

26 March 2020

Gladstone Area Water Board
136 Goondoon Street
Gladstone QLD 4680

Attention: Queensland Competition Authority (QCA)

Re: GAWB Lake Awoonga Recreation Strategy

Letter of Support

I am writing in support of the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) and to endorse the positive impact the proposed Lake Awoonga Recreation Strategy would have on the Gladstone Region.

Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) is a member-based organisation with more than 170 members businesses. GEA is an independent, business-driven organisation linking companies with opportunity to achieve sustainable growth and diversity for the region. We're committed to ensuring that our local business community will innovate, adapt and prosper and we take pride in encouraging major investment and promoting the vital need for new and upgraded infrastructure in our region.

GEA believe that recreation plays an crucial role in maintaining and improving work life balance for the residents of the Gladstone Region. High quality recreation facilities provide significant benefits ranging from improving an individual's physical and mental health and wellbeing to increasing the social and economic capital of the community. As the Gladstone population grows and recreation continues to the fabric of our community, we fear the current facilities and services available to the public at Lake Awoonga may not be adequate. As our community grows and changes, recreation at Lake Awoonga must grow and evolve too.

The Lake Awoonga Recreation Strategy differs from what other local industrial businesses offer in that it provides a unique, one of a kind location, with public facilities that are essential to diversifying recreational options for visitors and residents of the Gladstone Region. By improving these free recreational services and facilities offered by GAWB, they are also indirectly supporting the retention of young professionals, businesspeople and families who move to the region for employment opportunities.

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GEA also believes an increased service offering will likely bolster the Gladstone region's growing visitor economy, creating extra benefits for the Gladstone region's supply chain as a result.

I sincerely hope this strategy receives favourable consideration by the QCA given the benefits to individuals and the broader community it will create.

Kind Regards,



Chantale Lane
General Manager
Gladstone Engineering Alliance

