

## EQIP Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee - Councillor Representation

**Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk**

**Council Meeting Date: 3 December 2019**

**File Ref: CM7.1**

### ***G/19/4004 Council Resolution:***

*Moved Cr Masters*

*Seconded Cr Goodluck*

*That Council endorse the appointment of a Councillor to the Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP) Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee, noting that Cr Hansen is the current representative.*

**CARRIED**

### **Purpose:**

To provide Elected Members with information regarding appointed representation on the Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP) Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee.

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council determine its position for nomination of a Board Member to the EQIP Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee.

### **Background:**

For the purposes of this report:

- Board Member is interchangeable with Management Committee Member; and
- References to Association mean EQIP Gladstone Incorporated.

The output of the 2019-20 Operational Plan objective *4.1c Review existing and develop new organisational committees that are aligned to strategic objectives* is to review Council appointed representation on external organisations. Officers have undertaken a review of the appointment to the EQIP Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee and the relevant findings and considerations are presented in this report.

In 2008, Education Queensland and Rio Tinto Alcan initiated the Clever Recruiting Gladstone Study to identify options to create efficiencies in the management of various existing and new educational programs. In response to that study, EQIP was established with combined industry and education funding to:

- create opportunities for students to develop their skills and knowledge for entry into further study or work;
- connect work-ready young people with prospective employers;
- collaborate with stakeholders to align training outcomes with industry expectations and employment needs; and
- seek, promote, and sustain partnerships with employers and service providers.

In 2010, EQIP Gladstone was incorporated, with Council resolving that same year to become a major sponsor.

EQIP Gladstone Incorporated is governed under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (the Act) and the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999* (the Regulation) with the Management Committee's Constitution largely reflecting the model rules set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulation.

The Management Committee is comprised of the following member types:

- Ordinary Members – right to vote at, to receive notice of, and to speak at a general meeting of the Association; and
- Associate Members – state government education department representatives.

A Council-nominated representative has been a member of the Management Committee since inception in 2010, with current membership being:

- Rob Gibb (Vice President);
- Robert (Bob) McCosker (Secretary);
- Will Schroeder (Treasurer);
- Councillor Rick Hansen (Board Member);
- Nigel Warrington (Board Member);
- James Robertson (Board Member).

There are also 3 Associate Members (Justin Harrison, Garry Goltz, and Heather Blessington), all of which are principals of the region's state high schools.

Council's preceding representative was former Councillor Maxine Brushe who was a member of the Board from EQIP's inception to 2016 when Cr Hansen was nominated and appointed as Council representative.

For information, EQIP also have an Advisory Committee for each of their programs, with Cr Hansen also a member on the EQIP Engineering Skills Centre Advisory Committee.

### **Consideration:**

When determining Council's position on the nomination of a Board Member to the EQIP Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee, the following considerations may assist with deliberations:

- greater insights into the organisation achieved via an appointment;
- networking with representatives from industries and businesses within the region;
- the potential for real or perceived conflicts of interest particularly as Council utilises the services of EQIP; and
- the resources required to contribute to the Management Committee and the impacts of this on achieving a complimentary balance of duties.

### Option 1 – Continue with Councillor Representation on the Management Committee

There is no provision under the Management Committee's Constitution that requires Council to nominate an appointee to the Management Committee.

With no current fee for membership, any financial assistance that may be provided under the Community Investment Policy is not directly tied to our representation on the Management Committee.

*Option 1 Suggested Recommendation:*

*That Council endorse the appointment of a Councillor to the Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP) Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee, noting that Cr Hansen is the current representative.*

Option 2 – Seek an Officer Representation on the Management Committee

Whilst Council may consider it appropriate to seek the appointment of an officer to the Management Committee, this could not be mandated upon an employee due to the personal liabilities associated with such an appointment.

*Option 2 Suggested Recommendation:*

*That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to call for expressions of interest from officers for consideration of an appointee to the Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP) Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee.*

Option 3 – Resign from the Membership Committee

There is no provision under EQIP Gladstone Incorporated Management Committee's constitution that requires Council to have a representative (elected member, officer, or other) on the committee.

*Option 3 Suggested Recommendation:*

*That Council advise Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP) Gladstone Incorporated that it no longer seeks to have a representative on the Management Committee.*

**Communication and Consultation (Internal/External):**

- Councillor Rick Hansen;
- Manager Engagement and Partnerships;
- Community Investment Officer (Acting);
- Talent and Development Business Partner; and
- Operations Manager, EQIP Gladstone Incorporated.

**Legal Environmental and Policy Implications:**

Management Committee members are in a similar position to that of directors of a company in that duties include to act honestly and with due care and diligence. Furthermore, under the Regulation, Management Committee members are responsible for ensuring the incorporated association complies with the Regulation. Failing to do so could result in members being personally liable for the consequences.

Furthermore, section 12 of the *Local Government Act 2009* outlines the responsibilities of a Councillor.

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

Whilst the Constitution requires a membership fee to be paid by Ordinary Members, the fee is currently \$0.

Council has historically provided financial assistance under its Community Investment Policy, though such assistance is not directly linked to the appointment of a representative on the Management Committee.

**Commentary:**

Nil.

**Summary:**

Nil.

**Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:**

Within two weeks of resolution.

**Attachments:**

Nil.

**Tabled Items:**

Nil.

**Report Prepared by:** Policy Officer (Acting)