

2023 LGAQ Annual Conference – Motions template

<p>Title of motion</p>	<p>Invest in social infrastructure, provision of services and other supports to strengthen liveability of regional areas</p>
<p>Motion</p>	<p>The LGAQ calls on the State Government to invest in necessary social infrastructure to improve liveability factors and attract and retain workers to regional communities.</p>
<p>What is the desired outcome sought? 200 word limit</p>	<p>That the State Government support liveability of regional communities of Queensland through the equitable provision of social infrastructure, including:</p> <p>Improved health services: Regional areas have equitable, fit for purpose and affordable health services for the people of our communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional communities are empowered and in control of health-related decisions which serve their communities’ interests • Skilled national and international clinicians are supported to work and live, in regional areas • The State Government has introduced incentives for medical professionals to work and live, in regional areas • A reduced need to travel out of region, to access basic health services • The State Government has increased student placement opportunities for medical and health related studies at universities <p>Improved housing environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in hardship and homelessness in the State • Temporary emergency/crisis accommodation is accessible to the most at-risk community members • Increased social housing stock • Well utilised, State Government owned housing properties • The social service sector can easily access and administer State Government funding opportunities
<p>Background (required) 350 word limit</p> <p>Further explain the motion and illustrate the issue/s which need to be addressed statewide,</p>	<p>Without suitable and equitable social infrastructure, regional communities are facing overall liveability challenges which affects the ability to attract and retain workers to support critical industries including health and the transitioning energy sector.</p>

	<p>The Gladstone Region is crucial to the nation’s transition to renewable energy. Other regional areas are also home to, or earmarked for, large renewable energy projects. To attract and retain the workforce needed for these projects, social infrastructure in regional communities is required. Without appropriate infrastructure and services, regional areas are unable to attract or retain the workforce needed for the energy transition to renewable based energy, providing considerable risk to the State Government’s renewable energy targets and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.</p> <p>The Gladstone Region, and many other regional and remote areas of Queensland, are facing challenges in the health landscape, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce shortages across health professionals • Insufficient infrastructure • Long wait times for appointments • Financial barriers to health services • Gaps in local services • Imposed travel to services outside of the region <p>This motion supports Gladstone Regional Council’s advocacy work in the health space, advocating for an equitable model, of fit for purpose health care for all Queenslanders and Australians.</p> <p>Cumulative to health service challenges, the Gladstone Region is also facing housing availability and affordability challenges, similar to those being experienced across the state and nation.</p> <p>An increase in costs-of-living pressures, mortgage stress, supply issues, lack of investment and high prices are all affecting availability and growing the demand for housing.</p> <p>The Gladstone Region has over 650 people or families on the social housing waitlist. Coupled with a low vacancy rate, current housing stock is not sufficient to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.</p>
<p>Case study/ Example (optional) 350 word limit</p> <p>Please include any relevant local case studies or examples to support this motion that effectively demonstrate and</p>	<p>Energy Transition</p> <p>The Gladstone Region Economic Transition Roadmap guides and outlines key priorities and what is needed to positively transition the region to Australia’s renewable energy capital, including workforce attraction and retention strategies, improved liveability factors and social infrastructure.</p>

communicate the importance of the matter.

Health Fast Facts

On 8 July 2022, the Gladstone Maternity Ward began a birthing bypass. Gladstone experienced a birthing bypass for 339 days, with maternity services returning to the Gladstone Maternity Ward in mid-2023.

This, near year long, failure to provide basic reproductive health care resulted in self-driven community advocacy groups, numerous community forums and meetings, community rallies and campaigns.

Gladstone's proportion of General Practitioners is considerably lower than the State's average with an equivalent of 93 FTE GPs compared to the State average of 125.4 GPs per 100,000 people.

Housing Fast Facts

The latest Census data reports Queensland's homelessness rate is 44 people per 10,000. Higher than New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.