

# Gladstone ANZAC Memorial Bowls and Citizens Club

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Monday, 20 May 2019

Chief Executive Officer  
Gladstone Regional Council  
Goondoon Street  
Gladstone Qld. 4680

GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Gladstone Office

Date: 22/05/19

Time: 9:05 am

Name: Tennifer Dykstra

Dear Leisa Dowling,

A meeting of the Management Board of the Gladstone ANZAC Memorial Bowls and Citizens Club held on 20 May 2019 resolved to formally write to the council to request that council agree to relinquish the Trusteeship of the land that the Gladstone Bowls Club Inc. leases from council to clear the way for the land to be purchased by the club from the Queensland State Government.

It is imperative that tenure over the land be granted to the Gladstone Bowls Club Inc. to enable the club to be successful in obtaining substantial grant funding to improve;

The ongoing viability of the club

The ability of the Gladstone Bowls Club to continue to provide meaningful assistance to a wide variety of community organisations

To upgrade facilities that have been maintained by the club for over 80 years

To carry out extensive renovations and alterations we expect the club will need and injection of circa \$5 million over the next year or so. We are prohibited from applying for this assistance because we do not have tenure over the land. Nor can we authorise any improvement to our building or apply for Planning Approval without consent from the owner of the land.

We respectfully submit that the Gladstone Bowls Club has been the custodian of this parcel of land for well over 50 years and in that time the club has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in rates and charges whilst at the same time maintaining and improving the assets on the land.

A new clubhouse, fully paid for by club members, was established in the early 1980's. The building now enables many Gladstone charities and organisations the opportunity to raise much needed funds for Gladstone and district.

The clubhouse and the greens have been maintained and improved entirely with money raised on the greens and in the clubhouse by our members. We have been fortunate to receive a few smaller grants to upgrade equipment etc. But we have been told by both the Federal Government and the Queensland State Government that we do not qualify for larger grants because we do not have "ownership" of the land.

A change of management of the club occurred in March 2018 and since then the club has grown to a point where it has no residual debt, a strong trading position and growing patronage. Our management team is focussed on the future and is determined to ensure that this community asset is held for future generations.

Our management team is financially focused and capable of ensuring the longevity and prosperity of this multi-functional community asset, to this end we are prepared to;

Put in place a structure that creates the Gladstone Bowls Club Inc. Trust to manage the ownership of the building keeping it separate from the trading operation, but affording the same public access to community groups as needed and as available

Enter into an agreement or contract that addresses any concerns council might have regarding the use of the land.

Enter into a contractual agreement with the Queensland Government to the effect that the land will never be sold for commercial gain and always held for the benefit of the community.

We request this matter be considered as a matter of urgency and request the opportunity to present our case in person at a full meeting of council as soon as possible as we have issues outstanding with regard to a recent grant obtained from the Gladstone Foundation in relation to extensions to house the Gladstone RSL.

Yours sincerely,

Graham McVean  
Chairman Management Board  
Gladstone Bowls Club Inc.