GENERAL MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CIVIC CENTRE
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE

On Tuesday 15 September 2026

Commencing at 9.00am

Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Table of Contents

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 1 September 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 1 September 2026 be confirmed.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 1 September 2026.

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

G/3.1. BOYNE ISLAND TANNUM SANDS (BITS) CRICKET CLUB

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: CM7.6

Purpose:

For Boyne Island Tannum Sands (BITS) Cricket Club to provide information regarding the BITS Sports Precinct Irrigation Project.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the deputation from Boyne Island Tannum Sands (BITS) Cricket Club be received.

Background:

Deputation details are as follows:

Time of Presentation	9.10am
Duration of Presentation plus question time	15 mins
Speakers to present	Robert Honan, BITS Cricket Club Brendan Clarke, BITS AFL Club Jeff Wells, BITS Football Club

Attachments:

1. BITS Cricket Club – Presentation
2. BITS Cricket Club – Communications after 2020
3. BITS Cricket Club – 2019-2020 Timeline Record

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. GLADSTONE AREA PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT LIMITED FUTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Economic Development Business Partner

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: ED3.1

Purpose:

To seek Council's endorsement of a multi-year funding agreement with Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited as the Region's destination marketing and tourism development partner, and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the agreement.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Endorse Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited as Council's strategic tourism delivery partner for the purposes of destination marketing, visitor economy development, tourism industry capability and tourism investment attraction initiatives.
2. Approve funding of up to $2,380,950 (ex GST) over a five-year term, as a three-year term plus two-year option.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the Funding Agreement and associated documentation.

Summary:

Tourism contributes to economic diversification and regional growth. GAPDL has confirmed ongoing Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) funding and remains the recognised Regional Tourism Organisation for the Gladstone Region.

Officers have negotiated a proposed five-year funding agreement valued at up to $2.38 million (ex GST), subject to annual budget adoption. The agreement consolidates existing arrangements into a single framework and introduces a performance reporting regime focused on visitor economy outcomes.

The recommendation seeks Council endorsement of GAPDL as Council's strategic tourism delivery partner and delegation to the CEO to finalise and execute the agreement.

The performance framework is focused on measurable visitor economy outcomes, including:

KPI	Measure
Increased visitor expenditure	Demonstrate annual growth in Total Visitor Expenditure (TVE) using the latest available Gladstone Region data published by Tourism Research Australia.
Increased visitation	Demonstrate annual growth in visitation to the Gladstone Region using the latest available regional tourism data published by Tourism Research Australia.
Tourism product development	Facilitate the development of a minimum of four new or enhanced tourism experiences and/or bookable tourism packages annually, including at least one outcome outside Gladstone or Agnes Water/1770.
Industry capability building	Identify, develop, submit and/or materially support a minimum of four external funding, investment or strategic partnership opportunities annually that align with regional tourism priorities.
Investment and attraction outcomes	Deliver a minimum of six tourism industry development and capability-building activities annually.
Community sentiment	Establish an agreed baseline measure in Year 1 and demonstrate positive progress throughout the term of the Agreement, supported by community engagement and communication activities.

The recommendation seeks endorsement of a five-year agreement and delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the agreement.

Link to Corporate Plan:

This report aligns with Our Vision for Gladstone Region 2026-2031, particularly the strategic objective of **Economy - Responsible Growth**, through supporting initiatives that strengthen the visitor economy, attract investment, build industry capability and increase economic activity across the region.

Background:

Council has worked with GAPDL for many years to deliver tourism marketing, visitor servicing and industry development activities. GAPDL remains the recognised Regional Tourism Organisation for the Gladstone Region.

The proposed agreement replaces historic service level and project funding arrangements with a single multi-year funding framework that provides greater certainty for both organisations, supports long-term strategic planning and investment attraction activities, and strengthens alignment between Council's economic development objectives and tourism outcomes.

The agreement includes:

- Core funding to support destination marketing, visitor servicing and tourism development activities;
- A performance-based funding component linked to an agreed set of strategic indicators; and
- Annual reporting requirements that provide transparency and accountability regarding delivery of outcomes.

The agreement incorporates a performance framework that has been jointly developed by Council and GAPDL following extensive negotiation and review. The framework focuses on the strategic outcomes Council seeks to achieve through its investment, including growth in visitor expenditure, increased visitation, development of new tourism experiences, attraction of external investment and funding, strengthening industry capability and fostering positive community sentiment towards tourism.

Detailed performance measures, reporting requirements and review mechanisms are contained within the proposed agreement and will be reported to Council annually. This approach provides appropriate accountability while allowing operational flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities and changing market conditions.

Risk Management Summary:

Failure to establish a new funding arrangement may impact GAPDL's organisational capacity, reduce long-term planning certainty and potentially affect the Region's ability to maximise opportunities arising from external tourism investment and destination marketing programs.

Conversely, a multi-year agreement provides operational certainty, supports continuity of strategic tourism initiatives and enables Council to leverage external funding and partnership opportunities that contribute to visitor economy growth.

The proposed reporting and performance framework provides an appropriate governance mechanism to manage Council's investment and monitor outcomes over the life of the agreement.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

<u>Option 1 – Recommended by Officers</u>
Approve the proposed five-year funding agreement, including the agreed performance framework and CEO delegation to finalise and execute the agreement.
Benefits: Provides long-term certainty, supports delivery of the region’s Destination Management Plan and maximises Council's investment in visitor economy growth.

<u>Option 2 - Make changes to agreement and then approve</u>
Approve an alternative funding commitment over a staged three or five-year period, with amended financial contributions negotiated with GAPDL.
Benefits: Reduces Council's financial commitment while maintaining a partnership arrangement.
Risks: May reduce organisational capability, limit long-term planning certainty and impact the delivery of destination marketing and visitor economy growth initiatives.

<u>Option 3 - Do not enter agreement</u>
Decline to enter into a new funding agreement.
Benefits: No ongoing financial commitment.
Risks: Reduced destination marketing and tourism development capacity, potential impacts on external funding leverage and significantly diminished ability to deliver regional visitor economy outcomes.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Officers have engaged with GAPDL throughout negotiations regarding funding, reporting requirements and performance measures.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

Council is not bound by any existing funding agreement with GAPDL. Delegation to the CEO will enable finalisation and execution of the agreement and associated administrative documentation.

Financial and Resource Implications:

Council's funding commitment continues its longstanding practice of contributing alongside TEQ funding. However, as TEQ funding has grown over time, Council is not in a position to automatically match future increases in full. The proposed agreement balances Council's financial capacity with the need to support tourism growth and introduces a performance-based component to ensure Council's investment delivers measurable value to the region.

Funding comprises:

- Base funding
- A performance-linked component
- One-off Year 1 strategic investment of $80,000

Proposed Funding Structure

Year	Funding
2026/2027	$540,190
2027/2028	$460,190
2028/2029	$490,190
2029/2030	CPI adjusted
2030/2031	CPI adjusted
Total of 5 year agreement	**Approx $2.38M**

The one-off Year 1 uplift of $80,000 will support destination repositioning initiatives aligned to the Destination Management Plan and intended to strengthen destination marketing, market intelligence and tourism investment opportunities.

Council's investment will be monitored through annual performance reporting.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

15 October 2026

Attachments:

1. Appendix 1 - GAPDL Funding Agreement Performance Framework Summary

G/4.2. REVIEW OF COUNCIL RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS SHARING POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Principal Industry Specialist – Economic Development

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: ED2.2, CM28.2

Purpose:

To seek Council's adoption of an updated Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy to ensure alignment with current legislative requirements, reflect implementation experience and support the efficient administration of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs).

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy provided as Attachment 1 to the Officer's report.

Summary:

The Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy has been reviewed following legislative change and Council's experience implementing Community Benefit Agreements.

The proposed amendments update the Policy to provide more clarity on monetary contributions for battery energy storage systems and hybrid developments; incorporates the implementation of learnings to date; and improves administrative efficiency by delegating approval of Policy-compliant agreements to the CEO.

Community benefit expectations remain unchanged.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Council support well-planned, well-paced growth that strengthens the Gladstone region and builds confidence in the region's future through a clear and consistent framework for securing community benefits from renewable energy development.

Background:

The first Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy (the Policy) was adopted on 7 October 2025 and establishes Council's approach to securing community benefits from renewable energy developments through negotiated CBAs.

Since adoption, Council has successfully negotiated several agreements and gained confidence that the framework is delivering the outcomes originally intended.

Legislative changes since the Policy was introduced have expanded Queensland's renewable energy framework to include battery energy storage systems and reinforced the role of energy storage infrastructure in the energy transition. The proposed amendments ensure these development types are appropriately captured within the scope of the Policy.

Implementation experience has also identified opportunities to improve administrative efficiency. The amendments provide authority for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute CBAs that comply with Council's adopted Policy framework and governance requirements.

Community visibility of renewable energy developments will continue to be maintained through Council's website. Executed CBAs will remain publicly available, supported by Council's 'Gladstone Region Industry and Renewable Energy Projects' map, which provides information on renewable energy projects across the region.

Officers have also used the review opportunity to make some minor amendments, such as including as a reference document, Council's newly adopted Biosecurity Plan 2026-30, incorporated the ability to request additional information associated with reporting, and aligning the policy template and review period to the current adopted standard.

A tracked changes version of the Policy is included as Attachment 2 to this report which identifies the proposed changes.

Risk Management Summary:

The proposed amendments maintain Council's oversight of the Policy while improving the efficiency of administering compliant agreements.

Officers consider the residual risk of changing the policy to be minimal and consistent with Council's risk appetites across all risk types that apply (i.e. financial, reputational, regulatory and compliance).

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

Option 1 – Adopt the Revised Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy (Officer Recommendation)

This option updates the Policy to reflect current legislation, incorporates implementation learnings and improves administrative efficiency while maintaining Council's strategic oversight and community benefit expectations.

Option 2 – Adopt the Revised Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy (Officer Recommendation) with amendments

This option has the same opportunities as Option 1 but allows Councillors to add any additional changes considered appropriate. The resolution to give this option affect being:

'That Council adopt the proposed Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy included as Attachment 1 to the Officer's report, subject to the following additional amendment/s:

a) Insert Amendment;
b) Insert Amendment......'

Option 3 – Retain the Existing Policy

This option maintains current arrangements but does not reflect legislative changes or lessons learned through implementation. It would also continue to require all CBAs to be referred to Council, regardless of whether they comply with the adopted Policy framework. The resolution to give this option affect being:

'That Council retain without amendment, the existing Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy included as Attachment 3 to the Officer's report.'

Stakeholder Engagement:

The proposed amendments have been informed by Council's experience negotiating and executing CBAs with proponents.

Internal consultation was undertaken with Council Officers responsible for implementing and administering CBAs, Council's Planning Team and the Governance and Risk Team. The Executive Leadership Team has also reviewed the proposed Policy as part of the agenda review process.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

The amendments remain consistent with Council's powers and Council's delegation framework, while updating the Policy to reflect legislative changes affecting renewable energy generation and battery energy storage developments.

The amendments update the Policy to reflect contemporary renewable energy generation and storage development types.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The proposed amendments are not expected to have a material financial impact on Council. Council's adopted fees and charges framework will continue to support cost recovery associated with the assessment, negotiation and administration of CBAs.

The amendments are expected to reduce administrative effort and processing time for those CBAs that comply with the adopted Policy framework through the administrative delegations established in the proposed Policy.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

29 September 2026

Attachments:

1. Proposed Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy
2. Proposed Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy – Tracked Changes Version
3. Existing Renewable Energy Community Benefits Sharing Policy

G/4.3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 15 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 August 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

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

Summary:

This report provides Council with the Monthly Financial Statements as at 31 August 2026 indicating Council's performance against its budget for 2026-27. The budgeted position for the 2026-27 year was adopted on 21 July 2026.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Our Vision for Gladstone Region 2026-2031 includes the fundamental principles of responsible economic growth, trust and confidence. Regular monthly updates keep Councillors abreast of Councils financial position, allowing for evidence-based decisions that build confidence and support the long-term growth of the region.

Risk Management Summary:

While it is a legislative requirement to provide a monthly financial report to Council, the provision of a monthly report assists Council to manage it's financial, regulatory and reputational risk. Financial reporting supports accountability within Council and long-term sustainability.

Council's risk appetite provides that Council will tolerate:

- Minor budget variations to natural account and cost centres within overall budget parameters.
- Calculated financial risks to deliver infrastructure, improve service delivery, or promote ecological sustainability.
- Minor losses, or capital outlays, attributable to new processes or innovation to improve services to meet community needs.

Background:

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires local governments to prepare a financial report stating the progress that has been made in relation to the local government's budget. The financial report must be presented to Council at a General Meeting on a monthly basis.

Actuals are reported against the adopted budget.

Financial and Operating Statement Overview at 31 August 2026:

The attached monthly financial and operating statements outline Council's financial position as at 31 August 2026.

Comparatives in both the Statement of Income & Expenditure and Statement of Financial Position for "Actual" results are still reflecting 30 June 2025. These figures will be updated to reflect 30 June 2026 upon completion of the end of year audit and sign-off of the annual Financial Statements in October 2026.

Overall Position

The 2026-27 budget was adopted with a projected operating surplus of $48k as of 30 June 2027.

16.99% of the financial year has passed. Accounts are therefore expected to fall within the range of 7% to 27% (+-10%) of the budget year to date (YTD).

The operating result is currently showing as a deficit of $1.8m, by way of comparison the same period last financial year reflected a $2.8m deficit operating result.

Money we receive (revenue)

- $43.0 million in operating revenue has been collected to date, representing 14.41% of the annual budget.
- Council's primary source of recurrent revenue is the generation of annual rates, along with access charges for water, sewerage and waste. This generation was completed in August, with notices issued to ratepayers in September. These charges are split across the course of the year, to align with the delivery of these services.

Money we spend (expenditure)

- $44.8m has been spent operationally so far (15.01% of budget).
- Employee benefits are Council's largest recurrent expenditure and as sitting below prorata at 15.56%, equating to $13.97m. A vacancy factor of 3.0% has been incorporated into the 2026/27 budget for positions covered by the Certified Agreement, increasing to 5.0% for the Operations and Community & Lifestyle business units. The vacancy rate for August across all business units is 5.1% compared to the weighted average budgeted vacancy rate of 4.01%

Financial Health

- Cash balances remain healthy at $99.63m of which $55.0m is invested in term deposits, this equates to a Cash Expenses cover of 5.6 months.
- Receivables are currently elevated as rates have been issued but are not due for payment until November. The receivables balance is expected to decrease as payments are received
- Liabilities look inflated due to unearned rate revenue; this will reduce each month as rates are recognised in the P&L.

Capital Works & Projects

- The current capital forecast is $140.1m.
- $17.7m has been invested in capital projects (12.40% of the budget, 12.63% forecast).

The high-level YTD summary above is supported by detailed comparison tables and variance explanations in the sections that follow.

Detailed Analysis

Recurrent Revenue

Recurrent revenue is tracking consistently with budget.

What's happening

- Total recurrent revenue of $43.0 (14.41%) aligns with the expected year to date profile.
- Discounts of $0.6m (3.34% of budget) have been applied to rates.
- Concessions of $0.2m have been recognised.
- $1.1m of interest revenue recognised year to date (15.79% of budget). This is driven by:
  - Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) interest returns of 5.08% in August
  - Term deposits yielding up to 5.25%.

Other Recurrent Revenue – Timing

What's happening

- The dividend from Gladstone Airport Corporation (GAC) is generally received in the second half of the year.
- Income tax equivalents from the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), is generally confirmed and paid in the final quarter of the year.

Grants & Contributions – Milestone-Based Timing

Grant revenue timing reflects project delivery milestones rather than funding risk.

Recurrent grants

- Financial assistance grant
  - 80% of the Financial Assistance Grant, including a $8.7 million bring forward pre-payment, was received in June 2026.
  - The first quarterly payment for 2026-27 of $0.5m representing 5% of the normal annual allocation (excluding the bring forward amount), has been received in August.
  - The remaining 15% of the grant is expected to be received during the 2026-27 financial year.
- Other operating state and federal grants ($0.2m YTD, 8.06% of forecast) are recognised as milestones are achieved.
- The forecast includes $10m for the GAWB water security charge

Capital Revenue

- Capital revenue (state and federal grant funding and developer contributions) is at $3.3m YTD (7.93% of forecast). Note: where funding has been received but milestones not yet met, amounts are recorded as contract liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position, not revenue.

Capital grants revenue budgeted and recognised for significant projects in 2026-27 is detailed below, along with the corresponding expenses for these funded projects. Included in the table is the year to date (YTD) revenue as a percentage of the anticipated whole-of-life funding.

Project	Revenue Budget	Whole of Life Funding	Revenue YTD Actual	Expense YTD Actual	% Whole of Life Funding
State Government Grants & Subsidies					
Backup power generator GECC	$0.40m	$0.64m	$0.20m	$0.22m	31.48%
Benaraby Landfill Resource Recovery Area Hardstand	$1.83m	$1.83m	$0.00m	$0.02m	-
Lowmead Road, Lowmead - Road renewal (Stage 3)	$0.66m	$0.54m	$0.00m	$0.02m	-
Baffle Creek	$2.50m	$5.24m	$0.03m	$0.07m	0.63%
REPA	$13.00m	$13.00m	$0.00m	$0.00m	-
Round Hill 2 Reservoir	$2.50m	$4.26m	$0.58m	$1.16m	13.56%
Other State Government Funding	$0.83m	$0.83m	$0.03m	$0.35m	3.08%
TOTAL State Government Funding	**$21.72m**	**$26.37m**	**$0.84m**	**$1.84m**	
Federal Government Grants & Subsidies					
Boyne Tannum Aquatic Centre	$4.78m	$15.00m	$1.65m	$2.87m	11.00%
Harbour Arbour	$7.50m	$5.33m	$0.56m	$1.24m	10.55%
Blackman Gap SWP replacement	$1.00m	$0.80m	$0.00m	$1.00m	-
Red Rover Road Bridge, Gladstone	$0.26m	$1.54m	$0.02m	$0.03m	1.31%
Lowmead Rd, Lowmead - Pavement rehabilitation	$1.15m	$0.68m	$0.00m	$0.00m	-
The Narrows Rd, Mt Larcom Pavement Rehab	$0.65m	$0.65m	$0.00m	$0.00m	-
Muirhead St, Calliope - Dawson Hwy to Taragoola Rd Footpath maintenance	$0.50m	$0.51m	$0.01m	$0.02m	1.82%
Other Federal Government Funding					
TOTAL Federal Government Funding	**$15.84m**	**$24.63m**	**$2.24m**	**$5.16m**	
TOTAL State and Federal Funding	**$37.56m**	**$51.00m**	**$3.08m**	**$7.00m**	

Recurrent expenditure – Tracking with Service Delivery

Expenditure trends remain consistent with operational activity and service delivery at this stage of the year.

Key drivers are:

- Recurrent expenditure to date of $44.8m (15.01%) aligns with budget progression.
- Employee benefits (15.61%) are on track with budget.
- Donations and sponsorship expenditure of $1.1m (30.00%) reflects the timing of sporting body concessions for water and sewerage access charges, with concessions of $0.8m being granted to date. Traditionally donations and sponsorships are high in the first quarter of the year.
- Finance costs are tracking high YTD (29.35%). This is due to a timing difference in loan payments. Council's loan repayments are made monthly, while repayments from GAC to Council occur quarterly, creating a temporary variance in the year-to-date actuals compared to the forecast.

Statement of Financial Position

	Current Value	Budget	Variance (Actual to Budget)
Year-to-date Assets	**$3.3b**	**$3.2b**	**0.32%**
Year-to-date Liabilities	**$381.0m**	**$187.4m**	**103.32%**
Year-to-date Liabilities (excl. unearned rates revenue)	**$201.1m**	**$183.4m**	**7.33%**

Liabilities have been presented both including and excluding unearned rates revenue. The two will converge and be the same by June 2027, as all rates revenue is recognised on the profit and loss.

The budget for assets and liabilities reflects the expected positions at 30 June 2027. Significant balance sheet movement is still expected to occur throughout the year:

- Cash to increase as rates are paid.
- Receivables to decrease as rates are paid.
- Cash to decrease as expenses are incurred and loan repayments are made.
- Property, plant and equipment balance to move based on in-year capital additions and disposals.
- Unearned rates revenue to decrease as recognised on the profit and loss statement each month.
- Borrowings to decrease as loan repayments are made.

Capital Expenditure

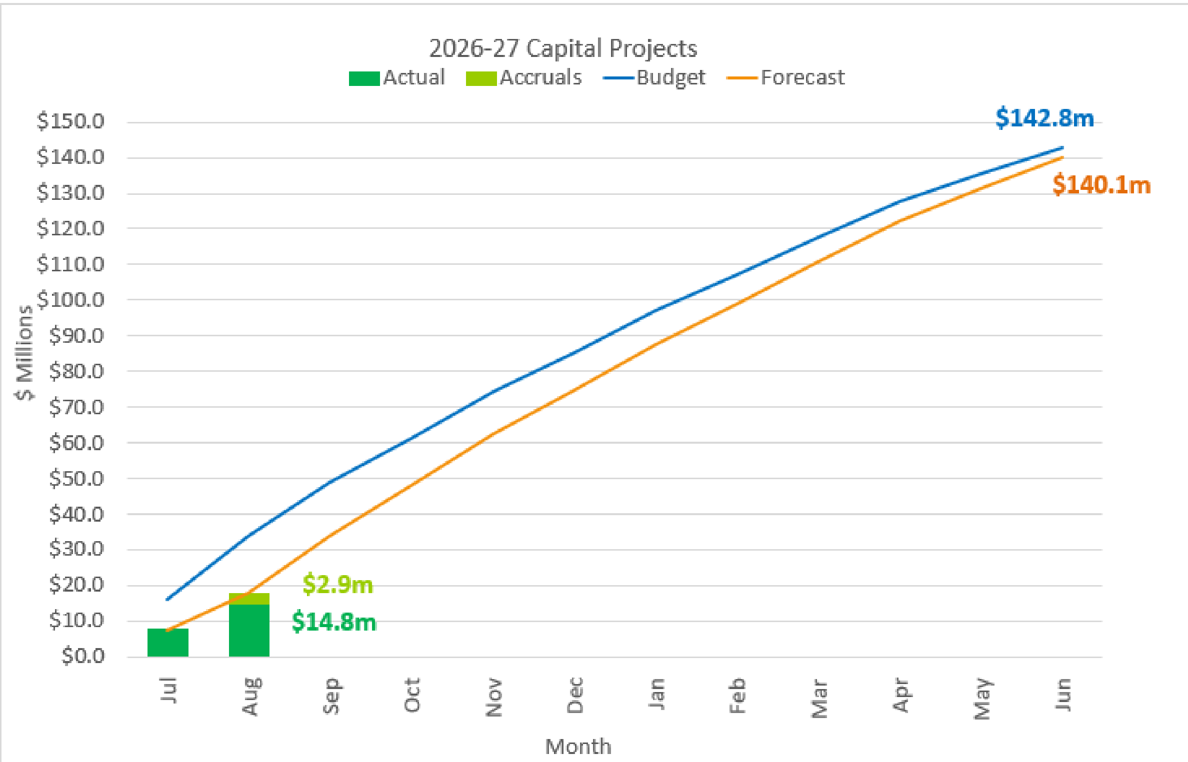
The budget for capital expenditure in 2026-27 is $142.8m.

The project delivery team undertakes regular forecasting. The current estimate of capital expenditure for 2026-27 is $140.1m with actual spend of $17.7m (12.63% of forecast).

Capital expenditure for groups with significant capital budgets is summarised in the table below:

Group	YTD Actual	Budget	Actual as % of Budget	Forecast	Actual as % of Forecast
Roads	$4.8m	$37.1m	12.95%	$35.9m	13.37%
Sewerage	$1.5m	$16.3m	9.04%	$12.3m	11.96%
Delivery Support & Performance	$1.7m	$7.5m	22.80%	$7.0m	24.43%
Property Assets	$0.6m	$0.8m	74.59%	$0.0m	0.00%
Asset Governance	$0.0m	$5.0m	0.00%	$5.0m	0.00%
Waste	$3.1m	$11.1m	27.85%	$8.4m	37.02%
Parks	$0.4m	$8.3m	4.34%	$8.1m	4.46%
Community & Lifestyle	$0.0m	$5.0m	0.17%	$1.2m	0.69%
Water	$1.5m	$14.4m	10.34%	$14.3m	10.40%
Strategic Projects	$4.1m	$36.8m	11.14%	$46.7m	8.79%
Other	$0.1m	$0.5m	14.81%	$1.3m	5.18%
Total	**$17.7m**	**$142.8m**	**12.40%**	**$140.1m**	**12.63%**

Accrual estimates of $2.9m have been included in the actuals to account for major claims relating to capital work undertaken in August.



Outstanding Rates

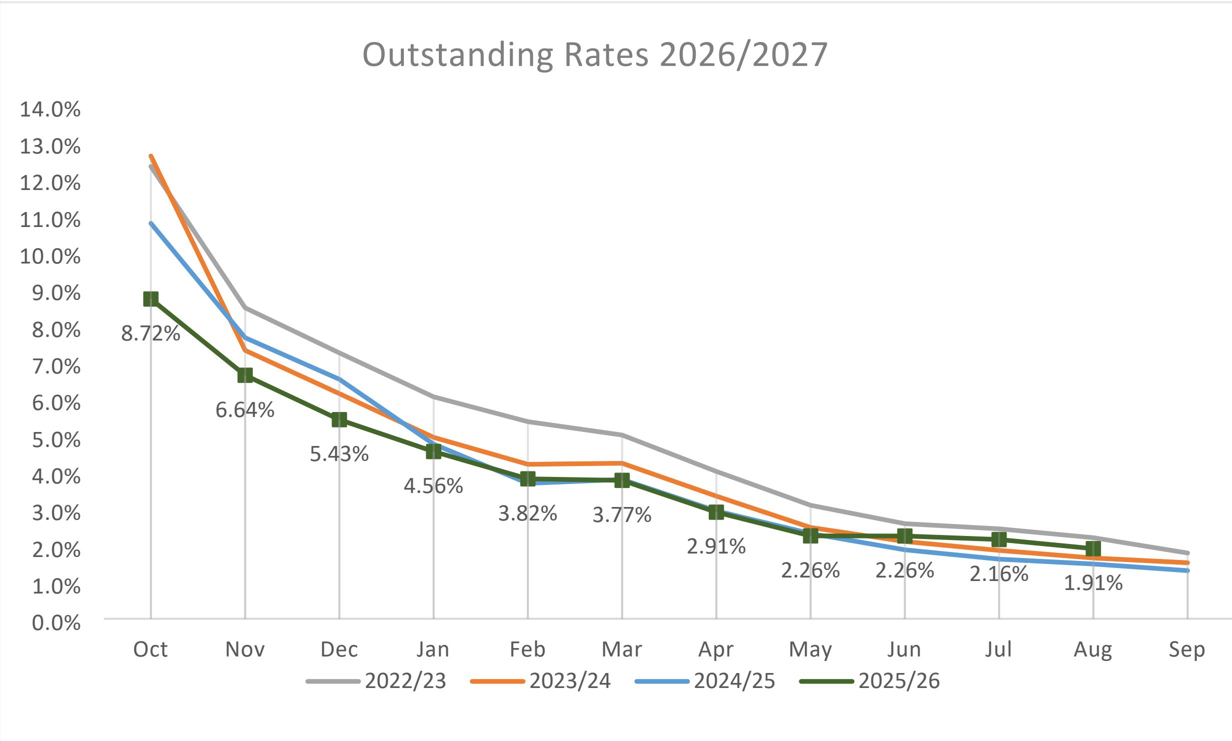
Outstanding rates, as a percentage of gross rates levied (2025/2026), and collectible, is at 1.91% at the end of August 2026, an increase of 0.42% when compared to the same period last year. Current outstanding rates for 2025/2026 is $4.56m of which 29.07% is commercial / industrial and 70.93% is residential assessments.

These figures include $1.14m of rates that are currently being repaid under an authorised payment plan, for which there were 5 commercial/industrial assessments and 316 residential assessments.

Rates for 2026/2027 have been generated with rate notices being issued in September. Rates will be due 10 November 2026.

The outstanding rates balance can be attributed as follows:

Rating period	Outstanding Balance
Current year 2026/27	$222,887,851
Current year charges not yet due - Supplementary Rate Notices/Annual Rate Notice (due 10/11/2026)	-$222,888,103
2025/26	$3,805,356
2024/25	$624,832
2023/24	$122,052
2022/23	$9,344
Total	**$4,561,331**



Sustainability Ratios

Financial ratios provide a useful snapshot of Council's financial status and emerging trends. Individual ratios do not provide enough information to form a comprehensive opinion of Council's financial position and performance, but when the right mix of ratios are considered together, they become a valuable tool in analysing Council's overall financial performance.

Sustainability ratios are prepared and reported on a quarterly basis. The ratios for 2026-27 will first be presented in the report for period ending 30 September 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement:

This report seeks specialist input from relevant internal sources.

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

Council is required to receive an update at least monthly relative to its financial position, Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

N/A

Attachments:

1. Monthly Financial Statements for the period ending 31 August 2026
2. Operating Statements for the period ending 31 August 2026

G/4.4. REVIEW OF REGIONAL MEETING GENERAL MEETING 6 OCTOBER 2026 AND CANCELLATION GENERAL MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

To allow Council to consider a change in location for the General Meeting scheduled for 6 October 2026 and to consider the cancellation of the General Meeting scheduled for 20 October 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That

1. The General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6 October 2026 be held at Council’s Gladstone Administration Centre, Council Chambers, 101 Goondoon Street, Gladstone commencing at 9am.

2. The General Meeting for scheduled for Tuesday 20 October 2026 be cancelled.

Summary:

At the General Meeting held 7 April 2026, Council resolved to hold the General Meeting scheduled for 6 October 2026 at the Rosedale Memorial Hall commencing at 10am (GM/26/5650). This report proposes to change the location for the General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6 October 2026.

Council has also previously resolved that General Meetings are to be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. On Tuesday 20 October 2026, several councillors will be unable to attend the General Meeting due to various commitments, including conference attendance. This report proposes to cancel the General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 20 October 2026.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Further consultation with Rosedale State School identified scheduling constraints including the commencement of the new school term and Year 12 student commitments. In support of Council’s commitment to community engagement and youth participation, a suitable date and venue are being identified collaboratively to ensure the opportunity remains accessible and beneficial for students.

In the interests of effective governance and responsible decision-making, the meeting of 20 October 2026 is proposed to be cancelled due to Councillor availability. Cancellation of the meeting will better support Councillor participation, enabling robust discussion, informed consideration of agenda items and the delivery of outcomes that reflect the collective representation of the community.

Background:

Following further consultation with the Rosedale State School, it was identified that the date of Tuesday 6 October 2026 would be unsuitable to allow students to attend and it is therefore proposed to change the location of the General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6 October 2026 to Council’s Gladstone Administration Centre, Council Chambers, 101 Goondoon Street, Gladstone.

Due to Councillor attendance at the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference, it is proposed to cancel the General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 20 October 2026.

Risk Management Summary:

The primary risk associated with the cancellation of the 20 October 2026 General Meeting are:

1. Inability for the Chief Executive Officer to meet her regulatory obligation to present a monthly financial report to Council;
2. Potential for delayed decision making.

These risks are minor and mitigations are included in the Options and Opportunity Analysis section of this report.

With respect to Council's measured risk appetite for regulatory and compliance risk, Council accepts that full compliance is a significant undertaking and accepts the risk of not being able to achieve full compliance while mitigating significant risks.

The risks associated with the cancellation of the 20 October 2026 General Meeting are within Council's risk appetite.

Options and Opportunity Analysis:

<u>Option 1 – Change the location of the General Meeting 6 October 2026 and Cancel the General Meeting 20 October 2026 (Officer's Recommendation)</u>

Should Council proceed with changing the location of the General Meeting 6 October 2026, further consultation will be undertaken with Rosedale State School regarding a suitable date to allow students to attend a General Meeting. Initial indications from Rosedale State School are that the preferred date would be early in 2027.

Should Council proceed with the cancellation of the 20 October 2026 General Meeting, any reports proposed for that day will be presented at the General Meeting of 3 November 2026. This minor delay is not anticipated to have any impact on service delivery. Should an urgent matter arise, a Special Meeting of Council can be called to deal with the matter.

Section 204 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 requires the Chief Executive Officer to present a financial report to Council at a meeting once a month. The monthly financial report (showing progress against the budget as at 30 September 2026) is due to be presented to the General Meeting on 20 October 2026 and could not be brought forward.

Should the meeting of 20 October 2026 be cancelled, the Chief Executive Officer will not be able to fulfill the requirements of s204, however the report will be presented to Council at the following General Meeting of 3 November 2026. This would represent a slight delay and a minor regulatory infraction which may be noted in Council's financial audit but the actual impact to Council's financial sustainability would be negligible.

Option 2 – Proceed with the General Meeting 6 October 2026 at Rosedale and Proceed with the General Meeting 20 October 2026 as scheduled

Council could proceed with both meetings as scheduled. For the General Meeting 20 October 2026 to proceed, Council requires a quorum of five Councillors. An appropriate motion for this option would be:

That Council:
1. *Proceed with the General Meeting 6 October 2026 at Rosedale Memorial Hall as scheduled.*
2. *Proceed with the General Meeting 20 October 2026 as scheduled.*

Option 3 – Reschedule the General Meeting 20 October 2026

Council could reschedule the General Meeting 20 October 2026 to another date. An appropriate motion would be:

That Council reschedule the General Meeting 20 October 2026 to ______ October 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement:

Nil

Legal and Regulatory Implications:

Section 256 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (LGR) provides that Council must set its General Meeting schedule at the Post Election Meeting. Once resolved, the schedule is required to be published on Council's website and displayed in a conspicuous place in Council's public office (s254B of the LGR).

Section 254B(4) of the LGR provides that Council is required as soon as practicable to notify any change to the days and times of the General Meeting schedule.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There are no financial or resource implications associated with the officer's recommendation.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

The amended 2026 General Meeting schedule will be published by Friday 18 September 2026.

Attachments:

Nil

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

G/5.1. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ALGWA) 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Cr Leanne Patrick

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: CM6.1 or CM7.1

Purpose:

For Councillor Leanne Patrick to submit a report on attendance at the Australian Local Government Women's Association Seventy-Fifth Anniversary National Conference 2026.

Councillor's Recommendation:

That the report from Councillor Patrick regarding the Australian Local Government Women's Association Seventy-Fifth Anniversary National Conference 2026 be received.

Conference Summary:

Bold Beginnings, Brighter Futures, Manly, Thursday 20 August – Saturday 22 August 2026

Purpose of Attendance
I attended the Australian Local Government Women's Association Seventy-Fifth Anniversary National Conference as part of my commitment to strengthening leadership capability, improving democratic practice, and ensuring that the Gladstone Region remains connected to national conversations shaping the future of local government. The conference was conducted under Chatham House Rules, enabling open, honest, and confidential discussion among elected women from councils across Australia.

Conference Overview
The conference theme, Bold Beginnings, Brighter Futures, celebrated seventy-five years of the Australian Local Government Women's Association and its role in advancing women's participation, leadership, and influence in local government.

The program brought together councillors, mayors, chief executive officers, senior officers, and sector leaders from metropolitan, regional, and remove councils. Key areas of focus included:

- **Values-based leadership**
- **Respectful political culture**
- **Strengthening democratic systems**
- **Supporting emerging women leaders**
- The historical legacy and future direction of the Australian Local Government Women's Association

__Keynote Speaker Highlights__

Major Matina Jewel (Retired) - Transformational Leadership, Resilience and Change
Major Matina Jewell delivered a powerful keynote on transformational leadership, drawing from her lived experience as a highly decorated Australian Defence Force officer. Her presentation focused on:

- Leading through adversity and uncertainty
- Building resilience in high-pressure environments
- Navigating change with courage, clarity, and purpose
- The importance of values-driven decision-making

Her insights were deeply relevant to local government, where elected representatives must often lead communities through complex challenges, rapid change, and heightened expectations. Major Jewell's message reinforced the importance of personal resilience, ethical leadership, and maintaining composure under pressure – qualities essential for councillors serving diverse and evolving communities.

Simon Waller – The Next Seventy-Five Years
Futurist Simon Waller delivered a keynote exploring what the next seventy-five years may look like for local government. His presentation examined:

- Emerging technologies and their impact on community expectations
- The future of digital engagement and transparency
- How councils can prepare for rapid societal and environmental change
- The importance of adaptive leadership and long-term thinking

Simon Waller encouraged councils to embrace innovation, anticipate disruption, and design systems that are flexible, inclusive, and community-centred. His insights provided a forward-looking lens that will help guide strategic thinking within the Gladstone Region.

__Guest Panel Insights__

Bold Beginnings – Reflections from Early Trailblazers
Long-serving councillors shared stories of the challenges faced by early women in local government and the determination required to establish the Australian Local Government Women's Association. Their reflections highlighted the importance of persistence, solidarity, and advocacy.

Brighter Futures – The Next Generation of Leaders
Emerging leaders discussed modern expectations of transparency, digital engagement, and inclusive governance. The panel reinforced the need for councils to create environments where diverse voices are welcomed and supported.

Address and Expert Panellist – Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett
Our Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett attended the conference in his capacity as President of the Australian Local Government Association and delivered an address acknowledging the national significance of the seventy-fifth anniversary. His address highlighted:

- The essential role women play in strengthening local government
- The importance of councils fostering safe, respectful, and inclusive political environments
- The need for continued advocacy to ensure women's voices are represented at all levels of government

A particularly meaningful moment for the Gladstone Region was Mayor Burnett's recognition of Councillor Lucy Burns as one of the foundational founders of the Australian Local Government Women's Association. This acknowledged reinforced our region's long-standing contribution to women's leadership nationally.

Key Learnings
The conference reinforced several important insights:

- **Values-based Leadership** is essential for maintaining community trust
- **Respectful political culture** must be actively modelled by elected representatives
- **Collective influence of women** remains a powerful driver of democratic improvement
- Mentoring and supporting emerging leaders is critical to the future of local government
- Confidential, honest dialogue is vital for addressing the realities of public life
- Resilience and adaptability are essential leadership qualities in times of changes

These insights directly shape how I serve as a councillor and how I represent the Gladstone Region.

<u>Value to the Gladstone Region</u>

Strengthening Local Democratic Practice
The conference provided practical strategies to enhance transparency, respectful engagement, and community trust. These learnings support ongoing improvements in how we communicate and make decisions as a council, aligning with the expectations of our residents.

Elevating Gladstone's National Presence
With Mayor Burnett representing the Australian Local Government Association, the Gladstone Region had a strong voice on the national stage. His acknowledgement of Councillor Lucy Burns' foundational role in the Australian Local Government Women's Association highlighted our region's long-standing contribution to women's leadership and strengthened our national profile.

Bringing National Learning Home
The insights gained can be applied directly to the work of the Gladstone Regional Council, including:

- **Improving community engagement**
- **Supporting women in civic leadership**
- **Enhancing respectful political culture**
- Strengthening resilience and adaptive leadership within council

These strategies help refine how we collaborate, communicate, and advocate for our region.

Strengthening Networks That Benefit Gladstone
Building relationships with councillors and sector leaders across Australia creates pathways for sharing best practice, accessing new ideas, and learning from councils facing similar challenges. This ensures that the Gladstone Region remains informed, adaptable, and aligned with national standards.

Reinforcing Inclusive Leadership Locally
The conference reaffirmed the importance of creating safe, supportive environments for women in public roles. This aligns with the Gladstone Region's broader social and civic goals and models leadership that is inclusive, respectful, and future-focused.

<u>Conclusion</u>
Attending the Australian Local Government Women's Association Seventy-Fifth Anniversary National Conference was far more than a professional development opportunity; it was an investment in the future leadership of the Gladstone Region. The insights gained, the national relationships strengthened, and the reaffirmation of our region's long-standing contribution to women's leadership all translate into practical benefits for our community.

This conference sharpened my focus on transparent governance, respectful political culture, and inclusive decision making – principles that directly shape how I serve the people of Gladstone. It also ensured that our region remains connected the national conversations that influence policy, reform, and the evolving expectations of local government.

By bringing these learnings home, I am better equipped to advocate for our community, strengthen democratic practice, and contribute to a council environment where all voices feel valued and respected. The Gladstone Region benefits when its representatives are informed, connected, and actively engaged in shaping the future of local government across Australia.

Attachments:

Nil

G/5.2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND COASTAL LEADERS FORUM

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Cr Natalia Muszkat and Cr Karen Davis

Council Meeting Date: 15 September 2026

File Ref: CM6.1

Purpose:

Council representatives, Councillor Karen Davis and Councillor Natalia Muszkat, attended the 2026 Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Coastal Leaders Forum in Airlie Beach. The forum brought together mayors, councillors and senior officers from Queensland's coastal councils to discuss shared challenges, with a particular focus on infrastructure, tourism pressures, climate risk and disaster resilience.

This report does not attempt to summarise every presentation. It identifies the information, examples and practical opportunities arising from the forum that may be relevant to Gladstone Regional Council.

Councillor's Recommendation:

That the report from Councillor Davis and Councillor Muszkat regarding the Local Government Association Queensland Coastal Leaders Forum be received.

Key Information and Outcomes

1. Development and building near powerlines

An Ergon Energy presentation highlighted the safety and planning issues associated with development near existing electricity infrastructure. A local government planning or building approval does not necessarily confirm that a proposed building or structure complies with the required clearances from powerlines. This can affect new buildings, extensions, sheds, carports and other structures near electricity infrastructure.

Following the presentation, Cr Davis contacted Council's planning team to clarify:

- Whether these matters are adequately addressed through Council's planning scheme and development processes; and
- Whether there is an opportunity to strengthen relevant provisions through the current planning scheme amendments.

This was a practical outcome from the forum, with the information referred directly to the appropriate Council officers for consideration.

2. Fraser Coast Library and Community Hub

The presentation by Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour provided a useful account of how the new Hervey Bay Community Hub and library project was developed and progressed. The project brings together an expanded two-level library, Council customer and administration services, community and creative spaces, a public plaza and a Disaster Resilience Centre. It is supported by $40million in Australian Government funding through the Hinkler Regional Deal.

The most valuable aspect of the presentation was hearing about the process behind the project: how the idea developed, how Council maintained its commitment over time, and how a library project became part of a broader investment in community services and city-centre renewal.

The experience provide a relevant example for Gladstone when considering future libraries, community facilities and civic infrastructure. It reinforced the importance of:

- Having a clear long-term vision;
- Developing projects beyond the concept of a single building;
- Connecting infrastructure with broader community and place-making outcomes;
- Maintaining advocacy over an extended period; and
- Positioning projects to attract external funding.

3. Changes to Disaster Recovery Funding

Proposed changes to the national Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements were discussed throughout the forum and were a significant concern for participating councils. Under the existing arrangements, the Australian Government may reimburse states and territories for up to 75 per cent of eligible disaster assistance expenditure once the relevant thresholds and requirements are met. The Australian Government is currently consulting with states, territories and local government on a replacement Disaster Recovery Funding Framework. The final model has not yet been agree.

The discussions highlighted concerns about:

- The potential transfer of greater financial responsibility to state and local governments;
- Uncertainty about future eligibility and cost-share arrangements;
- The administrative burden associated with disaster recovery claims;
- The treatment of damaged infrastructure that was already ageing or below current standards; and
- The ability to rebuild infrastructure to a more resilient standard rather than simply replacing what existed before the disaster.

This is particularly relevant to Gladstone Regional Council because of the region's exposure to cyclones, flooding, storm events and damage to extensive road and public infrastructure networks.

Council should continue to monitor the proposed reforms and participate in advocacy through the LGAQ and other local government channels. The financial and operational implications will need to be assessed once the new framework is finalised.

4. Containers for Change in Public Spaces

The Containers for Change presentation included information about eligible drink containers that continue to be disposed of in landfill, including containers placed in general waste bins in parks, streets, sporting areas and other public places.

One potential response is the use of Container Exchange Points. These are baskets or docking stations attached to existing public bins, allowing people to leave eligible containers separately rather than placing them in general waste. The containers can then be collected and redeemed through the refund scheme. Containers for Change is trialling this model in partnership with local councils.

This presents a practical opportunity for Gladstone Regional Council to investigate:

- The volume of eligible containers currently entering Council's public-place waste bins;
- Suitable high-use locations such as parks, sporting facilities, beaches and event areas;
- Options for dedicated container bins or attachments to existing bins;
- Partnerships with community groups that could collect and redeem the containers;
- Contamination, servicing and maintenance requirements; and
- Whether a small trial could be undertaken before considering a wider rollout.

This initiative could reduce waste going to landfill, improve resource recovery and potentially provide fundraising opportunities for local community organisations.

5. <u>Climate Risk, Vulnerability and Insurance</u>

The presentation by Alexander Pui, Senior Vice President, Climate and Sustainability at Marsh, was one of the most valuable sessions of the forum. It provided a practical explanation of the relationship between climate risk, council decision-making, resilience planning and insurance.

A key focus was the importance of undertaking and regularly updating climate vulnerability assessments, rather than treating them as one-off exercises. The presentation referred to assessment work undertaken in 2022 and updated in 2026, demonstrating that risk information, exposure and organisational responses can change over time.

The session also highlighted the growing relevance of climate risk to insurance. Insurers are increasingly interested not only in whether a council is exposed to hazards, but also in whether the council:

- Understands and regularly reassesses its vulnerabilities;
- Can demonstrate how identified risks are being managed;
- Incorporates resilience into asset management and long-term planning; and
- Connects its risk assessments with practical actions.

The presentation distinguished between simply identifying and publishing climate risks and providing a balanced account of both the risks and Council's response. Disclosing risks without demonstrating an appropriate resilience strategy may create the impression that Council is aware of the risks but is not adequately prepared. Conversely, insufficient disclosure may create legal, reputational and stakeholder-confidence risks.

The relevance for Gladstone Regional Council is that climate vulnerability assessments should not sit separately from Council's broader decision-making. They should inform asset planning, infrastructure priorities, land-use planning, disaster resilience, long-term financial planning and insurance discussions.

It may be useful for Council to confirm:

- Whether an equivalent climate vulnerability assessment has been completed for the Gladstone Region;
- When it was last undertaken or updated;
- How its findings are reflected in Council's risk register, asset management plans and long-term planning;
- Whether it informs Council's insurance coverage and risk discussions; and
- Whether a future reassessment is planned.

Overall Value to Council

The principal value of attending the forum was the identification of specific matters that can be brought back into Council's existing work rather than simply receiving general information about coastal communities.

The forum resulted in:

- A planning issue being referred to Council officers for review;
- A relevant case study in the long-term development and advocacy of major community infrastructure;
- Greater awareness of the potential financial and operational implications of disaster recovery funding reforms;
- A practical opportunity to improve container recycling in Council-managed public spaces; and
- Useful guidance about how councils identify, manage and communicate climate-related risks.

Of particular value was Alexander Pui's presentation on climate vulnerability and insurance. It provided a practical explanation of how councils can regularly reassess climate risks and demonstrate that those risks are being actively incorporated into planning, investment, resilience and insurance decisions.

Attachments:

Nil

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS