



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

On Tuesday 17 February 2026

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Table of Contents

ITEM	PAGE
G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE	3
G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	4
G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES.....	5
G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 3 FEBRUARY 2026	6
G/3. DEPUTATIONS	7
G/3.1. PRIVATE ENERGY PARTNERS.....	7
G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS	8
G/4.1. RUTHERGLEN BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT.....	8
G/4.2. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MOTIONS AND ATTENDANCE	9
G/4.3. 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL PLAN QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE REPORT	10
G/4.4. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FUND.....	11
G/4.5. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - IMPACT, DESTINATION AND SIGNATURE EVENTS FUND.....	12
G/4.6. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2026	13
G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT.....	14
G/6. URGENT BUSINESS.....	14
G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION	14
G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	14

Elected Members

Councillor - Mayor M Burnett
Councillor G Churchill (via teams)
Councillor K Davis
Councillor M Wagner (via teams)
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 (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk, Acting)
C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)
K Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle) (via teams)
M Holmes (General Manager Operations, Acting)
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)
E Noakes (Strategic Project Specialist)
K Marxsen (Manager Strategy and Improvement)
B Janson (Manager Community Partnerships)
A Voysey (Financial Controller, Acting)

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 advised that she has a declarable conflict of interest in Agenda Item G/4.4. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FUND due to her husband's, Nathan Patrick, businesses, McDonald's Boyne Island and McDonalds Kirkwood, being a financial member of the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl), who are a funding applicant. Cr Patrick mentioned that there is a potential that McDonald's Boyne Island and McDonald's Kirkwood could be a beneficiary of the Buy Local 2025/26 Campaign.

Cr Patrick advised that although she has a declarable conflict of interest, she believes that she would reasonably be perceived to be impartial because:

- Whether or not the GCCl is successful in their application, this would not have a significant impact on McDonald's Boyne Island or McDonald's Kirkwood;
- It is not certain that either business would participate in or benefit from the campaign; and
- The businesses stand to gain no greater benefit than any other member of the GCCl.

GM/26/5619 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Muszkat

That notwithstanding Cr Patrick's declarable conflict of interest, it is in the public interest for Cr Patrick to remain in the room and participate in the decision with the following restrictions:

- unable to vote on the matter.

CARRIED

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Ineligible: Cr Holzheimer

Cr Holzheimer

Councillor Mellissa Holzheimer advised that she has a declarable conflict of interest in Agenda Item G/4.4. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FUND as she is a director of Not For Profit HQ Limited which was an applicant to the relevant funding round.

Cr Holzheimer advised that she would leave the meeting room for the consideration of Agenda Item G/4.4.

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

I'd like to start by mentioning our Central to Defence Community Town Hall that was held on Thursday 5 February 2026 at the port facility at East Shores. It was great to be able to host the town hall for the Central to Defence making sure that everyone in the Gladstone Region understands completely how we're working with our neighbours in Rockhampton and Livingstone to bring a greater defence presence into the Gladstone Region and Central Queensland. As we know, the Navy are very keen to be involved in Gladstone and have a great participation. The Chief of Navy has highlighted how Gladstone is very supportive of defence and very supportive of the Navy. We've seen the benefits of what defence has done for Darwin and what defence has done for Townsville and for other cities around Australia, they certainly help to diversify our economy. Not that we need to diversify away from industry, we're very big industry supporters, but we want to make sure there are other industries, including defence, in the Gladstone Region in the years to come. It's not something that will happen overnight, it's something that we've been working on for a number of years and the town hall was to keep the community updated.

Saturday 7 February 2026 the Dolphins and the Capras played. Congratulations to the Dolphins for winning. The Capras put on a great show. Thank you to the CQ Capras for supporting the Dolphins to return to Gladstone again. All the Gladstone teams did win the curtain raisers. Thank you to Rockhampton and Central Highlands for turning up. The All Abilities game that was played with the Capras beforehand was fantastic to see as well. As I've said before, it's all about getting involved in the community and for those who were there on the day, the coaching clinics beforehand and the visits to the schools is what it's all about. At half time, when you saw Marley Brown Oval absolutely packed with kids having a good time, that's more important than the game itself.

Yesterday, Monday 16 February 2026, we had the Skilling Queenslanders for Work ceremony. Thank you Councillor Simon McClintock and Councillor Chris Cameron for attending that event.

Upcoming, tomorrow (Wednesday 18 February 2026) we have the Community Forum in Agnes Water. Which will be a huge day in Agnes Water. Our planning team have been down there for most of the week and I'm looking forward to catching up with locals in Agnes Water tomorrow. And this weekend is the Agnes Water Blues Roots and Rock Festival. Still time to get your tickets. Councillor Glenn Churchill and Cr McClintock are opening that event for me on Friday night 20 February 2026. Thank you for attending that for me. If you haven't got your tickets online, get in there and get your tickets now as it's going to be a fantastic weekend.

Youth Week - Council is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from community groups to deliver youth led events for Youth Week in 2026. Funding for up to \$1,000 is available per event to support a range of activities. Youth Week is from Saturday 11 April 2026 to Sunday 19 April 2026. The target group is young people aged 12 to 25. Applications close 5pm on Monday 23 February 2026. Jump on Council's website for more information.

Parks Week is just around the corner. From Friday 27 February 2026 until Sunday 8 March 2026. Parks Week is a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on the vital role our green spaces play in supporting healthy, connected and thriving communities. A number of the events include Moonlight Movies in Calliope's Bunting Park; Millennium Esplanade has Pilates, yoga and prams and picnics; and yoga at the Air Sea Rescue Park in Seventeen Seventy. Find out more about Parks Week on Council's website.

I'd like to thank Kyle Weekes and Benjamin Jacob who are doing the live streaming for us this morning. Benjamin is a local boy and is our trainee technician. Our apprenticeships and traineeships are so important in the Gladstone Region, training our next generation. Benjamin is a long term local family member of the Gladstone Region and I'm so proud to see he is part of our team here at Council.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 3 February 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 3 February 2026 be confirmed.

GM/26/5620 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr McClintock

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

G/3.1. PRIVATE ENERGY PARTNERS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: CM7.6

Purpose:

For Private Energy Partners to provide an update on the Gladstone State Development Area (SDA) Energy Hub project.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the deputation from Private Energy Partners be received.

GM/26/5621 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. RUTHERGLEN BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Strategic Project Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: ED2.2

Purpose:

To seek Council's consideration of the Community Benefit Agreement negotiated for the Rutherglen Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project proposed at 837 Red Hill Road, Bororen.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute a Community Benefit Agreement for the Rutherglen Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

GM/26/5622 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Muszkat

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned for morning tea at 10.37am and reconvened at 11.21am.

G/4.2. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MOTIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Manager Strategy and Improvement

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: GR3.1

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider motions to the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) annual National General Assembly (NGA) and to nominate Councillors to attend the event.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Submit the following (as attached to the Officer's Report) conference motions to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for consideration:
 1. Closing the Gap
 2. Funding for Critical Skills Shortages
 3. National Product Stewardship
2. Authorise Cr McClintock and Cr Holzheimer to attend the National General Assembly, 23 – 25 June 2026 in Canberra, noting Mayor Burnett is scheduled to attend as a representative of the Australian Local Government Association.

GM/26/5623 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Muszkat

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.3. 2025-2026 OPERATIONAL PLAN QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE REPORT

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Corporate Performance Business Partner

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: CM14.2

Purpose:

To present Council with the second quarterly performance report for the 2025/26 Operational Plan.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council endorse the 2025/26 Operational Plan Quarter Two Performance Report.

GM/26/5624 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr McClintock

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.4. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FUND

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community and Lifestyle

Prepared By: Manager Community Partnerships

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: GS3.1

Cr Holzheimer (declarable conflict of interest)
left the meeting room for Agenda Item G/4.4. and did not participate in the decision.
(refer G/0.3.1. Disclosure of Interest section of the minutes - page 4)

Purpose:

To consider the recommendation of the Community Investment Panel on applications received under the Connected Communities Funding Stream (Round 1) for 2025/26.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Adopt the Community Investment Panel's recommendation of funding for the applications received as detailed in the table below:

Applicant	Project	Amount
Gladstone Tennis and Squash Assoc Inc	Upgrade Courts 12-14 for Dual Purpose	\$77,000.00

and

2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants detailing relevant entitlements and conditions.

GM/26/5625 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

For the motion: Cr Muszkat, Cr Davis, Cr McClintock, Cr Cameron, Cr Wagner, Cr Churchill, Mayor Burnett

Against the motion: Nil

Ineligible: Cr Holzheimer, Cr Patrick

G/4.5. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM - IMPACT, DESTINATION AND SIGNATURE EVENTS FUND

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community and Lifestyle

Prepared By: Manager Community Partnerships

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: GS3.1

Purpose:

To consider the recommendation of the Community Investment Panel on Expressions of Interest (EOI) received under the Impact Destination and Signature Fund for 2025/26.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Adopt the Community Investment Panel's recommendation of funding for the Expressions of Interest received as detailed in the table below:

Applicant	Project	Amount
Gladstone Auto Club Inc.	McCosker Gladstone Speedway: Harbour City Classic	\$31,000.00

and

2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise and execute funding agreements with the successful applicants detailing relevant entitlements and conditions.

GM/26/5626 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Muszkat

Seconded Cr McClintock

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.6. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 17 February 2026

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

To present the monthly financial report outlining the progress made in relation to Council's 2025/2026 budget for the period ending 31 January 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council receive the Monthly Financial Report for the period ended 31 January 2026 provided in accordance with s204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

GM/26/5627 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr McClintock
Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Nil

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 11.55am.