



# **GLADSTONE ISLAMIC CENTRE PROJECT**

4 Anson Close, Toolooa, Queensland Australia

*(An effort to build the FIRST Islamic Centre in the Gladstone Region)*

## **Project Brief**

Revision 3

January 2021



**ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GLADSTONE INC.**

ABN 26 282 170 732 | Govt. Reg. No. IA40187



Asalaamu Alaykum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatu

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious the Most Merciful. May peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family and companions.

The 14 May 2020 marks a historic occasion in an epic journey that began more than eight years ago; the Brisbane Planning and Environment Court approved developmental application (DA) to construct the Gladstone Islamic Centre.

The vision of establishing the first Islamic Centre in the Gladstone region was born to bring people together from diverse backgrounds that made Gladstone their home and cater to a fast-growing Muslim community's spiritual and social needs. The proposed Islamic Centre will comprise dedicated praying space (Masjid) for both men and women, a library, space for functions and outdoor activities, and ample parking space. We would like to see this Centre as a vibrant meeting place and a social and spiritual hub where people can participate fully in Islamic life's essential aspects.

With Allah's help, we will endeavour to complete the Centre's construction works and hope to be celebrating its inauguration in the not too far future. All your support, prayers and friendship will inspire us to reach this coveted milestone.

At this critical point of the project development, we appeal to all the broader local and international communities and individuals to help us make this historic project a reality. May Allah Almighty shower His blessings upon us all in this world and the hereafter.

We seek your help to raise the required fund Au**\$800,000** (Eight hundred thousand dollars) to construct the **First Islamic Centre** in Gladstone.

**Donation Options:**

**1. Donate through Bank account**

Bank name: Australia New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)

Account Name: Islamic Society of Gladstone Inc.

Branch No. (BSB): 014 580

Account Number: 379 453 433

BIC/SWIFT Code: ANZBAU3M

**3. Bank cheques can be made**

to "Islamic Society of Gladstone Inc." and be posted to 9 William Street, Gladstone, QLD 4680, Australia.

**2. Donation via **

Paypal donations can be made through PayPal. Please visit the ISG website and click on the "Donate" button to make donations via PayPal. <http://islamgladstone.com.au/>



## Contents

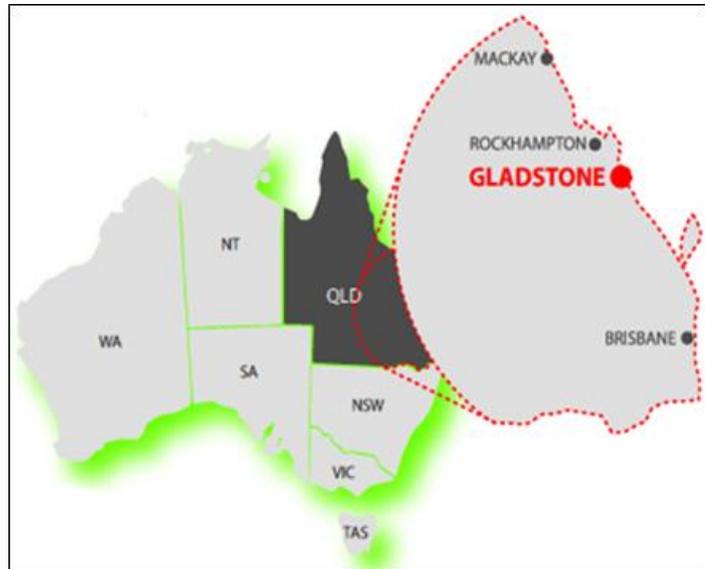
<b>1.</b>	<b>GLADSTONE REGION OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>GLADSTONE MUSLIM COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GLADSTONE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>FIRST ISLAMIC CENTRE IN GLADSTONE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
4.1.	Geographic Location .....	2
4.2.	Present Situation .....	2
4.3.	Objectives and Benefits .....	3
4.4.	Islamic Centre Project Facilities .....	3
4.5.	The Islamic Centre Development Progress .....	5
4.6.	Construction phases .....	6
<b>5.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUEST .....</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1	Donation Options: .....	7
<b>6.</b>	<b>CONTACTS FOR FURTHER QUERIES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>ATTACHMENTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1. GLADSTONE REGION OVERVIEW

Gladstone is a regional town in central Queensland, 550 km north of Brisbane. Gladstone Region provides its 60,000 people with an enviable lifestyle within a dynamic and robust economy.

Gladstone is the home to two of the world's largest alumina refineries, three LNG plants, an Aluminium smelter, and many other major industries. Along with one of Australia's largest multi-commodity ports, these industries bring enormous economic benefits to the local, state and national Governments. Gladstone also has an

internationally renowned university, all of which brings cultural diversity to the Gladstone region. The Gladstone region is known for its employment opportunities and attracting a skilled workforce worldwide.



## 2. GLADSTONE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Gladstone Muslim community represents diverse cultures, professions and nationalities, united by their faith. Over the past years, the community has been actively organising various programmes and working closely with the Gladstone Regional Council and other interfaith organisations on Islam and multiculturalism matters. The society has been active in local Da'wah work, thereby facilitating the growing number of reverts within the region.

## 3. ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GLADSTONE

Islamic Society of Gladstone Inc. abbreviated as ISG, established on 2 August 2012, is a Government registered organisation, and affiliated with the Islamic Council of Queensland (ICQ) and the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC). ISG also serves the Muslims residing in Tannum Sands, Boyne Island, Calliope and Turkey Beach.

Gladstone experienced a growing number of Muslims from all across Australia and overseas over the past nine years. That led to an increasing demand for Muslim religious and welfare services. From a diverse range of backgrounds, community leaders got together to formulate plans to establish a community institution in the area. ISG evolved from those plans. Since incorporation, ISG has been providing some services to the Muslim community in the Gladstone region. With limited resources available, ISG has nevertheless been able to implement several key activities, including:

- Operate a Musallah offering five daily congregational prayer services as well as the Fridays' Jumma prayers
- Facilitate the monthly delivery of Halal meat
- Quran and Islamic theology lessons for children
- Appoint Huffaz for Taraweeh prayers in Ramadan, and conduct special Ramadan classes for children and adults throughout the month
- Eid prayers and community Iftar gatherings
- Udhiya and Zakat collection and dispensation
- Facilitate marriage and funeral services
- Da'wah, Outreach programs and support for new reverts

ISG also actively participates in multicultural/interfaith events held in Gladstone like Multicultural Week (Gladstone Regional Council event) and GRIN (Gladstone Region Interfaith Network).

ISG has been arranging Islamic Open Day every year, except 2020, since 2014 for the Muslims and Non-Muslims, and inviting guest speakers to present Islam - the religion of peace. Guest speakers included Imam Yusuf Pears (2014), Br Ali Kadri (2015), Imam Akram Buksh (2018). and Imam Uzair Akbar (2016, 2017, 2019).

## **4. FIRST ISLAMIC CENTRE IN GLADSTONE**

### **4.1. Geographic Location**

Gladstone region spreads over 10,000 square kilometres in Central Queensland but does not have any facilities to cater to the growing Muslim population. The closest Masjid to South of Gladstone is approximately 200 km in Bundaberg and to North is approximately 110 km in Rockhampton.

### **4.2. Present Situation**

At present ISG leases an old house in Gladstone CBD, which serves as the only Musallah for Muslim community to offer congregational prayers. Unfortunately, this Musallah facility, while just functional,

does not cater for gathering, especially during the festival days. Consequently, a larger purpose-built facility is urgently needed.

Since the house is small and was not constructed for high occupancy, it does not have sufficient space to enable ISG to provide a full range of services to the Muslim community.

- No dedicated praying area for ladies
- No space for Islamic education for adults and kids
- No space for library
- No proper ablution/Wudu area for gents and ladies
- Limited parking available
- No area to host Islamic and religious lectures and dialogue

To overcome the space limitation, ISG hires a larger community hall for special events like Tarawhee prayers, Iftar, Eid Ul Fitr and Eid Ul Adha and gatherings, and Open day.

#### **4.3. Objectives and Benefits**

The ISG proposes to build an Islamic Centre to provide necessary services to all Muslims. Once the project is completed, In Shaa Allah, this Islamic Centre will be much more than a prayer facility. It will be the focal point for Muslim children, the youth and the elderly, and both men and women. In addition to being a Centre of spiritual pursuit and learning, it will be an informal educational and recreational hub. An overview of the objectives and benefits of the project are as follows:

- Provide a better environment and facilities to all Muslims to abide by the principles and teachings of Islam concerning their social, moral and spiritual life
- Provide appropriate facilities for adults and children Quran classes and other Islamic lectures in order to enhance Islamic knowledge
- Provide a place for religious and social gatherings
- Facilitate the performance of religious ceremonies like weddings according to Islam
- Promote the understanding of Islam amongst the general Muslim community and Australian society at large.

#### **4.4. Islamic Centre Project Facilities**

The decision to build the Gladstone Islamic Centre was born out of all Muslims' desperate need in the Gladstone region to have a facility where they can perform their religious duties and satisfy the religious needs. The Islamic Centre's proposed architecture will be reminiscent of a traditional Islamic design with a contemporary edge. The completed 802 square metre building comprises the followings components:

- Main prayer area: 218.3 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Secondary prayer area: 61.6 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Multipurpose hall #1: 48 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Multipurpose hall #2: 31.3 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Sanitary facilities: 209.7 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Kitchen: 37.1 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Office: 18.4 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Covered area: 164.4 m<sup>2</sup>
  - Porch: 13.6 m<sup>2</sup>
- 
- **Prayer area (masjid)** – The prayer halls with dedicated areas for men and women will have a capacity to hold up to 250 worshippers, among which 50 spaces can be dedicated only for women.
  - **Imam (educator) office** – Which can be used by the imam for consultation.
  - **Wudu area** – which will be fitted in order to allow people to take ablution.
  - **Shower/bathroom - People** coming from work (industrial sites) can have a shower if required.
  - **Multipurpose hall** – Can be used to conduct youth and women development activities, informal religious and cultural education for adults and children, interfaith dialogue, mini-conference and workshop.
  - **Kitchen** – Cooking and serving foods during festivals including open day, Ramadan Iftar, and Eid gathering.
  - **Nursery room** – Women especially mums attending prayer and other related activities with breastfeeding babies can use the room.
  - **Children play area** – Outdoor activities to keep the youngsters engaged
  - **Library** – This will be available to the broader community to learn more about Islam. Books will be available in English and Arabic.
  - **Covered area / Foyer** - Serves as an open area at the entrance, food served during occasions, shoe racks, area for socialising.
  - **Tranquil landscaped gardens and courtyard** – which will complement the ambience of the Islamic Centre.
  - **Ample car parking** – of about 60 bays that will accommodate the worshippers attending the Islamic Centre and avoid any traffic problems in the neighbouring streets. Overflowed cars can be parked on the unpaved area.

**Mosque open day:** though non- Muslims (people from other faiths or with no faith) would have their access to the Gladstone Islamic Centre any day, Gladstone Muslim Community organise 'Mosque Open Day' at least once in a year (during weekends). The event allows the invitees to contact Muslims of various backgrounds and enhance understanding of Islam from Muslims' perspective. It is an opportunity for the Muslims in Gladstone to interact with the broader community. It provides improved understanding of the local cultures and interactions with local authorities, government services and other institutions.

**4.5. The Islamic Centre Development Progress**

The road to building the Islamic Centre has been filled with complications and setbacks. The Islamic Society of Gladstone faced many challenges along the way, which we, with Allah Almighty's help, overcame and have been able to move forward.

The timeline below outlines our journey in trying to build the first-ever Islamic Centre in Gladstone. The project would not have been possible without the support from the community leaders and the general Muslim population, both locally and internationally.

April 2015	The process began to actively search for places within the Gladstone city for a proposed Islamic development. Three potential properties shortlisted, and in consultation with the council, a space at 4 Anson close was chosen.
August 2016	ISG entered into a contract for purchasing an 8,538 square meters block of land at 4 Anson Close to build the first Islamic Centre and Masjid. Architects, planner, engineers were engaged for preparing development application documentation.
December 2016	ISG purchased the land at 4 Anson Close. This critical milestone was reached with Allah's mercy and the Muslims' generosity in Australia and abroad.
January 2017	A formal development application was lodged to the Gladstone Regional Council for approval for building the Islamic Centre.
April 2017	ISG received formal approval to build the Gladstone Islamic Centre from Gladstone Regional Council (GRC).
August 2017	One of the neighbours appealed to the Planning and Environment Court in Brisbane against Councils' decision of DA approval.
May 2020	After 33 months journey, DA approval was granted from Planning and Environment Court Brisbane to build a worship place for the Muslim community in Gladstone.
July 2021	Construction starts in shaa Allah.

#### **4.6. Construction phases**

The estimated cost for completing the project is A\$1,600,00 (One million and six hundred thousand Australian dollars, or equivalent US\$1,250,000). Considering the prevailing situation, the committee has decided to implement the project's construction work in two phases - phase 1 and phase 2.

##### 4.6.1 Construction phase 1:

The Phase 1 construction works (\$800,000) comprise the followings.

- Main Prayer area
- Kitchen, bathrooms
- Carpark
- Driveway
- Fence
- Drainage
- Landscaping

The phase one construction work starts in July 2021 in Shaa Allah.

##### 4.6.2 Construction phase 2

The phase 2 construction works (\$800,000) comprise the followings.

- Secondary Prayer area
- Foyer
- Outdoor play area
- Multipurpose rooms
- Nursery room
- Imam/Educator room
- Additional bathrooms

Start date of phase 2 work is yet to be confirmed.

## **5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUEST**

Alhamdulillah, with the mercy of Allah and generous donors' support, we have completed the land purchase and development application approval process of the project.



At this stage, we urge all our brothers and sisters to help this noblest project by donating generously towards raising the fund of A\$800,000 (phase 1).

### **5.1 Donation Options:**

#### **5.1.1 Electronic Funds Transfer through Bank**

Bank name: Australia New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)

Account Name: Islamic Society of Gladstone Inc.

Branch No. (BSB): 014 580

Account Number: 379 453 433

BIC/SWIFT Code: ANZBAU3M

#### **5.1.2 Donation via**

Paypal donations can be made through PayPal. Please visit the ISG website and click on the "Donate" button to make donations via PayPal. <http://islamgladstone.com.au/>

#### **5.1.3 Bank Cheques**

Bank cheques must be made to "Islamic Society of Gladstone Inc." and be posted to 9 William Street, Gladstone, QLD 4680, Australia.

## 6. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER QUERIES

Refer to the following contacts for any query about this project:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Position</b>
Br Mohammad Moslem Uddin	+61 433 315 363	President
Br Syed Mujtaba Quadri	+61 469 274 277	Vice President and Donation Campaign Manager
Br Md Anwar Rashid	+61 422 888 506	Secretary
Br Imran Hassan	+61 426 994 545	Asst. Secretary
Br Adnan Sohail Nasir	+61 452 192 595	Treasurer and Donation Campaign Secretary 2
Br Syed Midhatullah Quadri	+61 457 548 608	Asst. Treasurer
Br Ahmed Salama	+61 476 346 579	Executive Member and Donation Campaign Secretary 1
Br Ashfaque Ahmed Chowdhury	+61 411 767 886	Executive Member
Br Khondokar Ashraful Islam	+61 488 003 352	Executive Member
Dr Mohammad Umair Siddiqui	+61 447 040 499	Executive Member
Br Mainuddin MD	+61 433 324 088	Executive Member
Current Musallah address	Islamic Society of Gladstone Inc. 9 William Street, Gladstone, QLD 4680, Australia	
Proposed Islamic Centre / Masjid physical address	4 Anson Close, Toollooa, QLD 4680, Australia	
E-mail:	admin@islamgladstone.com.au	
Website:	www.islamgladstone.com.au	



## **7. ATTACHMENTS**

A1: Proposed Islamic centre building plans and elevations

A2: Support letter from CIQ

A3: Support letter from ICQ

A4: Support letter from ANIC

A5: Support letter from AFIC

A6: ISG registration Certificate

A7: ISG charity status registration (ACNC) certificate