

A Green Economy for Gladstone – a community led discussion paper

What would a green economy for Gladstone look like? We know that currently our economy is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, and we also know that the world is rapidly diversifying into renewable energy of many different kinds.

We could be a leading example of this new economic model with sustainable long term jobs which value our environment and provide a high standard of living for our community.

Some possible options are listed below that we think could be appropriate for our community. Obviously this is not an exhaustive list, but we are keen to see some support from government in this area.

Green manufacturing

- Solar panel infrastructure – recognising that China has cornered the market on panels, but we could be assembling modules for installation

Green Hydrogen

- Any hydrogen manufacture in Gladstone must be from renewable sources. Fossil fuel based hydrogen manufacturing will only perpetuate the economic woes of recent years. We have the facilities and personnel to handle dangerous goods, and a large port facility which is capable of sending exporting the resulting product.
- Hydrogen could also be used locally for manufacturing purposes

Electric Vehicle Assembly

- Gladstone could become an export hub for Australian clever design. Electric Vehicles are a rapidly emerging market and we could be at the forefront of this industry as people switch over to electric.

Carbon Farming

- Soil is one of the key ways to store excess carbon – and Gladstone region has large areas of grazing land which would be perfect for large scale regenerative agriculture – storing carbon dioxide and then trading it on the global market.
- While we generally oppose offsets, this would be a genuine case of an uptake of carbon dioxide which could pay handsomely.
- A side benefit of this sort of project would be increased soil fertility and better yields, as well as reduced nutrient runoff to the Great Barrier Reef.

Biochar

- Biochar has many uses in industry as a source of carbon and also in agriculture as a soil conditioner. We present this option with the caveat that we must be careful that any biochar created is from waste streams only and not from healthy forest.

Domestic Solar

- While the Gladstone region does have a high uptake of solar on rooftops, more needs to be done, especially for private rentals and apartment buildings. We believe that even solar hot water (not a new technology) could be very useful to reduce the economic impact that high electricity prices have on those who are vulnerable in our community.

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