

Youth Council Meeting

1 June 2026

4:45pm to 6:35pm

Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct

Attendees:

Logan, Zachary, Samantha, Tairui, Alisha, Casey, Flynn, Niel, Paige, Harold, Bailey, Carl, Matilda, Oneli, Rebecca Creedy (GRC Community Development Officer), Cr Mellissa Holzheimer

Apologies: Kayley, Josh, Doug, Lochie

Special Guests: Kylie Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle), Tim Price (Community Engagement Specialist), Mel (Worley Consulting)

Agenda Item		Actions/Responsible
1. Acknowledgement to Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivered by Bailey	Complete
2. Apologies and Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Apologies for today's meeting are Doug, Lochie, Josh and Kaylee	Noted by Secretariat
3. Previous meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting minutes of 18 May 2026 Moved: Bailey Seconded: Niel	Noted by Secretariat
4. Incoming committee correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Email from Naomi-Jon with slide deck for our pitch to the LNG Groups for funding opportunities	Viewed by group – additional meeting requested to do a practice presentation

<p>5. Outgoing committee correspondence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email to Nataly from QGC confirming their next funding round. Their June round is only for applications above \$20,000. They will have a Shell QGC Community Events Fund later in the year for funding amounts of \$1,000 upwards. 	
<p>6. <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Welcoming Mel from Worley Consulting who is seeking Youth Council's feedback into Rio Tinto's Socio-economic Impact Assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mel gave the group background on the purpose of this consultation. Rio Tinto is undertaking a Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) to understand how its Gladstone Operations interact with the community today and how this relationship is changing over time. The SEIA helps Rio Tinto reflect on what is working well, where challenges are emerging, and how it can improve its contribution to the long-term wellbeing of the Gladstone region. The Gladstone region is experiencing significant change including: industrial transition and decarbonisation efforts, evolving workforce and skills needs, and increasing pressure on housing, childcare and community services. Worley Consulting has been engaged by Rio Tinto to do community engagement and consultation; the voice of youth is important to Rio Tinto. Mel asked the group what the biggest challenges are facing youth in the community/ what are the group noticing in their community. Responses included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are staying at home longer due to high real estate and rental prices Access to community transport is limited, and with rising fuel costs this is creating barriers to attendance of things such as work and work experience 	<p>Mel has some additional questions that she will email to the group if they would like to provide further feedback. Mel thanked Youth Council for their valuable input to the consultation.</p>

- Competitiveness of employment and obtaining certificates (which are often limited to 2 per high school)
- Education and university accessibility- unless you are doing a trade or apprenticeship, there are limited options for studying in person. Following Covid many university subjects moved to online format only and never returned to in-person study (for example, teaching). This makes it difficult to build networks and may lead to people leaving to work outside the region.
- Some view Gladstone as a “drive-through town” with a focus on mining and industry. They believe many grow up here and then move away unless they are interested in a career in industry. Most people will only move back to Gladstone for family.
- Lack of youth volunteering, Gladstone loses its youth demographic once they complete year 12 as they want to move to Brisbane for more opportunities and to meet new people.
- For a town with a lot of money generated from industry, access to healthcare is poor. Youth in our region take on apprenticeships and don’t enter fields like medical- and those that do have to travel elsewhere to do their degree and don’t usually return.
- There are no specialist appointments available in the region, and there are no medical facilities for specialists to perform their jobs in this region
- The group noted how the maternity ward was closed for a year due to not having doctors available for this essential service
- Government allows industry in- we have modelled ourselves into an industry-based hub, so we are not diversifying into areas like tourism and research. The retention in Gladstone is based on industry jobs.

Guest Speaker 2: Welcoming Tim, Council's Community Engagement Specialist, to discuss the future of the Gladstone Aquatic Centre 50m pool.

- Tim is currently consulting across the community on the future of the 50m pool at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre. The pool has reached end of life and has had significant leaks, so Council is exploring options with consideration that this will be a community asset for the next 50 years.
- It is a large decision and significant investment for Council and rate payers, so they are seeking the sentiment from community as the main aquatic centre for the region.
- Feedback from Youth Council included:
 - It is a place that youth like to hang out, particularly with our climate, however once youth get their license they often prefer to go to the beach as it is free
 - They see it as a great asset and well used by young families- swimming at the pool with children feels safer than the beach as there are always lifeguards present, and it is a more controlled environment than the beach
 - They asked if there are options to make it more enticing for teenagers such as water slides, wave pools or a larger pool that connects the splash zone to the main pool for families with children of all ages
 - Tim explained that moving to a 10 lane Olympic size option means that the pool will be a greater depth (no shallow end). The main sentiment of the group was that the shallow end is important to families and people such as the elderly who use the pool for walking exercise. Also, with our surrounding regions having Olympic sized pools (Yeppoon, Bundaberg)- would we attract large competitions that bring revenue to our community often enough to justify the spend?

7. General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to those who attended the GRC Volunteer Celebration, Darkness to Daylight Walk and Rainbow on the Reef Pride Festival- your volunteer time is greatly appreciated! 	
8. Ongoing Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunny Sun safety Campaign: Primary school colouring in competition • Brainstorming for Mental Health Awareness Month event, looking at feedback from recent community events for ideas and inspiration to include the voice of our local youth. 	Time did not allow further discussions on this. Carry over to next meeting
9. Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste minimisation project: Is this a project that Youth Council would like to commit to this year? (Zach/ Bailey to share project idea from Waste Minimisation Workshop). 	Time did not allow further discussions on this. Carry over to next meeting

Schedule of 2026 Committee Meeting Dates

The Gladstone Region Youth Council Advisory Committee meet on the first and third Monday of the month from February- November, excluding school holidays and public holidays unless otherwise changed by committee vote. Meeting time 4.45 – 6.15pm.

The venue for these meetings alternates between the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct Gladstone and Council Board Room at 101 Goondoon Street.

Month	Date	Activity	Time	Venue
February	2	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
	16	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
March	2	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
	16	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
	30	Proposed General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
April	20	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
May	18	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
June	1	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
	15	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
July	TBC	School Hols: Possible Agnes Visit	TBC	Agnes Water and 1770
	20	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
August	3	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
	17	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
	31	Proposed General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
September	7	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
	TBC	School Hols: Possible Agnes Visit	TBC	Agnes Water and 1770
October	19	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Council Chambers- 101 Goondoon Street
November	2	General Meeting	4.45 - 6.15pm	Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct
	14	End of year celebration! Date TBC	TBC	TBC