

## Review of Councillor Representation on Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee

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

**Council Meeting Date: 21 January 2020**

**File Ref: CM7.1**

### ***G/20/4056 Council Resolution:***

*Moved Cr Masters  
Seconded Cr Hansen*

*That Council:*

- 1. Continue to participate on the Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee with a Councillor representative noting that Cr Goodluck is Council's elected representative on the Committee; and*
- 2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to nominate an Officer position to also participate on the Committee.*

**CARRIED**

### **Purpose:**

This report presents information to assist Council in determining whether it should continue with representation on the Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee.

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

That Council determine its position on representation on the Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee.

### **Background:**

The Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee is a community consultative body which was formed as a result of development conditions placed on the LNG industries by the Queensland State Government (Co-Ordinator General). The primary purpose of establishing the committee was to provide a mechanism for two-way communication between CSG-LNG companies and the Gladstone regional community. The administration of the committee rotates between the gas companies. Shell is currently providing the administrative support. All minutes of meetings are publicly available from Shell's website.

Membership consists of a maximum of 12 community representatives nominated by organisations / regions and at least one representative from each of the LNG companies. Member organisations were identified by the community to represent a specific impact topic, interest group or geographic area within the Gladstone Regional Council Local Government Area.

The committee has an independent chair and meets three times a year (February, June and October). The steering committee is composed of Shell's QGC Business, Australia Pacific LNG and Santos GLNG representatives.

Current membership of the Committee is:

- Kahn Goodluck, Councillor, Gladstone Regional Council
- TBA (*officer position*), Gladstone Regional Council
- Karl French, Local Marine Advisory Committee
- David Manttan, Dept Education and Training
- Gus Stedman, Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited
- Wayne Hartfield, Southern Region of Gladstone Regional Council LGA
- Belynda Waugh, Northern Region of Gladstone Regional Council LGA
- Richard Johnson, Indigenous Community of Gladstone
- Cpt Mike Lutze, Volunteer Marine Rescue
- Cynthia Smyth, South End Progress Association
- Sharon Kelly, Gladstone Interagency Group
- Nikita Korableff, Gladstone Youth Council
- Robert Gibb, APLNG Community Relations Manager
- Natalie Fay, APLNG Community Relations Advisor
- Kylie Williams, Santos GLNG Senior Community Relations Advisor
- Marilyn Steel, Shell QGC Social Performance Advisor.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee are attachment 1 to this report. It appears from the minutes of meetings for 2017, 2018 and 2019 that Council's representatives have attended two of the nine scheduled meetings. The meeting agenda generally consists of updates on the operations of the LNG companies and any issues that the community representatives wish to raise.

### **Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:**

Participation on this consultative committee allows Council to gauge how the LNG industries are operating and whether there are any community issues that are specific to the companies and/or their workforces within the Gladstone Region. It also provides an opportunity to network with representatives of the companies and community members present. It is a forum for Council to raise any matters and/or gauge the views of those involved on issues of interest. These opportunities must be balanced against the resource commitment required to attend and prepare for meetings and whether there is a more cost-effective option for managing the relationship and any issues associated with the LNG industries.

#### Option 1 – Continue to have both Councillor and Officer representation on the Committee

Should Council see value in having both a Councillor and Officer continue to participate on the Committee, the resolution to give this option effect will be:

*“That Council:*

1. *Continue to participate on the Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee with a Councillor representative noting that Cr Goodluck is Council's elected representative on the Committee; and*
2. *The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to nominate an Officer position to also participate on the Committee.”*

## Option 2 – Officer only representation

Should Council see value in having only a Council Officer continue to participate on the Committee, the resolution to give this option effect will be:

*“That Council:*

- 1. Notify the Committee that the Councillor representative on the Gladstone Region LNG Community Consultative Committee has withdrawn; and*
- 2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to nominate an Officer position to participate on the Committee.”*

## Option 3 – Withdraw from the Committee

Based on Council’s limited participation on this Committee in more recent times and given that the LNG industries are now fully established and operational similar to other major industries in the region, the value that Council can contribute to the Committee appears to be limited. If there are any community issues to be addressed with the LNG industries in the future, it is suggested that Council could seek a deputation from the Committee / Companies as an alternative to regular attendance at the consultative committee meetings. If Council supports this approach and seeks to withdraw from the Committee, the required resolution to give this option effect would be:

*“That Council advise the Gladstone Regional LNG Community Consultative Committee that it no longer seeks to be a member of the Committee.”*

## **Communication and Consultation:**

Cr Goodluck is Council’s appointed Councillor representative on the Committee. His feedback on representation on the Committee is précised below.

- As the meetings are scheduled at the same time as Council’s General Meetings it has been difficult to attend;
- It would be beneficial to continue to be involved to provide the LNG industries on community related matters;
- It is acknowledged that many Councillors have interactions with industry representatives outside of this forum.

Council’s former Manager Community Wellbeing and former Community Engagement Specialist were the officer representatives on this Committee. As both employees who have attended these meetings previously are no longer employed with Council, it was not possible to obtain an Officer perspective on Committee involvement.

## **Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:**

Council is not legislatively obligated to have representation on this committee. The LNG companies are conditioned as part of their development approval to have this committee in place.

## **Financial and Resource Implications:**

There are no financial impacts in Council having representation on the committee. Councillor and Officer attendance and associated preparation time requires a commitment of resources only.

**Summary:**

Not applicable

**Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:**

29 February 2020.

**Attachments:**

1. Terms of Reference – Gladstone Regional LNG Community Consultative Committee

**Tabled Items:**

Nil.

**Report Prepared by:** Governance Advisor