

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Gladstone Region steps up to pilot international entrepreneur program**

In a case of, you 'REAP what you sow', Gladstone Region entrepreneurs this morning welcomed a funding announcement of up to \$100,000 as a part of the Regional Entrepreneur Acceleration Program (REAP).

A pilot program founded off the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (MIT REAP), Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett welcomed the funding, stating the Gladstone Region was well situated to facilitate the program.

"Innovation and entrepreneurship are critical for prosperity across our state, and the Gladstone Region welcomes the opportunity to showcase our skills in this area," Councillor Burnett said.

"We have proved that we are the region of choice when it comes to energy and entrepreneurialism, so we are keen to be a driving force behind further development in additional sectors."

Innovation Minister Kate Jones said she would pilot funding in three regions – Gladstone, Mackay and Toowoomba to grow local jobs.

"We know these regional cities have strong economies that can harness innovation to fast-track jobs growth.

"Gladstone is the biggest exporter of LNG on the planet and has a strong hydrogen future, Mackay has the Resources Centre of Excellence, and Toowoomba is home to some of Australia's best agriculture.

"The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has the world's leading experts when it comes to innovation.

"This project is about connecting the best brains in the world with our strong local economies," Minister Jones said.