

## media release

October 21, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Council removes firewood from BBQs during local fire ban**

Gladstone Regional Council, with consideration to the local fire ban currently in place in the Gladstone Region and surrounding areas, has removed all firewood from Council's wood fired barbeques – the use of which is prohibited at the moment.

Council's Parks and Recreation Portfolio spokesperson, Councillor Gail Sellers said this included wood fired barbeques at Canoe Point, Millennium Esplanade and parks in Calliope, Miriam Vale, Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy.

"Council, on advice from the Queensland Rural Fire Service, has taken the precaution and removed all firewood from Council wood fired barbeques to ensure the current local fire ban is adhered to," Cr Sellers said.

"There is also strictly no campfire allowed at Calliope River Camping Grounds, or any other camping grounds in the Gladstone Region area until the local fire ban is over.

"Given this could be the worst bushfire season the Gladstone Region has seen in about 10 years, Council appreciates the community's understanding and support to ensure the local fire ban is strictly adhered to while it is imposed."

Electric barbeques are still available in most Council parks, and their use is still permitted during the fire ban, provided they are not left unattended.

Firewood will be returned to Council wood fired barbeques once it is safe to do so.

Cr Sellers said while power tools may still be used during the fire ban, Council encouraged local residents to use them with extreme care and "ensure that adequate safety equipment is on hand to extinguish any fire that may start".

"This could include having another person available to watch out for any ignitions that occur," she said.

The current local fire ban is in place in the Gladstone Region until October 26 and will be reviewed by the Queensland Rural Fire Service on a weekly basis.

For more information on the local fire ban, and any exemptions that may apply, visit Queensland Rural Fire Service's website at [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au).

In case of an emergency dial 000.

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Parks and Recreation Department on 4975 8183.**