

media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Have your say on the region's new land use planning scheme

Can I subdivide my block?

Can I run a business from home?

Can I build a workshop in my home shed?

A land use planning scheme governs answers to these questions and much more.

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, and is inviting residents to come along and have their say on how Council should manage future development and growth in the Gladstone Region.

Council's Development Portfolio spokesperson, Councillor Craig Butler said planning schemes personally affect the community, particularly residents and landowners, by "saying what type and density of development can occur in their neighbourhoods, and how land can be used, including what can be built on it".

"Planning schemes are complex legal documents that seek to answer many questions including where new residential development occurs, where new shopping centres should be built, how environmentally sensitive areas are protected, and in what areas and circumstances home businesses are allowed," Cr Butler said.

"The new scheme will need to balance competing issues so that lifestyle is maintained and protected, which is why it's important for the community to attend the up-coming discussion groups, and have their say on 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 planning scheme will need to address.

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

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

For a full details on the up-coming 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 the discussion groups can still have their say on the new planning scheme by filling out an 'Our Place, Our Plan' survey, hard copies available at any of Council's offices, or online via Council's website.

Surveys must be returned to Council by November 30.

For more information on the new planning scheme or the up-coming discussion groups 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.