



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

On Tuesday 1 September 2026

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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Elected Members

Councillor - Mayor M Burnett
Councillor G Churchill (via teams)
Councillor K Davis
Councillor M Wagner
Councillor M Holzheimer
Councillor S McClintock
Councillor L Patrick
Councillor C Cameron

Officers

C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)
R Millett (Executive Secretary)
T Whalley (Manager Governance and Risk)
M Holmes (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk)
T Bignell (General Manager Operations)
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)
K Marxsen (Manager Strategy and Improvement)
J Rose (Business Improvement Specialist)
K Marks (Manager Economic Development)
C Thompson (Principal Industry Specialist - Economic Development)
H Robertson (Manager Economic Development)

G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

GM/26/5737 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Davis
Seconded Cr Cameron

That an apology for Councillor Muszkat be received.

CARRIED

G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Councillor Glenn Churchill provided the following message of condolence:

It is with sadness we advise the passing of former Stipendiary Magistrate and Queensland Retired Police Association (QRPA) Veteran Associate Member Peter Francis Vale, aged 88 years young on 27 August 2026, at Edenvale Aged Care Facility at Glen Eden.

Peter will always be remembered for his fairness, his astute wisdom, and dedication to justice and our community. Also, his intelligent findings from various court cases and well thought out summary of court proceedings. May I also say many of his quirky sayings and real stories of life in and out of Court. Peter Vale brought stability and empathy to the magistrate courts, and he also understood personally and professionally that behind every case was a human life. He balanced the strict demands of the law with a profound sense of fairness and justice.

Our community was safer and kinder because of the years he gave in service. So, I say on behalf of the Gladstone Regional Council in our region to his loving wife and lifelong friend, Helen and his family, please accept our deepest sympathies. Your husband, your father, our friend was a remarkable magistrate who earned the deep respect of police officers, lawyers, elected officials and citizens alike and his legacy of true justice and real kindness will endure.

Peter's funeral service will be held at 10.30am this Friday, 4 September 2026 at the Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Herbert Street, Gladstone.

Peter, rest in peace in Gods care.

Councillor Karen Davis passed on her condolences to the Vale family. Cr Davis mentioned that she has known Helen and Peter for a very longtime and that Peter was a very well respected magistrate in Gladstone. Cr Davis noted that she always called him Mr Vale out of respect because they were scared of him back in the day and that for her generation, if someone went before Peter in the court, most likely they didn't do what they did in the first place again. Cr Davis highlighted that Peter will be sadly missed and passed on her condolences to Helen and the children.

G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

It has been another busy couple of months in the Gladstone Region. The good news is on Wednesday 5 August 2026 to Saturday 8 August 2026, while I was hosting the National Local Roads Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Cairns, it was announced that Gladstone will host the Developing Northern Australia Conference next year in August. Thank you, Councillor Glenn Churchill who's been attending for many years, and Councillor Simon McClintock who attended this year and all the officers that have been involved to make sure that we secure that conference for Gladstone. It's very good for our local economy and it is also very good to highlight to the Federal and State politicians that Gladstone is in the northern part of Australia, which is very important when it comes to funding.

On Saturday 15 August 2026 we had the 100-year celebration of the Many Peaks to Barrimoon railway line, celebrating at the Many Peaks Hotel. Congratulations to former Councillor Desley O'Grady and all the team for organising that event.

On Sunday 16 August 2026 was the Gladstone Ports Corporation's Port to Park, another huge event in the Gladstone Region, raising funds for local community groups as well. On Sunday 16 August 2026 the Boyne Island Tannum Sands (BITS) Saints opened their official new change rooms.

On Saturday 29 August 2026, the Women's Health and Wellbeing Expo was held by Queensland Women's Health Centre.

Coming up in the Gladstone Region on Saturday 5 September 2026 is the Gladstone Barbecue Festival happening from 10am to 9pm at Dennis Park in Boyne Island. And on the same day, we have the Combined Services Touch Football Carnival happening at the Touch Football Fields at Harvey Road from 2pm.

On Saturday 12 September 2026 is the First 5 Forever Agnes Water Fun Day at the Agnes Water Library from 9.30am to 12pm. Also, on Saturday 12 September 2026 we have the Youth Council Event, the free community screening of The Plastic Country from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Central Queensland University (CQU).

Most importantly, we have the Gladstone Multicultural Festival from 10am to 4pm at the Gladstone Marina Parklands on Sunday 6 September 2026, which is also Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all the Dads in the Gladstone Region for Sunday 6 September 2026.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 4 AUGUST 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 4 August 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 4 August 2026 be confirmed.

GM/26/5738 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025/26 QUARTER FOUR PERFORMANCE REPORT

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Manager Strategy and Improvement

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: CM14.2

Purpose:

To present Council with the fourth and final quarterly performance report for the 2025/26 Operational Plan.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council endorse the 2025/26 Operational Plan Quarter Four Performance Report, closing out the 2025/26 Operational Plan.

GM/26/5739 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Wagner

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.2. BYELLEE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) - COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Principal Industry Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: ED2.2

Purpose:

That Council considers entering into a Community Benefit Agreement for the proposed Byellee Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located at Byellee Road, Byellee and Hanson Road, Callemondah.

Officer's Recommendation:

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

GM/26/5740 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill
Seconded Cr McClintock

That Council:

1. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to finalise and execute a Community Benefit Agreement for the Byellee Battery Energy Storage System (Byellee BESS).
2. Undertake a review of the Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy.

CARRIED

G/4.3. INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES REBATE REQUEST - DA/9/2020 - NATURE BASED TOURISM (15 SITES) AT 2741 ROUND HILL ROAD, AGNES WATER

Responsible Officer: General Manager Customer Experience

Prepared By: Strategic Planning Officer

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: FM7.2, DA/9/2020

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to consider a request to apply for a 50% rebate under the Infrastructure Charges Rebate Scheme Policy (P-2019-28) for a Nature Based Tourism (15 sites) approval located at 2741 Round Hill Road, Agnes Water.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council refuses the request for a reduction in the Infrastructure Charges for DA/9/2020 Nature Based Tourism (15 sites) at 2741 Round Hill Road, Agnes Water as the application does not meet all of the required criteria of Council's Infrastructure Charges Rebate Scheme Policy (P-2019-28).

Moved Cr Churchill
Seconded Mayor Burnett

That Council approves the request for a reduction in the Infrastructure Charges for DA/9/2020 - Nature Based Tourism (15 sites) use at 2741 Round Hill Road, Agnes Water with a rebate of \$22,250 applied thereby resulting in a total Adopted Infrastructure Charge of \$22,250 subject to the applicant entering into an infrastructure agreement with Council. As the use has already commenced, payment of the infrastructure charge is to occur within thirty days of receiving the Infrastructure Agreement from Council.

LOST

GM/26/5741 Council Resolution:

Moved McClintock
Seconded Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.4. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the year 2026-27 to date, for the period ended 31 July 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

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

GM/26/5742 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Patrick

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.5. PAYMENTS APPROVAL DELEGATION - GLADSTONE AREA WATER BOARD (GAWB) PAYMENTS

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: General Manager Finance, Governance and Risk

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: CM9.2

Purpose:

To increase the financial delegation of the Chief Executive Officer relevant to payments to Gladstone Area Water Board.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated financial authority to approve all payments relevant to the purchase of bulk water from Gladstone Area Water Board in accordance with the water supply agreement.

GM/26/5743 Council Resolution:

Moved Mayor Burnett
Seconded Cr Davis

That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated financial authority for the 2026/27 financial year to approve all payments relevant to the purchase of bulk water from Gladstone Area Water Board in accordance with the water supply agreement.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

G/5.1. NEXT25 IMPROVING DEMOCRACY - TRANSFORMING POLITICS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Cr Leanne Patrick

Council Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

File Ref: CM6.1

Purpose:

Councillor Leanne Patrick submits the following report regarding attendance at the NEXT25: Improving Democracy – Transforming Politics for Women Program on Friday 17 July 2026 and Saturday 18 July 2026.

Councillor's Recommendation:

That the NEXT25: Improving Democracy – Transforming Politics for Women Program report from Councillor Leanne Patrick be received.

GM/26/5744 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Patrick

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Councillor's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Councillor Glenn Churchill advised that he attended the annual Boyne Valley Showcase and congratulated all involved in the event, especially the volunteers who contribute significantly to organising the event. Cr Churchill highlighted that it is a big team effort to host the event, which is in its 6th year. Cr Churchill acknowledged that Council have been supporting the event over the various years with many Councillors attending. Cr Churchill congratulated everyone involved and highlighted that he is looking forward to next year's event.

Councillor Karen Davis provided the following Councillor Report regarding attending Clinton State School on Thursday 27 August 2026 to speak about Plastic Pollution:

I wanted to say a big thank you to Clinton State School. I had the pleasure of attending Clinton State School last Thursday to speak to their Year 6 students on Plastic Pollution, and the effects on our Reef, Marine life and our local water ways, and also what Council is doing to help in these areas.

The students asked lots of great questions around Council's role in these areas, and they were genuinely interested in the effects of plastic pollution and the environment, and had some great ideas around what can be done. They did have some great posters and letters they had prepared for their assessments.

I did discuss with them one of the initiatives Council is currently working on, which is rolling out our 50 Container Exchange Point baskets. We are looking at installing 2 horizontal racks and 2 vertical racks, supplied by the Container for Change group, which is at no cost to Council, which is great. Our parks team are currently identifying strategic public space locations across the region for the installation, which is a great initiative in relation to plastic pollution in our region.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Year 6 students for asking me to come along and speak to them around this topic and I hope they got something out of the visit around Council's role in relation to plastic waste and how Council is working in those areas.

Thank you to the teachers and students for inviting me and having me along.

Councillor Simon McClintock mentioned that he had a last minute opportunity to represent the Mayor in Brisbane on Friday 28 August 2026 regarding the Central to Defence Business Case. Cr McClintock highlighted that the Central to Defence Business Case has been talked about a lot and a lot of the community would know a bit about what it looks like. Cr McClintock noted that conversations have been held with the Region's industry and business sector around what the Central to Defence piece of work means including having boots on the ground, supplying manufacturing to defence, logistics and having all the supporting infrastructure that also goes alongside the other assets within the Central Queensland Region, including Livingstone, Rockhampton and Gladstone.

Cr McClintock mentioned that he had the opportunity to present to the Deputy Premier around what the business case found, noting that the State Government sponsored the business case, and expressed appreciation for their support. Cr McClintock highlighted that the State Government weren't just impressed by the findings but they were genuinely impressed by the collaboration between the three different locations, making the comment of '*this is the only piece of work in the entire state that is not only just at this level of professionalism, but is collaboratively bringing a region together, not just an opportunity for a town or a specific Local Government Area (LGA)*'. Cr McClintock noted that the State Government is listening and is right behind it and is happy to throw their weight behind the business case. Cr McClintock further noted that this is something that is going to be a big conversation that happens across the coming years.

GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Councillor Leanne Patrick provided the following Councillor Report regarding the 32nd Golding Showcase Youth Awards:

I had the pleasure of mc'ing the 32nd Golding Showcase Youth Awards and I had an amazing assistant with me, Councillor Mellissa Holzheimer, who was there helping out. This exhibition has been running for more than three decades, giving local students a platform to express themselves, explore big ideas, and share their stories through art. It's one of those events that reminds you of just how talented and thoughtful our young people are.

Some special moments to note was hearing from Dannielle Slow reading a speech on behalf of Margoux Juyad, followed by her own heartfelt educator address as Head of the Arts for Chanel College. Her words captured the passion behind youth arts in our region.

I would like to mention that our curator, Claire Robinson, announced that there were three highly commended awards given out. The three people that received those awards were Leah Fagg, Kaiden Finnegan and Hannah Lee.

The winner of the 2026 Creators Choice Award for the piece called Domestic Violence Awareness was Mercedes Mobbs.

These young artists should be incredibly proud of their work as it was very brave, raw and was beautifully executed. I would encourage our community members to pop in and have a look at this most magnificent exhibition of our youth art. And please make sure you vote for the People's Choice Award that will be announced a little bit later on.

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 10.43am.