



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

On Tuesday 16 December 2025

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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Elected Members

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

Officers

L Dowling (Chief Executive Officer)
R Millett (Executive Secretary)
S Penrose (Manager Governance and Risk, Acting)
T Whalley (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk, Acting)
K Marxsen (General Manager People and Strategy, Acting)
K Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle)
M Holmes (General Manager Operations, Acting)
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
M Bailey (General Manager Customer Experience, Acting)
J Iwasaka (Team Leader Community Development)
C Greenaway (Land Management Officer)
S Maddick (Manager Revenue Services, Acting)
J Rossow (Financial Controller)

G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Mayor Burnett provided a message of condolence to the families and friends of the victims of the Bondi Beach massacre:

I'd like to pass messages of condolence to the families and friends of the victims of the Bondi massacre. As national president of the Australian Local Governance Association (ALGA) I have written to Mayor Will Nemesh, Mayor of Waverley Council where the terrible incident occurred to send our sincere condolences on behalf of the local government family across Australia but also as Mayor of Gladstone on behalf of our community for the terrible tragedy that took place on Bondi Beach.

We send our prayers to the families and the friends of the victims and hope that there's no more loss of life of the casualties that are still in the hospitals.

G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

Our Welcome to the Gladstone Region babies edition was held on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at the Philip Street Community and Families Precinct. Thanks to the team at the Precinct, Kylie Lee, General Manager Community and Lifestyle, team and all involved in organising that amazing event for all the newborns in the Gladstone Region.

There are so many other activities, many school awards nights and ceremonies and graduations and lots of Christmas events happening; the Boyne Island Annual Christmas Tree extravaganza; Santos GLNG Mayor's Carols; Ulysses Toy Run; and Community Carols in Agnes Water. There are lots of festive events happening and it's not too long until Christmas.

The next big event coming up is the New Year's Eve Party at the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) Marina Stage. Fireworks at 8.00pm and again at midnight. The event opens at 5.00pm on Wednesday 31 December 2025 and it is a free event.

Our Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony will take place on Sunday 25 January 2026 followed by our Australia Day Family Fun Day on Australia Day (Monday 26 January 2026) from 10.00am to 1.00pm at the Millennium Esplanade, Tannum Sands. There will be other events happening right across the region as well.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 2 DECEMBER 2025

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 2 December 2025.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 2 December 2025 be confirmed.

GM/25/5600 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Mayor Burnett thanked the entire Council staff, Leisa Dowling, Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Executive Team and Councillors for an amazing year and wished everyone right across the Gladstone Region a very merry Christmas. Mayor Burnett expressed hope for a more caring 2026.

Deputy Mayor Natalia Muszkat chaired the remainder of the meeting.

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. SAIKI ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community and Lifestyle

Prepared By: Community Development Officer

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref: CR2.14

Purpose:

This report presents the annual Gladstone Saiki Sister City Advisory Committee President's Report for 2025 and recommends appointments to the Advisory Committee for 2026 and investigation of the feasibility of establishing a Council-managed student exchange program.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Receive the 2025 Saiki Sister City Advisory Committee's Report.
2. Appoint the following Saiki Sister City Advisory Committee Members for the 2026 calendar year, with appointments expiring on the 31 December 2026:
 - Jaclyn Iwasaka - President (returning member)
 - Chris Moore - Vice President (returning member)
 - Robina Cupitt (returning member)
 - Beverly Fellows (returning member)
 - Maureen Mason (returning member)
 - Yukiko Moore (returning member)
 - Peter O'Dwyer (returning member)
 - Mayumi Rey du Boissieu (returning member)
 - Garry Scanlan (returning member)
 - Zane West
 - Steven Henderson
 - Lien Jefferies
 - Derek Woo
3. A report be provided to a future Council Meeting on the feasibility of establishing a Council-managed student exchange program.

GM/25/5601 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr McClintock

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G/4.2. YOUTH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community and Lifestyle

Prepared By: Community Development Officer

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref: CC9.10

Purpose:

This report recommends appointments to the Gladstone Region Youth Council for 2026.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council appoint the following 19 Gladstone Region Youth Council members for 2026 as below:

- Logan Althaus (returning member)
- Lochlain Cathcart (returning member)
- Bailey Dawson (returning member)
- Niel Godwin Quides Torres (returning member)
- Douglas Hoffman (returning member)
- Oneli Peiris (returning member)
- Zachary Pulido (returning member)
- Samantha Steemson (returning member)
- Tairui Zang (returning member)
- Alisha Van Den Bosch
- Carl Ararao
- Casey Deliyiannis
- Cooper Townsend
- Flynn Kelso
- Joshua Hooper
- Harold Evangelista
- Kaylee Pavlovic
- Matilda Heier
- Paige Cameron

GM/25/5602 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.3. LEASE FOR PART OF LOT 5 ON RP 601549 AND LOT 32 ON PL646 BETWEEN COUNCIL AND CLAVA LTD TRADING AS YARALLA SPORTS CLUB

Responsible Officer: General Manager Assets and Environment

Prepared By: Land Management Officer Assets and Environment

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref:

Mayor Burnett mentioned that he has an existing declarable conflict of interest relating to Council's discussions with Clava Ltd trading as Yaralla Sports Club over the future of the Gladstone Golf Course at 1 Hickory Avenue, Kin Kora. Mayor Burnett noted that it was resolved (GM/25/5545) that he could remain in the room and participate in Council's discussions however he is unable to vote on the matter and Deputy Mayor Muszkat is to chair the item (and hold the casting vote should the need arise).

Mayor Burnett left the meeting to attend the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council on behalf of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Purpose:

To finalise the outworking of the negotiations with Clava Ltd trading as Yaralla Sports Club ("Yaralla") as it relates to the disposal of portions of Lots 32 on PL646 and Lot 5 on RP601549 adjacent to their proposed golf course development.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Resolves that s236(1)(b)(ii) applies to the sale of part of Lot 5 on RP6015 and part of Lot 32 on PL646 to Clava Ltd trading as Yaralla Sports Club for market value pursuant to the terms and conditions of the option to purchase the land within the lease between Clava Ltd and Gladstone Regional Council; and
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to the sale of land to Clava Ltd.

GM/25/5603 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Cameron

Seconded Cr Churchill

That Council:

1. Resolves that s236(1)(b)(ii) applies to the sale of part of Lot 5 on RP601549 and part of Lot 32 on PL646 to Clava Ltd trading as Yaralla Sports Club for market value pursuant to the terms and conditions of the option to purchase the land within the lease between Clava Ltd and Gladstone Regional Council; and
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute any and all matters associated with or in relation to the sale of land to Clava Ltd.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G/4.4. SALE OF LAND

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Revenue Services

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref: FM7.1

Purpose:

This report identifies properties that have outstanding rates in excess of three years or vacant or commercial land with default judgment and recovery action is available under the Local Government Regulation 2012.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to section 140(2) of Local Government Regulation 2012, resolve to sell the 27 properties listed in Attachment 1 to the officer's report, for overdue rates and charges.

GM/25/5604 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Patrick

That Council, pursuant to section 140(2) of Local Government Regulation 2012, resolve to sell the 24 properties listed in Attachment 1 to the officer's report, excluding Assessment Numbers 12898, 1946, 25943, for overdue rates and charges.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned for morning tea at 10.05am and reconvened at 10.30am.

G/4.5. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2025

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

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

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Statements attached to the officer's report for the 2025-26 year to date, for the period ended 30 November 2025 as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

GM/25/5605 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr McClintock

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.6. ANIMAL INSPECTION PROGRAM 2026

Responsible Officer: General Manager Customer Experience

Prepared By: Manager Local Laws

Council Meeting Date: 16 December 2025

File Ref: LE2.1

Purpose:

To seek Council approval to implement an Approved Systematic Inspection Program under the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* (the Act) for dogs.

The objectives of the program are to carry out house-to-house inspections on Regulated Dogs and unregistered dogs that were registered in the previous registration period to identify if these dogs are being kept and registered in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Councils *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Approved Systematic Inspection Program – Animal Inspection Program for Compliance, Registration and Renewal of Animals for the period 01 February 2026 to 31 July 2026 (Attachment 1 to the Officer's Report).

GM/25/5606 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Churchill

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Leanne Patrick provided the following statement:

As we come to the end of 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly meaningful and rewarding year for our Gladstone Region. As one of your elected councillors, something I never take for granted, every conversation, every community event, every challenge we've worked through together - it all reminds me just how strong and committed our region really is.

This year, we've achieved a great deal. We've seen important upgrades to our local roads, footpaths, and community spaces - improvements that make daily life safer, easier, and more enjoyable for everyone. We've continued to support our local businesses, helping them grow, adapt, and create new opportunities across the region. We've invested in community wellbeing, strengthening the programs, facilities and events that bring people together and make this region such a vibrant place to live.

And of course, our ongoing commitment to caring for our natural environment remains front and centre. From our coastline to our parks and green spaces, we've worked hard to ensure the places that make Gladstone remain so special.

But above all, what stands out most for me is the spirit of our community. The willingness to show up, to share ideas, to lend a hand, and to work together. That's what makes this role so very rewarding.

Looking ahead - 2026 is shaping up to be a busy and productive year. We have new projects on the horizon, new opportunities to explore, and a shared determination to keep building a region we can all be proud of. I'm genuinely excited for what lays ahead, and I look forward to continuing this work alongside you all.

As we head into the festive season, I want to wish you and your families a very joyful, safe, and heartwarming time.

This time of year is a reminder of how important connection and community really are.

And if you do find yourself needing support over the holiday period, please reach out. Organisations like Lifeline, Beyond Blue, Headspace and our own local community services are here to help. No one should ever feel they have to face things alone.

Thank you for your trust, your engagement, and your ongoing commitment to our region. It's been a privilege to serve you throughout 2025 and I look forward to everything we'll achieve together in 2026. Be the light, not the darkness.

Councillor Glenn Churchill mentioned that he had the pleasure of attending the end of year Friends of the Theatre (FOTT) volunteer recognition and long service awards. Cr Churchill acknowledged the significant contribution that the community volunteers, such as FOTT, the Friends of the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum (GRAGM) and the Tondoon Botanic Gardens (TBG), not only to the community but to Council. Cr Churchill highlighted that the volunteers are offering their essential labour as volunteers and it strengthens our community and is also a cost-saving for the delivery of those services. Cr Churchill highlighted that some of the long service awards at FOTT were for 20, 25, 30 and 40 years demonstrating the long period of time for wonderful people who actually give back to the community and to a community that gives to them. Cr Churchill acknowledged the significance of what volunteers contribute, not only to the region, but to Council and thanked the volunteers immensely.

Councillor Natalia Muszkat thanked everyone for their work over the year and acknowledged that the work doesn't stop with work continuing over the Christmas period.

Cr Muszkat provided the following statement:

Before we close today, I want to pause for a moment. What happened in Sydney on Sunday is awful and our country is still in shock. The loss of life in this way and violence will change our nation forever.

For our Jewish communities, these events also bring back fear, memory, and the sense that something we hoped was behind us, at least in Australia, it is still hunting us. I grew up with a strong, proud Jewish father. My grandparents were Jewish migrants from eastern Europe. From a very early age, I understood and felt the pain they carry. I saw what rejection and exclusion did to my father because he was a Jew. As a child, we kept passports and cash locked away and ready in case we had to leave in a hurry or unexpectedly. And while I had a good upbringing, my brothers and I grew up with that fear and the challenges of not knowing what could happen.

What we saw on Sunday brings that fear back for many people. And no child in Australia should ever feel unsafe because of who they are, what they believe in, or the family they belong to.

This is why words matter.

Violence causes harm. But the language that follows - the blame, the 'us and them,' the things said without thinking - causes harm, ongoing harm.

Think before you speak. The impact of words is real. They shape whether people feel safe or threatened, included or pushed out.

This is not about flags. It is not about sides. It is about our responsibility.

Each of us has a choice: we can add to fear, or we can stop it spreading. To speak in ways that protect people and in ways that make people feel included.

In the coming weeks and months, I ask everyone to choose their words carefully. Because what we say does matter and what we say can change how people feel.

*Gladstone, please have a wonderful Christmas, a safe and loving festive season.
Feliz Navidad, Shalom.*

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

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

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.51am.