

media release

27 October 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community has a say on region's new planning scheme

Residents have embraced the opportunity to have their say on how future development and growth should be managed in the Gladstone Region.

Gladstone Regional Council is in the process of preparing a new land use planning scheme to replace the three existing planning schemes that applied to the former Gladstone City, Miriam Vale Shire and Calliope Shire Councils.

As part of the initial planning process, Council is holding a series of community discussion groups throughout the region (from October 26 to November 2).

Council's Development Portfolio spokesperson, Councillor Craig Butler said with strong turn-outs at yesterday's discussion group sessions, it was clear the community had "embraced the opportunity to have a say on the new planning scheme".

"Council is extremely pleased with the community input into the new planning scheme so far; we've had some really excellent feedback and suggestions from residents, and that was at day one of the discussion group sessions alone," he said.

"From what we've heard it is clear the Gladstone Region community are committed to environmentally sound and ecologically sustainable growth with, for example, residents wanting to see solar power and rain water tanks made mandatory in future development."

Cr Butler said he urged all community members to attend one of the remaining discussion group sessions this week, with meetings planned around the region, from Mount Larcom and Agnes Water to Lowmead and Ubobo.

"Planning schemes personally affect communities, particularly residents and landowners by saying what type and density of development can occur in neighbourhoods, and how land can be used, including what can be built on it," he said.

"The new planning scheme will need to balance competing issues to ensure our lifestyle is maintained and protected, which is why it's important for the community to attend one of the remaining discussion group sessions, and have their say on how they believe Council should manage the future development of our region."

Following the initial community engagement period, Council will prepare a Statement of Proposals (SoP), a consultation document that identifies the issues and challenges that the new planning scheme will need to address.

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Once the SoP is prepared the community will be formally invited to make submissions on it, and after Council considers all properly made submissions it will begin work on preparing the new planning scheme.

Council's goal is to have practical completion of the new planning scheme by 2012, during the term of the current Councillors.

For more information on the remaining community engagement meetings, visit Council's website at www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au and follow the 'Our Place, Our Plan' link under 'Have Your Say'.

Residents unable to attend a discussion group meeting can still have their say on the new planning scheme by completing an 'Our Place, Our Plan' survey.

The survey can be completed and submitted online; alternatively hard copies are available at any Council office and must be returned to Council by November 30.

For more information on the new planning scheme, or the current discussion group sessions, contact Council's Strategic Planning Department on 4975 8131 or 1300 621 922, or email julieb@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au.

**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's
Strategic Planning Department on 4975 8131.**