

Media Statement

28 October 2023

Place of Refuge established at Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre

Gladstone Regional Council has established a Place of Refuge at Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC) in response to bushfire affecting an area between Lowmead Road and Fingerboard Road, near Miriam Vale.

This follows a LEAVE IMMEDIATELY alert issued by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) at 11.28am on Saturday, 28 October 2023.

For those seeking refuge, it is advised to first seek shelter with friends and family.

If unable, the GECC is located at 56 Goondoon Street, Gladstone. Entry is via Oaka Lane, with parking available in multi-story car park.

The Miriam Vale Community Centre is unsuitable given its location to the affected area.

Residents should continue to follow the advice of QFES and be aware of warnings currently in place.

Council is encouraging affected residents to register via the Australian Red Cross *Register. Find. Reunite* website – this can be done by visiting <https://register.redcross.org.au> and clicking on 'Lowmead Fire'.

What affected residents should do:

- LEAVE IMMEDIATELY and follow your bushfire survival plan now
- Go to a place away from the Emergency Warning area. Plan how you will get there. Tell others where you are going
- Avoid driving on Lowmead Road towards Lowmead
- Check for road closures before you leave at the QLD Traffic website or call 13 19 40
- Wear protective clothing and stay hydrated
- Keep medications close by.

Stay informed:

- Keep checking the QFES Current Bushfires and Warnings website
- Follow QFES on social media
- Listen to your local radio station
- Do not fly drones around the fire. Drones affect air operations.

ENDS