

21 JUN 2013

Records Department

Gladstone Region Community Development Committee

10 August 2017

4102831
REGISTERED

Background:

In October 2010 Council resolved to establish the Gladstone Region Community Development Committee (GRCDC) with the purpose to:

- Act as the custodian of and advance recommendations of Council's Long Term Community Plan; and
- Act as the Gladstone Social Infrastructure Working Group as recommended in the draft Gladstone Region Social Infrastructure - Voluntary Industry Contributions Framework.

Community planning was a mandated process under the Local Government Act 2009 but that requirement has since been rescinded. The Gladstone Foundation sought the GRCDC's recommendation of five (5) priorities of which one (1) was funded by the Gladstone Foundation, that being:

- Therapeutic residential housing for children under child protection orders.

Three (3) of GRCDC's priorities have been progressed or completed by Council with those being:

- The Turkey Beach Community Centre
- Bunting Park, Calliope as an informal leisure and recreation space; and
- The Philip Street Community Precinct

Given that the immediate and wider communities of the Gladstone Region are now in a state of 'normalising' after a significant industrial growth period and are experiencing a significant retraction due to the decline in the resource sector, the time seems appropriate for the GRCDC to review their role and purpose.

Considerations

For discussion, four (4) options:

1. Dissolve the GRCDC

When established in 2010 the GRCDC had a defined purpose / role to undertake for Council, as listed above. Since that time changes to legislation and with the direction taken by the Gladstone Foundation, the relevance of the GRCDC has diminished.

If there is the will to continue then it will be necessary to determine clear aims, goals and sought after outcomes for the GRCDC.

2. Reframe the GRCDC - Align with Community Visioning

In 2015 Futureye (consultants) revisited the community visioning process from 2007 and published an updated report, that being the Gladstone Region 2035 Community Visioning Project - *report attached*. The 2035 outcomes envisioned by the community are:

- **Outcome 1** - High-quality leadership capability across the region.

- **Outcome 2** - Gladstone region hosting a diverse economy, with high levels of enterprise and innovation
- **Outcome 3** - Community members access life-long learning and economic opportunities through education and employment
- **Outcome 4** - World class environmental leadership
- **Outcome 5** - Health services transformed into a regional strength, and social programs meet community needs and expectations
- **Outcome 6** - As a result of effective advocacy, our communities' needs are reflected in policy and investment decisions taken outside of our region.

If the GRCDC aligns with this report's outcomes, the GRCDC would need to determine whether to adhere to the community's vision, now dated two (2) years or utilize the work as a guideline. With strict adherence the management of expectations and the promotion of "wishes" rather than "meeting the need" could be problematic.

3. GRCDC partners with Community Champions Project

In 2016, as an undertaking of Social Inclusion Week, Dr Simon White facilitated a number of workshops across the region to support, enhance and assist local capacity building to improve integrated social and economic development - *report attached*.

Seeking to establish a region-wide framework for inclusive and integrated social and economic development, the report recommendations are:

- Create a package of support service (working with local organisations)
- Build on the Community Resilience Program (State funded project)
- Support the creation of local identities
- Support the development of local champions
- Build long-term engagement and partnerships

Currently Council is working with nine (9) community champions and have established four (4) community forums being held monthly in:

- Boyne / Tannum (1st Monday of the month)
- Boyne Valley (2nd Thursday of the month)
- Turkey Beach / Bororen / Miriam Vale (2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Mt Larcom District (3rd Thursday of the month)

The current key common topics:

- Community sustainability plans
- Disaster resilience
- Small business development (micro-economic)
- Micro-tourism opportunities (sense of belonging and place)

If GRCDC provided strategic support or assisted the champions as an advocate, the challenge would how does the GRCDC maintain the agenda as the Community Champions Project has been established operating under an 'Asset Base Community Development' model e.g. the community determines their strengths and utilities them to achieve their determined outcomes for their local community.

4. Reframe GRCDC adopting a Community Jury Model

A Community Jury (generally) is a randomly selected group of community representatives aligned with the demographics of the community e.g. age, gender, locations, rate & non rate payers. The function of a Community Jury is to provide an elected Council with a collective view that has been derived from careful deliberation at a succession of facilitated meetings on a single topic that is not easily resolved, affects all residents either by nature of service or by virtue of costs that would be borne across

all ratepayers, and involves decisions that have far-reaching future implications for the community.

The Community Jury's purpose is to assist Council form its position and policy on a major issue. The Community Jury does not make the decision for Council.

Links to information / examples of:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/citizens-juries-and-deliberative-democracy/5762684>

<http://www.vlga.org.au/Policy-Advocacy/Deliberative-Democracy-Hub/Citizen-Juries>

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/effective-engagement/toolkit/tool-citizen-juries>

If the GRCDC was of the view to adopting a Community Jury format, the challenge would be to legitimize the group in the "eyes" of Council and the community. The current membership of the GRCDC is a blend of experienced professionals working in the social & community sector and well-connected community members.

To achieve this reframe the GRCDC would be dissolved and, if Council agrees, reforms into the "leadership role" of a Community Jury.

Recommendations:

The Gladstone Region Community Development Committee recommends to Council that:

1)

The Community Region Community Development Committee is dissolved.

Or

2)

- a. The Gladstone Region Community Development Committee partners with the Community Champion Project, determining the agenda item in alignment with how a Community Jury identifies matters for discussion. That the social issue discuss must be:
 - A single topic that is not easily resolved
 - Affects all residents either by nature of service or by virtue of costs that would be borne across all ratepayers, and
 - Involves decisions that have far-reaching future implications for the community.
- b. The Gladstone Region Community Development Committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis, notionally held on the 3rd Thursday of February, May, August, and November.

Report prepared by

Veronica Laverick
GRCDC - Secretariat