



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

On Tuesday 17 March 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)
T Whalley (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk, Acting)
S Penrose (Manager Governance and Risk, Acting)
V Hankinson (Governance Business Partner)
C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)
M Holmes (General Manager Operations, Acting)
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)
S Barlow (Senior Contracts Officer)
D Morris (Project Manager)
T Christensen (Contracts Officer)
Z Smith (Project Manager)
K Ware (ICT Specialist - Service Management)
S Maddick (Manager Revenue Services, Acting)
J Rossow (Financial Controller)
B Janson (Manager Community Partnerships)
L Cattermole (Community Leasing Officer)

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

Councillor Patrick

Councillor Leanne Patrick, advised that she had a previously declared declarable conflict of interest in relation to Item G/4.1 CONTRACT AND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL: TENDER 107-25 CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOYNE TANNUM AQUATIC CENTRE as her husband, Nathan Patrick's business, McDonald's Boyne Island, is situated within 500 metres of the proposed project site and there is a potential that the development could have, or could be perceived to have, a financial impact on the business.

In accordance with the previously declared conflict of interest Cr Patrick advised that she would leave the meeting room for the consideration of Agenda Item G/4.1.

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

The Mary Poppins Combined Schools Musical had over 5,300 tickets sold over 9 shows at the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre (GECC). Thank you to all members involved with that, not just the students, but those in the background who helped to make it a fantastic event for our community.

On Sunday 9 March 2026 was the Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast on International Women's Day. Then, on the following day at the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre, the Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) hosted a luncheon with the star of the show being Cr Patrick who did a wonderful job of speaking at the event along with other keynote speakers.

Cr Patrick recognised the efforts of Candice Harvey who was the keynote speaker at the event commenting that she certainly got everyone energised - up and moving.

The biggest issue in our region over the last few weeks has been the weather event. Significant rainfall has been experienced in our region prior to this Council meeting which has seen large sections of our region cut off. Road closures have occurred between Miriam Vale and Agnes Water and in the Baffle Creek, Lowmead, Oyster Creek and Captain Creek areas. The Local Disaster Management Group was stood up and we are working with our local communities in disaster recovery activities.

On Friday, I went on an inspection of affected areas with two other Councillors including our Recovery Chairs, to Agnes Water, Baffle Creek and around the Lowmead area to see first-hand the impacts. Thank you to Cr McClintock and Cr Holzheimer for joining me on that inspection. Thank you also to the Deputy Mayor for remaining in Gladstone as we were also hosting the Central Queensland Region Organisation of Councils meeting on that day.

Since then, we have been able to reopen Fingerboard Road, Hills Road Bridge, Essendean Bridge and Lowmead Road. There are still some roads in the region that have been severely damaged and we are working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to get those addressed, but that won't happen overnight. We have set up some recovery hubs and are conducting community outreach sessions across the region, with the initial ones scheduled below. Community members can connect with support services, discuss impacts and access information about available assistance from these hubs and outreach sessions. There may also be some sessions in Gladstone, but those listed below are the initial ones.

COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Baffle Creek	Wednesday 18/03/26	3pm - 5pm	BCCI, 569 Coast Road, Baffle Creek
Agnes Water	Saturday 21/03/26	10am - 2pm	Community Centre, 71 Springs Road, Agnes Water
Lowmead	Sunday 22/03/26	10am - 12pm	Lowmead Community Hall, Lowmead Road, Lowmead
Rosedale	Sunday 22/03/26	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Rosedale Community Hall, 77 James Street, Rosedale
Mt Larcom	Monday 23/03/26	3pm - 5pm	Mount Larcom Community Hall, 47 Raglan Street, Mount Larcom
Boyne Valley (Nagoorin)	Tuesday 24/03/26	3pm - 5pm	Nagoorin Hall, 24-26 Degalgil Street, Nagoorin
Calliope	Thursday 26/03/26	3pm - 5pm	Calliope Community Centre, 3 Don Cameron Drive, Calliope

There has been community interest in the hardship grants which are available now. Generally, the grants are for those people who have been isolated for a number of days and/or lost power, as many of our residents in the region did. Some areas of the region have already been enacted for personal hardship funding. In

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meetings yesterday with staff, we have also been working to correct some anomalies in areas around Oyster Creek, Taunton, Mount Tom, Colosseum and Mount Maria. These areas were not initially included for funding assistance even though we thought they were because of their localities. Council will seek to update impacted areas with the State and Federal Governments assistance providers as we become aware of areas that need to be included.

We encourage all impacted primary producers and businesses to complete the survey on the Region Watch website to collect the data necessary to source State and Federal Government assistance. The Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited have offered their assistance to our regional business and tourism sectors with data collection and sourcing disaster recovery funding.

For residents impacted, Council is doing its best to ensure our community is supported through State and Federal Government assistance via the Department of Communities and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. However, it is not an easy case to claim, so we need all the data our community can provide, as our team works tirelessly towards developing the case for Queensland Reconstruction Authority assistance. This is why it is important that the community turn up to our recovery hubs and complete the surveys on Region Watch.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

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

Officer's Recommendation:

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

GM/26/5634 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

G/3.1. NUCLEAR FOR CLIMATE AUSTRALIA

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: CM7.6

Purpose:

For Nuclear for Climate Australia to provide information on nuclear energy.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the deputation from Nuclear for Climate Australia be received.

GM/26/5635 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill
Seconded Cr Wagner

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. CONTRACT AND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL - TENDER 107-25 CONSTRUCTION OF BOYNE TANNUM AQUATIC CENTRE

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Contracts and Procurement

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: FM21.1

Cr Patrick (declarable conflict of interest) left the room for Agenda Item G/4.1 and did not participate in the decision.
(refer G/0.3.4. Declaration of Interests section of the minutes – page 3)

Purpose:

This report seeks resolution from Council to enter into a contract and to resolve expenditure approval in accordance with Council's Register of Financial Delegations with Paynters Pty Ltd (Paynters) for Tender 107-25 Construction of Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre (Tender 107-25).

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to accept the offer and enter into a Contract with Paynters Pty Ltd for Tender 107-25; and
2. Authorises the expenditure of \$29,717,030 ex GST with Paynters Pty Ltd for Tender 107-25 in accordance with Council's Register of Financial Delegations; and
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Paynters Pty Ltd Tender 107-25.

GM/26/5636 Council Resolution:

Moved Mayor Burnett

Seconded Cr Churchill

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A division was called:

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

Against the Motion: Nil

Ineligible: Cr Patrick

G/4.2. CONTRACT AND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL - TENDER 23-26 HARBOUR ARBOUR CONSTRUCTION

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Contracts and Procurement

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: FM21.1

Purpose:

This report seeks resolution from Council to enter into a contract and to resolve expenditure approval in accordance with Council's Register of Financial Delegations with McCosker Contracting Pty Ltd (McCosker) for Tender 23-26 Harbour Arbour Construction (Tender 23-26).

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to accept the offer and enter into a Contract with McCosker Contracting Pty Ltd for Tender 23-26; and
2. Authorises the expenditure of \$12,617,184.10 ex GST with McCosker Contracting Pty Ltd for Tender 23-26 in accordance with Council's Register of Financial Delegations; and
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with McCosker Contracting Pty Ltd Tender 23-26.

GM/26/5637 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Muszkat
Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned for morning tea at 10.20am and reconvened at 10.59am.

Mayor Burnett left the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Muszkat chaired the remainder of the meeting.

G/4.3. EXPENDITURE APPROVAL - TELSTRA MOBILE PHONES CONTRACT - 3 YEAR RENEWAL

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Contracts and Procurement and Manager Information, Communications and Technology (Contract Owner)

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: FM21.1

Purpose:

This report seeks resolution from Council, in accordance with Council's Register of Financial Delegations, to approve expenditure in relation to Telecommunications Services - Mobile Services renewal with Telstra Limited (Telstra) of three-years commencing upon execution of the Contract.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Authorise the estimated expenditure of \$1,063,956 ex GST for the three-year Telecommunications Services - Mobile Services renewal agreement with Telstra Limited, dated commencing upon execution of the Contract; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract renewal and approve associated purchase orders (PO's) for the Mobile Services renewal with Telstra and associated variations for provision of additional mobile services during the term of this agreement.

GM/26/5638 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.4. WAIVER OF WASTE DISPOSAL FEES

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Revenue Services (Acting)

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: FM6.1 and FM7.1

Purpose:

To allow Council to consider delegating authority to the CEO to waive waste disposal fees in response to a disaster or an interruption to service.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council delegate authority to the CEO to waive waste disposal fees and charges in response to a disaster or an interruption to service.

GM/26/5639 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr McClintock

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.5. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the year 2025-26 to date, for the period ended 28 February 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council receive the Monthly Financial Report for the period ended 28 February 2026 provided in accordance with s204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

GM/26/5640 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Patrick

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.6. REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Contracts and Procurement and Governance Business Partner

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

To consider the annual review of the Procurement Policy.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Procurement Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report.

GM/26/5641 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.7. REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Governance and Risk (Acting)

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

To consider the proposed amendments to the Councillor Expenses Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities Policy.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Councillor Expenses Reimbursement and Provision of Facilities Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report.

GM/26/5642 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Cameron
Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.8. VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE ROUND HILL LEASE

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community and Lifestyle

Prepared By: Community Leasing Officer

Council Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

File Ref: CP8.2

Purpose:

To consider new leasing arrangements at 539 Captain Cook Drive, Seventeen Seventy to facilitate the transfer of Volunteer Marine Rescue Round Hill Inc to Marine Rescue Queensland, which sits under the Queensland Police Service.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council resolves that s236(1)(b)(i) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* applies to the lease of Lot 25 SP 297173 and Lot 5 SP 160769, situated at 539 Captain Cook Drive, Seventeen Seventy to the State of Queensland, represented by Queensland Police Service for a period of 30 years at a rental of \$1.00 per annum payable on demand.

GM/26/5643 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill
Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cr Davis reported that last Wednesday (11 March 2026) she had the opportunity to attend the launch of the Gladstone Promotion and Development Limited's (GAPDL) Gladstone Region Tourism Strategic Plan 2026 to 2036. Cr Davis commented that it was wonderful to see the Deputy Director of Tourism, Bridget Woods, together with Tash Wheeler from the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, and other government and community leaders join to mark the important milestone for our region's visitor economy.

As shared during the event, the Plan sets the direction for tourism in the Gladstone Region over the next decade and reflects the collaboration, ideas and commitment of many across our tourism industry. The Plan comes at a pivotal time, as we move toward Brisbane 2032 and beyond and it recognises and amplifies our strengths here in the Gladstone Region.

The Plan recognises that tourism is about far more than visitor numbers. It supports small businesses, creates local jobs, builds confidence and encourages our younger generation to see opportunities here at home. When tourism grows sustainably, our entire region benefits. The Strategic Plan better reflects First Nations voices, inclusion and accessibility and tourism industry representation. It was noted that the Plan is available from GAPDL's website. Cr Davis reported that the way the plan has been set out, it is an easy read which is great to see. Cr Davis also acknowledged the hard work of the team at GAPDL who produced the report totally in house.

Supporting the strategy will be the Destination Management Plan, currently being finalised and expected to launch in June 2026. This document will outline the practical actions required to bring the strategy to life. The meeting agreed that it is great to see GAPDL shaping the future of tourism in the Gladstone Region, and Cr Davis commented that it will be exciting to see our Region's growth in the Queensland Tourism Industry over the next 10 years.

Cr Wagner displayed a Certificate of Appreciation received from the Builyan Many Peaks Community Development Association expressing the Group's appreciation for Council support of the 2026 Australia Day Breakfast held in the Boyne Valley. Cr Wagner reported that the community was very thankful for the support provided under Council's Community Investment Program with the breakfast being really well supported, it brought the community together and met all the goals of the funding provided.

Cr Churchill wished all those of Irish heritage a very happy St Patrick's Day.

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

There being no further business, the Deputy Mayor formally closed the meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.45am.