



Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network

Working in partnership to achieve the Gladstone Region Community Plan Vision

Venue Gladstone Regional Council, Disaster Meeting Room, 109 Goondoon Street, Gladstone.

Date Tuesday 21 May 2019

Time 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Attendees Chair Person: Cr Desley O’Grady, Gladstone Regional Council (GRC); Minute Taker: Rebecca Hendry, GRC; Chris Irving, GRC; Elyse Riethmuller, Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA); Lyndal Hansen, Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP); Gerry Graham; Peter Brady, Terese Tobin, Linda Fahle, CVA.

Apologies

ISSUE	General discussion and proposed action	Who	When
Welcome / Open – special meeting regarding review of GREAN			
Meeting opened at 4.00pm.			
Chris Irving provided the background and reasons for the special meeting which was part of a review the Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) as required by Council’s 2018/19 Operational Plan. An internal stakeholder review was completed by Council’s Governance and Risk team and a report presented to Council’s Executive Team of general managers and CEO. Recommendation from the executive meeting was to cease operation of GREAN and consult with members of GREAN to receive feedback regarding ceasing its operation. Feedback from this current GREAN meeting will inform a report to Council for a final decision on GREAN. The report to Council is planned to be presented during the general meeting on 18 June 2019. Chris advised that any further feedback from members is due back by 31 May. The meeting was opened up for discussion and feedback.			
Acceptance of Previous Minutes			
	NA		
Business from previous meeting			
	NA		
incoming Correspondence			

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	NA		
New Business			
Feedback and discussion;	<p>Members provided an explanation of the history of GREAN and the original purpose and intent of the group which was to facilitate environmental discussions.</p> <p>Comments were made that GREAN initiated the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership.</p> <p>Original topics covered by the group included issues such as water quality, the environment and marine life.</p> <p>The terms of reference for the group were changed in 2016.</p> <p>Since that time agenda items from the community were stifled as they were not in-line with the Terms of Reference (TOR).</p> <p>The current TOR do not allow initiatives from the community to be discussed only issues that Council has influence over.</p> <p>The TOR allow for reactive issues and not proactive visioning ideas.</p> <p>Discussion followed that there may still be a purpose for GREAN but with a new TOR and driven by the community. This would allow community members to bring ideas and initiatives for discussion within the group.</p> <p>There were concerns about who will defend the community against developments that may harm the environment and there still needs to be mechanisms for individuals to have problems addressed.</p> <p>There was discussion that perhaps issues that Council can directly influence could be addressed through other avenues such as via Council's CSR procedure or if Council does not have direct influence issues could be brought up through other</p>		

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groups (ie. Gladstone Healthy air, GHHP or via FBA).
 There was discussion that there is a need for a collective environmental visioning strategy for the region.
 Discussion that environment and conservation issues impacting land/land management is not strongly represented. Focus on air, water and coastal issues.
Feedback about lessons learnt include;
 Council did not always respond to issues or allow agenda items and this resulted in people not wanting to participate in the group.
 Some members wrongly believed the group would provide a forum to network with other community groups and Departments.
 There is a gap in the visioning space.
Closing statements included;
 GREAN could become an independent group without GRC driving it but have active Council participation/membership
 It could be administered by the community.
 This would allow the community to raise concerns and have discussions that Council has no direct influence over.

Meeting Closed 5.15pm

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