



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

On Tuesday 3 February 2026

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)
S Penrose (Manager Governance and Risk, Acting)
T Whalley (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk, Acting)
C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)
B Janson (General Manager Community and Lifestyle, Acting)
M Holmes (General Manager Operations, Acting)
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)

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

Nil

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

I would like to acknowledge our Australia Day award winners from our Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony held at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC) on Sunday 25 January 2026. Our Citizen of the Year - Darren Somerville. I thank Darren for his many years of work, not just with the Queensland Police Service, but also as our District Disaster Coordinator and in the Local Disaster Management Group. From bushfires in Baffle Creek and Lowmead, right through to floods and weather events right across the region in Agnes Water and Mount Larcom and everywhere in between. Thank you, Darren, for many years of service.

Ava Hetherington follows in the footsteps of her sister as the Young Citizen of the Year. Congratulations Ave, not just a champion gymnast, but also for her work at Toolooa State High School Interact and then getting involved in the community through the Cancer Council and the RSPCA and many other good things for someone her age. Well done.

Our Sport and Recreation Award went to Brendan Clarke. Our Young People Sport and Recreation Award goes to Milly Sharpe. Milly will be attending later today to present her with her award because she wasn't able to attend the ceremony because she was competing at the same time, which you can expect from someone who's so dedicated to her sport.

The Arts and Culture Award went to Jarrod Beezley. The Community Event Award went to The Old Station Air Show. The Community Volunteer Award went to Kate Dufty. Congratulations Kate. And the Mayor's Community Champion Award went to 2 people - I couldn't split them because I call them the dynamic duo. Bev Fellows and Gloria Holmes for all their good work at the Friends of the Theatre, in Rotary and so many other volunteer organisations around town. The Young Community Champion Award went to Doug Hoffmann. Well done to Doug. Not just a great champion in our Youth Council, but volunteering and supporting community and youth right across the region.

A couple of upcoming events. This weekend, Saturday 7 February 2026, we have the Dolphins back in town. Very good to see the Dolphins playing the Capras. Last time they played in town, the Capras won. Let's see if they can redeem themselves. Gladstone has a long connection with the Dolphins. The very first time they ran out on the field was right here in Gladstone at Marley Brown Oval and they've been back a number of times since. As I've said many times, it's not just about the game, it's about the community participation. They are doing coaching clinics, having an all-abilities game and visiting local schools. And we have about 5 or 6 of their top NRL players in town this week visiting local schools and supporting our younger generation, which leads me to the next thing.

Just recently, I met with Grant Mitchell from Queensland Cricket, who is a Gladstone boy. It was a great opportunity to speak with him about doing something similar with the Queensland Bulls. They have hosted community events similar to this just recently in Maryborough. There's no reason why Gladstone shouldn't be next on the list where they can bring the Bulls to Gladstone, maybe some of the Brisbane Heat players as well, get involved in the community and have a trial match with another State here in Gladstone. Looking forward to seeing something like that happening later this year.

The next big event for our region is the Agnes Blues Roots and Rock Festival on Friday 20 February 2026 to Sunday 22 February 2026. Tickets are still available online. Make sure you get in and enjoy a fantastic weekend in Agnes Water.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 20 JANUARY 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 3 February 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 20 January 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 20 January 2026 be confirmed.

GM/26/5616 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr McClintock

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

G/3.1. BEYOND ZERO EMISSIONS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 3 February 2026

File Ref: CM7.6

Purpose:

For Beyond Zero Emissions to present Beyond Zero Emissions' findings of their National Action Plan assessment for the Gladstone Region.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the deputation from Beyond Zero Emissions be received.

GM/26/5617 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS - COUNCIL TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Governance Business Partner

Council Meeting Date: 3 February 2026

File Ref: CM9.2

Purpose:

This report seeks Council's consideration of the delegation of legislative power to the Chief Executive Officer resulting from recent changes to Acts and Regulations.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the legislative powers listed in Attachment 1 'Statutory Delegations Register – Council to CEO' excluding those identified as 'Remains with Council', be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

GM/26/5618 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Patrick

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Natalia Muszkat mentioned that she attended the Australia Day Family Fun Day in Tannum Sands. Cr Muszkat thanked the Council teams involved in making sure that the community had a good day. Cr Muszkat noted that next year's event will be held in Gladstone. Cr Muszkat highlighted that Council's Garden Organics (GO - green) Bin mascot, Georgia Green, was announced noting that Georgia Green joins Benjamin Binny (general waste - red bin) and Rolanda Recycle (recycling - yellow bin).

Mayor Burnett mentioned the following:

I'd like to acknowledge the winner of the Young People Sport and Recreation Award, which recognises the outstanding achievement by an individual age 15 -25 that has made a significant contribution towards the sporting or recreation achievements of the Gladstone Region in the preceding year, including official coaching, sport officials, management and administration of sport and recreation activities. We had a whole bunch of nominations in this field and although she wasn't able to attend on the night, the winner was Milly Sharpe who represented Australia and finished ranked 4th globally for under 18 Women's 10,000 race walk.

Milly began with a win at the World Athletics event in Canberra and earning a world number one. Milly went on to claim the National titles on track and road, multiple state championships across 1,500 meters to 10km while also breaking records. A member of the Australian Walking Squad, Milly balances elite sport with her studies and is a mentor of younger athletes. Congratulations and well done Milly.

Mayor Burnett presented Milly Sharpe with the Young People Sport and Recreation Award.

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 10.05am.