



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

On Tuesday 5 March 2024

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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Elected Members

Councillor - Mayor M J Burnett
Councillor G G Churchill
Councillor K Goodluck - via teams
Councillor R A Hansen
Councillor D V O'Grady
Councillor C A Trevor
Councillor N Muszkat
Councillor C Cameron
Councillor D Branthwaite

Officers

Mrs L Dowling (Chief Executive Officer)
Mrs R Millett (Executive Secretary)
Mrs T Whalley (Manager Governance and Risk) (via teams)
Mr M Holmes (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk)
Ms C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)
Ms K Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle)
Mr J Tumbers (General Manager Operations)
Mr M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)
Ms R Bamford (Executive Assistant to General Manager) (via teams)
Ms S Phelps (Principal Executive Assistant to the Mayor)
Ms J Iwasaka (Community Development Specialist)
Ms H Robertson (Manager Development Services)
Ms C Canniffe (Planning Officer)
Mr E Noakes (Economic Development Lead, Acting)
Ms E Landman (Manager Revenue Services)
Ms L Cornhill (Rates-Metering Officer)

G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Nil

G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cr O'Grady

Councillor Desley O'Grady advised that she has a previously declared declarable conflict of interest regarding development application DA/28/2022 which is to be considered in Agenda Item G/4.3. CONVERSION APPLICATION DA/28/2022 FOR EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT (3 STAGES) AT 2744 ROUND HILL ROAD, AGNES WATER.

Cr O'Grady advised that she will leave the room for the consideration of Agenda Item G/4.3.

G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

Saturday 24 February 2024 was a busy day in the Gladstone Region which started with a couple of events in the morning. One at Millennium Esplanade in Tannum Sands, our first Welcome to the Gladstone Region Morning Tea for a while. Fantastic to see our team organising those events again and welcoming people who have decided to make the Gladstone Region their home. It was a full event program, well done to Kylie Lee, General Manager Community and Lifestyle, and your team for organising that at Millennium Esplanade. I look forward to having many more of those events across the region.

At the same time, the Deputy Mayor and myself were at the Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) in Gladstone as they launched their new rescue vessel. Dedicated and named Gladstone Rescue 1. I'm sure that our local boaties will appreciate the new vessel that the rescue team at VMR now have available for use in the Harbour and further into the Southern Great Barrier Reef.

Later that night was the Mt Larcom RSL Veterans and War Animal Memorial Dinner held in Mt Larcom. Thank you to Cindy and Chris and everyone who attended that event as well. Very well attended event in Mt Larcom, raising funds for the local RSL. Well done to Cindy and Chris, they put on an amazing show.

On Wednesday 6 March 2024 through to Sunday 17 March 2024 is the 2024 Combined Schools Musical, the Little Mermaid. Tickets are still available for some of the shows at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC) box office or you can check out their website to get your tickets for that.

Friday 8 March 2024 is International Women's Day and there will be a dinner at the GECC. I thank the Deputy Mayor representing me at that dinner. My granddaughter is turning 1 and I'm very excited to celebrate International Women's Day but as everyone can understand she's turning 1 once and I'm not going to miss that. Thank you, Cr Goodluck, I'm sure your speech will be amazing and thank you for representing Council at that dinner at the GECC. Happy International Women's Day to all the ladies and girls in our Gladstone Region.

Parks Week is underway. Free Moonlight Movies are happening at Bunting Park, Calliope on Friday 8 March 2024 at 7pm. There are other events as well, check out Council's Facebook for more information.

Of course, we have Easter In Gladstone coming up from Thursday 28 March 2024 through to Monday 1 April 2024. You can jump on Council's Facebook or website for more information. There is the Village Opening Party; Harbour Festival; Road Runners Fun Run; Yachtsman's Long Lunch; 76th Brisbane - Gladstone Yacht Race (which will be live streamed from 10am on Good Friday); the Raft Regatta; Seafood Festival; Harbour Cruise Brunch; and Line Crossing Party. Why would you be anywhere else at Easter time.

And of course, on Saturday 16 March 2024 is the 2024 Local Government Elections right across Queensland. Today we have 4 retiring Councillors who we will say more about later. To Darryl, Desley, CT and Rick, supported today also by Colleen and Lyndal in the audience and others online, today is their last Council meeting. As I said, we'll have more to say about that in general business. And no doubt they will have some reflections themselves.

Also on Saturday 16 March 2024 is the Boyne Tannum Men's Shed 10 Year Anniversary and Book Launch and the official opening of the Gladstone Brothers Cricket Club Synthetic Pitch is happening in Gladstone as well.

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On the weekend, we officially renamed the front gallery at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum (GRAGM), in honour of former Mayor Gail Sellers, to now be known as the 'Gail Sellers Community Gallery'. As you walk into the gallery on the left-hand side, you have the Museum Room and the O'Connell Room and the Town Hall Gallery, and now the gallery on the right, which was once called the 'Front Gallery' is now aptly named after a lady who has dedicated much of her life to the arts in the Gladstone Region, certainly much of her life to our community. The 'Gail Sellers Community Gallery' opened on the weekend.

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 20 FEBRUARY 2024

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Prepared By: Executive Secretary

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 20 February 2024.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 20 February 2024 be confirmed.

GM/24/5165 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Hansen

Seconded Cr Branthwaite

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/3. DEPUTATIONS

Nil

G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/4.1. LOCAL HOUSING ACTION PLAN

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Manager Strategy and Improvement (Acting)

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: ED6.1

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Gladstone Region Local Housing Action Plan.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Gladstone Region Local Housing Action Plan.

GM/24/5166 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Goodluck
Seconded Cr Churchill

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.2. COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT THE HYDROGEN WORLD SUMMIT (13-15 MAY 2024) IN ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS.

Responsible Officer: General Manager People and Strategy

Prepared By: Economic Development Lead (Acting)

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: ED6.1

Purpose:

To seek approval to have two representatives of Gladstone Regional Council attend the World Hydrogen 2024 Summit and Exhibition, 13 to 15 May in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council authorise Mayor Matt Burnett and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to represent the Gladstone Region at the World Hydrogen 2024 Summit and Exhibition, 13 to 15 May in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

GM/24/5167 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Goodluck

Seconded Cr Muszkat

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.3. CONVERSION APPLICATION DA/28/2022 FOR EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT (3 STAGES) AT 2744 ROUND HILL ROAD, AGNES WATER

Responsible Officer: General Manager Customer Experience

Prepared By: Principal Planning Lead

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: DA/28/2022, DB1.7

Cr O'Grady (declarable conflict of interest)
left the room for Agenda Item G/4.3. and did not participate in the decision.
(refer G/0.3.1. Disclosure of Interest section of the minutes - page 4)

Development Application:

Application Number: DA/28/2022
Applicant: Goora Gan Steiner School Inc
C/- Zone Planning Group
Owner: Goora Gan Steiner School Inc
Date Of Receipt: 4 December 2023
Location: 2744 Round Hill Road, AGNES WATER QLD 4677
RPD: Lot 36 RP619982
Area: 1.9 hectares
Current Use of Land: Vacant lot
Zoning: Rural residential – Bicentennial Drive enterprise precinct
Proposal: Educational Establishment (3 Stages)
Submissions Close Date: 13 July 2022
Number Of Submissions: One (1) Not Properly Made Submission

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to consider and determine the applicant's request for conversion of non-trunk infrastructure to trunk infrastructure for the footpath within Round Hill Road as per condition 15 of the changed decision notice issued 22 June 2023 (Council ref: DA/28/2022).

Officer's Recommendation:

That the conversion application for non-trunk infrastructure to trunk infrastructure for the footpath within Round Hill Road as per condition 15 of the changed decision notice for Material change of use for an Educational establishment (3 stages), issued 22 June 2023 (Council ref: DA/28/2022), be refused as it does not satisfy the criteria specified in Part 7.2, based on the following grounds:

- The LGIP or Adopted Infrastructure Charges Resolution does not identify footpaths or cycle ways for the rural residential zone and Rural Sub-Arterial Road hierarchy.
- The majority of the footpath would not service other developments in the predominately Rural Residential area, for which footpaths are not a development requirement.
- Condition 15 is consistent for delivery of non-trunk infrastructure, section 145 (b) (ii) of the *Planning Act 2016*, as the purpose of the footpath is to connect the development site (premises) to external infrastructure networks.
- The footpath is not considered a required service in the rural residential setting for the purpose of trunk infrastructure.

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- Conversion to trunk infrastructure is not the most cost-effective option for a Rural residential area and Rural Sub-Arterial Road which generally does not require footpath networks for the land uses expected in the locality.

GM/24/5168 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Muszkat

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

In favour of the motion: Cr Branthwaite, Cr Trevor, Cr Cameron, Cr Goodluck, Cr Muszkat, Cr Hansen, Cr Churchill, Mayor Burnett

Against the motion: Nil

Ineligible: Cr O'Grady

G/4.4. PHILIP STREET PRECINCT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

Responsible Officer: General Manager Community and Lifestyle

Prepared By: Community Development Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: CR3.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress update on the operations of the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct Advisory Committee.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council receive the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct Advisory Committee Annual Report 2023.

GM/24/5169 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr O'Grady
Seconded Cr Trevor

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

G/4.5. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 26 FEBRUARY 2024

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Management Accounting Specialist

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: FM15.1

Purpose:

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the year 2023-24 to date, for the period ended 26 February 2024.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Statements attached to the officer's report for the 2023-24 year to date, for the period ended 26 February 2024 as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

GM/24/5170 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Hansen
Seconded Cr Branthwaite

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

**Mayor Burnett moved Agenda Item G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORTS to follow
Agenda Item G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS.**

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

GM/24/5171 Procedural Resolution:

Moved Mayor Burnett
Seconded Cr Cameron

In accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012, section 254J, Council close the meeting to discuss Item G/8.1. OUT OF POLICY WATER LEAK CONCESSION.

Item G/8.1. OUT OF POLICY WATER LEAK CONCESSION will be closed under section 254J (d) rating concessions as this item will discuss water leak concession requests.

CARRIED

The item was discussed and considered including the presentation of different options to consider and the opportunities and risks associated with the item.

GM/24/5172 Procedural Resolution:

Moved Cr Muszkat
Seconded Cr O'Grady

That Council reopen the meeting to the public.

CARRIED

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

G/8.1. OUT OF POLICY WATER LEAK CONCESSION

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Prepared By: Manager Revenue Services

Council Meeting Date: 5 March 2024

File Ref: FM7.1

GM/24/5173 Council Resolution:

Moved Cr Goodluck
Seconded Cr Cameron

That Council

1. refuses the application for concealed water leak concessions regarding Assessment 30856-9; and
2. grant a concession for a concealed water leak regarding Assessment 2741-7 to the equivalent value of 50% of the identified leak.

Statement of Reasons (s254H of the Local Government Regulations 2012): Under Section 120 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 Council is satisfied that the payment of the rates or charges will cause hardship to the landowner of assessment 2741-7.

CARRIED

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Mayor Burnett invited the retiring Councillors to make a final statement.

Councillor Darryl Branthwaite stated the following:

"I want to reiterate the privilege I've had over the past four years of being part of this group. I think the group is quite dynamic, from all different aspects of the political spectrum and different parts of our community. And each and every one of us has had valuable input into how the decision making happens and there has been quite good healthy, robust debate at times. But also, while we might disagree we respect each other's point of view. It's been a delight to be able to work with this group and with the Council group itself, the whole business. I think we have an amazing management committee across the whole business and also the people that are employed within and work within Council itself - they are incredible people, and they are very knowledgeable, very healthy. You can sit down with some people and they will talk about gravel pits and where the best gravel is, what culverts done this and what crossings are where. It's quite amazing the things that go on within this business. It's enormous, Council does an amazing job.

I'd personally like to thank my wife for putting up with all my quirks over the last four years. It has been divulged at a recent dinner party that she has had to put up with a bit. Thank you very much and I wish you all the ones seeking re-election all the best, I really do hope that you do get elected as I think this Council needs continuity within its management.

Last but not least, this fellow over here, Mayor Matt Burnett. I think you're amazing. I watched you down in Canberra and the respect that you are being held with right across this land with the local government, with state politics and with federal politics. I watched you get a standing ovation at the National General Assembly in Canberra and if anyone wants to see the recording, I did put it up, it was pretty cool to watch. We should all be very proud of the advocacy that Matt, and it's very bi-partisan mind you, right across, he'll do the very best, whatever he can, whoever is in power, he'll do the very best he can for our region. And it's the same for all these Councillors here, they work with whoever is in power and whoever the decision makers are, they work very hard and diligently with.

And the ones that are leaving, the likes of Cr Rick, and Cr Desley and also my good friend Cr Chris Trevor here, I met in 1984, when we had a car crash and I needed his legal advice, and we've been friends ever since. But apart from all that, the effort that these three people have put into this, the way that this region has been shaped, is insurmountable. The knowledge, especially with the two senior ones, Cr Hansen having been here 18 years and with Cr Trevor having also been involved federally as well, the knowledge and skills you bring to this table are quite amazing. And Desley, your advocacy for the Inland Rail Corridor is just worth its weight in gold and your community thank you so much.

It's been a pleasure working with everybody. Thank you."

Councillor Chris Trevor stated the following:

“Most of which I wanted to say has already been said when I announced my impending departure today due to ill health. But for some bad luck in relation to that, I'd probably go around again. But unfortunately, fate has determined that that is not to be and I'm leaving knowing that the establishment is in safe hands. I'm leaving in the knowledge that we have worked together, despite our philosophical differences, as a great team. You've shown great leadership, yourself and Leisa, managers, officers and I'm grateful to have been part of the establishment, as I've always called it. And been collectively involved in the leadership of our employees and staff, Managers, CEO, Councillors and the Mayor. I did forget when I said that I was going, to thank the Gladstone Regional Council collectively for partnering and helping me deliver in the short term that I was in federal parliament, a lot of the projects that we see today have been of enormous benefit to our community. Including but not limited to the Calliope Cross Roads, where lots of people were getting injured, maimed or killed until that overpass was built and first announced in the lead up to the election in 2007. I've gotten a bit old Mayor, to hold you upside down by the ankles and paint on the cross roads, 'CT Cross Roads', as we often joked about it over a few rums.

Kirkwood Road stage 3 was another partnership between Council and the Federal Government where stage 1 was built by the Council and stage 2 was announced and delivered by the late Paul Neville, and stage 3 of course by ourselves, which enabled the suburbs of Kirkwood to expand. It enabled heavy vehicles to come off our local roads and it enabled a short access from Boyne Tannum to Gladstone for all the workers at Yarwun and Orica and the power station. It was a great little project partnered by the Gladstone Regional Council and the Federal Government at the time. I often drive along it and think what a great project with all these houses that were right at the time when the three projects on Curtis Island for LNG were being announced and we were under enormous pressure as a community to deliver affordable housing for our local community that were already here and for our burgeoning community as a result of that industry coming to town. And I don't doubt we'll see that with the Hydrogen Industry that will come in years to come.

The Council contributed financially to the synthetic hockey field in Gladstone. One of the only communities on the east coast of Australia that didn't have a synthetic hockey field. And look what's happened once we delivered it. All our state and national representatives got to compete on a level playing field in Gladstone and go off to other communities throughout Australia and become state and national representatives. And I'm eternally grateful for Council co-partnering with me to deliver that project to Gladstone and our community.

Of course, the junior rugby league fields, being a rugby league town of course, had to get some money and so did the Tannum Sands rugby league fields. The George Creed Graeme Kanofski Airport Terminal. When we come up short with dollars and the Council approached me at the time to complete the terminal. We went in and we fought, and we fought hard, you'd remember it well, with Graeme Kanofski and co, and George, to deliver that project to the community and to finish it off.

The \$20m towards the Rockhampton to Gladstone water pipeline for design and planning, back in 2009 and here we see now it happening as an actual reality. Not only to provide the future security of water to our already existing industries but also to provide a catalyst for our new industry, which of course is hydrogen. Those little long-term vision and strategic planning partnerships between local, state and federal government do happen for a reason, they take a little bit longer than our community would like, but they do happen. And it's great to see all those things coming to fruition. The only one probably that hasn't happened yet was the announcement in 2009 for the Port Access stage 3. And of course, that has been announced, re-announced and money shifted for here there and everywhere. And still that vital piece of infrastructure hasn't been delivered to our community, but certainly does need to happen.

And last but not least, I'll never forget it, I'll always remember the photo of you (Mayor Burnett) and myself on the front page of the Observer after relentless lobbying and being known in federal parliament at the time as 'boom gate Burnett'. We delivered boom gates to the community of Telina and I'll never forget that photo of you and myself at Telina announcing that project which you'd fought so hard for and lobbied me for and got the consent of the minister in federal parliament to approve.

So, it sought of indicates to me that good things happen when governments work together and people work together which leads me to one of my final points which is a notice of motion which I put before this Council some seven years almost to the day now, which at the time was unanimously approved, but things derailed after that. You could say I have a seven-year itch in mentioning this today. And that is of course the need for future Councils to work closely with the trustees of the Gladstone Showgrounds with a view to delivering a world class facility at that location. Which is desperately needed for our community and something that I've argued for many years, but been unsuccessful to date. The trustees of that land have been wonderful advocates for this community. They have run that Gladstone Show since I was a boy. And I remember quite vividly turning up to the show each and every year and enjoying the festivities that were provided by those trustees, which continue to this day. But we do know that with life things change, and our Gladstone Harbour Festival is our show these days and our Mt Larcom Show is our regional agricultural show these days. And our speedway that I watched as a boy has now relocated from the Gladstone Showgrounds to the Benaraby Precinct thanks to the hard-working local community champions who, without the assistance with federal or state government but with some assistance from this Council, achieved a multi-million dollar outcome for this community and they should be very proud of what they have achieved down there. But essentially now, through no fault of the trustees, the showground land has become a shell of what it once former self was. Through nobody's fault. It's just that things change. And I would encourage on my departure today for the showground trustees to consider meeting with the new council and yourself (Mayor), with a view to doing what is in the best interests of the community. And that is, or what I believe to be, and others may argue against me, I believe the land should be surrendered to Council for community purposes. There is no hidden agenda here. The agenda is to deliver a multipurpose sports facility for the future of our kids and our region. State and national competitions, the provision of 700 netballers with new courts within the precinct over there. The department of education cooperating with the Gladstone State High School to provide a sporting school of excellence. And of course, to take our young children off the Dawson Highway and avoid them being injured, maimed or killed because of the parking difficulties associated with the Gladstone Hockey fields. There are many and various reasons why it should happen. I congratulate the trustees of the Gladstone showgrounds for the magnificent contribution that they've made to the community over the years. But I would encourage them and the new council to sit together and formulate an outcome that is going to be of enormous future benefit to this community. And I do ask Mayor, that you re-open those negotiations for all those reasons that I've mentioned, in an effort to deliver a project for the community which this council and future council's will be proud of for many years to come. We call it an agenda window, those of us who have been off to federal parliament. An agenda windows are windows that become open to communities every so often. And the agenda window that I'm talking about is that in the next 12 months, we have a state and federal election coming up, and the agenda window is to lobby both the state and federal governments in the lead up to their elections to provide funding for a multipurpose sporting facility at the Gladstone showgrounds. Now if the federal government can provide \$15m towards a pool at Boyne Tannum Sands in this community, it can certainly provide \$50m for a multipurpose facility at the Gladstone showgrounds. Something that the current trustees of the showgrounds would be proud of and something that this community would be proud of on an indefinite basis. But it's a short window, it's a short agenda window and unless we come together as a community and agree to the surrender of the land to the council in order for us to facilitate delivery of that project, that agenda window could be lost forever. Two elections within the next two years, opportunities to argue our case at the highest level and deliver a multipurpose sporting facility that will be the envy of all council's on the east coast of Australia.

My last public engagement was on Saturday at the art gallery when we opened the Gail Sellers Community Gallery. And Gail during her speech spoke of a quote which I think summed up everything for me at the appropriate timing, which is today, when I leave local government and public life. And the quote that she quoted was from Muhammad Ali - "service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth". Public service has given me a meaningful and purposeful life. It was never about me, it was never about a party, it was always about community and I thank the community for inviting me into their life and allowing me to be part of it and to be remembered as someone who has worked tirelessly along with my family to deliver a better outcome for our region. Thanks Mayor, you're a great man, you deserve to be where you are. Your dad and my dad worked together in the Gladstone railways - your dad as a signaller, my dad as an engine driver for over 40 years. We have been great mates. I've seen you do some enormous work for this community, and I thank you on behalf of the community for it. You are a good man. Thank you."

Councillor Desley O'Grady provided the following statement:

"I am filled with a mix of emotions as I reflect on the incredible journey that the past eight years have been. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as a councillor for the Gladstone Regional Council, and I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you who have supported me along the way.

Firstly and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mayor Matt Burnett for his leadership and unwavering enthusiasm for the Gladstone Region. Mayor Burnett, you have been not only a colleague but also a mentor to me, and I am grateful for the guidance and support you have provided throughout my tenure.

I also want to express my appreciation to all my fellow elected members. In times of challenge and adversity, your camaraderie and solidarity have been a source of strength for me, and I am truly thankful for your unwavering support.

During my time as a councillor, I have had the privilege of meeting individuals from all walks of life. From our friends in Saiki City, Japan, to visitors from China, native Canadians, politicians, tv celebrities, most importantly our community members and Gladstone Regional Council staff. These interactions have enriched my perspective and deepened my commitment to serving our diverse community.

Throughout my tenure, I have remained steadfast in my dedication to putting our community first. While the responsibilities of my role sometimes meant sacrificing time with my family, I am grateful for their unwavering support and understanding. Their sacrifices have not gone unnoticed, and I am indebted to them for their love and encouragement. As I reflect on my time in office, I am proud of the positive impact we have made on our region. From advocating for essential infrastructure projects to championing initiatives like the Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail, I believe we have left a lasting legacy that will benefit generations to come.

As I bid farewell to my role as councillor, I look forward to cherishing precious moments with my family, particularly my husband, who has stood by my side while I attended countless meetings and functions. While this may be the end of one chapter, rest assured that I will continue to advocate for our beautiful region from the sidelines.

So, my friends, this is not a goodbye but rather a "see you later". I am confident that the spirit of community and collaboration that defines Gladstone Region will continue to thrive long after my tenure. Thank you once again for the privilege of serving you, and I look forward to our paths crossing again in the future.

Thank you."

Councillor Rick Hansen provided the following statement:

“Getting elected in a bi election for Gladstone City Council was challenging at first, as it will be for those newly elected later in March. However, none of these experiences could have prepared those seeking election on the Gladstone Regional Council, for the very tense times prior to and at the Council amalgamations.

I was honoured to be elected and have served on this Council since then. It has been challenging and rewarding throughout I have enjoyed the complexities of working with many Councillors and officers during this period and I thank them all for their support.

We can't change the past, and we've said that many many times, but it is my belief that there were a few disappointing decisions made in the early years of amalgamation, that to this day effect current decision making. One was to discontinue the Central Queensland Local Government Association and then replace it only months later with a similar group, imposing unnecessary pressure on Council's budget. Creditable programs with regional waste collaboration through waste education and the building of a MRHF developed by CQ Waste were lost and have only until recently been revised.

There was a huge opportunity lost for the Tannum Sands community when Council's decision to develop the land which had once been mooted as the Tannum Sands Civic Precinct (which included a pool in its concept design), into a housing estate. We've lost those times and can't get them back, but just remember them.

Tough decisions made early on including the Agnes Water Desalination Project and the Gladstone Airport Upgrade Project should stand the test of time. Other projects that jump out at me and there are many and in no particular order are: Gladstone Entertainment Centre Flat Floor; Agnes Water Community Centre; Turkey Beach Community Centre; Bororen Water Upgrade; Southend Community Centre; Baffle Creek Community Centre; Boyne Skate Park; Alf Larson Park in Miriam Vale; Liz Cunningham Park Calliope; Pump Track Memorial Park.

Projects assisted by government funding of note have been Calliope Crossroads upgrade; Kirkwood Road completion; Dawson Highway Philip Street intersection upgrade; Philip Street Community Centre; Philip Street dual laning; and the Dawson Highway Drynan Drive Traffic Lights upgrade which we fought for for a long time.

We saw the establishment of our first Gladstone Region Youth Council, which quite appropriately has become a fixture of our operations.

Waste has always been one of my interests commencing back in the CQ Waste days. With the recent development of a Gladstone Regional and CQ Regional Waste Management Plans, the focus is definitely back on this vital part of Council's operations. It is pleasing to see and hear of the developments in this space. A highlight for me in this space was being part of the International Zero Waste Tour 2018. I may add that I was the only one to put my hand up for that, no one else wanted to go but it was an amazing journey. Thank you.

Disability access has been another area of concern, but we have developed a Disability Infrastructure Audit over the years and its now very pleasing to see that an Access and Equity Plan is being developed.

I have been lucky in working with teams in development of projects like the Gladstone region Social Infrastructure Strategic Plan, which is now being reviewed and have attended many national and state conferences on behalf of Council. I certainly enjoyed being able to be part of our Internal Audit (ARIC) committee (as you well know I was a member of that committee for a long time), being deputy chair of the Local Disaster Management Group for a period and still part of the TEAG committee for many years. I have

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had the Councillor portfolio positions for Corporate Services and Governance and Infrastructure Services and held positions on many other advisory boards.

I have served with pride as your representative on the Gladstone Airport Board and GAPDL Board and I acknowledge the Chair, CEO and board members of both those organisations for their great teams.

Finally, thank you to the community for giving me the opportunity to represent you. Thanks to CEO Leisa, General Managers and all staff I have had the pleasure to work with over these many years. Thanks Mayor Matt and Councillors for continuing to make this a more than interesting place to have worked in and will say goodbye to. Thanks to Lyndal and my daughters Pia and Annika and family who have been through this with me all the way through. I will miss this place, but will I definitely enjoy the challenges ahead of me.

Onwards and upwards.”

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Mayor Burnett stated the following:

“Darryl, it has only been four years on this Council but we've been friends for a very long time. Your contribution in four years feels like you've been here for 12 or 18. You've been an amazing asset for our community.

I don't want to overshadow your comments, but just want to quickly mention to the Councillors, on behalf of all of the other Councillors in the room, Desley, 8 years representing the community and all these projects that have been mentioned like Philip Street, the library, the Agnes Water Community Centre, Alf Larson Park, Tom Jeffery Park, the Builyan Hall, Turkey Beach Hall. There is so much infrastructure that we put together as a council. Boyne Burnett Inland Rail Trail is your legacy item there is no doubt about that.

Chris, as a city councillor back in the day, Federal member, Deputy Mayor, and family friend since I was born. Thank you.

And to Rick, 18 years service to our community is second to none.

Thank you to all four of you on behalf of the councillors, the executive team and all Council staff over all those years. Thank you and this is for you.”

A video of a photo montage of each of the retiring councillors time at Council was presented.

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.57am