Media Release

4 November 2021

Council remains committed to future-proofing the Gladstone Region

Together with industry and the Gladstone Region community, Gladstone Regional Council is striving to achieve a shared vision for its communities, advocating for strong investment, to build a stronger future.

Council developed its 2021/22 Strategic Priorities publication to advocate for our region to State and Federal governments, including the opposition.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the publication made sure the Gladstone Region is at the forefront at all levels of government.

"Gladstone Regional Council's role in influencing decision makers is crucial to future-proofing our region," Councillor Burnett said.

"The 2021/22 Strategic Priorities publication collectively communicates both Council's, and the communities, wants and needs to decision makers to achieve real outcomes.

"It also provides the framework for Council to plan and deliver its activities to support the region's role as a driver of economic growth, resulting in increased liveability and visitation to the region."

Key priorities include:

- Gladstone Heavy Vehicle Transport Corridor
- Inland Rail to extension to the Port of Gladstone
- Gladstone Coal Exporters Sports Complex (Marley Brown Oval) upgrade
- Boyne Tannum Aquatic Recreation Centre (BTARC)
- Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail (BBRIT)
- Jump Start City Heart Harbour Arbour
- Ageing in place strategy
- Federal Assistance Grants
- Renewable energy and the transitioning economy
- Manufacturing and skills development.

Council priorities are diverse but tactical and include investment in emerging projects, including renewable energy.

"With several renewable energy projects under development or consideration in the Gladstone Region, supporting investments and policy initiatives are needed to develop an advanced and sustainable hydrogen industry," Cr Burnett said.

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"The Inland Rail extension to the Port of Gladstone will provide a fully integrated, efficient and costeffective east coast supply chain, enabling \$15.6B resource investment in regional Queensland and potential to provide more than 18,000 additional jobs."

Council is now seeking investment in its Strategic Priorities identified in the 2021/22 publication.

Please visit <u>www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/economic-information#priorities</u> to view Council's 2021/22 Strategic Priorities publication.

ENDS

