

SUBJECT: COUNCILLORS' REPORT - MAYOR CR GAIL SELLERS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Council Meeting Date: 6th December 2011

Executive Summary:

Cr Sellers submits the following report.

Background:

Councillor Report:

Bechtel

On Tuesday 15th November Bechtel announced 400 adult apprentice places which is one of the biggest single intakes of adult apprentices in Australian history. Both Queensland Premier Anna Bligh and Federal Minister for Tertiary Education Skills, Jobs and Workplace Training Senator Chris Evans were in Gladstone to support the announcement which is tied in with the National Apprenticeship programme. This will give a second chance to workers who had joined the workforce but never completed formal qualifications. The time frame is around eighteen months. The apprentices will be paid at a trade's assistant's wage.

Premier Bligh

An offer was extended from the Premier for me to accompany her to Brisbane so that discussion could occur on the needs of the Gladstone Region. The Premier gave Gladstone a very good hearing and was interested in more information about: our innovative Training Programmes; accommodation concerns for teachers, emergency service workers; Child Care; she spoke on planning for the hospital (yet to be completed); roads including Calliope Crossroads, roads to the North and South; and services to Curtis Island.

Airport of the Year

The Airports Expo 2011 (14 – 16 November) was held in Brisbane and during the conference, Gladstone was announced as the Regional Airport of the Year for 50 000 to 499 999 passengers. This is an outstanding achievement and is recognition for the bold move GRC took soon after amalgamation to upgrade the runway and develop the terminal.

Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program.

PCIMP has been monitoring the health of our harbour since 2005 and the second, three yearly Ecosystem Health Report Card 2008-2010 was released on Thursday 17th November. The report was very positive with the Harbour receiving A reports. It is noted that the testing does not include any information from 2011 and therefore has no results from the January flooding.

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

On the 18th November, the Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Brian Heenan opened the Chavoin Centre, the Jerusalem building upgrade and the Library refurbishment and extensions. This building was completed with the Federal Funding obtained from the BER (Building Educational Revolution) funding.

Qld Music Festival

Nigel Lavender and Simon Buchanan of Queensland Music Festival visited Gladstone to speak with council and local groups about the Qld Music Festival event Classic Country, which was held in Moranbah on Friday 22nd and here in Gladstone on Sunday 24th July. Featuring Melinda Schneider, Graeme Connors, Adam Harvey and Catherine Britt partnered with the Camerate of St John's. Councillor Brushe and Sellers gave positive feedback and indicated that Gladstone Regional Council would like to continue to work with the Queensland Music Festival in 2012/3.

Proms and Graduations

Councillors have been attending graduations and proms at schools and colleges throughout the region over the past month. It is always pleasing to see first hand the excellent work being done in our Schools and celebrate the end of the school year and for some the end of their years of schooling.

Agnes Water – Seventeen Seventy

Councillors Hansen, Brushe, MacDonald, Butler and Sellers attended the first function held by the residents in the Community Centre. This was The Captain Cook 1770 Masquerade Ball and was a wonderful fundraiser for the annual Seventeen Seventy Festival. The venue was perfect for this event and will receive a great amount of use by the local community.

Council inspection

Councillors and staff took the opportunity to do a tour of the area on the 22nd November. The visit included: Kirkwood Road and Benaraby Road intersection; Dixon Drive Bridge; Kirkwood Road and housing developments; ULDA site at Clinton; Byellee Wetlands; Don Young Drive; Port Curtis Way; Targinnie and Chernih Road; Mount Larcom Showgrounds; Maroon Group Workers Village; Calliope River Camping Grounds and MAC Group Workers Village.

Gladstone Fish Health

On Wednesday 23rd November, several members of the **Scientific Advisory Panel** appointed to give oversight to the investigation of the Fish Health in the Harbour visited Gladstone Regional Council. The meeting was attended by Councillors, Member for Gladstone Liz Cunningham and a representative of Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd.

Rural Management Team Challenge

Our Rural Management Challenge Team, Jason Perry, Lee Baker, Deeanne Paolatto and Denise Hallmark from DLGP Rockhampton have presented at Tambo in this annual event. Council looks forward to their presentation at a future meeting.

Maranoa Regional Council Visit

Gladstone Regional Council met with some of the Councillors of the Maranoa Regional Council during their visit to Council on the 24– 25th November. The group was here at the invitation of GLNG and had a tour of the island facilities and a bus tour of land based industry. Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss common problems with our upstream council.

All Girls Career Breakfast

The Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) and the Office for Women held an all girls breakfast event at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre called **It's all about ME (Minerals and Energy)**. There were fifty students from seven different schools including Biloela and Rockhampton. They took part in hands on activities

including geology, cultural awareness, working from heights welding and workplace health and safety. It was an excellent opportunity for the girls to experience trades and jobs not usually available to them.

Minister for the Environment

Minister Vicky Darling was in Gladstone on Wednesday 23rd November to release the **Clean and Healthy Air for Gladstone** Report. There are two parts to the report, the Final Report and the Implementation Plan for Recommendations in the Final Report. The pleasing result from this lengthy procedure is that there is commitment to continue the monitoring of the air in the Gladstone Region and to provide those results to the community. Also, rather than another committee being put in place, the GREAN (Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network) will be used as the reference point.

Celebrating Diversity across the Gladstone Region

The aim of the meeting was to gather the main community leaders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and provide them with an update on the programmes, initiatives and plans that Council has in place. With 2012 shaping up to one of the busiest years for the Region and an expected influx of new residents from all over the globe, the plans for welcoming, settling and integrating these new residents into the community needed expanding on to the wider community.

ULDA - Hill Close

On Saturday 26th November the three Display Homes in Stage One were officially opened and Stage Two launched at the ULDA Hill Close development. Local building partners are Irwin Homes, G&D Laurie Builders and Panorama Homes. Between 10am and 2pm there were almost 500 visitors and contracts on sixteen homes were signed, with more sales expected. The Priority Home Buyer Initiative has changed to **My Place**.

Yaralla Sports Awards

On Saturday 26th November Councillors' McDonald, Butler and Sellers attended the 2011 annual Yaralla Sports Star of the year function. This was a remarkable example of a sports club giving back to the sport and the community.

Senior Sports Star of the Year	Laurie Anno
Club person of the Year	Tracey Slatter
Junior Sports Star of the Year	Richard O'Brien
Best All-Rounder	Poppy Larson

Coordinator General Visit

On Tuesday 29th November the Coordinator General Keith Davie, Phil Dash the Deputy Coordinator General and Damian Walker the Deputy Coordinator General Infrastructure Land met with the CEO Stuart Randle and myself. The meeting discussed: the upcoming release of the three monthly Report Card for LNG industries; roads; accommodation issues; and the ULDA project Hill Close.

CQLGA Management Committee Meeting

Councillors Butler, Hansen and Sellers attended the meeting on Thursday 1st December. The main items were:

CQLGA 5 Point State Election Plan

The management team endorsed a draft 5 point State Election Plan which highlights five key areas:

- a. Regional CQ Planning and Infrastructure Framework

- b. Secure and Affordable Water
- c. Waste Management Funding
- d. Sustainable Planning
- e. No Further Local Government Structural Reforms

Queensland Regionalisation Strategy

The CQLGA has been working on a Project Plan - developing a Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework together for the future of Central Queensland.

2011 Nov-2012 July Current studies, community plans, town planning schemes

2012 Aug - Nov CQ Planning and Infrastructure Framework document

Key Themes:

- 1. Settlement and development
- 2. Economic development
- 3. Regional infrastructure
- 4. Environmental Sustainability
- 5. Social Wellbeing
- 6. Regional Issues

It is anticipated that our Regional Plans will feed into the CQ Plan and then into the State Plan and that it will give Strategic Direction for 2011-2031.

Queensland Industry Advisory Group (QIAG)

On Friday, 2nd December, CEO Stuart Randle and I were invited to meet with the Honourable Andrew Fraser MP Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade and the Queensland Industry Advisory Group. The group was meeting in Gladstone to learn more about the LNG industry as this group advises the State Government on matters that could affect Queensland's economy and communities.

Kareeba Scout Group

On Saturday 3rd December Councillors Cameron, Butler and Sellers attended the annual Christmas presentation by the group. During the evening Courtney Rohde was presented with the **Queen's Scout**.

Officer's Recommendation:

That

- 1. The report be received.

Attachments:

- 1. Nil

Tabled Items:

- 1.

Report Prepared by: Mayor Cr Gail Sellers