



# Longreach Regional Council

Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

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28 November 2022

Dear Councillors

**Re: Meeting Notice for Special Council Meeting to be held on 1 December 2022**

Notice is hereby given that the Special Council Meeting of the Longreach Regional Council will be held in the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach on Thursday 1 December 2022 commencing at 8:30am.

Your attendance at this meeting is requested.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Walsh'.

Brett Walsh  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday 1 December 2022**

*Civic Centre, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach*

- 1. Opening of Meeting including Acknowledgement of Country**
- 2. Declaration of any Prescribed / Declarable Conflicts of Interest by Councillors**
- 3. Chief Executive Officer's Report**
  - 3.1 Voting Method for Longreach Regional Council Councillor By-Election .....3
- 4. Closure of Meeting**

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**1. OPENING OF MEETING INCLUDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*“We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, and we acknowledge elders past, present and future.”*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009 – PRINCIPLES**

Local government is required to adhere to the following high level principles contained in *section 4 of the Local Government Act*:

The *local government principles* are:

- (a) Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) Good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) Ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.

**DECISIONS, BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS, PROVIDE FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

**Recognise** There is an issue and Council recognises that but usually can’t do much about it.  
Financial cost (no cost).

**Advocate** Council will take up the issue on behalf of the community and usually get someone else to do something about it (some cost/minimal cost).

**Partner** Council partners with another organisation/agency to jointly do something about the issue (half cost).

**Deliver** Council is the deliverer of the program/solution, usually funds it etc. This is normally a standard Council responsibility in service delivery (full cost).

Council’s risk management processes are based around the following principles:

**Risk Identification:** Identify and prioritise reasonably foreseeable risks associated with activities, using the agreed risk methodology.

**Risk Evaluation:** Evaluate those risks using the agreed Council criteria.

**Risk Treatment / Mitigation:** Develop mitigation plans for risk areas where the residual risk is greater than our tolerable risk levels.

**Risk Monitoring and Reporting:** Report risk management activities and risk specific information in accordance with the risk protocols.

The Risk Matrix below is used to assess the likelihood and consequence of any risk to Council, to then identify any necessary treatment actions. This matrix will also be used to assess any risk identified in Council’s reports:

| Likelihood          | Consequence        |             |               |               |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                     | Insignificant<br>1 | Minor<br>2  | Moderate<br>3 | Major<br>4    | Casastrophic<br>5 |
| Almost Certain<br>5 | Medium<br>5        | High<br>10  | High<br>15    | Extreme<br>20 | Extreme<br>25     |
| Likely<br>4         | Medium<br>4        | Medium<br>8 | High<br>12    | High<br>16    | Extreme<br>20     |
| Possible<br>3       | Low<br>3           | Medium<br>6 | Medium<br>9   | High<br>12    | High<br>15        |
| Unlikely<br>2       | Low<br>2           | Low<br>4    | Medium<br>6   | Medium<br>8   | High<br>10        |
| Rare<br>1           | Low<br>1           | Low<br>2    | Medium<br>3   | Medium<br>4   | Medium<br>5       |

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

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**OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES**

***Vision:***

The communities of the Longreach Region, with their individual identities and a proud heritage, will be characterised by their cohesive and inclusive nature, making the region a location of choice for business investment and outback living. Reaching a population of 5,500 by 2027, the Longreach Region will be characterised by strong communities and a vibrant economy driven by skills and innovation in a diversity of traditional and new industries.

***Mission:***

Council's Mission is to deliver decisive leadership in making locally-responsive, informed and responsible decisions, providing the highest-quality services and facilities to all communities of the Longreach Region.

***Values:***

Our values govern the actions of Council and how it serves the communities of Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach and Yaraka. Our eight core values are:

1. A Safe and Healthy Work Environment
2. Inclusiveness and Respect
3. Consistency and Fairness
4. Teamwork and Staff Development
5. Performance and Value for Money
6. Leadership and Collaboration
7. Sustainability
8. Forward-looking

**2. DECLARATION OF ANY PRESCRIBED / DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS**

**2.1 Declaration of Prescribed Conflicts of Interest on any Item of Business**

Pursuant to section 150EG, 150EH, 150EI, 150EJ, 150EK, 150EL and 150EM of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a Councillor who has a prescribed conflict of interest in a matter must notify Council of the potential benefit or loss, and if applicable, provide the name of the related person and their relationship with them. They may not participate in a decision relating to the matter and must leave the meeting.

**2.2 Declaration of a Declarable Conflict of Interest on any Item of Business**

Pursuant to section 150EN, 150EO, 150EP, 150EQ, 150ER, 150ES and 150ET of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a Councillor who has a declarable conflict of interest in a matter must notify Council of the nature of the interest, if applicable, name of the related person, the relationship to them, and the nature of the interest, and/or the value and date of any gift received.

The Councillor may voluntarily leave the meeting and not participate in a decision relating to the matter or;

Other Councillors may vote on this matter and decide if;

- (a) the Councillor must leave the meeting and not participate in a decision relating to the matter;  
or
- (b) the Councillor may remain in the meeting and participate in a decision relating to the matter.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

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**3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**3.1 Voting Method for Longreach Regional Council Councillor By-Election**

Consideration of submitting an application to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP, to allow for Postal Voting to occur in the Longreach Regional Council Councillor By-Election.

**Council Action**

Advocate

**Applicable Legislation**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Electoral Act 2011 (section 45AA)*

**Policy Considerations**

N/A

**Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations**

| GOVERNANCE: GOVERNANCE SERVICES |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Link to Corporate Plan          | Activity   | Key Performance Indicators   | Operational Targets  |
| 4.1.1<br>4.3.2                  | Ensure effective and responsible policy development and decision making. | Maintain Council's policy register in line with policy review dates and legislative requirements.            | 90% of policies are reviewed and adopted in line with review dates.                              |
| 4.3.2                           | Monitor and review non-compliance with legislative requirements.         | Report on legislative non-compliance and/or matters impacting local government to Executive Leadership Team. | Timely reporting to the Executive Leadership Team of legislative changes as and when they occur. |

**Budget Considerations**

The cost for the upcoming Longreach Regional Council Councillor by-election will require a budget allocation in the 2022-2023 budget. A quote from the Electoral Commission has been requested by Council.

**Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter**

*(Res-2019-05-110)*

*Moved Cr Rayner seconded Cr Smith*

*That Council submits an application to the Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Stirling Hinchcliffe MP, to allow for Postal Voting to occur in the Longreach Region during the 2020 Local Government Election, due to there being a large rural sector as well as large areas of remoteness in a local government area consisting of 40,638 square kilometres.*

**Officer Comment**

**Responsible Officer/s:** *Brett Walsh, Acting Chief Executive Officer*

**Background:**

Effective 25 November 2022 Cr Tony Martin resigned as a Councillor of the Longreach Regional Council. This resignation has triggered a by-election.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

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**Issue:**

In accordance with section 45AA of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, a local government may apply to the Minister for a poll to be conducted by postal ballot in a local government's area or for an election for division of the local government's area.

Postal Voting is considered to be more convenient to residents and ratepayers in the Longreach Regional Council area due to the following facts which will be provided to the Minister to support the application:

- Longreach Regional Council covers 40,638km of rural land in central west Queensland;
- The population is approximately 3,647 people with a density of 0.08/km<sup>2</sup>, rural homesteads are dotted throughout the shire with some more than 300km from Longreach;
- At the 2020 local government elections, there were 1,805 ballots cast - postal ballots have been used for local government elections for many decades and residents are used to this system;
- Most electors in the Shire are automatic postal voters for state elections; and,
- The various regional townships are 117km and 219km apart, meaning additional polling booths would need to be established given the travel distance involved at increased cost for Council.

**Risk Management Factors:**

This matter has been assessed using Council's Risk Matrix to decide the likelihood and consequence of any risk to Council:

Likelihood: Unlikely  
Consequence: Insignificant  
Rating: Low (2/25)

This risk assessment has been made based on proceeding with postal voting for the region.

**Environmental Management Factors:**

Nil

**Other Comments:**

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council submits an application under section 45AA of the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP, to allow for Postal Voting to occur in the Longreach Region for the Longreach Regional Council Councillor By-Election, due to there being a large rural sector as well as large areas of remoteness in the local government area consisting of 40,638 square kilometres.*

**4. CLOSURE OF MEETING**