnett said.

"The release of the map coincides with recent changes to Queensland Legislation requiring all new large-scale renewable energy projects, including solar farms, to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and negotiate a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) with Council before lodging a development application.

"The State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) is now the relevant assessment manager for these applications."

Mayor Burnett said these changes mean the role of local government in the development process has shifted.

"Council is currently working through this new framework with several proponents," he said.

"Reiterating the level of detail provided by proponents will be critical to preparing well-informed agreements that reflect the needs and expectations of the local community.

"I encourage everyone to explore the map as it shows the scale and distribution of renewable energy proposals in the region."

Visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/renewable-energy to view the renewable energy map and learn more about the recent changes.

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