

# Media Release

27 August 2021

## **New Economic Development Strategy to guide Council through to 2025**

Gladstone Regional Council has endorsed a new Economic Development Strategy that has been developed to guide the organisation through to 2025.

The Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 has been driven by an internal working group in consultation with the community and business and industry groups since late 2020 and replaces the existing strategy developed in 2015.

Content within the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 refocuses Council's direction by considering new emerging trends, COVID-19 and revised population forecasts for our region.

The new strategy also aligns closely with Council's recently endorsed Corporate Plan 2021-2026 and Council's vision to *Connect. Innovate. Diversify.*

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 considers the importance of supporting and growing existing industries as well as exploring opportunities created by emerging industries.

"The Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 is a five-year plan to support the vibrancy, diversity, resilience and sustainability of the Gladstone Region," Councillor Burnett said.

"It contains five core priorities that Council will focus on through to 2025 and sitting underneath those priorities are 18 key initiatives.

"These key initiatives cover transport infrastructure and the Gladstone Heavy Vehicle Corridor development, Inland Rail advocacy, Hydrogen Ecosystem development, Transition Economy planning, advanced manufacturing, planning for jobs of the future, fostering innovation driven entrepreneurship, developing an age friendly region, promoting liveability and investment as well as development of the region's visitor economy."

The five core priorities include:

- Encourage investment through support for the delivery of enabling infrastructure and catalyst project opportunities
- Support the capacity of business and industry in the Gladstone Region to prosper in a post-carbon economy
- Support the resilience and prosperity of the Gladstone Region's entrepreneurial and innovative businesses
- Support the Gladstone Region's appeal as a place in which to work, live, play and stay
- Support the development of the Gladstone Region's visitor economy.

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Cr Burnett said the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 would be reviewed regularly to ensure it stays aligned with changing internal and external environments.

Please visit [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/economic-information](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/economic-information) to read Gladstone Regional Council's Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025 *Strategy on a Page*, that is supported by the *Growing the Gladstone Region Report and Recommendations to Inform the Gladstone Region Economic Development Strategy 2021-2025, A Framework for Promoting Prosperity*.

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