



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

On Tuesday 19 May 2026

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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Elected Members

Acting Mayor N Muszkat
Councillor G Churchill
Councillor K Davis
Councillor M Holzheimer
Councillor S McClintock
Councillor L Patrick
Councillor C Cameron
Councillor M Wagner (joined the meeting at 9.48am)

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)
M Holmes (General Manager Operations, Acting)
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)
J Rossow (Financial Controller)

G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

GM/26/5668 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr McClintock
Seconded Cr Patrick

That an apology for Mayor Burnett and Councillor Wagner be received.

CARRIED

G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Nil

G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

On Wednesday 6 May 2026 was the Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) Supply Chain Expo which I was honoured to open. It was really great to see so many businesses in attendance and congratulations to GEA for organising that great event.

On Saturday 9 May 2026 and Sunday 10 May 2026 we had the World Bonsai weekend celebration and I know some Councillors attended. It is a beautiful space and if you haven't been please make some time to go and visit.

On Sunday 10 May 2026 was the Mother's Day Classic at Tannum Sands and Councillor Mellissa Holzheimer and Councillor Karen Davis attended. Another great event that happens every year.

On Wednesday 13 May 2026, a lot of Councillors, officers and General Managers, including our Chief Executive Officer, attended the community forum on Curtis Island, which was a great success. Thank you very much to that community for the warm welcome and the good conversations.

Saturday 16 May 2026, we went to Mount Larcom to participate in the 60km walking relay marathon with the Mount Larcom RSL Subbranch. Councillor Simon McClintock was running and myself, Cr Holzheimer and Cr Davis walked and kept cheering him from the sidelines. That was a great morning and hopefully we can help with a bit more promotion next year and get more people to attend because it was a great morning, great weather and great company.

Upcoming events include the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl) bi-monthly coffee catchup on Thursday 21 May 2026 morning, which Council are hosting at Lightbox. I will be attending on behalf of Council. It is also a special month as we celebrate small business month.

On Thursday 21 May 2026, we head to the 1770 Art Show and their opening night. An annual event and one of the best events of the year. I want to congratulate Prue Brown and her committee on another great year and I can't wait to see all the entries.

Everything is happening down in Agnes Water Seventeen Seventy this weekend with the 1770 Festival starting on Friday 22 May 2026 all the way through to Sunday 24 May 2026. The entry is free and it's a great opportunity to go and support our region family members in the south.

The following week, on Thursday 28 May 2026, we have the 2026 Gladstone Disability Forum. Tickets are available online. On Friday 29 May 2026 to Sunday 31 May 2026, we have another wonderful event in our region, Rainbow on the Reef Pride Festival. There's a number of events that happen from the Friday night all the way through to Sunday. Head to their Facebook page or their website to make sure you get to one of those events which are always a lot of fun and also in great company.

And one of our signature events, put it in your calendars so you don't miss it, EcoFest is on Sunday 7 June 2026. That's our regions key environmental awareness festival.

Lots of things to do. If you want more information on those and other activities in the region, head to Council's website and there is a page that has all the events, from markets to community events to sporting games. A great way of staying connected.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 5 MAY 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 19 May 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 5 May 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 5 May 2026 be confirmed.

GM/26/5669 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. 2025-26 OPERATIONAL PLAN QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Manager Strategy and Improvement

Council Meeting Date: 19 May 2026

File Ref: CM14.2

Purpose:

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

Officer's Recommendation:

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

GM/26/5670 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.2. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY 19 MARCH 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Principal Internal Auditor

Council Meeting Date: 19 May 2026

File Ref: CM26.2

Purpose:

To present a report about the matters presented at the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held 19 March 2026, pursuant to section 211 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Officer's Recommendation:

The Council receive the report on the matters reviewed at the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting held on 19 March 2026.

GM/26/5671 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill
Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 APRIL 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 19 May 2026

File Ref: FM15.1

Councillor Michelle Wagner joined the meeting via teams.

Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the year 2025-26 to date, for the period ended 30 April 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council receive the Monthly Financial Report for the period ended 30 April 2026 provided in accordance with s204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

GM/26/5672 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr McClintock

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Simon McClintock mentioned the Walk for Our Fallen – Mount Larcom RSL Sub-Branch Walkathon that was held on Saturday 16 May 2026. Cr McClintock highlighted that the RSL Sub-Branch at Mount Larcom had coordinated a walkathon to commemorate those soldiers lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with those who were seconded to other places and service animals. Cr McClintock mentioned that there was a total of 60 losses of life that were commemorated with a plaque revealed at the closure of the event.

Cr McClintock stated: *"One of the names on that list was actually one of my school friends. Corporal Ashley Birt was a good friend through school, he was a larrikin and always up for a bit of mischief. When we lost him in 2011, it was one of those moments in your life where it really sinks home the sacrifices that our soldiers make, not just in years and decades gone by, but even today. And I do honour him and all those who have served and continue to serve to make our country the beautiful place and wonderful place that we get to enjoy. Thank you very much. And thank you to the Mount Larcom RSL for putting on the event to commemorate and honour those people. Really special to play a part in it."*

Councillor Glenn Churchill mentioned that he and Cr McClintock had the opportunity to go to the official opening of the World Bosai Weekend at the Bonsai House on Friday 8 May 2026. Cr Churchill congratulated the Tondoon Botanic Gardens officers and Friends of Bonsai for a wonderful weekend of workshops. Cr Churchill noted that well over 2,000 people have already attended the bonsai house and that feedback received is that it is one of the only ones in the regions and it's great to see that there is so much interest coming from southern parts of Queensland and interstate. Cr Churchill highlighted that he anticipates more success to be achieved with the bonsai house in the future as there are many champions for the project.

Cr Churchill mentioned that he had the privilege and honour to travel to Sydney with his wife (at their own expense) to catch up with a young lad, Jake Lyle, who's made good of himself with great support from his family and great support from the community. Cr Churchill provided the following statement on Jake's journey from Gladstone School musicals to performing at Phantom of Opera on Sydney Harbour:

Jake's career started with our Gladstone Combined School Musical representing Gladstone State High at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC). He played Papa Ogre in Shrek at 14 years of age. And now to see him leading a major production, and an incredible international stage performance on the Sydney skyline, was quite emotional. I think I teared up a little bit in the first couple of minutes just seeing him when he struck those first few notes.

I had the opportunity to spend some time with him the day before and buy him a dinner. But most importantly, I presented him with a Gladstone bag that was put together by our officers, which included a collage of photographs of his development from a young lad right through to now 22 years of age, and a 'GLAD you made it' cap. We spoke about his time and the foundation that was provided and it's his success that confirms my firm belief that our regional arts programs are vitally essential. They provide the training ground for our people and our community, in particular, our younger generation, helping them to achieve their full potential in whatever it may be, whether it's the performing arts, sports, or academia to develop the discipline and skill required for state, national and the global stage. I congratulate this Council in that we continue to support our creative industries in that long-term commitment.

And, finally, when we invest in local talent, and I'm sure each and every one of us have got many stories that we can tell of those that have achieved, we're opening the doors for the next generation of Gladstone Region youth to lead their fields. Jake said 'it's not only the family upbringing, but it's the community that helped him to open up the doors for his opportunities for the future'. So when that regional passion meets professional opportunity, there are great outcomes and they go on to be good people.

Councillor Leanne Patrick provided the following statement:

Last Tuesday, 12 May 2026, on behalf of Mayor Burnett, I had the privilege of opening the Community of Gladstone Supporting Youth (COGSY) Career Expo. This is an event that is fast growing and becoming a standout for our community, which is growing in scale, impact and importance for our region, especially for our youth and our future workforce.

The Expo brought together a wide selection of community including students, job seekers, local employers, industry representatives, training organisations and community services. With more than 60 exhibitors across trades, education, health, engineering, community services and emerging industries, the event once again demonstrated the strength and diversity of opportunity available right here in our Gladstone Region.

Throughout the morning, I spoke with students exploring their future pathways, employers showcasing real local jobs and training providers offering hands-on insight into apprenticeships, traineeships and future study.

The energy in the room when I walked into the GECC was quite electric. They had an attendance of around 1,300 to 1,600 students. It was a very well received expo. I want to extend my thanks to the organisers, exhibitors and the volunteers who made that event possible. The COGSY Career Expo is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when community, industry and education come together with a shared purpose. It was an honour for me to open the expo on behalf of the Mayor.

Cr Patrick highlighted that this week is the celebration of volunteers with Volunteers Week. Cr Patrick noted that Council had funding that community organisations / groups could apply for to hold their own recognition event to celebrate their volunteers. Cr Patrick mentioned that she attended a lovely celebration on the weekend at the Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc, where they were celebrating their volunteers. Cr Patrick extended her congratulations to Judy Spencer on her life membership of almost 30 years of service to the organisation, noting that is it an incredible achievement. Cr Patrick hoped that all volunteers have a great week celebrating with their organisations and thanked them for all that they do.

Councillor Mellissa Holzheimer mentioned that she is the vice-chair on the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Circular Economy and Waste Management Committee (the Committee) and they were fortunate to have some members of the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) and Waste and Recycling Industry of Queensland (WRIQ) to attend the last meeting. Cr Holzheimer highlighted that the Committee were seeking representatives from indigenous communities (the really remote communities) to join as it has been identified as a gap.

Cr Holzheimer shared some of the key conversations that were held, which leads into some of the issues being experienced within Council. Cr Holzheimer highlighted that there were 5 key themes:

1. **Increasing Complexity of Waste Management:** it's not just about collecting bins and running landfill sites. Councils are now balancing rising transport costs, infrastructure needs, recycling contamination, education, workforce pressures and long-term financial sustainability. Regional Councils are also starting to feel the pressure the most because of the distance and the higher operating costs.
2. **Importance of Regional Collaboration:** How do councils work better together to reduce costs and improve efficiencies regarding sharing transport, regional processing hubs and better coordination between councils. The importance of collaboration and how some of the new investment may look at that hub model was discussed.
3. **Circular Economy and Procurement:** Recycling only works when there's a market for the end product, which is one of the challenges being faced and one of the big focuses around the circular

economy space. It also includes the procurement and purchasing decisions that happen at different stages.

4. **Education and Community Messaging:** Looking at lifting from a local level to a state and national level so that there is consistency in messaging across Queensland and across the country, around what people actually put in the bins, the types of bins and more campaigns from state and federal governments that are not funded through LGAQ.
5. **Emerging Battery, Solar and Landfill Challenges:** Battery and solar panel waste is becoming a growing issue. With more batteries and rooftop solar systems being used across Australia, councils are starting to prepare for that growing challenge of how these items can be safely managed at the end of their life. Battery related fires and disposal risks were some of the major discussion points.

Councillor Chris Cameron provided some history around the COGSY Careers Expo noting that it was started 30 years ago by the South Gladstone Rotary Club as a two day annual expo where there were a lot of exhibitors and all the schools attended. Cr Cameron mentioned that the Queensland Department of Education (DEQ) thought they could run the expo better and took on the responsibility, which turned into a monumental failure and in turn stopped holding the expo. Cr Cameron noted that the Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP) program was created (predominantly by Council) and the expo was reinstated along with other programs. Cr Cameron mentioned that DEQ again took over the responsibility as they believed they could run it better and again it was a monumental failure. Cr Cameron highlighted that it has now been taken up by COGSY which is headed up by David Nunn and another main contributor, Bruce Hunt, who are both members and executive on the South Gladstone Rotary Club. Cr Cameron gave a shout out to David Nunn and Bruce Hunt for their great work and effort they put into the program.

Acting Mayor Muszkat mentioned that she, along with other Councillors, attended the opening of Yaleela Torrens, Social Work Pty Ltd clinic. Acting Mayor Muszkat highlighted that this is another example of a great local indigenous woman that is investing in the Gladstone Region, with a couple of other professionals, to provide services to families and especially children. Acting Mayor Muszkat congratulated Yaleela on the opening of her clinic.

Acting Mayor Muszkat mentioned that she attended the 60th birthday of Chanel College annual mass which was really well attended. Acting Mayor Muszkat congratulated Chanel College on their 60th year and noted that it was a great morning with a lot of people in the region having a lot of stories to tell from those 60 years of operations.

Acting Mayor Muszkat mentioned that she attended the turning of the sod for the Gladstone Indoor Sports Centre which saw Senator Anthony Chisholm also attend. Acting Mayor Muszkat recognised Mayor Burnett for his contribution to the financial support for the project. Acting Mayor Muszkat highlighted the contribution of former Councillor Rick Hansen who has always been advocating for the betterment of the region and more specifically in the basketball space. Acting Mayor Muszkat noted that Mr Hansen mentioned that the existing building is quite old and that he, with a couple of other members and volunteers, mortgaged his own home to make sure they could get the money to build the existing building for people. Acting Mayor Muszkat congratulated the committee from Gladstone Basketball - GABA and all those involved in the project.

Acting Mayor Muszkat mentioned that she assisted Gladstone State High School conduct interviews for next year's leaders and that there are no words to describe how talented and how hardworking some of the young people in the region are. Acting Mayor Muszkat further mentioned that she, along with Councillor Karen Davis, attended the Youth Council meeting with some of the junior council members and highlighted that there are lots of good young people in the region and that sometimes they aren't recognised enough, and that they are wonderful and the future.

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

There being no further business the Acting Mayor formally closed the meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.13am.