

RAPAD Board

COMMUNIQUE



MAYOR SEAN DILLON
Barcaldine
Regional Council



MAYOR SALLY O'NEIL
Barcoo
Shire Council



MAYOR ANDREW MARTIN
Blackall-Tambo
Regional Council



MAYOR RICK BRITTON
Boulia
Shire Council



MAYOR ROBBIE DARE
Diamantina
Shire Council



MAYOR TONY RAYNER
Longreach
Regional Council



MAYOR GAVIN BASKETT
Winton
Shire Council



DAVID ARNOLD
CEO RAPAD

BOARD MEETING UPDATE

Bringing out the end of the 2022-23 financial year period, the Board has held two meetings in this second quarter of 2023, one virtual on 5 May and the other, face-to-face in Longreach on 24 of May.

Apologies were received from Cr Dillon for both meetings, Cr Baskett for the 5 May meeting, and Cr Martin for the 24 May meeting - delegating his proxy to his Deputy Mayor, Cr Lindsay Russell. Cr Jack Nielson, Deputy Mayor of Boulia Shire Council, attended the 24 May meeting, along with most CEOs across both meetings. Ms Ann Leahy MP was also an apology for the 24 May meeting.



www.rapad.com.au

A united organisation, with a powerful voice for our region and capacity to deliver initiatives that shape and create a prosperous future for the RAPAD region of Outback Queensland.

Objects of RAPAD

The objects for which the Company is established are:

- (a) to support, facilitate, promote and encourage the community, environmental and economic development of the region,
- (b) to formulate, develop, facilitate, maintain and implement, or cause to be implemented, strategies, policies and plans relating to the objects in Rule 1.5(a),
- (c) to advocate to, consult with, and advise, relevant State and Federal ministers and government agencies on matters of regional concern, and on the priorities of such matters and the means to ensure effective co-ordination and implementation of the policies, activities and programs of those State and Federal agencies, and
- (d) to facilitate, support, implement, or cause to be implemented, collaborative regional discussion and associated desired outcomes amongst, but not limited, to members.

Source: RAPAD constitution

BOARD MEETINGS CONT:

The Longreach meeting was preceded by the quarterly meetings of the **RAPAD Regional Water and Sewerage Alliance**, the **Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group** and the **Central West Regional Pest Management Group**.

The Board also held forums with **QDOG** whose chairperson is Rod Avery, and with the CEOs of the **Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC)**, Brett Fraser, **Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ)**, Patricia O'Callaghan, and from the **Outback Qld Tourism Association (OQTA)**, Denise Brown.

These forums facilitated detailed discussion between all parties, and they fulfil important consultation and engagement opportunities for councils given the lead role they play in these sectors.

Across the two meetings, the Board welcomed guests and presenters, Josh Dyke and Mike Furniss from the **Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)**, Sonya Cullen from the **Department of the Premier and Cabinet**, Duncan Taylor from **Country Universities Centre**, Chris Filby and Naomi Purcell from **Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP)**, Deb Mackeen and Natasha Schultz from **A.Prince Waste Consultants (APC)**, and Rebecca Kenny from the **Department of Communities Housing and Digital Economy (CHDE)**.



QUEENSLAND'S CHIEF ENTREPRENEUR

The Board hosted a dinner for members and guests at the 24 May meeting, and a special guest was **Ms Julia Telford, Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur**, who was able to provide an insight into the CE's role and the seminar roadshow underway with local business operators throughout parts of our region.

More information about Julia can be found at www.chiefentrepreneur.qld.gov.au/team/meet-the-chief.aspx

See attachment for presentation and more details.



ITEMS ACROSS THE TWO RAPAD MEETINGS INCLUDED:



Across the two meetings the Board received 22-23 YTD operating financial statements, noting there were no extraordinary operational or strategic budget matters to report.

- **The Board endorsed Morgan Gronold** as its nominee to the **RESQ Board** given the CEO's request to step down although the CEO will remain as the RESQ+ Chairperson.
- **The Board also agreed to nominate Cr David Patterson** from the Longreach Regional Council as their representative on the **QDOG Committee**, replacing Cr Tony Rayner.



The Board received and noted **a range of other operational, financial, legal and risk matters** including:

- the 22-23 External Audit Report from the Queensland Audit Offices contracted auditor, PKF,
- agreeing to form a remuneration committee to review staff wages,
- planned commitments to a QUT research project,
- a FRRR project application,
- IR Law and WPHS changes, and
- the organisations current contracts register.



Wrapping up the 22-23 financial year period, the **Board meeting Director attendance register** for the 14 meetings held in the period was:

- Cr Rayner and Cr O'Neil - 14
- Cr Martin - 12
- Cr Britton - 10
- Cr Dare - 9
- Cr Dillon and Cr Baskett - 6



The Board received a **first draft report from AEC regarding the 'Water for Economic Development in Western Qld'**. This project originated partly in response to an action identified in the CWQ Regional Resilience Plan, and was developed with the following key objectives:

- To identify and determine each of the RAPAD council members demand for future water for economic development and assess:
 - the scale of the demand,
 - the potential economic outcomes supported by this water use,
 - the challenges relating to water in realising these economic outcomes,
 - the nature of the investment needed to deliver these outcomes; and
 - identify solutions to address key barriers to growing the economic potential of Central Western Queensland.

Upon completion the report will also serve as an important contribution to the State Governments call for community feedback on options to protect the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin.

That consultation process will begin on 2 June and conclude on 25 August. More information can be found here:

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/management/policy-regulation/changes/protection-lake-eyre-basin-streams-watercourses>

The Board acknowledges the State Governments Remote Area Board (RAB) funding which supports this 'Water for Economic Development' project.



The Board received an update again from Duncan Taylor, Chair of the Country Universities Centre in relation to a **potential RAPAD region Regional University Centre**.

Duncan has progressed a business case and the Board had the opportunity to review the draft business case and hear from Duncan on the expected next steps.





There was again considerable discussion on the impact of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) **recent changes to their interpretation of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)** resulting in a **reduced number of gravel pit licences being renewed**. This is currently affecting two of RAPAD's member councils, Boulia and Barcoo, but ultimately will affect all member councils. What it means in simple terms, for an affected council such as Boulia, as of 24 May, they have gone from having access to 100 gravel pits, down to 4.

Apart from the ongoing advocacy, the Board instructed the CEO to undertake independent economic modelling demonstrating cost impacts for the Boulia Shire Council using their current flood restoration work being conducted on the Donohue Highway, as a real case study.

	Units	With 4 pits	With 100 pits
Repairs to Donohue Highway	km	8	8
Tonnes per km	t	2295	2295
Distance from pit	km	330	10
Supply to site ex gravel pit	\$/t/km	0.25	0.25
Cost to supply gravel	\$	1,514,700	45,900
Round trip including loading	hrs	9	1
Repair rate (km/day)	km	0.5	0.5
Gravel required per day	t	1,147.50	1,147.50
Triple road train capacity	t	76.5	76.5
Trips per day	#	15	15
Road trains required (say 9 hour day)	#	15	1.67
Road trains available	#	4	4
Additional Road Trains required	#	11	0
Or Additional time required	days	44	0
Total Time required	days	60	16
Total Tonnes for 8 km	t	18,360	18,360
Cost per tonne	\$	82.5	2.5
Boulia Shire Council Gravel Usage per year			
Total Gravel Usage over 3 years	m3	122,426	122,426
Average m3 per year	m3	40,809	40,809
Average tonnes per year (1.7t/m3)	t	69,375	69,375
Estimated additional cost per year	\$	5,723,416	173,437

Post the 24 May meeting, and thanks to hard work by Barcoo and Boulia Councils with support from LGAQ and RAPAD, those **two councils had received some interim breakthroughs**, however the Board and councils will be **continuing their advocacy vigorously to achieve a long-term solution**.

Historically Boulia Shire Council has had access to over 100 gravel pits spread throughout the Shire

Boulia Shire Council uses approx. 40,000m³ of gravel annually
on road repairs, new roads and flood damage restoration

Equivalent to approx. 70,000t per year
of gravel carted

Based on current flood restoration work being conducted on the Donohue Highway

Reduced access to gravel pits

100
gravel pits

↓

4
gravel pits

Increased distance from pit to site

from
10km

↑

to
330km

Increased cost per tonne

from
\$2.50/t

↑

to
\$82.50/t

Extrapolated over a year

↑

over \$5million
Increase in the cost of gravel

- In addition to costs, distance and time impacts it would cause:**

 - Delays in getting road repairs, flood restorations and new works completed
 - Other increased costs due to delays
 - Damage to existing roads, having to cart gravel over longer distances instead of being able to access gravel locally.



The Board received a detailed update from Natasha Schultz and Debra Mackeen regarding the **progress of the Regional Waste Management Strategy**.

In summary:

- A Prince Waste Consultants (APC) are working with the seven councils of the RAPAD region to develop a Regional Waste Management Plan. This is the first plan of its kind for the region,
- In early March, APC visited all RAPAD councils to understand the current waste management systems and infrastructure that are in place, including the challenges, potential opportunities and priority actions.
- In early May, hosted by the Longreach Regional Council and contractor Proterra Group, APC undertook a series of waste audits to better understand the categories and quantity of waste types. Audit included 100 household bins and 10 commercial bins, 2 tonnes of waste material in total.
- Audit data has been analysed in the infographic in attachment on page 14.



- Next steps, using the information gained, APC will investigate, model and recommend suitable waste management system and infrastructure improvements for Councils consideration.
- The final regional waste management strategy for the region will be delivered in September 2023.

The RWM Strategy development is funded through the Department of Environment and Science.



At the 24 May meeting, Rebecca Kenny from the **Department of Housing** spoke about:

- The recent completion of the **22 Local Housing Action Plans**, and the transition from plan preparation to implementation of the plans
- That the plans provided valuable insight into the housing and supply constraints and opportunities in western Queensland
- That a **State Agency Working Group** had been established to focus the state's efforts on actions arising in the plans
- Support that the Department of Housing could offer councils to implement the plans, including helping to identify available land, looking at government employee housing, and providing communications materials to assist councils to engage with community about their plan.

A discussion was held about the key priorities for the RAPAD region for the coming months. There was agreement that identifying suitable land for housing and financing of serviceable land were key priorities, but that other priorities were equally as important and should not fall away.

There was also a discussion about the need to track implementation progress of the plans over the next 12 months, and that a tracking tool would be circulated to each council to enable incremental progress to be captured. It was agreed that housing would become a standing agenda item at Board meetings.

The Board acknowledges the funding contribution from the State Government for the development of the Local Housing Action Plans.





The Board welcomed Chris Filby (Regional Director) and Naomi Purcell (Principal Economic Development Officer) from the **Department of State Development Local Government Infrastructure and Planning (DSDLGIP)**.

Chris and Naomi updated the Board on the following points:

- The Remote Area Board funding has been extended for the period of 2023-2025 with RAPAD to receive \$100,000 per year across the two years of the program. The Board was appreciative of Ms Nikki Boyd MP who took away from the February meeting, an action to follow up RAB funding.
- The Queensland Government has recently announced the **Queensland New Industry Development Strategy** www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/queensland-new-industry-development-strategy that identifies emerging industries that have the most potential to drive our economy forward are the industries that use Queensland's traditional strengths to capitalise on these global trends.



- As part of the Queensland New Industry Development Strategy, the government announced the formation of the **Local Economic Opportunities (LEO) network** www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/queensland-new-industry-development-strategy/local-economic-opportunities-network which will assist regional communities with economic transition with each local government having a member of DSDILGP they can reach out to for support relating to regional energy transformation. For the RAPAD councils that person will be Naomi Purcell.



The CEO provided an update on the progress of the **CWQ Business Group** which RAPAD was supporting in its establishment stages.

The CWQ Regional Business Group is being facilitated by RAPAD following initial consultation with interested members of our local business community. The group is open to anyone who works in or with business in CWQ.

The first activity for the group was the "Bite-sized Business Webinars" to coincide with Queensland Small Business Month. Group members will meet in the coming months to outline the schedule for the remainder of 2023 and overall framework for the group's activities and purpose.

A private Facebook Group has been established with 44 members and a e-news subscription list with 54 subscriber business representatives.



The Board acknowledges the funding support provided through the State Governments Regional Networker Grant Program which supported the small webinars conducted by the CWQ Business Group.



RAPAD's Adoption Officer, Prue Button, and Ally Murray, Node Manager – **Longreach, Southern Queensland & Northern NSW Innovation Hub**, provided an update on their respective activities.



The following is a range of those events and activities Ally and Prue have been involved with or supporting.

Events executed in 2023:

- Desert Uplands Committee Meeting - 4 February
- Queensland Climate Resilient Council Symposium - 2 March
- GroWQ AG Industry Roundtable - 23 March
- Pop Up Office - 19 April
- Glenstar Field Day - 25 March
- Longreach Show AgTech Area - 12-23 May
- Longreach Show - Working with Weather - 12 May

Events coming up in 2023:

- Longreach Forecasting for Decision Making Workshop - 2 June
- Muttaborra Stock Show Ag Innovation Hub - 3 June
- Barcaldine Show Beef Forum & Dinner - 16 June
- CHRRUP LeadAg - June 2023
- GroWQ Innovation Expo - 13 July
- Sheep Supply Session - June 2023
- Regenerative Rangelands - 30-31 August
- Alejandro Carrillo Grazing Workshop - 1-2 September
- Westtech Steer Trial - 5-6 September

Work in Progress in 2023-2024:

- Australian Rangelands Conference - 18-22 September
- Tag Along Tours
- Innovation Support Day
- Farmers First Aid
- Goat awareness and supply chain session
- Industry Celebration Dinner
- Research update

Their presentation and details of completed and upcoming activities is provided as an attachment.

The Adoption Officer role, provided through the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs Program receives funding through the Australian Governments Future Drought Fund

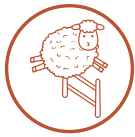


Josh Dyke from LGAQ, addressed the Board regarding **LGAQ and LGAQ policy executive items** including:

- Policy Executive Meeting Update
- Change in 2024 local government election date
- 2023 Bush Councils Convention
- 2023/24 Federal Budget



- LGAQ Policy Statement Update
- Council Cost Index
- Regional Connectivity Program (RCP)
- 2022 Community Attitudes Survey
- Housing Update
- Quarries Update
- Natural Resources and Environment Update
- Infrastructure update
- Rural and Remote Councils Compact
- Olympics Survey
- Local government electoral expenditure caps
- State Government responds to OIA Parliamentary Inquiry
- Water and Wastewater Update
- Waste Update
- Animal Management – Targeted review of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008
- Works for Queensland: #BackTo100Mill
- LGAQ Submissions Update



Morgan Gronold provided an update on the progress of the QDAF funded exclusion fencing project with **QFPI Round 5** progressing well.

- RAPAD received \$2,246,500 (GST excl) for 8 clusters to fence 685km and protect 619,541 ha from wild dogs,
- This will see a \$5.48m private contribution with sheep numbers grow from 33,147 to an expected 188,916, an expected increase of 155,769.
- The project is on track to be completed in 2024.

NOT JUST A FENCE

RAPAD Region Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI)

SINCE 2015

- 165** landholders involved in 40 clusters
- 4,017** km of fencing
- 2,246,773** ha protected
- \$42** million total investment in the RAPAD region (\$12.3 govt & \$29.7 private)
- 139** new jobs in agriculture
- \$56** million increase in Gross regional income
- \$4.57** return on every dollar spend. Every one off \$1 of QFPI funding has an annual multiplying effect that continues year after year.

SHEEP ARE BACK!

Our community has come together to work on tackling the impacts of wild dogs... delivering benefits to the industry and region.

The fence has given us back control and confidence. We weren't in charge before - we are back in charge now!

This first year with the fence we got 84% lambing - last year we got none.

www.notjustafence.org

Funded by the Queensland and Australian Governments as part of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative

GETTING YOUR BUSINESS READY TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITIES

Central Western Queensland Business Seminars

Whether you are looking to maximise a growth opportunity, research an idea, commercialise a proven solution or expand to new markets, by attending this event you will gain insights, connections and knowledge on how to successfully access support for your business to ensure you are sustainable in the future.

- Blackall: 4pm-6pm Monday 22nd May
- Longreach: 4pm - 6pm Tuesday 23rd May
- Winton: 12pm - 2pm Wednesday 24th May
- Barcaldine: 9am - 11am Thursday 25th May



Regional Business Forums – RAPAD was a partner in a recent Federal and State Government series of forums which also included the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur, Julia Spicer. A list of contacts is available on the attachment on page 13.



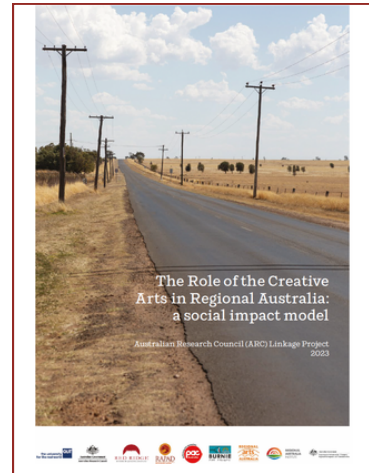


The final report of the QUT led research project: **The Role of Creative Arts in Regional Australia: a social impact model**, which had the RAPAD region as one of the three case studies nationally, was tabled and can be viewed here - <https://eprints.qut.edu.au/238289/>.

The findings indicate that arts and cultural projects and programs have the potential to be profound drivers of community thriveability including attracting workforce, improving wellbeing, employment and tourism opportunities.

These findings emphasise that particularly in regional and remote communities social, cultural and economic outcomes and engagement with art, culture and creativity are often entwined.

RAPAD was a partner in this wonderful research project and have committed support for a potential follow up project.



The Board heard from the CEO regarding the planning for the **September WQAC Assembly in Winton** noting the program is well underway. The CEO is chairing the assembly planning committee.

A brief overview of WQAC activities was provided:

- A submission to the federal governments banking review was tabled. It is available at on the WQAC website: bit.ly/WQAC-Bank-Closure-Submission
- A virtual meeting was planned with the 22 WQAC CEOs to discuss, Housing, the Review of Disaster Funding Arrangements & Elected Member Remuneration Review.

The CEO acknowledged the excellent work of his peers, Simone Talbot from the SWQROC and Greg Hoffman from the NWQROC, for their work undertaken under the WQAC banner.



The CEO tabled two **reports regarding the 2032 Olympics**. The reports were undertaken by AEC and they were designed to take an initial high level look at opportunities for the regions tourism and supply chains. RAPAD undertook these in conjunction with the SWQROC and NWQROC.

Morgan Gronold, along with Greg Hoffman and Simone Talbot from the NWQROC and SWQROC respectively were able to meet with Minister Hinchliffe to discuss the reports and opportunities for Western Queensland.





There was discussion on the **Net Zero policy agenda** and the role RAPAD needs to play in this area. While the discussions are very embryonic, the consensus was that Net Zero would affect the region at some point, if not already, and it was the role of RAPAD to, at a minimum, start an evidence-based, apolitical, discussion on what impacts, both negative and positive, this policy will have for councils, communities, small and rural businesses.

Recently the Chair and CEO met with representatives from the University of Queensland during their recent engagement tour.

UQ are partners in Net Zero Australia and that entity recently released a report which can be accessed here: www.netzeroaustralia.net.au/final-modelling-results and on this site www.pm.gov.au/media/appointment-net-zero-economy-agency-and-advisory-board there is news on the Australian Governments Net Zero Economy Agency and Advisory Board.



The CEO advised of his contact with the Balmoral Group Australia who are conducting research on behalf of the Queensland Government to develop a **Socio-Economic Assessment of the Georgina and Diamantina catchments to inform water planning activities**. They were seeking to consult on the social and economic aspects of the Georgina and Diamantina plan area and how they may impact future water demand. The purpose of their consultation is to understand the social and economic aspects of the community within the Georgina and Diamantina area and the implications for future water use. The discussions were to cover a range of topics including:

- population change and water use,
- employment and water availability,
- rainfall and climate patterns and water use,
- future water demand – urban, agriculture, recreational.

The CEO arranged for mayors from the Georgina and Diamantina areas to be interviewees also.

The Board's upcoming meetings for quarter three are planned for 7 July, 4 August, and 22 and 23 August in Boulia.

Further detail can be provided by contacting the CEO, David Arnold on 0428 583 301.

Information:

RAPAD – www.rapad.com.au

RFCSNQ – www.rfcsnq.com.au

RAPAD Skilling – www.rapadskilling.com.au

**CENTRAL WEST QUEENSLAND'S OWN
REGISTERED TRAINING PROVIDER**

For individual and business training needs,
contact the team at RAPAD Skilling.



Queensland Chief Entrepreneur Action Plan 2023-2025

Accelerating Queensland through innovation and entrepreneurship



QUEENSLAND CHIEF ENTREPRENEUR

The Queensland Chief Entrepreneur is the flag bearer for innovation and entrepreneurship in Queensland



“Innovation is the key to unlocking the Queensland Government’s objectives for the community of good jobs, better services and great lifestyle. The regions have the answers to the world’s problems. Transformation is now and it’s time for practical solutions and tangible outcomes.”

Julia Spicer OAM, Chief Entrepreneur

OUR VALUES



Communities are our heartland

Inclusivity lens across everything we do



Infrastructure connects us



Regions are the engine room of our state



Economic prosperity creates opportunity for everyone

OUR PRIORITIES

Resilience and Transition

Build a sustainable and resilient innovation ecosystem where communities, people and planet are supported, protected and prosperous

Impact

Advocate for innovation and entrepreneurship in Queensland, showcasing success stories to the world and driving positive economic and social impact for Queenslanders

Connection

Foster a connected and thriving Queensland innovation ecosystem ensuring inclusive and equitable access for all



GOOD JOBS



BETTER SERVICES



GREAT LIFESTYLE



Resilience and Transition

Build a sustainable and resilient innovation ecosystem where communities, people and planet are supported, protected and prosperous

Aligns to Innovation for a Future Economy Roadmap 2022-2032 priority outcomes 1 & 4
Greater investment attraction and more innovative businesses starting, growing and staying in Queensland
Queensland’s big challenges and events are supported through innovative and sustainable solutions



RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Support businesses and the people behind them to grow and scale at a sustainable rate.

Protect and nurture the health and wellbeing of Queensland’s innovation community.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Support communities in transition through co-designed innovative strategies that foster system strength.

Explore opportunities to fund innovation leads in the regions using a place-based approach.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Collaborate with industry and government to develop innovative strategies to decarbonise the economy.

Accelerate Queensland’s unique natural capital market and explore how Queensland can lead in the climate tech space and positively impact the environment.



REGIONAL INVESTMENT

Explore how existing wealth in the regions can be unlocked and utilised to grow Queensland regions for future sustainability.

Raise awareness and understanding of the different investment options available and provide investors with opportunities to invest regionally.



Impact

Advocate for innovation and entrepreneurship in Queensland, showcasing success stories to the world and driving positive economic and social impact for Queenslanders

Aligns to Innovation for a Future Economy Roadmap 2022-2032 priority outcome 4
Queensland's big challenges and events are supported through innovative and sustainable solutions



POLICY

Oversee the Innovation Advisory Council as a conduit between industry and government, providing thought leadership and policy recommendations to accelerate innovation. Proactive collaboration with key national stakeholders on critical innovation challenges and opportunities. Explore opportunities to grow entrepreneurship in the life sciences sector.



SOCIAL

Actively grow support for Queensland's social impact industry and the businesses solving Queensland's biggest social challenges. Bring focus, understanding and action to address challenges and promote opportunities to advance the economic participation of women through entrepreneurship and investment.



STORYTELLING

Showcase the diversity of innovation across Queensland to create awareness, inspiration and opportunities. Continue to grow the OQCE's social media presence and two-way engagement.



PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSFORMATION

Work collaboratively with government agencies to identify innovation projects and embed best practice innovation. Deliver innovation education, resources and events to build public sector capacity and capability for innovation.



Connections

Foster a connected and thriving Queensland innovation ecosystem ensuring inclusive and equitable access for all

Aligns to Innovation for a Future Economy Roadmap 2022-2032 priority outcome 6
Queensland has a well-connected, inclusive and thriving innovation ecosystem



MAJOR EVENTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Partner with existing major ecosystem events across Australia to enable the Queensland Government to maximise opportunities and drive participation by regional innovators and ecosystem builders. Partnerships provide a platform for high-quality content and programming that promotes Queensland as a global innovation hotspot.



INNOVATION CULTURE

Deliver an ecosystem support strategy to create broader connections, networks and equitable access to opportunities. Measure the culture of innovation and belongingness in Queensland to identify strengths and opportunities for new programs and initiatives. Seek opportunities to celebrate Queensland's brightest innovation achievers.



MISSIONS

Explore opportunities to send high potential startups and scaleups to interstate and international forums, missions, conferences and events to raise their profile, build connections, acquire new customers and investors and increase export readiness.



ENGAGEMENTS & ACTIVATIONS

Deliver a series of targeted engagement opportunities for the ecosystem such as Regional ConnectX, Chief check ins, events, regional roadshows and monthly Chief video diaries.

CENTRAL WESTERN QUEENSLAND BUSINESS SEMINARS

GETTING YOUR BUSINESS READY TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S OPPORTUNITIES

Government Presenters Contact Details:

Office of the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur
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Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport
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e: Sean.Cranny@dtis.qld.gov.au
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Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business & Training

Fleur Holyland Salvador
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m: 0459 872 801

Sally Simpson

Senior Field Officer
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m: 0472 849 291

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing, & Water

Stephen Smith (*unable to attend*)
Director – Regional Economic Development and Manufacturing (Central)
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m: 0437 440 315

Key websites for business information:

Commonwealth Government Business Support and Information: www.business.gov.au

Queensland Government Business Support and Information: www.business.qld.gov.au

Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman: www.asbfeo.gov.au

Queensland Small Business Commissioner: www.qsbc.qld.gov.au

Central West Queensland Regional Business Group: www.facebook.com/groups/cwqbusiness

Newsletters to Subscribe to:

AusIndustry Central Queensland Newsletter Sign up Page: <https://www.industry.gov.au/contact-us/newsletters/ausindustry-news-subscribe>

Advance Queensland eNewsletter Sign Up Page: <https://advance.qld.gov.au/advance-queensland-e-newsletter>





RAPAD Region - Regional Waste Management Plan

A.Prince Waste Consultants (APC) are working with the seven councils of the RAPAD region to develop a Regional Waste Management Plan. This is the first plan of its kind for the region.



In late February, APC attended the **RAPAD BOARD MEETING.**



In early March, APC **VISITED 7 COUNCILS** within the region to understand the current waste management systems and infrastructure that are in place, including the challenges, potential opportunities and priority actions. During the site visits, APC assisted the completion of the waste management surveys and visited key waste management sites.



In early May, hosted by the Longreach Regional Council and contractor Protterra Group, APC undertook a series of waste audits to better understand the categories and quantity of waste types.

AUDITED:
100x240L municipal bins from 100 households
50x240L bins from 10 commercial premises
TOTAL = 2 TONNE OF WASTE MATERIALS

The audit data has been analysed and a couple of snapshot high-level findings are:



HOUSEHOLDS average **11KG** disposed waste per week comprising of...
 37% organics, 27% recyclables, 16% potential recyclable materials, 19% residual waste.
 The recyclable materials comprise eight eligible CDS containers per week or 400 per year. For all of Longreach this would become 1,234,605 containers or \$123,460 deposit return per year.



COMMERCIAL PREMISES average disposed **88KG** waste per week comprising of...
 54% organics, 33% recyclables, 7% potential recyclable materials, 6% residual waste.
 Note this is based on the selection of businesses.



The data from the annual DES reporting and information gained from the surveys and site visits are **COLLATED & ANALYSED.** The report and presentation for the next Board meeting are under preparation.



Waste Management and Resource Recovery (WMRR) Status Report

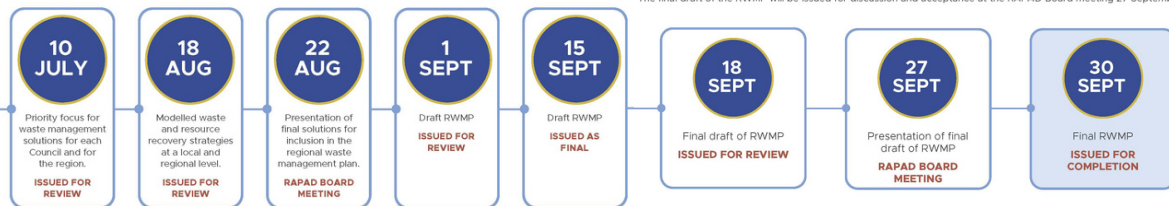
Provides a summary of the CWQ Councils waste current management activities.



Draft RAPAD RWMP

Final RAPAD RWMP

The final draft of the RWMP will be issued for discussion and acceptance at the RAPAD Board meeting 27 September.





Update for RAPAD Board Meeting

Wednesday 24 May 2023

2023 Events Executed

Desert Uplands Committee Meeting

Saturday 4 February 2023

DESERT UPLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING & HOUSE FAREWELL

WELCOME to 2023 with DUC Meeting & Project Prospectus during the day with RFDS, QDAF & others. FAREWELL to MARGARET, ASHLEY and NINA HOUSE.

Evening Drinks, BBQ & Party. For those who would like to share stories & reminisce, Be part of a warm SEND-OFF. Please join us at Lake Dunn.

10.00-11.00am Catch-up & SBROKO
 11.00-12.00pm Desert Uplands Committee Meeting
 12.30-1.00pm LUNCH
 1.30-3.00pm RFDS & Friends enlighten 2023
 3.30-3.00pm SBROKO
 3.30-4.00pm Meeting continues & Review current & future project
 From 5.00pm DRINKS, BBQ & FAREWELL PARTY

DESERT REC CLUB, LAKE DUNN
 Ballyneety Road, ARAMAC
SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2023
 From 10.00am

The Desert Rec Club will be catering and running the bar. PLEASE PHONE/TEXT ROBYN 0447 179 874 for catering numbers by 27th January 2023. Smokes complimentary \$15 LUNCH EVENING BBQ \$20 PAYG Bar by Desert Rec Club

Qld Climate Resilient Council Symposium

2 March 2023

Time	Session	Facilitator
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration & Signage	Registration
9:00am - 9:30am	Breakfast	Registration
9:30am - 10:00am	Opening Session	Michael Stanger
10:00am - 10:30am	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
10:30am - 11:00am	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
11:00am - 11:30am	Breakfast	Registration
11:30am - 12:00pm	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch	Registration
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Breakfast	Registration
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
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11:00pm - 11:30pm	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger
11:30pm - 12:00am	Chairman's Welcome	Michael Stanger

GroWQ Ag Industry Roundtable

Thursday 23rd March 2023

2023 AG INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE

Thursday 23rd March - Hear from Industry & Service Providers - sharing a snapshot of what 2023 looks like for them - their projects and programs.

REGISTER: www.growq.com.au/industry-roundtable

THE SPEAKERS

GroWQ: Anna Cochrane & Pats Button
 WQSRIC: David Cochrane
 Leading Sheep: Mike Nichols
 RAPAD: Margie Johnson
 DCQ: Leanne Fisher
 NEMA: Julie Brown
 Outback Futures: Linda Harrison

SQNSW Innovation Hub: Ally Murray & Roslene Ward
 DAF Livestock: Nicole Sanger
 DAF Rural Economic Team: Lew Mackay
 RFCS HQ: Emma Scott
 QRIDA: Brad Worthington & Sheree Finlay
 CRRUP LEADAG: Meg McClellan
 AgForce: VJ Fein

Pop Up Office

19 April 2023

Pop Up Office - Windorah and Stonehenge

Thursday 19 April 2023

The following services will be available and chargeable for a pop up or to be in person on location on 19th April. Fees apply to be in person on location, contact details are below:

- Business Support Services - 0800 589 889
- Business Support Services - 0800 589 889
- North Australia Climate Program - 0800 589 889
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 0800 589 889
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 0800 589 889
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 0800 589 889
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 0800 589 889
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 0800 589 889
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - 0800 589 889

Glenstar Field Day Saturday 25 March 2023

**FIELD DAY
GLENSTAR**
SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023

Tea, Coffee & Catch-Up from 8.15am
Homestead Presentations from 9.00am
'In the Paddock' after Snooks
With Lunch & Afternoon Sessions in the field

Nichola James of Glenstar with DUC, CHRRUP, QDAP & Other Agencies & Updates:

- Exploring & demonstrating profitability and clean fuel
- Improve production, processes & profitability including through strategic infrastructure
- Increase breeder fertility & profitability through focus on group replacement heifers
- Reduce emission potential and hot spots, including practical weed surveillance
- Increase pasture quality & quantity, and its recovery & rebuild
- Improve feed condition assessment through the scanner

PRESENTATIONS & DEMONSTRATIONS, FIELD WALKS & TALKS

AGRICULTURE IRR, POWER PRODUCT, ECONOMIC RESILIENCE PRODUCT & FUTURE RESILIENT PRODUCT
FOOD SYSTEMS All aspects of the Capricorn Highway, between Saratoga and Baraldir.

Coming from Baraldir, it's 46 kilometres, turn left after the fat with lots of signs
From Jacobs, it's 34 kilometres, turn right after crossing Alice River & army base block

CHRRUP SQNSW Innovation Hub

Snooks & Lunch provided to please ring, text or email **Rahya** for catering numbers by Monday 20th March 0447 279 974 46510999 rahya@sqnswhub.com.au
(Nichola James 0411 393 174 & Ed Wood 0428 874 240)

Ag-Tech Area
at the Longreach Show

Improve your rural productivity

Learn about integrated ag-tech solutions

- Water Level Monitoring
- Water over Road
- Planting
- Water Pressure Monitoring
- Water Flow Monitoring
- Drains
- Solar Pump Control
- Automatic Pump Control
- GIS Solutions
- Costs GPS Ear Tags

How to make the most of the Longreach Show
Property based solutions can greatly help you to create regional mental resilience

Specialist applications to Africa used in research of water control
Training events to understand how grazing fields and breeds in Africa

OPS
SOLAR
AGRI

Contact Andrew Barton (0404 422 401) for more information

Longreach Show Ag-Tech Area 12 - 13 May 2023

Longreach Show - Working with Weather 12 May 2023

The Longreach Show Society wishes to engage Jenny Woodward of the ABC News to attend the 2023 Longreach Show on Friday 12/05/2023. Jenny will conduct free public information sessions about regional weather and how weather data can assist decision making for people in business, landholders and preparing for disasters. More broadly, the Longreach Show strives to attract people of all ages with an inclusive program of entertainment, exhibition and engagement with opportunities to showcase local talent across agriculture and arts and culture. The LSS also has a strong focus on delivering activities with a long-term benefit across wellbeing, mental health and personal/business development with the aim of improving community resilience and awareness of relevant service providers.



2023 Events
Upcoming

Longreach Forecasting For Decision Making Workshop Friday 2 June

Northern Australia Climate Program

Forecasting for Decision Making Workshop

Friday 2nd June 2023
9:00am - 2:00pm
AgForce Building - Longreach

Key Learning will include:

- How climate forecast information can be applied
- What does it mean really when I say 'it might rain'?
- How to use the forecast to make better decisions
- Forecasting tools for decision making, what to look for, when to use and how to use them to help improve profitability and resilience in your business
- Q & A session facilitated by SQNSW through their 1st Party

To Register go to <https://bit.ly/NACPWorkshop> OR Scan the QR Code

SQNSW Innovation Hub

Muttaborra Stock Show Ag Innovation Hub Saturday 3 June

MUTTABURRA STOCK SHOW
PRESENTS
Ag Innovation Hub

sky/tebrate, OPS, Agri-Data, Green Power, Climate, Grow Better

Saturday 3 June 2023
Drop into the Ag Innovation Hub and meet our wonderful exhibitors

Watch Live Drone Demonstration by Sky Report

SQNSW Innovation Hub

Barcaldine Show Beef Forum & Dinner Friday 16 June

BARCALDINE SHOW'S BEEF FORUM DINNER

Join us for a Hosted Q & A Session with a Panel of Beef Supply Chain Experts

Hosted by ABC's LYDIA BURTON

Industry Leaders from Production to Processing

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 5:30 PM	THE GLOBE OAK STREET BARCALDINE	\$40 PP INCLUDES 3 COURSE DINNER
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SQNSW Innovation Hub

CHRRUP LeadAg June 2023

LEADAG 2023 PROGRAM

A practical and hands on agricultural training and education program led by industry mentors

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Three one-week training blocks for students 15-17 years old held in the April, June & September school holidays. The program will be held in and around Emerald & Longreach.

COST

The full value of this program is over \$8,000 per participant but with generous funding support the cost for all three weeks is only \$500 per student.

KEY TOPICS

- Bunt & remota first aid
- Cropping production & management
- Machinery and small motors
- Agtech
- Livestock production, handling & husbandry (cattle & sheep)
- Wool harvesting
- Fencing
- Working dogs
- Workforce success

TO APPLY

To complete the application form, scan the QR Code
Applications close on Friday 2nd February 2023

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact CHRRUP at info@chrrup.com.au or phone the office on 07 4982 2988

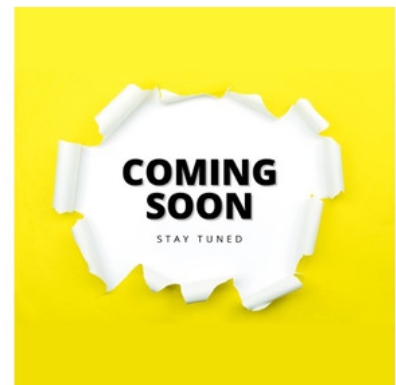
SCAN ME

CHRRUP

**GroWQ
Innovation
Expo
Thursday 13 July**



**Sheep Supply
Session
June 2023**



**Regenerative
Rangelands
30 – 31 August**



**Alejandro Carrillo
Grazing Workshop
1 – 2 September**



**Westech
Steer
Trial
5 – 6 September**



**2023 Events
Work in Progress**

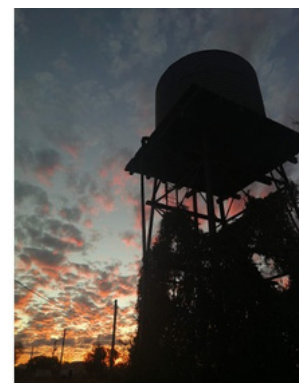
**Australian Rangelands Conference
18 - 22 September**



**2023 & 2024 Events
Work in Progress**

Other events we have started planning

- Tag Along Tours
- Innovation Support Day
- Farmers First Aide
- Goat awareness and supply chain session
- Industry Celebration Dinner
- Researchers Update



Our ref: DEPBN23/629

10 July 2023

Mr Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Longreach Regional Council
ceo@longreach.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Walsh

I write regarding the local government credit review process undertaken by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) in partnership with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC).

The department commission QTC each year to undertake a program of credit reviews of selected councils. This program includes every council with more than \$10 million in QTC borrowings on a maximum three-year rolling cycle, tiered based on the level of debt held with QTC.

Councils with borrowings above \$200 million are included in Tier 1 and reviewed annually, while those with borrowings between \$20 million and \$200 million are included in Tier 2 and reviewed every two years. Councils with borrowings between \$10 million and \$20 million are included in Tier 3 and reviewed every three years.

I am writing to confirm that your council is scheduled to be reviewed by QTC in the 2023-24 financial year. If adjustments are made to the proposed schedule, the department will write to the council.

QTC will be in contact with the council in advance of the review commencing, to discuss the timing, process and any other matters associated with undertaking the review.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Deanne Stewart, Director, Financial Analysis, Assurance and Systems, Local Government Division in the department by telephone on (07) 3452 7875 or by email at deanne.stewart@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Bronwyn Blagoev
A/Deputy Director-General
Local Government Division

CC: Mr David Wilson
Chief Finance Officer
cfo@longreach.qld.gov.au



Department of
**State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning**

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530



Managing invasive species

Report 1: 2023–24

11.1 – Councillor Information Correspondence --Appendix 13

As the independent auditor of the Queensland public sector, including local governments, the Queensland Audit Office:

- provides professional audit services, which include our audit opinions on the accuracy and reliability of the financial statements of public sector entities
- provides entities with insights on their financial performance, risk, and internal controls; and on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of public service delivery
- produces reports to parliament on the results of our audit work, our insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement
- supports our reports with graphics, tables, and other visualisations, which connect our insights to regions and communities
- conducts investigations into claims of financial waste and mismanagement raised by elected members, state and local government employees, and the public
- shares wider learnings and best practice from our work with state and local government entities, our professional networks, industry, and peers.

We conduct all our audits and reports to parliament under the *Auditor-General Act 2009* (the Act). Our work complies with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards* and the Australian standards relevant to assurance engagements.

- Financial audit reports summarise the results of our audits of over 400 state and local government entities.
- Performance audit reports cover our evaluation of some, or all, of the entities' efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in providing public services.

Learn more about our publications on our website at www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/fact-sheets.

Mr J Kelly MP
Acting Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

4 July 2023

This report is prepared under Part 3 Division 3 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*.



Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General



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Cover image is a stock image of yellow crazy ants purchased by QAO.

ISSN 1834-1128

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Acknowledgement

The Queensland Audit Office acknowledges the Traditional and Cultural Custodians of the lands, waters, and seas across Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Report on a page

Invasive plants and animals (invasive species) affect the lives of all Queenslanders and are estimated to cost the Australian economy between \$5 and \$7 billion each year. Biosecurity Queensland is a business group of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It leads Queensland's response to prevent and recover from pests and diseases threatening our agriculture, the environment, social amenity, and human health. It works with state and local government entities to manage invasive species. We found that although these entities are doing a lot to manage invasive species, Biosecurity Queensland needs to take greater leadership in its oversight and coordination role to reduce the impact of some species.

Reducing the impact of invasive species

Stronger leadership and effective strategy are needed to address key challenges

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' role, through Biosecurity Queensland, is to lead the biosecurity system. However, it has not clearly articulated how it will deliver on its crucial leadership role.

The *Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024* does not address some of the key challenges facing the biosecurity system, like increasing biosecurity risk and the limited capacity of some entities. It aspires to reduce the impact of all invasive species, without clearly defining which ones are a priority for entities with a role in managing invasive species.

Gaps in assessing and prioritising risk

There is significant variation in how state entities and local councils assess the risk of invasive species and prioritise their activities. Some have mature systems and processes and others do not have any. Despite its role as system leader, Biosecurity Queensland does not have a documented framework for assessing and prioritising the risk of invasive species. It does prioritise its effort, but it is difficult to determine whether its focus is always on the right species.

Responding to established invasive species

Biosecurity Queensland is taking a proactive approach to keep new invasive species out of Queensland and detect quickly those that do arrive. This aligns to the state strategy and is consistent with what industry experts recognise as the most cost-effective way to reduce their impact. However, it is not actively coordinating a state-wide approach across entities to manage established invasive species. For example, neither it nor the Department of Environment and Science have a state-wide plan to manage feral cats, despite their significant impact on our native wildlife. Biosecurity Queensland could better assist councils to more effectively use the powers of the *Biosecurity Act 2013* to regulate biosecurity risk.

Eradicating fire ants

Biosecurity Queensland is leading a national effort to eradicate fire ants from Queensland. Despite significant effort and funding, fire ants have now spread to over 700,000 hectares across South East Queensland. Initial delays in gaining funding approval across Commonwealth and state governments, and in commencing treatment, likely contributed to the spread. Expert views on whether eradication is still feasible vary, but the benefits of eradicating fire ants are apparent. Continuing to try to eradicate fire ants will take considerably more commitment and funding from the Commonwealth and state governments beyond what has already been provided. The significant commitment and funding necessitate that Biosecurity Queensland provides greater transparency about its progress as it seeks to mobilise governments and councils, the community, industries, and local businesses to do more in the fight against fire ants.

We made 8 recommendations to improve how entities assess, prioritise, and mitigate the risk of invasive species, design their strategies, use data to inform their decisions, and report their progress.



1. Audit conclusions

The risk of new species of invasive plants and animals arriving on our shores is a constant threat. Once here, they are destructive, costly, and difficult to eradicate or manage. Many state entities and local governments are doing a lot to manage invasive species and reduce their impact across our state. However, greater leadership, oversight, and coordination is needed to ensure they are more effective.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has not clearly determined how it will effectively deliver on its biosecurity system leadership role. As a result, its leadership is not as strategic or as effective as it could be.

The *Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024* (the strategy) does not address some of the key challenges facing Queensland's biosecurity system. While it aspires to reduce the impact of all invasive species it does not recognise that some entities, particularly remote councils, have little capacity to do so. State and local government entities need to be realistic about what they can achieve, and this heightens the need for effective leadership, planning, risk assessment, prioritisation, and coordination.

These gaps in leadership and strategy inhibit Biosecurity Queensland's ability to identify and coordinate preventive and response priorities. It is unclear which invasive species are a priority (with some exceptions, such as fire ants), who decides the priorities, or how this is determined. Furthermore, Biosecurity Queensland does not have a complete view of its funding for all invasive species programs. Therefore, it cannot ensure its funding is effectively prioritised to achieve the best overall outcomes and provide value for money.

Detecting invasive species early and keeping them out of Queensland is the most effective way to reduce their impact. This has been a focus of Biosecurity Queensland and it has had some notable success. For some invasive species, Biosecurity Queensland is proactively using technology to detect and, where possible, eradicate them. However, Biosecurity Queensland also needs to take ownership for responding to established species (because they are widespread) in Queensland, including setting priorities and coordinating activities. In many cases, management of established species is largely left to local councils without adequate support or coordination. For example, there is no state-wide plan to manage feral cats, despite them destroying native wildlife and significantly contributing to the extinction of some ground-dwelling native birds and small- to medium-sized mammals.

Between 2001 and 2022, Commonwealth and state governments, under the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program, spent \$644 million to eradicate fire ants in Queensland. The infestation and spread of these ants are recognised as a significant state and national economic, health, and social threat. Efforts to initially eradicate and later manage these ants in China and the United States have been largely unsuccessful and resulted in significant cost and impacts. Biosecurity Queensland has worked hard to slow the spread and eradicate fire ants. To date, the eradication efforts have had isolated and limited success. Its efforts to slow the spread of the ants in Queensland has contributed to the rate of spread being significantly less than experienced in China and the USA, but still the infestation has continued to grow. Inadequate containment boundaries, as well as uncertainty and delays in funding, slowed treatment to control the spread and eradicate these ants.

Biosecurity Queensland has continued to learn and adapt its approach and is refocusing its strategy to manage and eradicate fire ants. It estimates an additional \$593 million (which includes Commonwealth and state governments funding) will be needed over 4 years from 2023–27 to implement its new strategy. Expert views vary on whether eradication can be achieved, but the economic, health, and social cost of not trying is high. If its new strategy is to be successful, at a minimum, Biosecurity Queensland must ensure that it establishes adequate containment boundaries, and it must effectively mobilise and coordinate the community, industries, local businesses, and councils to take a greater role in treating fire ants. Importantly, it must be more transparent about the rationale of its decisions and its progress, including performance metrics focused on outcomes, rather than outputs. If left to spread, fire ants could cost Queensland and the country billions of dollars. Decisions about what to do next should be guided by independent assessments grounded by scientific data and modelling.



2. Recommendations

Strengthening biosecurity system leadership and coordination
<p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strengthens its leadership and coordination role for the biosecurity system by setting strategic priorities, prioritising funding, and coordinating and overseeing activities across Queensland (Chapter 4) 2. reviews the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> in consultation with stakeholders, to ensure it has the necessary clarity, authority, and responsibility to effectively and efficiently lead, coordinate, and enforce Queensland’s biosecurity system (Chapter 4).
Designing an effective strategy
<p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. reviews, updates and implements the <i>Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024</i> (Chapter 4). The strategy should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the current and future challenges and priorities facing Queensland’s biosecurity system and provide practical solutions to address these challenges • clearly define Biosecurity Queensland’s role in relation to leading the biosecurity system, including coordinating and working with councils and stakeholders responsible for managing established invasive species • include indicators of success to measure performance across the biosecurity system – these measures should be cascaded to all key stakeholders including councils • better align to the Department of Environment and Science’s <i>Biodiversity Conservation Strategy</i>.
Using data to inform decision making
<p>We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. improves the accuracy and level of detail it records about invasive species, their risk, and the activities it does to manage them (Chapter 4). This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining if the Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System has the required functionality • regularly auditing and reporting on the quality, completeness, and accuracy of data in the Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System • developing processes and measures for analysing its data for trends • using its data in making decisions about how best to manage invasive species.
Assessing and mitigating the risk of invasive species
<p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. develops and implements a framework for assessing and mitigating the risk of new and established invasive species (Chapter 4). The framework should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an approach for regularly assessing, prioritising, and mitigating the risk of invasive species • protocols for communicating the risk of invasive species and any changes in approach to managing those risks to relevant stakeholders.



Regulating the risk of invasive species

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:

6. provides greater education and awareness to local councils about how they can use the powers of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to regulate the risk of invasive species (Chapter 4). This should include:
 - educating local councils on when and why they should issue biosecurity orders
 - sharing better practice learnings about how local councils are regulating the risk of invasive species and the outcomes.

Responding to fire ants

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:

7. strengthens its approach for assessing the progress and outcomes of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program (Chapter 5). Decisions about what to do next should be guided by independent assessments grounded by scientific data and modelling. This should include periodically assessing whether it is technically feasible to eradicate fire ants from Queensland
8. reports its progress in eradicating fire ants from Queensland (Chapter 5) and the outcomes of its activities. This should include developing and reporting regularly on performance measures that show how well the program is achieving its outcomes, such as the size of the fire ant infestation over time.

Reference to comments

In accordance with s. 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, we provided a copy of this report to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Environment and Science, and to all local councils. In reaching our conclusions, we considered their views and represented them to the extent we deemed relevant and warranted. Any formal responses from these entities are at [Appendix A](#).



3. Invasive species in Queensland

Invasive plants and animals can have devastating impacts on our economy, our environment, and our health. They spread serious diseases, kill our native plants and animals, cause agricultural loss, and affect our lifestyle. Scientists estimate that invasive plants and animals cost the Australian economy between \$5 and \$7 billion each year.

What makes something invasive?

Invasive species are generally any introduced plant or animal species that has an adverse economic, environmental, human health, or social impact. Invasive species may be introduced intentionally (such as the cane toad) or unintentionally (such as the red imported fire ant). However, even a native species can be included in the definition of invasive species. For example, native locust swarms can be considered invasive because they devastate crops and cause major agricultural damage. Once established, invasive species can be extremely difficult and costly to eradicate or manage.

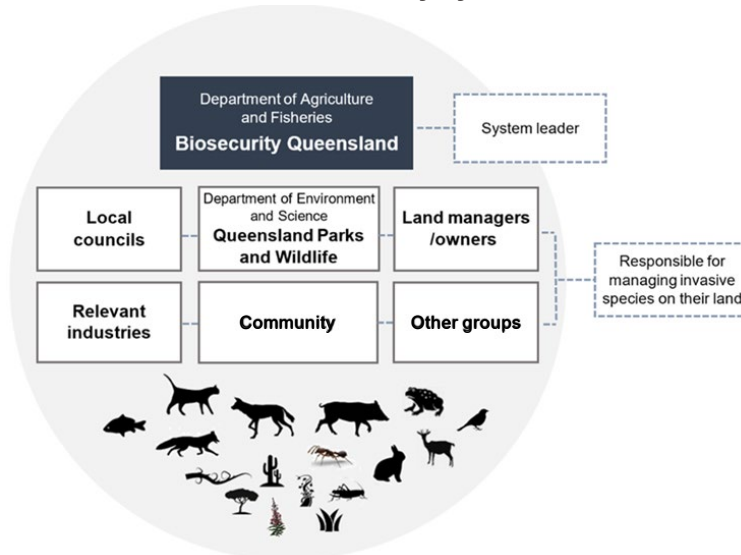
DEFINITION

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) defines an invasive plant or animal as a species that has or is likely to have an adverse impact on a biosecurity consideration because of the introduction, spread, or increase in population size of the species in an area.

Who is responsible for managing invasive species?

Queensland’s biosecurity system relies on many stakeholders working together effectively to eradicate or reduce the impact of invasive plants and animals. Figure 3A shows the key stakeholders in the system.

Figure 3A
Queensland’s biosecurity system



Notes: Other groups include natural resource management groups, community, and environmental groups.

Source: Queensland Audit Office.



Under the Act, every person has a general biosecurity obligation to prevent or minimise biosecurity risk (such as invasive plants and animals) on their land.

Biosecurity Queensland is a business group in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and is responsible for leading the biosecurity system and mitigating the risk of invasive plants and animals across the state.

Other public sector entities have a role in managing invasive species on land they are responsible for. For example, Queensland Parks and Wildlife (within the Department of Environment and Science) is responsible for managing invasive species in parks and forests across the state. The Department of Environment and Science is also responsible for protecting species that are at risk of extinction (threatened species). Councils are responsible for having a biosecurity plan and managing invasive species in their local government area.

Entities must effectively plan and coordinate their activities at a national, state, regional, and local level, to reduce the impact of invasive species. This is specifically important as borders and geographical boundaries have no relevance for species.

What did we audit?

In this audit, we assessed how effectively state and local government entities are managing invasive plants and animals. We did not examine how effectively entities manage biosecurity incidents for major disease outbreaks, such as foot and mouth disease.



4. Reducing the impact of invasive species

In Queensland, state and local governments, land managers, relevant industries, and the community all share responsibility for managing invasive species. Everyone has a responsibility. Land holders, whether they be government, industry, or the community, must act to prevent, eradicate, and control invasive species. The biosecurity system requires effective leadership and coordination, especially because invasive species spread across borders and geographical boundaries. This means that local narrowly focused initiatives are rarely likely to have long-term success in isolation.

Entities must regularly assess the risk of invasive species to determine which species are a priority and the most effective way to manage them. They must act quickly and collectively. Once an invasive species becomes established and widespread, like the cane toad, it becomes difficult or even impossible to eradicate. For this reason, prevention or early eradication is the most effective way to reduce their impact.

This chapter is about whether entities have effective leadership and strategy to reduce the impact of invasive species on our economy, environment, and our lifestyle. We also look at how entities prioritise their effort and how effectively they plan and coordinate their activities.

Does Queensland have effective leadership and strategy to reduce the impact of invasive species?

Leadership for the biosecurity system needs to be strengthened

Biosecurity Queensland's 2022–23 plan states that its purpose is to:

lead and promote a biosecurity system that protects Queensland's economy, environment, lifestyle, and human health.

However, neither the strategy, nor the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), state that Biosecurity Queensland has a leadership role. Given Biosecurity Queensland's role is to lead the system, it is important that both the strategy and the Act clearly define this, so stakeholders across the system understand its leadership role.

Biosecurity Queensland has established several committees to help lead Queensland's biosecurity system. These committees provide a valuable forum to share information and collaborate about approaches to preventing, eradicating, and containing invasive species. But the committees do not lead and direct effort across the system. Several stakeholders said there was a lack of leadership and coordination across the system.

The need for strong leadership and coordination is even more essential given entities within the biosecurity system have different responsibilities, priorities, capacity, and capability. For example, Biosecurity Queensland's primary focus is invasive species that have an economic impact, whereas the Department of Environment and Science focuses on those species that have the greatest environmental impact. Similarly, local councils have varying priorities based on their geographic location, the spread and impact of invasive species in their area, and the needs of their community.

While these varying responsibilities and priorities are at times complementary, they can also be competing. Especially considering the increasing risk of invasive species and the finite resources and funding to manage them. This means effective leadership, alignment of strategies, and coordinated planning is essential to avoid duplication and maximise outcomes. Biosecurity Queensland fulfilling this statewide leadership and coordination role should in no way diminish the biosecurity responsibilities and accountabilities of councils, landowners, and individuals.



Recommendation 1

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries strengthens its leadership and coordination role for the biosecurity system by setting strategic priorities, prioritising funding, and coordinating and overseeing activities across Queensland.

Recommendation 2

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries reviews the *Biosecurity Act 2014* in consultation with stakeholders, to ensure it has the necessary clarity, authority, and responsibility to effectively and efficiently lead, coordinate, and enforce Queensland's biosecurity system.

Strategy does not address key challenges

Queensland's biosecurity system faces significant challenges. Biosecurity risk is increasing, and entities are under pressure to do more with the resources they have. These are not new challenges. The *Queensland Biosecurity Capability Review* (September 2015) highlighted these problems.

Biosecurity Queensland, in collaboration with other stakeholders, developed and implemented the *Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024* (the strategy). The strategy includes key principles, such as the importance of strategic, risk-based planning. It also outlines the benefits of preventing and eradicating invasive species before they become established.

However, the strategy fails to identify, and does not address, some of the key challenges facing the biosecurity system, such as the capacity and capability of councils to manage invasive species. It does not include an approach to overcoming these challenges. It aims to reduce the impact of all invasive species, without clearly defining what entities should focus on. Councils and state entities need to carefully decide where to put their effort, given the resource constraints that many face.

Need to align strategies

The *Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024* acknowledges the environmental impacts of invasive species. However, it does not refer to, or align with, the Department of Environment and Science's *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*, which was published after the Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy. The strategy does not identify which invasive plants and animals pose the most risk to threatened species.

Invasive species can have a significant impact on native species, including threatened species. In some coastal areas of Queensland, researchers estimate that feral pigs destroy approximately 90 per cent of turtle nests each year. This includes the nests of the endangered Loggerhead, Olive Ridley, Hawksbill, and Leatherback turtles. To reduce the impact of invasive plants and animals on native species, entities responsible for managing invasive species need to align their strategies and coordinate their activities.

Biosecurity Queensland and the Department of Environment and Science need to work together, and better align their existing and new strategies if they are to protect our native wildlife from invasive species.

Recommendation 3

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries reviews, updates, and implements the *Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024*. The strategy should:

- identify the current and future challenges and priorities facing Queensland's biosecurity system and provide practical solutions to address these challenges
- clearly define Biosecurity Queensland's role in relation to leading the biosecurity system, including coordinating and working with councils and stakeholders responsible for managing established invasive species
- include indicators of success to measure performance across the biosecurity system – these measures should be cascaded to all key stakeholders including councils
- better align to the Department of Environment and Science's *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*.



Need to measure and report progress

Performance across Queensland's biosecurity system

It is unclear whether entities are winning the fight against the invasive species that they are managing. They do not monitor and report on the outcomes of their activities across the biosecurity system. For example, entities do not regularly report how many invasive species they have successfully eradicated, how many they are trying to eradicate, and how many they have failed to eradicate. Nor do they report how much funding they spend on invasive species or the economic benefits.

The Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (QIPAC) is responsible for reporting annually on progress against the strategy. Since the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries established QIPAC in November 2018, it has finalised one report. The 2-page document provides some useful insights, but it does not report against the progress of the strategy. Nor does it state whether Queensland is reducing the impact of invasive species. QIPAC is drafting its next progress report.

Performance of individual programs

Some entities monitor the progress and outcomes of programs for individual invasive species and produce detailed reports. Biosecurity Queensland produces detailed reports about the performance of some of its individual programs. These reports highlight the work underway and the outcomes of that work. They can increase awareness about risk for other entities and inform their planning. Figure 4A is an example of the detailed reporting that Biosecurity Queensland performs for bitou bush.

Figure 4A
Case study 1: Performance reporting for individual invasive species


Eradicating bitou bush from Queensland

Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is native to South Africa. It is an aggressive weed that spreads quickly, replacing native plants and destroying the habitat of native animals.

New South Wales' Department of Planning and Environment estimates that it has spread to 46 per cent of the NSW coastline. In contrast, only isolated plants are being detected along Queensland's coastline.

Biosecurity Queensland has sought to eradicate bitou bush since it was first detected in 1981. Although it has not yet eradicated the weed, the number of detections has decreased significantly. Since 2011–12, the number of bitou bush detected in Queensland has decreased from 158 to 46 in 2020–21.

Biosecurity Queensland reports annually on the outcomes of its bitou bush eradication project. Its 2020–21 annual report shows the number of areas it has inspected, and the number of weeds detected and treated. It includes maps of its treatment and surveillance activities and highlights the areas where it has eradicated bitou bush, such as Bribie Island. This information increases awareness about the risk and helps entities target their efforts.



Bitou bush (Chrysanthemoides monilifera). Photo supplied by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Source: Queensland Audit Office using information provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Measuring outputs and outcomes

Entities can improve their performance monitoring by ensuring they have specific performance indicators that are relevant, achievable, and measurable.

Some of the entities we audited use performance metrics that focus on outputs, rather than outcomes. For example, Biosecurity Queensland reports the number of biosecurity incidents responded to, rather than the outcome of the response. Similarly, the Department of Environment and Science measures the percentage of pest programs delivered but does not state how many programs should be delivered or the benefits or improvements they are achieving. These indicators are unlikely to help these entities measure the effectiveness of their activities and drive the improvements they are seeking.

Many councils also lack performance indicators to measure and improve their performance. We surveyed all councils and, of the 61 that responded, 27 (44 per cent) reported their biosecurity plans did not contain key performance indicators. This is a gap they need to address if they are to effectively measure their performance.

Using data to monitor and report performance

Biosecurity Queensland does not have a complete picture of the number or spread of invasive species that state and local government entities are trying to manage across the state. It is not accurately and consistently recording all invasive species it is managing in its Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System (BORIS) – which is the database it uses to record and manage invasive species information. Neither is it recording all activities it is undertaking to manage invasive species in BORIS.

Accurate and complete data can provide entities with rich insights. Equally, poor data can limit entities from understanding what they are doing well and what they can improve. Biosecurity Queensland cannot confidently measure and report its performance due to inaccurate and incomplete data in BORIS. Biosecurity Queensland’s staff record information in BORIS inconsistently. Some record all surveillance activities; others only record those surveillance activities where they detect an invasive species.

Some Biosecurity Queensland staff reported that they could not easily track their surveillance activities, due to limitations with BORIS. They also manually upload the surveillance data that other agencies share.

Recommendation 4

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries improves the accuracy and level of detail it records about invasive species, their risk, and the activities it does to manage them. This should include:

- determining if the Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System has the required functionality
- regularly auditing and reporting on the quality, completeness, and accuracy of data in the Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System
- developing processes and measures for analysing its data for trends
- using its data in making decisions about how best to manage invasive species.



Our previous report and recommendations on performance measures, roles and responsibilities, and reporting on outcomes

Six years ago, in *Biosecurity Queensland's management of agricultural pests and diseases* (Report 12: 2016–17), we recommended that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- continues to develop an appropriate number of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timed key performance indicators for each of Biosecurity Queensland's key activities or initiatives. In doing so, it should plan how to collect and analyse data to monitor these key performance indicators; collaborate with industry and other stakeholders on the collection of data; and evaluate the success of key activities or initiatives in delivering the desired outcomes
- improves quarterly reporting processes by not only reporting on inputs and activities for key biosecurity initiatives, but also on risks and progress towards achieving objectives and outcomes to support strategic management decisions
- when it participates in pest and disease management strategies which share responsibilities with other entities, clearly determines its roles and responsibilities; the key performance indicators that will be used to assess its contribution to the strategy; and which entity is best placed to monitor performance of the strategy and evaluate it at appropriate intervals.

Our report *2021 status of Auditor-General's recommendations* (Report 4: 2021–22) captured the department's self-assessed progress in implementing these recommendations. The department reported that each recommendation had been fully implemented.

During this audit, however, we found these 3 recommendations from our previous report had been only partially implemented. While the department is developing key performance measures, we found an absence of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based indicators across biosecurity activities. Also, while the strategy includes roles and responsibilities, there is a lack of coordination and regular monitoring of performance against objectives and outcomes.

Where entities report fully implementing our recommendations, we expect their actions to address the issue that we identified and to be operating effectively. There should not be a plan to address the issue or be inconsistently implemented across relevant activities.

Which invasive species get priority?

The lack of leadership across the system has resulted in a lack of clarity regarding the priorities for the state. Except for fire ants, it is unclear which invasive species in Queensland are a priority, or how this is determined and by whom.

Gaps in assessing and prioritising risk

Assessing risk regularly

Assessing risk regularly helps determine which invasive species are a priority. It is one of the objectives of the strategy.

Biosecurity Queensland does not have a documented framework, procedures, or guidelines for assessing the risk of invasive species. Nevertheless, it has performed detailed risk assessments for some species. In 2016 it assessed and published the risk of 83 invasive species, including their existing and potential spread, and impact. It has only updated one of the 83 risk assessments since 2016. Further to this, it has not published risk assessments for wild dogs and feral pigs, which are 2 species that have a significant impact on the economy and the environment. Failing to regularly assess the risk of invasive species inhibits Biosecurity Queensland's and its stakeholders' ability to make fully informed decisions and prioritise species programs and management.







Prioritising invasive species

Biosecurity Queensland’s policy on invasive plants and animals states that its priorities are high-risk species not established in Queensland or those that are established but can still be eradicated. The policy identifies 75 species as high risk, but it does not explain why it considers them high risk or rank them by priority. We found other entities, including some local councils, also did not clearly identify which invasive species were a priority. Entities are more likely to maximise their impact by clearly defining priorities.

There were, however, exceptions. Cairns Regional Council uses a documented framework to assess, prioritise, and plan its activities. It assesses the impact of each invasive species, highlights whether the species is a state or national priority, and outlines whether it can eradicate them. It ranks each species and prioritises those with the highest score. This provides a sound platform to ensure its decisions are consistent and transparent. Biosecurity Queensland and other councils could benefit from using this framework or a comparable framework. Figure 4B shows an excerpt from Cairns Regional Council’s risk matrix tool.

Figure 4B
Excerpt from Cairns Regional Council’s risk matrix tool

Common and species Name	Human Health	Social Amenity	Economy	Environment	Achievability	Local Impact	Declaration Status	National Priority	Priority Score
 Limnocharis, yellow burrhead (<i>Limnocharis flava</i>)	1	2	3	3	5.5	3	2.5	5	25
 Miconia tree (<i>Miconia calvescens</i>)	1	1	4	3	4.4	3	2.5	5	23.9
 Senegalia spp.	1	3	4	2	5.5	3	5	0	23.5
 Parthenium weed (<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>)	3	2	2	3	5.5	3	1.5	2.5	22.5

Note: Priority scores for impacts use a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest impact and 5 the highest impact; Achievability uses a scale of 1.1 to 5.5; Local impact uses a scale of 3 to 5; Declaration status uses a scale of 1 to 2.5; and National priority uses a scale of 2.5 to 5.

Source: Cairns Regional Council’s Biosecurity Plan 2019–2024.

Prioritising resources based on risk

Knowing which invasive species to focus on, and where to invest limited Commonwealth and state funding, is vital. Much of the funding spent by councils on invasive species comes from grant funding.

Biosecurity Queensland does not know how much money state and local governments are spending on managing invasive species. Neither it, nor any other state entity, captures this information. As a result, it is impossible for the Queensland Government to know its total spending on invasive species.

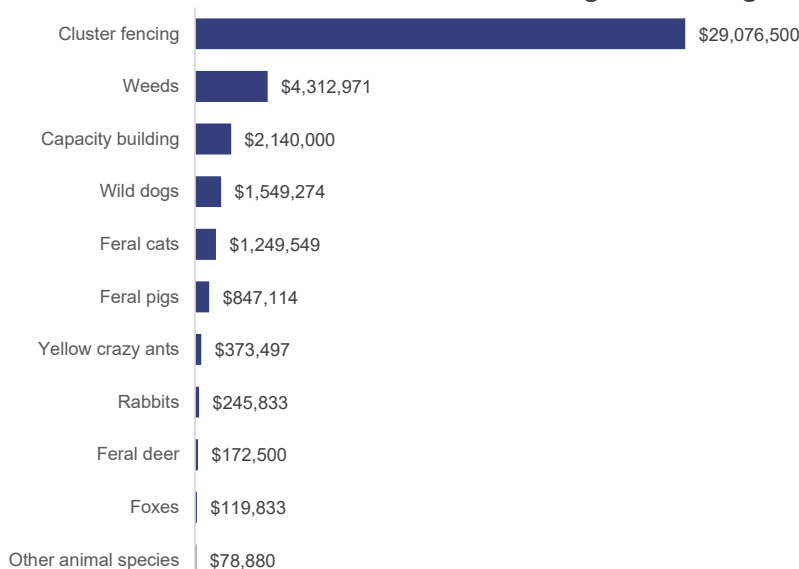
In 2020–21, Biosecurity Queensland spent \$27 million on managing invasive species. This included \$17.4 million on operations and program management, \$6.1 million on research, and \$3.6 million on policy and engagement. Biosecurity Queensland did not capture the funding it spent on individual invasive species, except that which it allocated under the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative.

We examined the grant funding allocated to individual invasive species under this initiative, which has been in place since 2016. Between 2016 and 2021, Biosecurity Queensland allocated over \$40 million in grant funding under this initiative. The Commonwealth contributed \$14 million and Biosecurity Queensland \$26 million.

Figure 4C shows where Biosecurity Queensland allocated grant funding between 2016 and 2021.



Figure 4C
Queensland Feral Pest Initiative grant funding



Note: Funding for capacity building included establishing working groups and education and awareness activities.

Source: Queensland Audit Office using data supplied by Biosecurity Queensland.

Since 2016, Biosecurity Queensland allocated more than 70 per cent of the grant funding to cluster fencing (fencing used to control wild dogs, which have a significant impact on agricultural production and native wildlife). Cluster fencing can also help manage other invasive species, such as feral pigs.

We found a lack of objective rationale for how Biosecurity Queensland allocated funding across the various species based on their impact, such as feral cats. We present a case study on feral cats later in this report.

Sharing information about biosecurity risk

Entities need to get better at sharing information about biosecurity risk. This is particularly important if the risk of a species changes, a program or its funding is ceasing, or an entity decides to change how it manages a species. For example, Cairns Regional Council said it was given little warning when Biosecurity Queensland decided to change its approach to siam weed, from eradication to containment, and the funding for the program was going to cease. When this occurred, the council did not have the capability to manage the weed. Other councils raised similar challenges in relation to other invasive species.

Biosecurity Queensland's interactive dashboard maps the risk of invasive plants across the state. Councils and other stakeholders can see the current and historical spread of invasive plants and better understand their risk and prioritise effort. Entities can maximise the value of this information by collectively assessing and analysing it and using it to prioritise their effort. Expanding this mapping tool to include invasive animals would benefit stakeholders.

Recommendation 5

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries develops and implements a framework for assessing and mitigating the risk of new and established invasive species. The framework should include:

- an approach for regularly assessing, prioritising, and mitigating the risk of invasive species
- protocols for communicating the risk of invasive species and any changes in approach to managing those risks to relevant stakeholders.



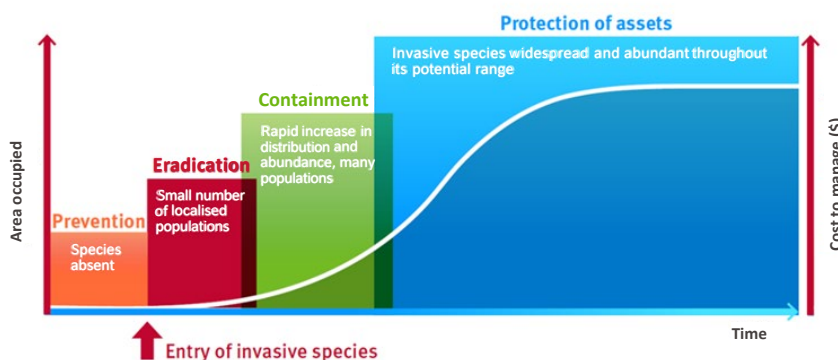
What are entities doing to prevent and eradicate new invasive species?

Greater focus on preventing and eradicating invasive species

Keeping invasive species out of Queensland and detecting them early is the most effective way to reduce their impact. Biosecurity Queensland is taking a proactive approach to prevent and, where possible, eradicate new invasive species (those not established in Queensland). This aligns to the state strategy and is consistent with what industry experts recognise as the most cost-effective way to manage invasive species.

Figure 4D shows the key stages of managing invasive species and highlights the economic benefits of preventing and eradicating invasive species.

Figure 4D
The invasion curve



Source: Queensland invasive plants and animals strategy 2019–2024 with slight modification by QAO.

As part of its planning in 2021, Biosecurity Queensland identified several invasive species that it could prevent or quickly eradicate, including Asian black-spined toads and red-eared slider turtles. Both species have the potential to have a significant economic, environmental, and social impact.

Biosecurity Queensland’s south region is actively using an application to automatically search platforms, like eBay, to identify the sale of invasive plants and animals, which can significantly impact the environment and agriculture. Between July 2017 and July 2022, it seized over 2,900 invasive cacti, such as prickly pear, by monitoring the internet and other surveillance techniques.

How are entities responding to established invasive species?

Responding to established invasive species

Biosecurity Queensland provides limited leadership for managing established invasive species in Queensland. Thus, some species are having a greater impact on our environment and the economy than they need to.

Biosecurity Queensland staff are unclear about its role. A common view among staff we spoke with was that it is only responsible for new invasive species and that councils are responsible for established species. This view is not consistent with Biosecurity Queensland’s 2022–23 plan.



Under the Act, councils are responsible for managing established invasive species on their land. However, Biosecurity Queensland, as system leader, also has a critical role to play in relation to established species, such as:

- setting strategic priorities
- prioritising funding
- assessing their risk
- undertaking research
- helping coordinate and oversee activities.

State and local government entities must carefully consider each established species and decide collectively what, if any, action they should take.

For some established species, like the feral cat, there is no statewide approach and entities do not effectively coordinate their activities. Thirty-four per cent (21) of the 61 councils that responded to our survey reported low to very low levels of coordination and collaboration with the state government in managing invasive species.

Managing feral cats

Feral cats pose a significant impact on biodiversity, particularly regarding native species. Scientists estimate there are between 2.1 and 6.3 million feral cats in Australia. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation estimates that feral cats kill 1.8 billion Australian animals (reptiles, frogs, birds, and mammals) every year, many of which are listed as vulnerable or threatened species. Further detail on the impact on threatened species can be found in our report *Protecting our threatened animals and plants* (Report 9: 2022–23).

Despite this, the Queensland Government has no strategy to manage feral cats across the state. To varying degrees, entities do what they can to manage their risks, but do not coordinate and prioritise their efforts. This limits their ability to reduce the impact of invasive species on our native wildlife.

Some entities, like the Department of Environment and Science, are taking a more proactive approach to managing feral cats. Figure 4E is a case study about the work it is doing in 2 national parks to manage the risk of feral cats.

Figure 4E
Case study 2

Managing feral cats



The Department of Environment and Science identified the native wildlife in national parks across the state that are vulnerable to feral cats. It assessed the risk to these species and developed programs to protect them from feral cats.

For example, it identified that the greater bilby population in the Astrebla Downs National Park in Western Queensland was at risk. Since 2012, the department has killed approximately 3,000 feral cats. The population of greater bilbies seen in the park has increased from 4 in 2014 to 225 in 2020. Similarly, it identified that feral cats threatened the endangered bridled nail-tailed wallaby. Taunton National Park has the only known wild population of the bridled nail-tailed wallaby. The department commenced a baiting and shooting program to reduce the number of feral cats in the park. Since 2007, the number of endangered wallabies has increased from approximately 70 to 1,265 animals in 2020. It is critical that councils neighbouring these national parks also take a proactive approach to managing the risk of feral cats, otherwise council efforts are likely to be less effective than they could be.

Source: Queensland Audit Office using information provided by the Department of Environment and Science.

Most councils have a biosecurity plan

Councils must have a biosecurity plan under the Act, and most do. Ninety per cent (69) of the 77 councils in Queensland have a published plan. The other 10 per cent (8) do not have a plan and are not meeting their responsibilities under the Act. Three of these councils have a draft plan and are in the process of finalising them. The lack of planning by some councils limits how effectively they can manage invasive species in their area.

We reviewed councils' plans and found they varied significantly in quality and completeness. Some councils do not document the invasive species in their area. Others do not assess the risk of species and prioritise their activities accordingly. For example, the red imported fire ant is a significant risk in South East Queensland. Four councils in South East Queensland do not list fire ants in their biosecurity plans. We discuss Queensland's response to fire ants in Chapter 5 of this report. Similarly, yellow crazy ants are a highly aggressive invasive ant. Townsville City Council identifies them as a critical priority in its biosecurity plan and is currently managing several infestations. However, other neighbouring councils do not list them as a risk in their plans.

We found that more than 23 per cent (16) of the 69 published plans have not been updated since 2017. This diminishes their value. A biosecurity plan needs to be a living document. Councils need to alter their approach as risks and priorities change and update their plan accordingly.

Biosecurity Queensland, in collaboration with the Local Government Association of Queensland, developed guidance material to help councils develop their biosecurity plans. It maintains a register of councils that have a plan, but it does not review and approve plans or provide feedback. It also does not try to ensure consistency and coordinate across council plans where appropriate. There is no strong impetus for councils to regularly review and update their plans.

Do entities issue biosecurity orders?

Entities are reluctant to issue biosecurity orders

As we have found in many past audits, good regulatory performance is about enforcing minimum prescribed standards – yet, in many cases, regulators are not enforcing these standards. We share insights about good regulatory practices in our better practice guide: *Insights for regulators*.

There are a range of tools that state and local government entities can use to regulate the risk of invasive species, including biosecurity orders. While in many cases education and information will be sufficient, there will nevertheless be circumstances where issuing orders will be needed.

Under the Act, Biosecurity Queensland and councils have the power to issue biosecurity orders where a person fails to meet their general biosecurity obligation. For example, they may issue an order that compels a person to remove an invasive plant from their property.

Biosecurity Queensland has issued 13 biosecurity orders for invasive species (excluding the 54 orders issued for fire ants between 2017–21) since the Act came into effect in 2014. Two of its 5 regions, central and south regions, have issued no biosecurity orders. We heard from several biosecurity officers that it was not their role to issue orders, even though they have the requisite powers.

Most councils are also reluctant to issue biosecurity orders. For example, one of the largest councils in South East Queensland has not issued any orders and another has only issued 2. Some councils preferred to educate landholders, rather than issue biosecurity orders.

In contrast, some councils, like Bundaberg Regional Council, are proactively regulating biosecurity risk in their area. It uses a range of compliance options, including issuing warning letters to individuals failing to meet their general biosecurity obligation. It recommends what the individual needs to do and, for those that fail to act, it issues a biosecurity order. Bundaberg Regional Council has issued more than 1,500 biosecurity orders since the Act was enacted.



Recommendation 6

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provides greater education and awareness to local councils about how they can use the powers of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to regulate the risk of invasive species. This should include:

- educating local councils on when and why they should issue biosecurity orders
- sharing better practice learnings about how local councils are regulating the risk of invasive species and the outcomes.



5. Eradicating fire ants

Fire ants are one of the worst invasive species in the world. They originated from South America and have spread to many countries, including the United States, China, Taiwan, and Japan. Fire ants are highly aggressive, inflicting painful bites on people, pets, and livestock. The United States estimates that fire ants alone cost its economy about \$5–7 billion a year.

Fire ants can have devastating impacts on Queensland’s agriculture and tourism industries, and severely impact our lifestyle. Biosecurity Queensland is leading a national effort to eradicate fire ants from South East Queensland.

This chapter details our audit findings and conclusions about Queensland’s response to fire ants. We look at how Queensland is responding to fire ants, its progress in eradicating them, and its planned future action.

How is Queensland responding to fire ants?

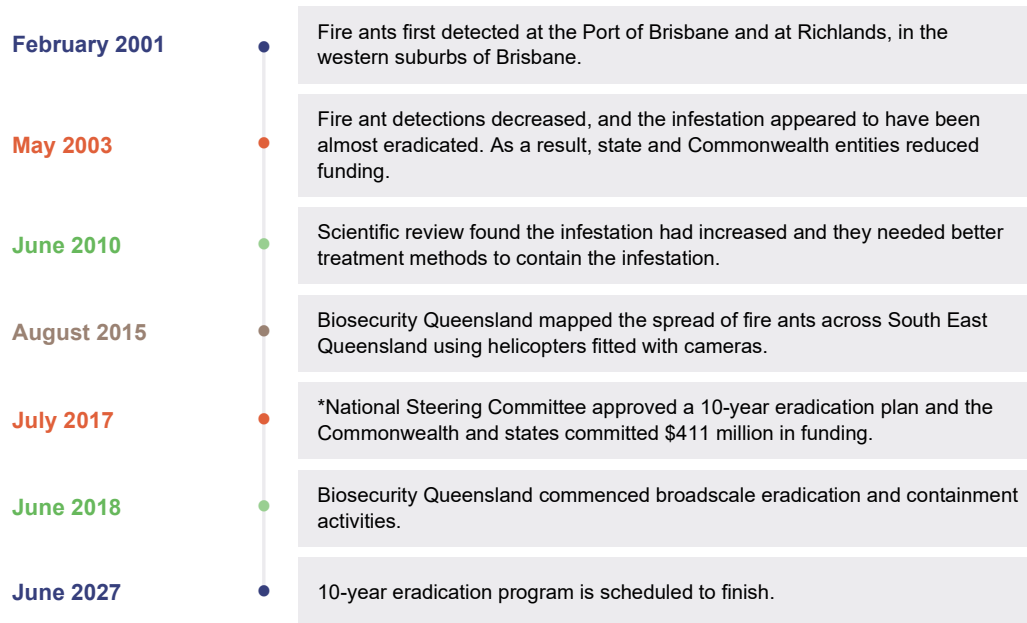


Fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*). iStock image.

Fire ants were first detected in South East Queensland in 2001. Figure 5A shows a timeline of events since fire ants were first detected.

Figure 5A

Timeline of key events responding to fire ants in South East Queensland



Note: *The National Steering Committee was established in July 2017 to provide guidance and support to the program’s operational team on all aspects of the program’s delivery to ensure that it has the best chance of achieving its objectives.

Source: Queensland Audit Office using information provided by Biosecurity Queensland.



National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program commenced in 2017. The program focuses on finding, containing, and eradicating fire ants from South East Queensland. Biosecurity Queensland is leading and coordinating this national program. It reports to a National Steering Committee that provides strategic oversight, leadership, and guidance. We did not audit the committee.

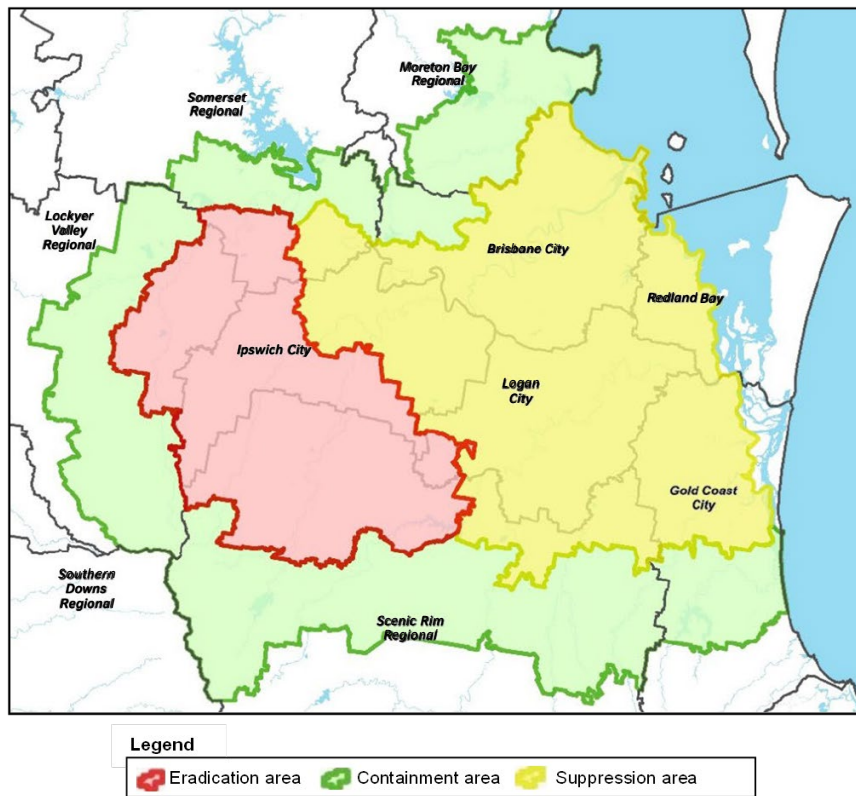
The Australian Government and all Australian states and territories share the cost of the program. The Commonwealth provides approximately 50 per cent of the funding, and states and territories the remaining 50 per cent. Since 2001, Biosecurity Queensland has spent \$644 million trying to eradicate fire ants from South East Queensland. It expects that it will exhaust all funding by June 2023.

The program is supported by a 10-year eradication plan. The plan outlines the priority areas and the key phases. The first 2 phases involve searching for and treating fire ants. The final phase involves searching treated sites and confirming if the area is free of fire ants.

Biosecurity Queensland has been working from west to east, prioritising eradication efforts in suburbs in Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, and Somerset. These areas presented the greatest risk because of their habitat, and the potential for fire ants to spread quickly and have a significant impact. At the same time, Biosecurity Queensland has sought to suppress fire ants in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane and contain them from moving further north or south.

Figure 5B shows the fire ant eradication, containment, and suppression areas for 2022–23.

Figure 5B
Fire ant eradication, containment, and suppression areas for 2022–23



Note: The eradication, containment, and suppression areas have changed over time as new fire ants have been detected.

Source: *The National Fire Ant Eradication Program website with slight modification by Queensland Audit Office.*



Can Queensland eradicate fire ants?

Eradicating any invasive species can be challenging, particularly invasive ant species like fire ants. Entities need to continue assessing their progress and decide if it remains both feasible and economical to do so. This is a requirement under *Australia's National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement*, which took effect in November 2021. To be eligible for Commonwealth funding, an eradication program must satisfy these requirements. The fire ant program commenced before this agreement took effect. Nevertheless, Biosecurity Queensland needs to be able to answer these questions.

At present, expert views vary on whether it is still feasible to eradicate fire ants from Queensland. Despite significant effort and funding, they have continued to spread across South East Queensland. In January 2023 fire ants were found on North Stradbroke Island, and in June 2023 were discovered near Toowoomba – both outside the containment area.

Biosecurity Queensland appears to have slowed the spread of fire ants – since 2001, they have spread approximately 3–5 kilometres per year. This rate of spread is much lower than what has occurred in other countries. International research indicates that fire ants have spread approximately 48 kilometres per year in the United States and 80 kilometres per year in China. Nevertheless, they have still spread.

Fire ants are difficult to eradicate. A single colony can have thousands of fire ants and multiple queens. Biosecurity Queensland eradicated 5 separate infestations: at Yarwun, Port of Gladstone, Brisbane Airport, and 2 at the Port of Brisbane. The largest of these was 8,300 hectares at the Port of Brisbane. The remaining infestation, first detected in 2001 at Richlands in South East Queensland, has now grown to more than 700,000 hectares.

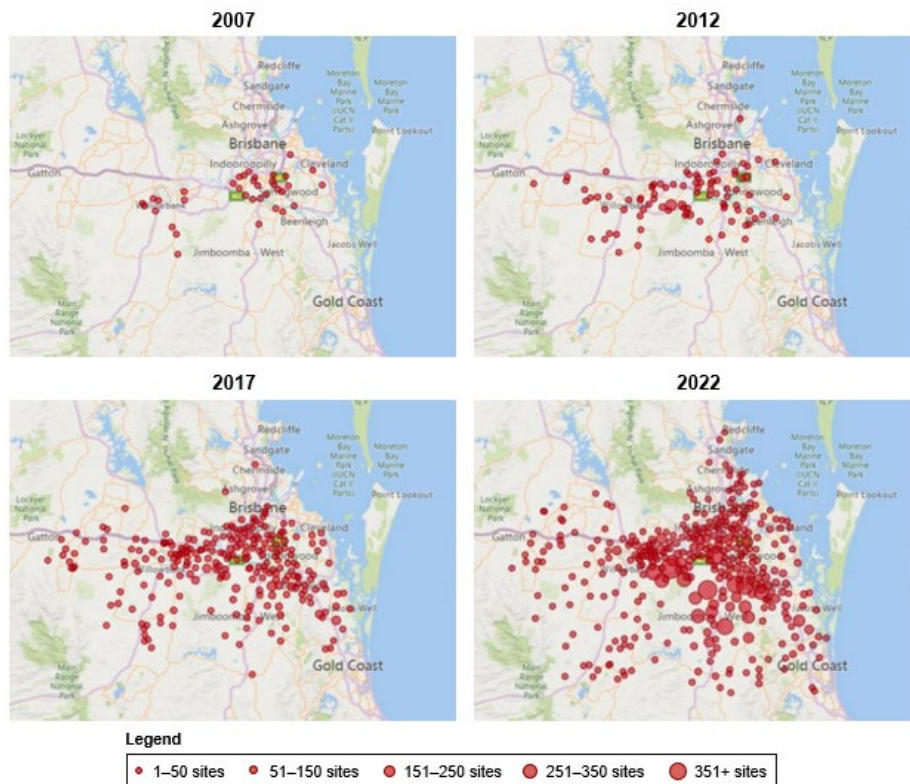
Fire ant detections are increasing

Biosecurity Queensland detects fire ants through its surveillance activities. It uses helicopters, sniffer dogs, on-ground inspections, and electronic monitoring of sites near the boundary of the containment area. It also receives reports of fire ants from the public. Since 2007, the number of sites where fire ants have been detected has increased significantly from 116 to 12,388 in 2022.

Figure 5C shows the number of sites where fire ants have been detected in South East Queensland in 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022. The size of the bubbles represents the number of sites at that suburb.



Figure 5C
Fire ant detections in South East Queensland from 2007 to 2022



Source: Queensland Audit Office using data provided by Biosecurity Queensland.

The increasing number of fire ant detections cannot solely be attributed to the spread of fire ants. Greater community awareness and education is likely to have contributed to the number of detections. Improved technology, including more sophisticated cameras, may have also contributed. It can be difficult to quantify the extent to which these factors have increased the number of detections. Biosecurity Queensland does not do this analysis.

Appendix B shows, by suburb, where 50 or more sites of fire ants have been detected between 2007 and 2022.

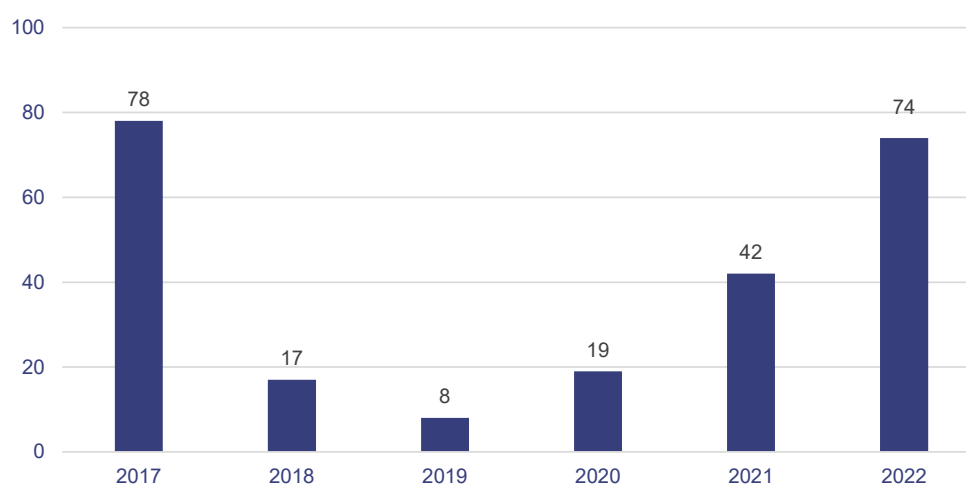
Detections in the eradication area

Biosecurity Queensland has prioritised treating fire ants in the eradication area west and southwest of Ipswich. Measuring the number of detections in this area is an important indicator of the program's performance. We analysed fire ant detections in 20 suburbs that were in the eradication area since July 2017. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of detections decreased substantially. However, this number has almost doubled each year since 2019. In 2022, the number of detections were similar to those observed when the 10-year program commenced.

Figure 5D shows the number of sites with fire ants in the 20 suburbs within the eradication area from 2017 to 2022.



Figure 5D
Sites with fire ants, in 20 suburbs within the eradication area (2017–2022)



Source: Queensland Audit Office using data provided by Biosecurity Queensland.

Feasibility of eradicating fire ants

The National Steering Committee has commissioned regular reviews and evaluations of the program. Some of these have assessed whether it is technically feasible to eradicate fire ants from South East Queensland. Independent reviews in 2015 and 2016 concluded that it was still technically feasible and economical to do so.

In 2019–20, the National Steering Committee engaged a university to determine the geographic boundary (size and location) of the fire ant infestation. The university concluded that it could no longer determine the boundary. This is an important aspect of determining whether it was still feasible to eradicate fire ants.

In August 2021, the National Steering Committee commissioned a strategic review to examine the program's effectiveness and whether it was still feasible to eradicate fire ants from South East Queensland. It concluded that it was unclear whether it was technically feasible to eradicate fire ants. On page 47, the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program Strategic Review August 2021 report states:

Based on previous successes, the containment of polygyne infestations and the elimination of RIFA [red imported fire ants] from significant portions of SEQ [South East Queensland], it is still considered biologically feasible to eradicate the ants. However, due to the scale of the infestation at this point, and outstanding uncertainty regarding the effectiveness and strategic use of RSS [remote sensing surveillance] in routine operations, the technical feasibility of eradication is unclear at this time.

In view of Program outcomes to date and current risks of spread, a major change of strategy is needed for any possibility of long term eradication and even for continued mitigation of a build-up of infestation with consequent serious problems. Gains made to date must be preserved if possible, while a new strategy is put in place. In the longer term, eradication may eventually be feasible, but only with major changes in program scope, strategy, budget and governance, and possibly with new technologies.

We spoke with national and international subject matter experts about the feasibility of eradicating fire ants in South East Queensland given the size of the infestation. Some of these experts contrasted the size of the current infestation (approximately 700,000 hectares) to the size of the largest infestation ever successfully eradicated globally (8,300 hectares at the Port of Brisbane) and expressed uncertainty about the feasibility of eradicating fire ants in South East Queensland.



Cost benefits of eradicating fire ants

An eradication program must provide benefits larger than costs. In September 2021, Biosecurity Queensland engaged a university to assess if it was still economical to eradicate fire ants from South East Queensland. It was not engaged to assess if it was still feasible to eradicate fire ants. It analysed the cost benefits of the eradication program based on it costing \$300 million each year for 10 years and fire ants spreading 5km per year in scenario 1 and 48km per year in scenario 2. For scenario 1 it estimated a negative net loss of \$303 million over 15 years. For scenario 2 it estimated the net benefit would be at least \$430 million over 15 years. Both scenarios demonstrate positive net benefits by year 16. This analysis assumes but does not scientifically conclude that it is feasible to eradicate the fire ants. It does not consider the risk of the program failing to eradicate fire ants.

Helping other jurisdictions eradicate fire ants

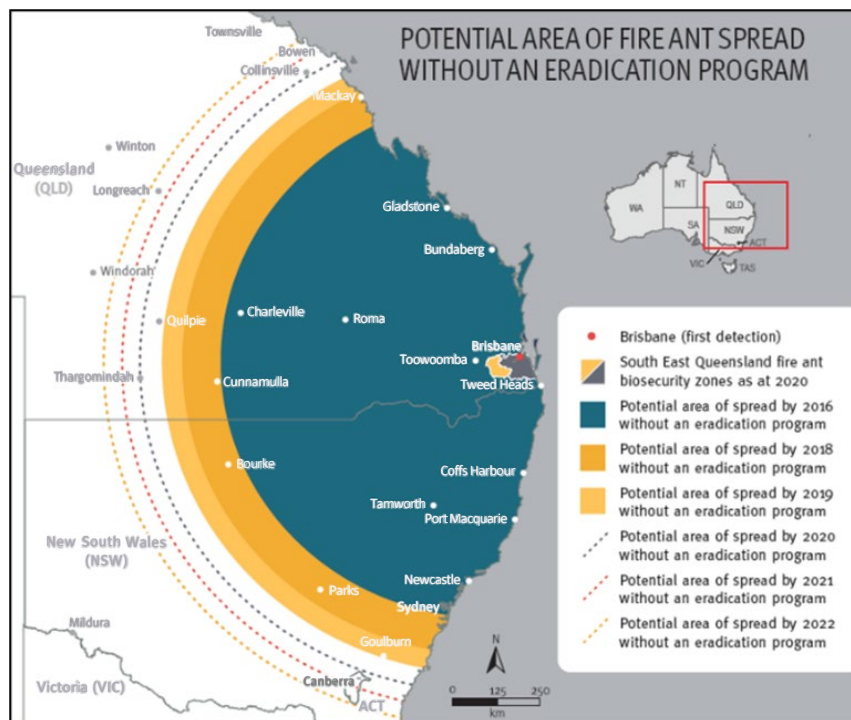
Biosecurity Queensland continues to help other jurisdictions eradicate invasive ants. To date, it has helped eradicate small, isolated fire ant infestations from New South Wales, Victoria, Northern Territory, South Australia, and Western Australia. It sent its biosecurity officers and detection dogs to help eradicate these infestations.

More transparency is needed about outcomes

It is difficult to determine how Queensland is progressing with eradicating fire ants from South East Queensland based on publicly available information. Biosecurity Queensland has many performance metrics and reports regularly and publicly on its activities. However, it does not clearly highlight the outcomes of the program. For example, in its annual performance report 2020–21, it reported the potential spread of fire ants without an eradication program, but not the actual spread. Figure 5E shows this.



Figure 5E
Potential spread of fire ants without an eradication program, as reported by Biosecurity Queensland



Source: National Fire Ant Eradication Program Annual Performance Report 2020–21.

It calculated the spread in Queensland based on the rate that occurred in the United States (48 kilometres per year). It mapped the linear spread of fire ants from the Port of Brisbane from 2001. It is unlikely that fire ants would spread at the same rate in all directions. It is more likely that they would spread along the main transport corridors, and in areas where the habitat is most suitable. This includes the main highways north, south, and west of Brisbane where fire ants can spread through the transport of earth and plant materials, like soil and mulch, as well as through the movement of machinery.

Biosecurity Queensland has developed many key performance indicators to measure performance. Some of these are valuable. For example, it measures and reports the number of significant detections outside the containment area. This is an important metric, because Biosecurity Queensland must act quickly to identify and treat fire ants outside the containment area. It may also need to expand the containment area if there are high numbers of significant detections. It could enhance this measure by including how quickly it treats significant detections. However, many of its metrics focus on outputs, not outcomes. For example, it reports the number of hectares that it surveys and treats for fire ants, but not the outcome of that work. In addition to this, a lack of consistent metrics has made it difficult to compare performance year on year.

Biosecurity Queensland needs to report its progress more transparently, including the challenges it is facing. The community, industries, local businesses, and councils need to better understand:

- the current size of the infestation
- the impact of fire ants and the risk of them spreading further
- what they can do to manage them.

They need clear and consistent messaging. This is particularly important given Biosecurity Queensland is seeking to mobilise the community, industries, and other entities to treat fire ants more actively on their land.



What is Queensland planning to do next?

The strategic review performed in August 2021 concluded that the current program could not eradicate or contain fire ants within the scope and budget of the 10-year plan. It highlighted delays in planning and commencing broadscale treatment had allowed fire ants to spread. It presented 3 options:

1. Contain, suppress, and eradicate fire ants by 2032
2. Contain and suppress fire ants
3. Wind down the program and transition to each state managing fire ants.

In November 2021, the National Steering Committee met and discussed the proposed options. In January 2022, it recommended to the agriculture ministers to continue with eradication, including:

- undertaking more surveillance outside the containment area to ensure fire ants do not move beyond the boundary
- greater focus on suppressing fire ants that have become increasingly entrenched in urban areas east of the current eradication area. This includes mobilising councils, communities, and all land managers to take a more active role suppressing fire ants on their land
- stronger compliance of industries that create habitat that is attractive to fire ants.

Biosecurity Queensland reported the cost of continuing with eradication is estimated to be approximately \$593 million over 4 years from 2023–27. A decision about approving the additional funding is yet to be made.

Recommendation 7

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries strengthens its approach for assessing the progress and outcomes of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program. Decisions about what to do next should be guided by independent assessments grounded by scientific data and modelling. This should include periodically assessing whether it is technically feasible to eradicate fire ants from Queensland.

Recommendation 8

We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries reports its progress in eradicating fire ants from Queensland and the outcomes of its activities. This should include developing and reporting regularly on performance measures that show how well the program is achieving its outcomes, such as the size of the fire ant infestation over time.



Appendices

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Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)

A. Entity responses

As mandated in section 64 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, the Queensland Audit Office gave a copy of this report with a request for comments to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. We also provided a copy to the Department of Environment and Science and all 77 councils and gave them the option of providing a response.

This appendix contains the detailed responses we received.

Following the response from the Department of Agriculture of Fisheries, the Queensland Audit Office prepared, and has included in this report, further correspondence to the department.

The heads of these entities are responsible for the accuracy, fairness, and balance of their comments.

Entity response	Page
Sunshine Coast Council	28
Department of Environment and Science	30
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, response 26 June 2023	31
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Comments received from Chief Executive Officer, Sunshine Coast Regional Council



23 June 2023

Queensland Audit Office
53 Albert Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: [REDACTED]

Re: Comments on proposed report - *Managing invasive species*

I refer to the email from the Auditor-General dated 2 June 2023 inviting feedback on the proposed report *Managing invasive species*, which the Auditor-General is proposing to finalise and table in the Legislative Assembly in late June / early July 2023.

Generally, Council is supportive of the report findings and recommendations and encourages active and well-planned coordination and investment in invasive pest management by Biosecurity Queensland. The recommendations for a risk and data driven approach to invasive pest management are also welcomed.

As you would be aware, all councils have an obligation under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to regulate biosecurity risks and provide appropriate controls and processes. The *Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017* – which can be accessed at <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/c631baf8-1b46-001f-580c-d0001b68b4a8/7cdb8de1-4732-4bb2-bc19-71bca0ac3c5b/024C058D-5769-42F4-AFB9-FFBE4230B9B2> - provides a detailed action plan supporting Council's ongoing commitment to meet Councils obligations under the Act.

The proposed report has a strong focus on the overall performance of the biosecurity system in relation to the management of invasive species, within the context of:

- Leadership and coordination
- Assessing and mitigating Risk
- Data usage – informing decision making
- Regulating risk

Many of the findings and recommendations in the proposed report represent improvements to the biosecurity management system, including opportunities to enhance the support provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to local governments in discharging their responsibilities, setting strategic priorities and prioritising funding. Our Council recognises and supports the intent to enhance leadership and coordination of biosecurity planning, management and delivery in the management of invasive species. Equally, our Council welcomes a more visible and focussed role for DAF in stakeholder

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Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)

leadership, engagement, awareness, coordination, funding support and training between Biosecurity Queensland and the Department with councils and other stakeholder groups

It is in this context, that Council would like to put forward for the consideration of the Queensland Audit Office, the potential to strengthen and clarify proposed Recommendation 5, to also include:

- the expansion of DAF's advisory services to local governments to specifically include advice on retaining the contemporary nature of local government biosecurity plans and
- mechanisms to enhance the timeliness of DAF's review of local government biosecurity plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed report and should your office require any further information or clarification of the matters outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Emma Thomas
Chief Executive Officer



Comments received from Director-General, Department of Environment and Science



Comments received from Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 26 June 2023



In relation to the additional recommendation, the Act was comprehensively reviewed in 2019 (2019 Act Review) in consultation with key industry stakeholders including Local Government and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The 2019 Act Review was undertaken within three years of the Act's commencement as required by s501 of the Act.

The 2019 Act Review and its recommendations are published at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/review-of-the-biosecurity-act-2014>.

Some 2019 Act Review recommendations were actioned in the *Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020*. Certain other recommendations, not requiring a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), are currently progressing through normal legislative amendment processes.

The outstanding recommendations from the 2019 Act Review require further consideration and/or public consultation prior to a final decision being made by Government on whether those recommendations will be progressed.

DAF will progress this recommendation in conjunction with the next review cycle for the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 currently scheduled for 2026.

My specific responses to the eight recommendations are provided in the attached Appendix 1 on the QAO template provided.

In closing, and as stated in my earlier letter to you, we appreciate the work undertaken by the QAO to improve the performance of the department in relation to the management of invasive species. In that spirit of improvement, I suggest that future performance audits on this topic may be strengthened by inclusion of independent subject matter expertise with biosecurity experience to complement the audit teams.

If you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Dr Chris Sarra
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Enc. Appendix 1: Revised DAF response to QAO report "Managing Invasive Species".



Responses to recommendations



Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Managing invasive species

Response to recommendations provided by Dr Chris Sarra, Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 26 June 2023.

Recommendation	Agree/ Disagree	Timeframe for implementation (Quarter and financial year)	Additional comments
<p>Strengthening biosecurity system leadership and coordination</p> <p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen its leadership and coordination role for the biosecurity system by setting strategic priorities, prioritising funding, and coordinating and overseeing activities across Queensland (Chapter 4). 	Agree	<p>Q2 2023/24 (Revision of Queensland Biosecurity Strategy for Premier's consideration)</p> <p>Q3 2023/24 (Review of DAF's leadership, consultation and partnership arrangements)</p>	<p>DAF is currently working with key stakeholders to revise the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy. A major tenet of the Australian and Queensland biosecurity system is "biosecurity is a shared responsibility". A stakeholder writing team is currently drafting and will develop action plans in coming months.</p> <p>DAF will review its leadership, consultation and partnership arrangements and structures including the Terms of Reference (TOR) and DAF's role in stakeholder committees within the Biosecurity System. These committees and arrangements include the State Land Pest Management Committee (SLPMC), State Oversight Group, Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (QIPAC) and the Queensland Dog Offensive Group (QDOG).</p>
<p>Strengthening biosecurity system leadership and coordination</p> <p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reviews the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> in consultation with stakeholders, to ensure it has the necessary clarity, authority and responsibility to effectively and efficiently lead, coordinate and enforce Queensland's biosecurity system (Chapter 4). 	Agree	<p>Q3 2024/25 (Progression of outstanding recommendations from the 2019 Act Review that require further consideration and/or public consultation)</p> <p>Q1 2025/26 Further review of <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></p>	<p>The <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> was comprehensively reviewed with key industry stakeholders including Local Government and the Local Government Association of Queensland in 2019. That review was undertaken within three years of its commencement of the Act, as required by s501 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>The 2019 Act Review and recommendations are published at: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/review-of-the-biosecurity-act-2014.</p> <p>Some necessary recommendations were actioned in the <i>Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020</i>.</p> <p>Certain other recommendations, not requiring a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) are currently progressing through the normal legislative amendment processes.</p>





Recommendation	Agree/ Disagree	Timeframe for implementation (Quarter and financial year)	Additional comments
			<p>The outstanding recommendations from the 2019 Act Review require further consideration and/or public consultation prior to a final decision being made by Government on whether they will be progressed.</p> <p>DAF will progress this recommendation in conjunction with the next review cycle for the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 currently scheduled for 2026.</p>
<p>Designing an effective strategy</p> <p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <p>3. review, update and implement the <i>Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-24</i> (Chapter 4). The strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the current and future challenges and priorities facing Queensland's biosecurity system and provide practical solutions to address these challenges clearly define Biosecurity Queensland's role in relation to leading the biosecurity system, including co-ordinating and working with councils and stakeholders responsible for managing established invasive species include indicators of success to measure performance across the biosecurity system – these measures should be cascaded to all key stakeholders including councils better align to the Department of Environment and Science's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. 	Agree	<p>Q2 2023/24 (Sep – Dec 2023 review of current IPAS)</p> <p>Q4 2023/24 (Mar – June 2024 public consultation of revised QIPAS)</p> <p>Q2 2023/24 (July – Sep 2024 adoption of revised QIPAS strategy)</p>	<p>The Queensland Biosecurity Strategy is currently under revision with expected release in Q3 2023/24.</p> <p>A review of the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-24 will commence once the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy is finalised.</p> <p>DAF will renew the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy for release during 2025 to include key performance indicators (KPI) in line with the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy and the 'Conserving Nature – A Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Queensland 2022'.</p> <p>DAF will work with DES to develop KPIs for invasive species management consistent with the performance measures for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>DAF will investigate whether certain other arrangements are necessary to give effect to a cascade of performance measures to other stakeholders and local governments such as amendments to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish a mandatory requirement for local government biosecurity plans to contain KPI for each local strategy to manage invasive plants and invasive animals and/or establish a mandatory annual reporting relationship from local governments to DAF for state or local government determined performance measures or KPIs.



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Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)



Recommendation	Agree/ Disagree	Timeframe for implementation (Quarter and financial year)	Additional comments
<p>Using data to inform decision making</p> <p>We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <p>4. improve the accuracy and level of detail it records about invasive species, their risk, and the activities it does to manage them (Chapter 4). This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determining if the Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System has the required functionality regularly auditing and reporting on the quality, completeness, and accuracy of data in the Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System developing processes and measures for analysing its data for trends using its data in making decisions about how best to manage invasive species. 	Agree	Q1 2023/24 (Rolling program of enhancements to BORIS as need identified)	<p>DAF will implement the identified priority activities in the updated Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy subject to normal budgetary constraints.</p> <p>Biosecurity Online Resources and Information System (BORIS) is an internal system to aid Biosecurity Queensland administer aspects of its regulatory functions under its legislation portfolio, it is not a specific invasive species management tool or data repository or data analysis tool and is used across all biosecurity Queensland programs.</p> <p>Biosecurity Queensland has a rolling program to make functionality enhancements to BORIS and its various modules. Changes to functionality can be scoped and delivered at the request of any Biosecurity Queensland program area which identifies a need for an enhancement.</p> <p>BORIS is just one of the information systems and analytical tools used to support evidence-based decision-making. Biosecurity Queensland also uses nationally agreed applications such as CLIMATCH as part of risk profiling and decision-making using data held in national and global data invasive species data repositories.</p> <p>The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) are the national and global repositories for invasive species distribution data.</p> <p>DAF, other government agencies and citizen scientists provide invasive species locational data to those data repositories. DAF does not seek to duplicate those data repositories within BORIS.</p> <p>DAF curates a number of spatial data sets associated with pest species distribution and abundance. These data sets are made available through Whole of Government Open data policies and the Department has also created dashboards for external parties to support pest prioritisation and evaluation of management effort.</p>

3





Recommendation	Agree/ Disagree	Timeframe for implementation (Quarter and financial year)	Additional comments
<p>Assessing and mitigating the risk of invasive species</p> <p>We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:</p> <p>5. develop and implement a framework for assessing and mitigating the risk of new and established invasive species (Chapter 4). The framework should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an approach for regularly assessing, prioritising, and mitigating the risk of invasive species protocols for communicating the risk of invasive species and any changes in approach to managing those risks, to relevant stakeholders. 	Agree	<p>Q4 2023/24 (scoping of developing and implementing of framework)</p> <p>Q4 2024/25 (Publishing documentation and tools)</p>	<p>DAF will refine the risk assessment and prioritisation processes and tools developed by DAF and previously made available to Queensland local governments in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ). These documents and tools will be published on the DAF website once needed to meet current web access publishing guidelines.</p> <p>DAF will use the same risk assessment and prioritisation tools, as provided to local government, to provide regular revisions of the risk profiles of the invasive biosecurity matter which are a local government responsibility.</p> <p>DAF will develop protocols for communicating changes in risk profiles to all relevant stakeholders including local governments.</p> <p>DAF notes that there are more than 1000 invasive plants and invasive animals, and about the same number of species of noxious fish or invasive ornamental fish. DAF has not yet scoped the resources and timelines required. However, it may take some considerable time and extra resources to affect a full review of all required risk profiles.</p> <p>DAF will also undertake a review of all invasive plants and invasive animals (including noxious fish) currently listed as restricted matter or prohibited matter in the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> to determine whether the risk profiles and mitigation measures continue to require a legislative listing.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is partnering with other stakeholders in the development of Biosecurity Commons, a platform that host a suite of tools that will deliver a cloud-based decision-support platform for modelling and analysing biosecurity risk and response of invasive plants and animals.</p>



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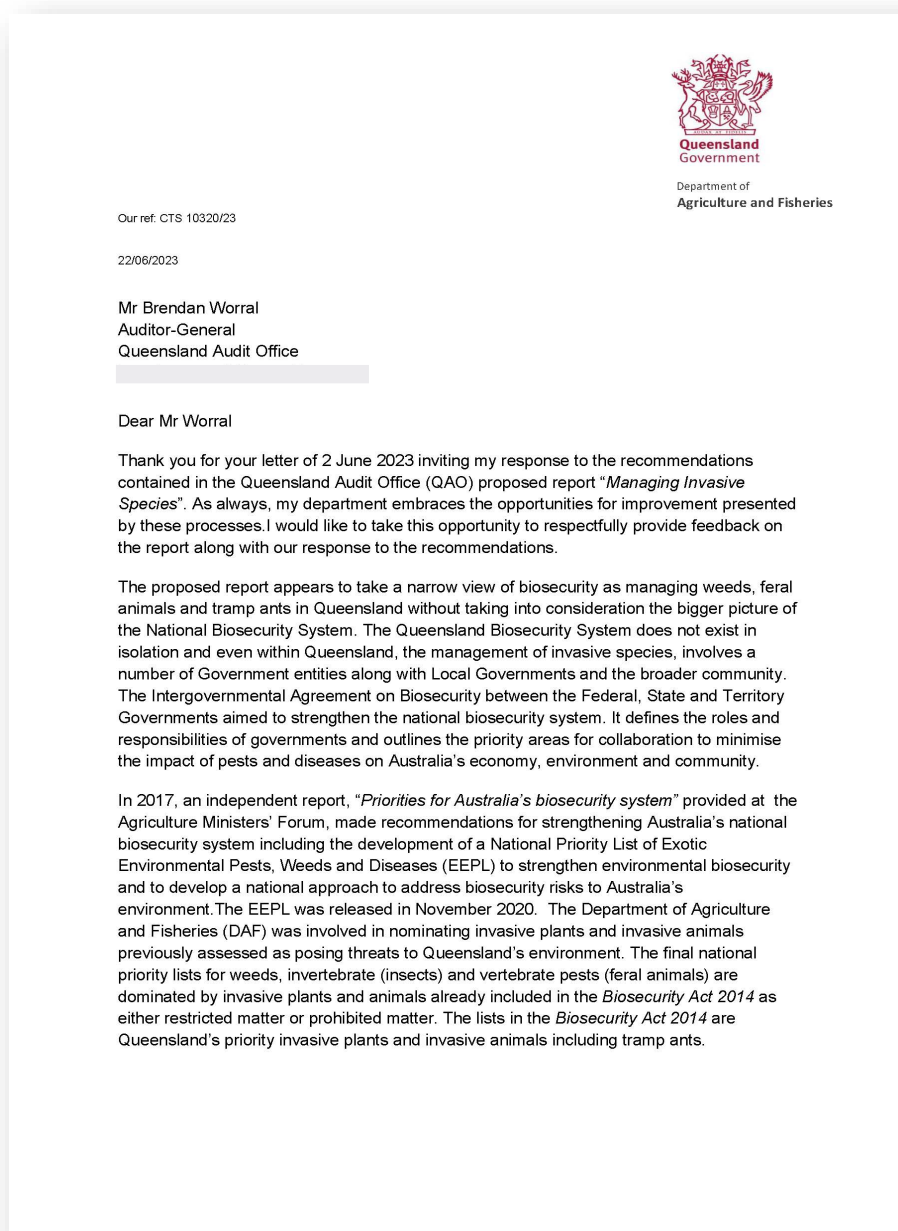
Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)



Recommendation	Agree/ Disagree	Timeframe for implementation (Quarter and financial year)	Additional comments
Regulating the risk of invasive species			
We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:	Agree	Q4 2023/24 Develop and deliver a dedicated education and awareness package for elected councillors.	DAF intends to continue to partner with LGAQ on how to best provide training packages for Biosecurity Best Practice Regulation to local government elected members, senior management and staff.
6. provide greater education and awareness to local councils about how they can use the powers of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> to regulate the risk of invasive species (Chapter 4). This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> educating local councils on when and why they should issue biosecurity orders sharing better practice learnings about how local councils are regulating the risk of invasive species and the outcomes. 		Q4 2023/24 Develop and deliver dedicated training package focusing on Local Government Chief Executive Officer powers, roles and responsibilities.	DAF has commenced "master classes" for local government "authorised persons" to support local government compliance with the general biosecurity obligation (GBO) when managing invasive grasses. The learning process for Local Government authorised persons is ongoing. DAF will continue to provide training to Local Government authorised persons during 2023/24 and beyond.
		Q1 2023/24 Continue to deliver training to local government appointed "authorised persons" on powers, roles and responsibilities.	
Responding to fire ants			
We recommend the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:	Agree	Q1 2023/24 (subject to acceptance of revised national response plan)	
7. strengthen its approach for assessing the progress and outcomes of the National Fire Ant Eradication program (Chapter 5). Decisions about what to do next should be guided by independent assessments grounded by scientific data and modelling. This should include periodically assessing whether it is technically feasible to eradicate fire ants from Queensland.			
8. report its progress in eradicating fire ants from Queensland (Chapter 5) and the outcomes of its activities. This should include developing and reporting regularly on performance measures that show how well the program is achieving its outcomes, such as the size of the fire ant infestation over time.			



Comments received from Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 22 June 2023



DAF, through Biosecurity Queensland, leads and delivers four nationally cost-shared eradication programs for Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), Red Witchweed, Tropical Weeds and Electric Ants. The finding that "Biosecurity Queensland's primary focus is invasive species that have an economic impact" is therefore somewhat surprising given that three of the four current national programs are considered to have far greater environmental and social amenity impacts.

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (NRIPAEP), chosen as a case study for this audit, is unlike any other program attempted in the history of biosecurity in Australia. Accordingly, it has been reviewed a number of times in its 20+ year history. In 2021, the RIFA Steering Committee commissioned an independent strategic review of the Program with the aim of examining the Program's effectiveness, the feasibility of achieving fire ant eradication and alternative strategies for achieving the eradication objectives. On 3 September 2021, the Independent Review Panel delivered its report, the *'National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program Strategic Review August 2021'*. The review was undertaken by an independent panel comprising of Dr Helen Scott-Orr, Dr Monica Gruber and Mr Will Zacharin. Dr Scott-Orr, the Chair of the review panel, was formerly the Australian Inspector-General of Biosecurity.

The review found that eradication remains technically feasible if changes in the program's scope, strategy, budget and governance are initiated. A new response plan and a request for ongoing funding has been developed and endorsed by the Steering Committee and is progressing to Agriculture Ministers for their consideration. The QAO is silent on the role of Fire Ant Suppression Team (FAST) in assisting landowners to self-treat fire ants on properties in the core infested area. As part of the report, I question the use of some of the tables, including raw numbers on reports of fire ants in particular suburbs as there is not sufficient scope to provide context on how these numbers should be assessed and suggest a failure of the program.

The proposed QAO report espouses a hierarchical or "leader-follower" model of leadership, which is questionable in today's society and modern biosecurity system that looks for the creation of an authorising environment and partnerships. The proposed QAO recommendation that Biosecurity Queensland "strengthen leadership and coordination role" in the management of invasive plants and animals is a reversal from a central tenant of the National Biosecurity System that "biosecurity is a shared responsibility". The department has put considerable effort into bringing together its various key stakeholders, including Local Government, to work collaboratively across sectional interests which vary significantly across the State. This central shared responsibility will continue during the revision of the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy which is currently underway.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



I note the findings related to the Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024, including the unsurprising finding that the earlier document does not refer to the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy published three years later in 2022. I commit my department to work with the Department of Environment and Science and other stakeholders to develop suitable performance measures for managing invasive species that align with the performance measures in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. I also note Mr Jamie Merrick, Director-General of the Department of Environment and Science's response of 17 February 2023 to the QAO performance audit report 9:2022-23 "*Protecting our threatened animals and plants*" which also identifies other DAF strategies and programs for alignment with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

The proposed QAO report makes findings that appear to suggest that DAF has over prioritised funding for cluster fencing as compared to funding the control of feral cats. The proposed report fails to recognise the rounds of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI) which were devoted solely to cluster fencing. These grants served a dual purpose as a biosecurity measure to mitigate predation of livestock by wild dogs and as an industry economic development and support role to provide employment and place the sheep and wool industry on the road to recovery after years of drought.

The department has received additional funding towards biosecurity preparedness for animal diseases, including \$3.47 million to improve coordination of feral pig suppression in the event of an exotic animal disease incursion. This helps shift Biosecurity Queensland's posture to proactively meet emerging threats and empower the collective responsibility of the community and industry to face biosecurity threats posed by established pests. The department plans to continue to deliver Queensland Government commitments such as providing funding to local communities through industry groups, Local Governments and Natural Resource Management Groups to manage invasive plants and invasive animals in further rounds of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative to allow participants in the Queensland Biosecurity System to be leaders in their areas of responsibility.

The proposed QAO report makes findings about deficiencies in the content of Local Government biosecurity plans or a lack of performance measures. The report makes no recommendations as to how this could be effectively addressed by Local Government, as part of the biosecurity system, or for appropriate levers that the department may use to improve the preparation, review and implementation of these biosecurity plans by Local Government. I note that regulatory measures in relation to the preparation of Local Government biosecurity plans requiring approvals from the State were removed during preparation of the Biosecurity Bill 2013 as part of "red-tape reduction".

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11.1 - Councillor Information Correspondence --Appendix 13

Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)

The exercise of regulatory powers under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, such as issuing biosecurity orders to a person for failing to discharge a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO), rests with an authorised person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of a Local Government and not with the Local Government Senior Management or the elected Councillors. The Council approved Local Government biosecurity plan should give guidance both to a person to understand how to discharge their GBO in the local context of biosecurity risks posed to local industry and local environment and also guidance to the authorised officer to enforce, when necessary, with a biosecurity order. It should also be noted that the use of a Biosecurity Order under the Act is but one regulatory approach to achieve compliance with the legislation and in many circumstances is viewed as a last resort. On this basis, it is not an effective metric to determine a level of compliance or enforcement effort undertaken by an authorised officer.

The department recognises that there has been considerable turnover in senior management of Local Governments since the commencement of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* in July 2016 and that a dedicated education and awareness program for elected Councillors and training packages for Local Government Senior Management is now necessary to dispel some misconceptions about roles and responsibilities of Local Government under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The learning process for Local Government appointed authorised persons is ongoing with Biosecurity Queensland Officers having provided Biosecurity Act training or retraining to 103 Local Government officers from 16 Local Governments in South East Queensland over six training sessions during 2022/23. This training program is also being provided in other regions with training sessions for 30 officers from 10 Local Governments at Rockhampton and Longreach.

My specific responses to the seven recommendations are provided in the attached Appendix 1 on the QAO template provided.

I appreciate the work undertaken by the QAO to improve the performance of the department in relation to the management of invasive species. In that spirit of improvement, I suggest that future performance audits on this topic may be strengthened by inclusion of independent subject matter expertise with biosecurity experience to complement the audit teams.

If you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Dr Chris Sarra
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Att: DAF response to recommendations proposed QAO report "Managing invasive species"

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Correspondence with Director-General, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Your ref: CTS 10320/23 & 11653/23
Our ref: PRJ03579

SENSITIVE

28 June 2023

Dr C Sarra
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Chris

Performance audit of Managing Invasive Species

Thank you for your letters dated 22 and 26 June 2023, in which you provide your comments on my proposed report for the performance audit of *Managing Invasive Species*.

I note that you have agreed to all the recommendations in my report and provide information on your plans to implement the recommendations.

I appreciate your comments in your letter regarding that conduct of the audit and suggestions that may enhance the Queensland Audits Office (QAO) approach to such audits in the future. As always, my staff will consider your suggestions and, where appropriate, we will make changes to enhance our audit engagement and processes. There are a few of your comments, however, that, for sake of clarity and accuracy, need to be directly addressed.

Feasibility of the eradication of fire ants

You comment that the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program Strategic Review August 2021 report (the report) found 'that eradication remains technically feasible if changes in the program's scope, strategy, budget and governance are initiated'. The view that eradication remains technically feasible overstates what the report and the subject matter experts actually said. Page 47 of the report states that 'technical feasibility of eradication is unclear at this time' and further states that eradication 'may eventually be feasible' (not remains feasible) with major changes in the program. The full extract from page 47 of the report is reproduced below:

"Based on previous successes, the containment of polygyne infestations and the elimination of RIFA from significant portions of SEQ, it is still considered biologically feasible to eradicate the ants. However, due to the scale of the infestation at this point, and outstanding uncertainty regarding the effectiveness and strategic use of RSS in routine operations, the technical feasibility of eradication is unclear at this time.

In view of Program outcomes to date and current risks of spread, a major change of strategy is needed for any possibility of long term eradication and even for continued mitigation of a build-up of infestation with consequent serious problems. Gains made to date must be preserved if possible, while a new strategy is put in place. In the longer term, eradication may eventually be feasible, but only with major changes in program scope, strategy, budget and governance, and possibly with new technologies.
(Underlining added).

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 Queensland Audit Office (QAO)



Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)

Leadership of the state's biosecurity system

Your comment that my report 'espouses a hierarchical or leader-follower model of leadership' is not accurate. My report acknowledges that all Queenslanders, land owners and levels of government have both specific and general responsibilities for biosecurity. However, given the limited information, expertise and resources available, statewide leadership is needed to coordinate and prioritise effort in the state and national interest.

Independent subject matter expertise

Finally, and importantly my staff engaged with a wide range of national and international experts on biosecurity and, specifically, on fire ants. This included members of the National Fire Ant Independent Review Panel. This is made clear throughout my audit report and specifically in Appendix C, which under the heading subject matter experts states:

"We interviewed subject matter experts. This included entomologists – to understand the biology of fire ants and their impact and spread. We also discussed approaches to containing and eradicating fire ants in Australia and other countries, like the United States."

In addition, on page 23 of the report we state that:

"We spoke with national and international subject matter experts about the feasibility of eradicating fire ants in South East Queensland given the size of the infestation."

In closing, I would again like to thank you for your comments. As always, your response letters to the report will be published in Appendix A of my report when it is tabled in parliament. In the interests of accuracy, I intend to also publish this letter in the appendix of the report.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. If you would like further detail on the audit, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General

SENSITIVE

2



B. Fire ant detections by suburb

The table below shows the number of sites in each suburb where 50 or more sites of fire ants were detected in total across the 4 years: 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022. It excludes those suburbs that had less than 50 fire ant detections.

Suburb	2007	2012	2017	2022	Total
Acacia Ridge	1	11	25	85	122
Alberton	–	–	44	48	92
Algester	1	–	15	34	50
Archerfield	1	–	16	38	55
Augustine Heights	–	84	77	91	252
Bahrs Scrub	–	–	8	293	301
Beenleigh	–	–	9	58	67
Bellbird Park	–	–	25	173	198
Berrinba	–	7	28	72	107
Bethania	–	–	21	43	64
Brassall	–	–	16	74	90
Brookwater	–	1	67	52	120
Buccan	–	1	9	73	83
Bundamba	–	5	32	131	168
Cedar Grove	–	–	2	54	56
Chambers Flat	–	–	38	147	185
Churwar	–	–	13	58	71
Collingwood Park	–	–	20	177	197
Coomera	–	–	9	104	113
Crestmead	–	–	40	41	81
Darra	1	11	28	121	161
Deebing Heights	–	18	10	26	54
Doolandella	–	24	40	76	140
Eagleby	–	1	16	57	74
Eight Mile Plains	21	1	14	28	64
Flagstone	–	–	23	274	297
Greenbank	–	7	65	466	538
Heathwood	16	3	29	65	113
Holmview	–	–	45	140	185
Jimboomba	–	–	12	369	381



11.1 - Councillor Information Correspondence --Appendix 13

Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)

Suburb	2007	2012	2017	2022	Total
Karalee	–	–	17	154	171
Kingsholme	–	–	8	50	58
Leichhardt	–	–	38	21	59
Logan Reserve	–	5	59	397	461
Logan Village	–	1	44	225	270
Loganholme	–	1	10	68	79
Loganlea	–	5	11	66	82
Marsden	2	1	37	58	98
Moggill	–	2	11	60	73
Munruben	–	2	10	75	87
New Beith	–	–	20	230	250
North Ipswich	–	–	2	48	50
North Maclean	–	1	9	132	142
Ormeau	–	–	6	67	73
Ormeau Hills	–	–	76	17	93
Oxley	4	2	49	99	154
Pallara	–	2	20	419	441
Park Ridge	–	10	129	398	537
Park Ridge South	1	–	20	49	70
Peak Crossing	1	7	24	18	50
Pimpama	–	–	96	195	291
Redbank	–	–	17	76	93
Redbank Plains	–	180	86	521	787
Richlands	1	16	47	55	119
Ripley	–	–	27	353	380
Riverbend	–	–	17	78	95
Rochedale	4	60	45	180	289
Rocklea	4	1	78	45	128
Rosewood	1	17	35	17	70
Runcorn	3	–	12	36	51
South Maclean	–	–	17	208	225
South Ripley	–	–	63	278	341
Spring Mountain	–	4	4	292	300
Springfield	–	1	7	57	65
Springfield Central	–	26	32	50	108
Springfield Lakes	–	61	91	55	207
Stapylton	–	–	13	47	60
Stockleigh	–	–	15	105	120



11.1 - Councillor Information Correspondence --Appendix 13

Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)

Suburb	2007	2012	2017	2022	Total
Swanbank	–	32	11	35	78
Tamborine	–	–	7	153	160
Thornlands	–	–	15	49	64
Underwood	1	–	17	42	60
Wacol	–	8	42	76	126
Walloon	–	–	17	97	114
Waterford	–	–	93	50	143
Waterford West	1	2	20	76	99
Willawong	–	6	7	61	74
Woodhill	–	–	1	148	149
Woongoolba	–	–	30	35	65
Yarrabilba	–	–	35	213	248
Yatala	–	–	4	85	89
Grand total	64	627	2,397	9,887	12,975

Source: Queensland Audit Office using data provided by Biosecurity Queensland.



C. Audit scope and methods

Performance engagement

This audit has been performed in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, incorporating, where relevant, the standards on assurance engagements issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This includes the Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3500 *Performance Engagements*. This standard establishes mandatory requirements, and provides explanatory guidance, for undertaking and reporting on performance engagements.

Audit objective and scope

The objective of the audit is to assess how effectively state and local government entities are managing invasive species.

The audit addressed the objective through the following sub-objectives and criteria:

Sub-objective 1: The responsible entities act effectively to prevent, eradicate, contain, and manage invasive species	
Criteria 1.1	Entities identify and assess invasive species risk
Criteria 1.2	Entities plan effectively to manage invasive species
Criteria 1.3	Entities take action to manage invasive species
Sub-objective 2: The responsible entities effectively monitor and report on invasive species to demonstrate achievement of outcomes	
Criteria 2.1	Entities monitor and report on the effectiveness of their biosecurity activities both individually and at a whole-of-government level

The entities we audited

- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – responsible for leading the biosecurity system and mitigating the risk of invasive plants and animals across the state
- Department of Environment and Science – responsible for managing invasive species in parks and forests across the state and protecting species that are at risk of extinction
- local councils – responsible for having a biosecurity plan and managing invasive species in their local government area.

Scope exclusions

We included all invasive plants and animals in Queensland in the scope of this audit, including red imported fire ants. Biosecurity Queensland is leading the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (the program). The program is overseen by a National Steering Committee. We did not audit the committee or any other commonwealth agency in relation to the program.

We did not examine how entities manage biosecurity incidents for major disease outbreaks, such as foot and mouth disease.



Method

Field interviews and site visits

We conducted interviews with key people, staff, and stakeholders from across the biosecurity system, including regional areas of Queensland. This included but was not limited to:

- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Department of Environment and Science
- National Red Imported Fire Ant Program and the National Steering Committee
- local councils
- regional organisations of councils
- Local Government Association of Queensland
- AgForce
- Invasive Species Council
- National Feral Pig Action Plan.

The Auditor-General and the audit team conducted a site visit of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program at Berrinba.

Survey

We distributed a survey to all 77 local councils in Queensland. The survey included questions about local councils' biosecurity plans and approaches to managing invasive species. Sixty-one local councils responded.

Document review

We obtained and reviewed relevant documents from the entities involved in the audit. This included legislation, strategic plans, operational plans, guidelines, correspondence, performance reports, reviews, evaluations, and modelling. We also considered research from other jurisdictions and academia.

Data analysis

We analysed data from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- Biosecurity orders (2017–2021)
- Fire ant detections (2001–2022)
- Queensland Feral Pest Initiative grant funding (2016–2021).

We validated our data methods and analysis progressively with the relevant entities.

Subject matter experts

We interviewed subject matter experts. This included entomologists – to understand the biology of fire ants and their impact and spread. We also discussed approaches to containing and eradicating fire ants in Australia and other countries, like the United States.





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11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.2 - Calendar of Events

11.2 Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events, Meetings and Conferences

The calendar provides an update on Council and community events occurring over the next two months. This calendar listing is generated from Council's corporate calendar and events registered by community groups via Council's website: www.longreach.qld.gov.au/whats-on

July 2023				
19 July	9.00am-11.00am	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Council Chambers, Longreach Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Members
19 July	11.00am-5.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Executive Leadership Team
20 July	9.30am-1.00pm	NAIDOC in Longreach	Showgrounds, Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event
20 July	11.00am-5.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Longreach Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
27 July	9.00am-2.30pm	Storyfest Out West	Showgrounds, Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event
28 July	1.00pm-2.00pm	Celebrity Chef Cooking Class	Selectability (Galah Street), Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event
29 July	12.00am	Winton to Longreach QCWA Centenary Endurance Ride 2023	Showgrounds, Winton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event
31 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Executive Leadership Team
31 July	5.00pm	"My Garden" Competition closes	n/a	n/a
August 2023				
2 August	10.00am	Seniors Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors Morning Tea and Card Making 	Arts & Craft Centre (Ibis Street), Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event via booking
9 August	10:00am	Seniors Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Tea 	Whitman Memorial Park, Isisford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event via booking
14 August	10.00am-1.00pm	Seniors Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rosebank Station Tour Limited spots!	Rosebank, Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event via booking
18 August	10.00am-11.00am	Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration	Edkins Park, Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.2 - Calendar of Events

22 August	10.30am-12.30pm	Seniors Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bingo & Lunch Prizes to be won	Wellshot Hotel, Ilfracombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event via booking
30 August	8.15am - 12.30pm	Seniors Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darr River Train Trip Limited Spots!	Railway Station, Longreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Event via booking
16 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Executive Leadership Team
17 August	9.30am-5.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Yaraka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
25 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Executive Leadership Team
31 August	5.00pm	Get Ready: Amateur Photo Competition closes	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a

Recommendation:

That Council receives the report, as presented

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.3 - Common Seal Policy

11.3 Common Seal Policy

File Ref:

Consideration of amendments to the Common Seal Policy No. 2.03 which is due for its biennial review.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Common Seal Policy No. 2.03

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2020-10-268)

Moved Cr Martin seconded Cr Nunn

That Council adopts the Common Seal Policy No. 2.03, as presented.

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *Kimberley Dillon, Executive Officer, Governance & Special Projects*

Background:

The Common Seal Policy No. 2.03 was established pursuant to section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and was due for its biennial review. The policy provides guidelines regarding the use of Council's Common Seal.

Issue:

In order to ensure good governance and decision-making, policies should be subject to ongoing review and be evaluated for their effectiveness during implementation. Pursuant

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.3 - Common Seal Policy

to the *Local Government Act 2009*, policy development is specifically referred to as follows:

Section 12(3)(c) All Councillors have the following responsibilities – "...participating in council meetings, policy development, and decision-making, for the benefit of the local government area;"

In general terms, policies require review due to either legislative change, changes to policy itself, or because of differing circumstances requiring a change to policy.

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: Moderate
Rating: Medium (6/25)

Environmental Management Factors:

N/A

Other Comments:


A copy of the revised policy is attached with changes to the policy highlighted.

Appendices

1. Reviewed Common Seal Policy.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the amended Common Seal Policy No. 2.03, as presented.

Common Seal Policy		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	2.3	
Policy Category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:		

PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines regarding the use of Council’s Common Seal pursuant to section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

DEFINITIONS

Act – refers to the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Chief Executive Officer - means a person who holds an appointment under section 194 of the Act.

Common Seal - is, ~~in its physical manifestation,~~ a rubber stamp carrying the words ‘Common Seal’ and the name ~~and business number of the association or of the organisation~~ ~~company~~. The common ~~company~~ seal is, in legal terms, the equivalent of the signature of an ~~ordinary~~ individual and may be used to execute official documents eg deeds. -It is important to protect and store the common seal in a secure place, as its use has a degree of legal formality.

POLICY STATEMENT

Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and has a common seal. Whilst certain delegations exist for the Chief Executive Officer to sign local government documents, without the need of the common seal, a policy is deemed necessary to authorise use and specify safe keeping of the seal.

The Chief Executive Officer must ensure the safe custody and proper use of Council’s Common Seal.

Council’s Common Seal may only be used, as authorised by resolution of Council.

At the discretion of the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, the Common Seal may be affixed in respect of ceremonial purposes.

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer (~~or their delegate~~) may sign as authentication witnesses to the affixation of Council’s Common Seal.

11.3 - Common Seal Policy --Appendix 1

GUIDELINES

When applying the Common Seal to a document, where possible, the following attestation clause or words similar in meaning must appear:

Dated this [date] day of [month] [year].

The Common Seal of the]
Longreach Regional Council]
was hereunder affixed in the]
presence of:]



Signed by Mayor

Signed by Chief Executive Officer

| Authorised by resolution as at ~~15 October 2020~~ <<insert date>>:
|

~~Brett Walsh Mitchell Murphy~~
| Chief Executive Officer

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.4 - Councillor Investigation Policy

11.4 Councillor Investigation Policy

File Ref:

Consideration of amendments to the Councillor Investigation Policy No. 2.6 which is due for its biennial review.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Investigation Policy No. 2.6

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2021-04-072)

Moved Cr Emslie seconded Cr Nunn

That Council adopts the Councillor Investigation Policy No. 2.6, as presented.

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: Brett Walsh, Chief Executive Officer

Background:

The Investigations Policy was established to manage complaints about inappropriate conduct of Councillors, in accordance with section 150AE of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Issue:

The importance of having current and up-to-date policies cannot be understated. Pursuant to good governance and decision-making, policies should be subject to ongoing review and be evaluated for their effectiveness during implementation. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*, policy development is specifically referred to as follows:

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.4 - Councillor Investigation Policy

Section 12(3)(c) All Councillors have the following responsibilities – "...participating in council meetings, policy development, and decision-making, for the benefit of the local government area;..."

In general terms, policies require review due to either legislative change, changes to policy itself, or because of differing circumstances requiring a change to policy.

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:	Possible
Consequence:	Moderate
Rating:	Medium (9/25)

Environmental Management Factors:

N/A

Other Comments:

A copy of the revised policy is attached with minimal changes made as part of the review. This policy is in accordance with the example Councillor Investigation Policy provided by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.


Appendices

1. DRAFT Councillor Investigation Policy.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Councillor Investigation Policy No. 2.6, as presented.

11.4 - Councillor Investigation Policy --Appendix 1

Councillor Investigation Policy		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	2.6	
Policy Category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:		

PURPOSE

This is Longreach Regional Council's Investigation Policy for how complaints about the inappropriate conduct of Councillors will be dealt with as required by the section 150AE of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the LGA). However, this policy does not relate to more serious Councillor Conduct.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to investigations and determinations of a complaint about the alleged inappropriate conduct of a Councillor/s which has been referred by the Independent Assessor.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

DEFINITIONS

Assessor	Means the Independent Assessor appointed under section 150CV of the LGA.
Behavioural Standard	Means a standard of behaviour for Councillors set out in the Code of Conduct approved under section 150E of the LGA.
Conduct	Includes– a) failing to act; and b) a conspiracy, or attempt, to engage in conduct.
Councillor Conduct Register	Means the register required to be kept by Council as set out in section 150DX of the LGA.
Inappropriate Conduct	See section 150K of the LGA.
Investigation Policy	Refers to this policy, as required by section 150AE of the LGA.
Investigator	Means the person responsible under this investigation policy for carrying out the investigation of the suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor or Mayor.
LGA	Means the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Local Government Meeting	Means a meeting of– a) a local government; or b) a committee of a local government.
Misconduct	See section 150L of the LGA.
Model Procedures	See section 150F of the LGA.

11.4 - Councillor Investigation Policy --Appendix 1

Natural Justice	A set of principles to ensure fair and just decision making, including a fair hearing, an absence of bias, decisions based on evidence, and the proper examination of all issues.
Referral Notice	See section 150AC of the LGA.
Tribunal	Means the Councillor Conduct Tribunal as established under section 150DK of the LGA.
Unsuitable Meeting Conduct	See section 150H of the LGA.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Confidentiality

Matters of suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor are confidential except as otherwise specifically provided for either in the LGA or this Investigation Policy.

Note: It must be kept in mind that the matter is an allegation only and not yet proven. Further, there will be circumstances where the detail of the referral will need to remain confidential to the Local Government. Any release of confidential information that a Councillor knows, or should reasonably know, to be confidential to the local government may be contrary to section 171(3) of the LGA and dealt with as misconduct.

2. Natural Justice

Any investigation of suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor/s must be carried out in accordance with natural justice. An overview of the principles of natural justice follows.

"Natural justice" or procedural fairness, refers to three (3) key principles:

- a) The person being investigated has a chance to have his or her say before adverse formal findings are made and before any adverse action is taken (fair hearing);
- b) The investigator(s) should be objective and impartial (absence of bias); and
- c) Any action taken is based on evidence (not suspicion or speculation).

A fair hearing means the Councillor who is the subject of the suspected inappropriate conduct matter must be told of the case against them including any evidence and be provided with an opportunity to put their case in writing with the investigation report provided to the Councillors as part of the meeting agenda.

An absence of bias means that any investigation must not be biased or be seen to be biased in any way. This principle embodies the concept of impartiality.

Decisions based on evidence requires that the investigation should not be based on mere speculation or suspicion but instead must be based upon evidence material.

A proper examination of all issues means the investigation must give a proper and genuine consideration to each party's case.

3. Assessor's Referral

The Council may receive from the Assessor a referral notice about the suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor/s. Council may also receive referrals directly.

The referral notice will include details of the conduct and any complaint received about the conduct, state why the assessor reasonably suspects that the councillor has engaged in inappropriate conduct, and include information about the facts and circumstances that form the basis of the assessor's reasonable suspicion.

The referral notice may be accompanied by a recommendation from the assessor about how the local government may investigate or deal with the conduct. The recommendation of the assessor may be inconsistent with this policy.

The investigation must be conducted in a way consistent with:

- (i) Any recommendation of the assessor
- (ii) To the extent that this policy is not inconsistent with the recommendation of the assessor – this investigation policy, or
- (iii) In another way the local government decides by resolution.

A resolution under subsection (iii) must state the decision and the reasons for the decision

4. Receipt of Assessor's Referral

On receipt of a referral notice about the suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor/s from the Assessor, the Council's Chief Executive Officer will forward a copy of that referral notice to the Mayor and all Councillors as a confidential document.

Should the Mayor or a Councillor/s (other than the subject of the complaint or the complainant) disagree with any recommendation accompanying the Assessor's referral notice or form the opinion that the complaint should be dealt with in a way other than under this policy, the Mayor or Councillor may request the matter be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting to decide on the appropriate process to investigate the complaint. Such a request must be made in accordance with the Council's meeting procedure requirements.

5. Investigator

Unless otherwise resolved by Council, the Mayor will manage the investigation of suspected inappropriate conduct of other Councillors.

If the suspected inappropriate conduct involves conduct that in the circumstances, the Mayor believes, it is in the best interests of the investigation to refer the matter for external investigation, then the Chief Executive Officer must refer the suspected inappropriate conduct to the President of the Tribunal to investigate and make recommendations to the Council about dealing with the conduct.

If the suspected inappropriate conduct involves:

- a) an allegation about the conduct of the Mayor; or
- b) the Mayor as the complainant; then

the Chief Executive Officer must refer the suspected inappropriate conduct to the President of the Tribunal to investigate and make recommendations to the Council about dealing with the conduct.

6. Early Resolution

Before beginning an investigation, the investigator must consider whether the matter is appropriate for resolution prior to the investigation. This consideration includes any recommendation made by the Assessor.

A matter is only appropriate for early resolution if the parties to the matter agree to explore early resolution.

The investigator may engage an independent person with suitable qualifications or experience to facilitate this process.

If the matter cannot be resolved, the matter will then be investigated as outlined in this investigation policy.

If the matter is resolved prior to investigation, the investigator will advise the Chief Executive Officer of this outcome. In turn, the Chief Executive Officer will advise the Mayor (if the Mayor is not the investigator) and all Councillors that the matter has been resolved. The Chief Executive Officer will also update the Councillor Conduct Register to reflect this.

7. Timeliness

The investigator will make all reasonable endeavours to complete the investigation and provide a report for inclusion on the agenda of a Council meeting no more than eight (8) weeks after the receipt of the complaint.

Note: If the investigator is of the opinion that it may take longer than eight (8) weeks to complete the investigation, the matter should be raised with the Mayor (if the Mayor is not the investigator) to seek an extension of time.

8. Assistance for Investigator

If the Mayor, or another councillor appointed by council resolution, is the investigator of a matter of suspected inappropriate conduct, the Mayor may use section 170A of the LGA to seek assistance during the investigation.

The Mayor is authorised by Council to expend money as reasonably needed to engage contractors in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy.

9. Possible Misconduct or Corrupt Conduct

If during the course of an investigation the investigator obtains information which indicates a Councillor/s may have engaged in misconduct, the investigator must cease the investigation and advise the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer will then notify the Assessor of the possible misconduct.

If during the course of an investigation, the investigator obtains information which indicates a Councillor/s may have engaged in corrupt conduct, the investigator must cease the investigation and advise the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer will then notify the Crime and Corruption Commission of the possible corrupt conduct.

Instances of suspected misconduct or corrupt conduct may be referred back to the Council if determined by the Assessor or Crime and Corruption Commission to be inappropriate conduct.

10. Completion of Investigation

On the completion of an investigation, the investigator will provide a report to a Council meeting outlining as appropriate:

- the investigation process
- any witnesses interviewed
- documents or other evidence obtained
- a statement of the relevant facts ascertained
- confirmation that the subject councillor has been provided with an opportunity to respond to the complaint and the evidence gathered
- the investigation findings
- a statement of any relevant previous disciplinary history
- any recommendations about dealing with the conduct
- a record of the investigation costs

If there is a risk to the health and safety of the complainant, under s254J of the Local Government Regulations, council may resolve that the meeting be closed to the public for the councillors to consider the investigation report and any recommendations.

The council (with the exception of the councillor the subject of the investigation and the complainant, if another councillor) will consider the findings and recommendations of the investigator's report and decide whether the councillor has engaged in inappropriate conduct and, if so, what action it will take under section 150AH of the LGA. In accordance with s275(3) of the LGR, the resolution in relation to what action is to be taken as a result of the investigation must be made after the meeting has been re-opened to the public and the decision recorded in the meeting minutes. The chief executive officer is also required to ensure the details are entered into the councillor conduct register

11. Disciplinary Action Against Councillors

If the council decides at the completion of the investigation that the councillor has engaged in inappropriate conduct, the council may:

1. Order that no action be taken against the councillor, or
2. Make an order outlining action the councillor must undertake in accordance with section 150AH(1)(b) of the Local Government Act.

12. Notice about the Outcome of Investigation

After an investigation is finalised, the Council must give notice about the outcome of the investigation to the person who made the complaint about the Councillor/s' conduct that was the subject of the investigation and the subject councillor.

13. Councillor Conduct Register

The Chief Executive Officer of the respective Council must ensure decisions about suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor/s must be entered into the Councillor Conduct Register.

11.4 - Councillor Investigation Policy --Appendix 1

Where a complaint has been resolved under section 6 of this policy, the Chief Executive Officer will update the register to reflect that the complaint was withdrawn.

14. Expenses

Council must pay any reasonable expenses of Council associated with the informal early resolution or investigation of suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor including any costs of:

- a) The president of the Tribunal in undertaking an investigation for Council;
- b) A mediator engaged under this Investigation Policy;
- c) A private investigator engaged on behalf of or by the investigator;
- d) Travel where the investigator needed to travel to undertake the investigation or to interview witnesses;
- e) Seeking legal advice;
- f) Engaging an expert.

Note: Council may order the subject Councillor reimburse it for all or some of the costs arising from the Councillor's inappropriate conduct.

Any costs incurred by complainants or the subject Councillors will not be met by Council.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Councillor Code of Conduct Policy No. 2.1

"Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland", *Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs* [Queensland Government](#)

Procurement Policy No. 1.1

Authorised by resolution as at <<insert date>>:

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.5 - Councillor Code of Conduct Policy

11.5 Councillor Code of Conduct Policy

File Ref:

Consideration to repeal the Councillor Code of Conduct Policy 2.1 which is due for its biennial review.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Councillor Code of Conduct Policy 2.1

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2021-03-043)

Moved Cr Emslie seconded Cr Martin

That Council adopts the Councillor Code of Conduct Policy. 2.1, as presented.

Officer Comment

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

Background:

In accordance with section 150D of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the code of conduct for Councillors is set by the Minister for Local Government who sets out the standards of behaviour for Councillors in performing their functions as a Councillor.

Issue:

There is no requirement in legislation for Council to adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct policy given Councillors are obligated by law to adhere to the legislated code of conduct. Before assuming public office, Councillors must understand and commit to complying with the local government principles and obligations of Councillors in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, as well as the standards of behaviour set out in the [Code](#)

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.5 - Councillor Code of Conduct Policy

[of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland](#). Therefore, it is being recommended this policy is repealed from Councils policy register.

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:	Possible
Consequence:	Moderate
Rating:	Medium (9/25)

Environmental Management Factors:

N/A

Other Comments:

A copy of the current policy and the [Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland](#) is attached for reference.


Appendices

1. 02-01 Councillor Code of Conduct Policy [↓](#)
2. Code-of-conduct-for-queensland-councillors.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council repeals the Councillor Code of Conduct Policy. 2.1, as presented.

11.5 - Councillor Code of Conduct Policy --Appendix 1

Councillor Code of Conduct		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	2.1	
Policy Category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:		

PURPOSE

The Councillor Code of Conduct Policy is to establish principles and standards of behaviour expected of Councillors of the Longreach Regional Council, whilst acting in their capacity as an elected member of Council.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Councillors of the Longreach Regional Council. The requirements of the Code are in addition to the roles, responsibilities and obligations of Councillors, as set out in the *Local Government Act 2009* and other Acts.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009
Crime and Corruption Act 2001

DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this policy have the following meanings:

Conduct – includes:

- a) Failing to act; and
- b) A conspiracy, or attempt, to engage in conduct.

Council – refers to the Longreach Regional Council.

Department – refers to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs.

Inappropriate Conduct – see section 150K of the LG Act.

LG Act – means the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Misconduct – see section 150L of the LG Act.

Unsuitable Meeting Conduct – see section 150H of the LG Act.

POLICY STATEMENT

Under section 150D of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Minister for Local Government must make a Code of Conduct stating the standards of behaviour for Councillors in the performance of their responsibilities as Councillors.

The department's "Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland" outlines the principles and standards of behaviour expected of Mayors and Councillors when carrying out their roles, responsibilities and obligations as elected representatives for their communities.

11.5 - Councillor Code of Conduct Policy --Appendix 1

Failure to comply with the standards of behaviour in the Code of Conduct, or other conduct prescribed in the Code of Conduct may give rise to a complaint against a Councillor's conduct and subsequent disciplinary action under the Act.

A complaint about the conduct of a Councillor must be submitted to the Independent Assessor who will assess the complaint and determine the category of the allegations. In order of most to least serious, the categories of complaints are:

- Corrupt Conduct
- Misconduct
- Inappropriate Conduct
- Unsuitable Meeting Conduct

A reference for examples of these types of conduct can be found on the department's document titled "Councillor Conduct Examples – for Queensland Local Governments".

RELATED DOCUMENTS

"Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland", *Queensland Government*

Investigation Policy No. 2.6

Communications and Media Policy No. 2.24

Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors Policy No. 2.28

[Standing Orders for Council Meetings Policy No. 3.02](#)

Authorised by resolution as at <<insert date>>

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland

Approved on 4 August 2020

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Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct sets out the principles and standards of behaviour expected of Councillors and Mayors when carrying out their roles, responsibilities and obligations as elected representatives for their communities. By adhering to the behaviours set out below, Councillors will increase public confidence in local government and Council decisions.

Background

Under section 150D of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the LGA), the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) must make a Code of Conduct stating the standards of behaviour for Councillors in the performance of their responsibilities as Councillors. In addition to this, the Code of Conduct may contain anything the Minister considers necessary for, or incidental to, the standards of behaviour.

Before assuming public office, Councillors must understand and commit to complying with the local government principles and obligations of Councillors in accordance with section 169 of the LGA and 169 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (CoBA), as well as the standards of behaviour set out in this Code of Conduct.

All Councillors are required to make a declaration of office under the applicable legislation. As part of that declaration, Councillors must declare that they will abide by this Code of Conduct.

The Local Government Principles and Values

The legislation is founded on five local government principles with which Councillors must comply while performing their roles as elected representatives. These principles are listed below:

1. Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest
2. Sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services
3. Democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement.
4. Good governance of, and by, local government
5. Ethical and legal behaviour of Councillors and local government employees.

This Code of Conduct provides a set of values that describe the types of conduct Councillors should demonstrate to ensure their compliance with the local government principles. These values are listed below:

1. In making decisions in the public interest, Councillors will:
 - make decisions in open council meetings
 - properly inform relevant personnel of all relevant information
 - make decisions in accordance with law and policy
 - commit to exercising proper diligence, care and attention.
2. To ensure the effective and economical delivery of services, Councillors will:
 - manage council resources effectively, efficiently and economically

- foster a culture of excellence in service delivery.
3. In representing and meaningfully engaging with the community, Councillors will:
 - show respect to all persons
 - clearly and accurately explain Council's decisions
 - accept and value differences of opinion.
 4. In exercising good governance, Councillors are committed to:
 - the development of open and transparent processes and procedures
 - keeping clear, concise and accessible records of decisions.
 5. To meet the community's expectations for high level leadership, Councillors will:
 - be committed to the highest ethical standards
 - uphold the system of local government and relevant laws applicable.

This Code of Conduct also sets out standards of behaviour aimed at helping Councillors understand how the principles and values are put into practice while performing their official duties as elected representatives.

Each standard of behaviour is not intended to cover every possible scenario. However, they provide general guidance about the manner in which Councillors are expected to conduct themselves.

It is important to note that the principles, values and standards set out in the Code of Conduct are of equal importance.

Standards of Behaviour

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour applying to all Councillors in Queensland. The behavioural standards relate to, and are consistent with, the local government principles and their associated values.

The standards of behaviour are summarised as the three Rs, being:

1. **RESPONSIBILITIES**
2. **RESPECT**
3. **REPUTATION.**

Each standard of behaviour includes, but is not limited to, several examples to guide Councillors in complying with the Code of Conduct when carrying out their role as elected officials. Councillors are to understand and comply with the following standards of behaviour as set out in the Code of Conduct listed below.

1. Carry out RESPONSIBILITIES conscientiously and in the best interests of the Council and the community

For example, Councillors will, at a minimum, have the following responsibilities:

- 1.1 Attend and participate meaningfully in all Council meetings, committee meetings, informal meetings, briefings, relevant workshops and training opportunities to assist them in fulfilling their roles other than in exceptional circumstances and/or where prior leave is given
- 1.2 Respect and comply with all policies, procedures and resolutions of Council
- 1.3 Use only official Council electronic communication accounts (e.g. email

accounts) when conducting Council business

- 1.4 Report any suspected wrongdoing to the appropriate entity in a timely manner
- 1.5 Ensure that their behaviour or capacity to perform their responsibilities as a Councillor is not impaired by the use of substances that may put them or others at risk while performing their duties (for example, alcohol, illegal drugs or prescribed/non-prescribed and/or restricted substances)
- 1.6 Cooperate with any investigation being undertaken by the local government or other entity
- 1.7 Ensure that the Councillor's Advisor is aware of their obligations to comply with the standards of behaviour in the Code of Conduct for Councillor Advisors in Queensland.

2. Treat people in a reasonable, just, RESPECTFUL and non-discriminatory way

For example, Councillors will, at a minimum, act in the following ways:

- 2.1 Treat fellow Councillors, Council employees and members of the public with courtesy, honesty and fairness
- 2.2 Not use abusive, obscene or threatening language (either oral or written) or behaviour towards other Councillors, Council employees or members of the public
- 2.3 Have proper regard for other people's rights, obligations, cultural differences, safety, health and welfare.

3. Ensure conduct does not reflect adversely on the REPUTATION of Council

For example, Councillors will, at a minimum, conduct themselves in the following manner:

3.1 When expressing an opinion dissenting with the majority decision of Council, respect the democratic process by acknowledging that the Council decision represents the majority view of the Council

3.2 When making public comment, clearly state whether they are speaking on behalf of Council or expressing their personal views

3.3 At all times strive to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of Council and avoid any action which may diminish its standing, authority or dignity.

Consequences of Failing to Comply with the Code of Conduct

Failure to comply with the standards of behaviour in this Code of Conduct, or other conduct prescribed in this code of conduct may give rise to a complaint against a Councillor's conduct and subsequent disciplinary action under the legislation.

A complaint about the conduct of a Councillor must be submitted to the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA), who will assess the complaint and determine the category of the allegation. In order of least to most serious, the categories of complaint are **unsuitable meeting conduct**, **inappropriate conduct**, **misconduct**, and then **corrupt conduct**.

Unsuitable Meeting Conduct

Under the legislation, any conduct by a Councillor that is contrary to the standards of behaviour in the Code of Conduct that occurs within a meeting of Council (including standing committee meetings), is dealt with as **unsuitable meeting conduct**.

Unsuitable meeting conduct by a Councillor is dealt with by the Chairperson of the meeting. It is important that the Chairperson deal with matters of unsuitable meeting conduct locally, and as efficiently and effectively as possible so that Council can continue with their business of making effective decisions in the public interest.

NOTE

Chairpersons of meetings are carrying out a statutory responsibility under the legislation to manage and lead the meeting. As such, where a Chairperson behaves inappropriately in a meeting this involves a serious breach of the

trust placed in them as the Chairperson of the meeting and may be dealt with as misconduct.

Inappropriate Conduct

Under the legislation, any conduct by a Councillor that is contrary to the standards of behaviour in the Code of Conduct or a policy, procedure or resolution of a Council, and is not unsuitable meeting conduct, misconduct or corrupt conduct is dealt with as **inappropriate conduct**.

The conduct of a Councillor is also inappropriate conduct if the conduct contravenes an order by the Chairperson of a meeting of Council for the Councillor to leave the meeting or is a series of conduct at Council meetings that leads to orders for the Councillor's unsuitable meeting conduct being made on three occasions within a period of one year. The local government is not required to notify the OIA and may deal with the conduct under section 150AG of the LGA (including Brisbane City Council).

The OIA is responsible for assessing allegations of suspected inappropriate conduct other than those arising from unsuitable meeting conduct. If the OIA chooses to refer the matter to the Council to deal with, the Council must deal with the matter as quickly and effectively as possible.

Misconduct

Councillors are required to comply with all laws that apply to local governments, this includes refraining from engaging in **misconduct**.

The OIA is responsible for assessing and investigating instances of suspected

misconduct. The OIA may make an application to the Councillor Conduct Tribunal to be heard and determined.

The conduct of a Councillor is misconduct if the conduct:

- adversely affects, directly or indirectly, the honest and impartial performance of the Councillor's functions or exercise of the Councillor's powers, or
- is, or involves:
 - a breach of trust placed in the Councillor, either knowingly or recklessly
 - misuse of information or material acquired by the Councillor, whether the misuse is for the benefit of the Councillor or for the benefit or to the detriment of another person
 - a Councillor giving a direction to any Council employee (other than the Mayor giving direction to the Chief Executive Officer, or for Brisbane City Council, the Lord Mayor giving direction to the Chief Executive Officer and senior contract officers)
 - a release of confidential information outside of the Council
 - failure to declare a conflict of interest or appropriately deal with a conflict of interest in a meeting
 - attempting to influence a decision maker about a matter in which the Councillor has a conflict of interest
 - failure by a Councillor to report a suspected prescribed conflict of interest of another Councillor
 - failure to submit, update or review your registers of interests, or

- is a failure by the Councillor to comply with:
 - an order made by the Council or the Councillor Conduct Tribunal
 - any acceptable request guidelines of the Council made under the legislation
 - the reimbursement of expenses policy of the Council.

The conduct of a Councillor is also misconduct if the conduct leads to the Councillor being disciplined for inappropriate conduct on three occasions within a period of one year or is conduct that is identified in an order of Council that will be dealt with as misconduct if the Councillor engages in the conduct again.

The conduct of a Councillor may also be misconduct if a Councillor purports to direct the Chief Executive Officer in relation to disciplinary action regarding the conduct of a Councillor Advisor.

Corrupt Conduct

Corrupt conduct is defined by, and dealt with, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*¹ and must be referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC). For a Councillor, corrupt conduct involves behaviour that:

- adversely affects or could adversely affect the performance of the Councillor's responsibilities, and
- involves the performance of the Councillor's responsibilities in a way that:
 - is not honest or impartial, or
 - involves a breach of the trust placed in the Councillor, or
 - involves the misuse of information acquired by the Councillor, and

¹ Section 15, Crime and Corruption Act 2001

- is engaged in for the purpose of providing a benefit or a detriment to a person, and
- if proven would be a criminal offence.

Councillors are reminded of their obligations under section 38 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to report suspected corrupt conduct.

The OIA has entered into a section 40² arrangement with the CCC which allows the OIA to commence investigation into some allegations of corrupt conduct and report the matters to the CCC on a monthly basis, to provide the CCC with the opportunity to assume responsibility for or monitor an

investigation, should the CCC consider that appropriate.

Further information about the CCC's jurisdiction and other topics in relation to local government is available at <https://www.ccc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Docs/Publications/CCC/Corruption-in-focus-Guide-2020.pdf> (Chapter 4).

More Information

For any further enquiries on this matter please contact the department.

² Section 40, Crime and Corruption Act 2001

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy

11.6 Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy

File Ref:

Consideration of amendments to the Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy No. 2.21 which is due for its biennial review.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Expenses Reimbursement Policy No. 2.21

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

A budget allocation is made each financial year.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2020-05-098)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Martin

That Council adopts the Councillor Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy No. 2.21, as presented.

Officer Comment

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

Background:

The Expenses Reimbursement Policy No. 2.21 was established pursuant to section 250 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and was due for its biennial review. The policy is provided to:

1. Ensure compliance with community expectations and statutory requirements relating to the payment or reimbursement of legitimate expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors while carrying out their duties and responsibilities as elected representatives; and

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy

2. Ensure that all Councillors have facilities and other support necessary to perform their civic duties.

Issue:

Pursuant to good governance and decision-making, policies should be subject to ongoing review and be evaluated for their effectiveness during implementation. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*, policy development is specifically referred to as follows:

Section 12(3)(c) All Councillors have the following responsibilities – "...participating in council meetings, policy development, and decision-making, for the benefit of the local government area;..."

In general terms, policies require review due to either legislative change, changes to policy itself, or because of differing circumstances requiring a change to policy.

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: Moderate
Rating: Medium (6/25)

Environmental Management Factors:

N/A

Other Comments:

A copy of the revised policy is attached with highlighted sections of where changes have been made.

Appendices


1. 02-21 Expenses Reimbursement Policy.pdf [↓](#)
2. 02-21 Expenses Reimbursement_MarkUp [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Expenses Reimbursement Policy No. 2.21, as presented.

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy --Appendix 1

Expenses Reimbursement Policy	
Policy Number:	2.21
Policy Category:	Statutory
Authorised by:	
Date approved:	
Review Date:	



**Longreach
Regional Council**

PURPOSE

This policy is established pursuant to section 250 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to:

1. Ensure compliance with community expectations and statutory requirements relating to the payment or reimbursement of legitimate expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors while carrying out their duties and responsibilities as elected representatives
2. Ensure that Councillors have facilities and other support necessary to perform their role as a Councillor.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors of Longreach Regional Council.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

DEFINITIONS

Council Business - means official business conducted on behalf of, and/or approved by Council, Mayor or Chief Executive Officer, where a Councillor is required to undertake certain tasks to satisfy legislative requirements or achieve business continuity for the Council. Council business should result in a benefit being achieved either for Council, the local government area or the community.

Council business includes functions that are a statutory requirement of the Councillor's role or are officially recorded in minutes or other public records. It may include attending an event or function to perform official duties or as an official Council representative, such as -

- ceremonial openings of buildings or facilities
- local school functions, such as sports days and/or carnivals
- annual or presentation dinners
- public meetings
- private meetings arranged through official Council channels (i.e. documented in official records) for the purpose of conducting bona fide discussions of business of Council
- meetings of the local government or its committees that the Councillor is entitled or asked to attend at inspections or deputations,
- conferences and meetings at which the Councillor's attendance is permitted by the local government
- official functions organised for the local government

Public Record - is any record created, received or kept in an official capacity.

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy --Appendix 1

Representing Council - A Councillor is representing Council when the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer determines that the Councillor is to attend an event or function as a representative of Council.

POLICY

The payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors must only be for the actual cost of legitimate Council business use and only in accordance with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Councillors should not be financially disadvantaged when carrying out the requirements of the role of Councillor and should be fairly and reasonably compensated in accordance with statutory requirements and community expectations. The payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors:

- is to be open and transparent, prudent, responsible, acceptable to the community and in accordance with statutory requirements
- based on ensuring economy and efficiency and
- subject to budget provisions.

The facilities provided to Councillors are to be used solely for Council business unless written approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer.

The additional cost of a Councillor's partner or family member attending an event or function is to be paid by the Councillor unless approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer.

EXPENSES

Councillors are only entitled to payment of expenses incurred for the following purposes:

1 Council Business

1.1 Representing Council at Events

Councillors may be required to attend a range of events and functions as part of their role as a Councillor.

Where the Mayor or the Chief Executive Officer determine that a Councillor is required to attend an event or conference as a representative of Council, Council will pay for the expenses associated with attending that event.

1.2 Professional Development

Council will pay for the cost, including travel, accommodation and meals, for Council related professional development as follows:

Mandatory Training - training where it is resolved, or the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer determine that Councillors or a class of Councillors (eg newly elected Councillors) are to attend training courses or workshops for skill development related to a Councillor's role.

Examples of mandatory training may include for Councillor induction, code of conduct, meeting procedures and legislative obligations.

Discretionary Training - A Councillor may wish to attend a conference, workshop or training to improve skills relevant to their role. A Council resolution is required to pay the expenses for these events.

1.3 Travel Costs & Private Vehicle Use

Councillors may incur travel costs to attend Council meetings, conferences, training or workshops.

Council will pay the cost of the most cost effective form of travel even if a Councillor uses a different mode of transport.

A Councillor may use their private vehicle for Council business purposes. In these circumstances, Council will pay a mileage allowance in accordance with the Australian Tax Office approved motor vehicle rates..

1.4 Accommodation

Where travel is over 100km one way to undertake Council business, Council may provide accommodation as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

When attending conferences, Councillors must take advantage of any package provided by conference organisers and, therefore, stay in the recommended accommodation unless prior approval has been granted by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer. In all other cases, the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer will approve payment of reasonable costs.

1.5 Meals

Council will pay for the actual meal costs incurred by a Councillor when travelling for Council business.

1.6 Hospitality Expenses

Council will pay the cost of Councillors attending official receptions and other functions organised by Council officers.

In addition, the Mayor is provided with a budget allocation of \$3,000 per annum for hospitality expenses incurred while conducting Council business.

1.7 Taxis and Public Transport

Council will pay the cost of taxis, Uber or public transport tickets (rail, bus, ferry) for Councillors to attend Council business.

1.8 Expense Claims

Council will organise and pay for Councillor travel and accommodation wherever possible.

Councillors may also claim for the reimbursement of other costs incurred using the Councillor Expense Claim Form

2 Facilities

Facilities will be provided for Councillors to perform their role as a Councillor as follows:

All facilities provided to Councillors remain the property of Council. The facilities must be returned to Council when the Councillor's term expires, unless Council agrees to dispose of the facility in some other manner.

2.1 Administration Tools and Office Amenities

2.1.1 Office Space and Access to Meeting Rooms

The Mayor will be provided with a dedicated office in the Longreach administration building.

Council will provide access to occasional meeting rooms for any Councillor to hold a Council related meeting. Such access must be booked through the Chief Executive Officer in advance of the meeting.

2.1.2 Administrative Support

The Mayor will be provided administration assistance relevant to the role of Mayor as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

Limited administrative support will be provided to other Councillors as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

2.1.3 Computer

Each Councillor will be provided with an electronic device (computer or tablet) for Council business use.

2.1.4 Photocopier and Paper Shredder

Councillors are entitled to access printers, photocopiers and paper shredders for business use at Council offices.

2.1.5 Publications

Councillors will be provided access to copies of relevant legislation, books and journals required to perform the role of Councillor.

2.1.6 Other Administrative Necessities

The Chief Executive Officer may provide Councillors with other administrative necessities required to perform the role of Councillor.

2.1.7 Maintenance Costs of any Council Owned Equipment

Council will cover all ongoing maintenance costs associated with fair wear and tear of Council owned equipment to ensure it is operating for optimal professional use.

2.1.8 Name Badge and Uniforms

Councillors will be provided with any safety equipment required as part of the role including, a high visibility vest, safety helmet or safety glasses.

Councillors will be provided with a corporate uniform, tie/scarf and name badge if requested.

2.2 Mayor's Vehicle

Council will provide the Mayor with a motor vehicle for use subject to the following conditions:

- The vehicle will be permitted to be home garaged at the normal place of residence of the Mayor

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy --Appendix 1

- The vehicle may be provided for Councillors to travel to Council related functions including meetings, conferences, seminars, training or professional development.
- The Mayor shall have full business use of the vehicle within Australia and full private use within the State of Queensland, or as otherwise approved by Chief Executive Officer.

2.3 Telecommunication Needs

The Mayor will be provided with a mobile phone with full costs paid for by Council.

2.4 Legal Costs and Insurance Cover

Council may decide, pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to cover costs incurred through any inquiry, investigation, hearing or legal proceedings into the conduct of a Councillor, or arising out of, or in connection with the Councillor's performance. Council shall specifically resolve on this matter on each occasion.

Councillors will be covered under Council's insurance policies while performing Council business. Specifically, insurance cover will be provided for public liability, professional indemnity, Councillor's liability, personal accident, workers compensation and travel insurance.

2.5 Credit Card

A credit card may be made available to the Mayor and will be issued with the approval of the Chief Executive Officer. The credit card must only be used for expenses directly related to Council business.

2.6 Provision of Meals

Councillors will be provided with light meals and morning and afternoon tea if they are required to attend statutory or other prescribed meetings that extend over meal periods.


2.7 Non Allowable Expenses

Payment of expenses associated with the following is not eligible under this policy:

- Unreasonable alcohol expenses
- Unreasonable personal telephone expenses
- Toiletries
- Traffic infringements
- Laundering or dry cleaning
- Provide funds, services or facilities for the purpose of advertising for Councillors

Authorised by resolution as at <<insert date>>:

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

Councillor Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	2.21	
Policy Category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a Reimbursement of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy pursuant to section 250 of the Local Government Regulation 2012. The policy further provides for to:

1. Ensure compliance with community expectations and statutory requirements relating to the payment or reimbursement of legitimate expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors while carrying out their duties and responsibilities as elected representatives;
2. Ensure that all Councillors have facilities and other support necessary to perform their [role as a Councillor](#) in their duties.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors of Longreach Regional Council.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

DEFINITIONS

Council Business - means official business conducted on behalf of, and/or approved by Council, Mayor or Chief Executive Officer, where a Councillor is required to undertake certain tasks to satisfy legislative requirements or achieve business continuity for the Council. Council business should result in a benefit being achieved either for Council, the local government area or the community.

Council business includes functions that are a statutory requirement of the Councillor's role or are officially recorded in minutes or other public records. ~~It may~~ This might also include; attending an event or function to perform official duties or as an official Council representative, such as -

- ceremonial openings of buildings or facilities;
- local school functions, such as sports days and/or carnivals;
- annual or presentation dinners;
- public meetings
- [private meetings arranged through official Council channels \(i.e. documented in official records\) for the purpose of conducting bona fide discussions of business of Council](#)
- [meetings of the local government or its committees that the Councillor is entitled or asked to attend at inspections or deputations,](#)
- [conferences and meetings at which the Councillor's attendance is permitted by the local government](#)
- [official functions organised for the local government](#)

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy --Appendix 2

- private meetings arranged through official Council channels (i.e. documented in official records or diary) for the purpose of conducting bona fide discussions of business of Council; and
- at the meetings of the local government or its committees that the Councillor is entitled or asked to attend; and
- at inspections or deputations, conferences and meetings at which the Councillor's attendance is permitted by the local government; and
- at official functions organised for the local government.

Councillor includes Councillors, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Civic Duties means Council business.

Discretionary Training means any training that is not determined by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer as "mandatory".

Mandatory Training means any training that the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer determines that Councillors must attend.

Meal Allowance means the daily amount allowed for meals while travelling on Council business.

Official Capacity refers to activities undertaken while on Council business.

Public Record - is any record created, received or kept in an official capacity.

Representing Council - A Councillor is representing Council when the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer determines that the Councillor is to attend an event or function as a representative of Council.

POLICY STATEMENT

The payment of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors must only be for the actual cost of legitimate Council business use and only in accordance with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Councillors should not be financially disadvantaged when carrying out the requirements of the role of Councillor and should be fairly and reasonably compensated in accordance with statutory requirements and community expectations. The payment and/or reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities for Councillors:

- is to be open and transparent, prudent, responsible, acceptable to the community and in accordance with statutory requirements
- based on ensuring economy and efficiency and
- subject to budget provisions.

The spouses, partners and family members of Councillors are not entitled to reimbursement of expenses or to have access to facilities allocated to Councillors. Facilities provided to Councillors are to be used solely for Council business unless written approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer.

The additional cost of a Councillor's partner or family member attending an event or function is to be paid by the Councillor unless approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer.

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EXPENSES

The following expenses refer to actual expenses deemed necessary for Council business. Councillors are only entitled to payment/reimbursement for of the expenses incurred for the following purposes contained in the categories listed below:

5.1 Council Business

Where Councillors are attending to Council business such as meetings, functions or other activities in an official capacity, Council will pay for the approved expenses associated with that activity:

5.3.1 Representing Council at Events

Councillors may be required to attend a range of events and functions as part of their role as a Councillor in attending to Council business. Councillors may, for example, be required to attend significant sporting and other community events in an official capacity:

Where the Mayor or the Chief Executive Officer determines that a Councillor is required to attend an event or conference as a representative delegate of Council, Council will pay for the expenses associated with attending that event.

5.4.2 Professional Development

Council will pay for the payment of cost expenses, including travel, accommodation and meals, for Council related professional development as follows: requires Council approval:

There are two categories of professional development for Councillors – Mandatory Training and Discretionary Training:

Mandatory Training - Councillors must attend training where it is resolved, or the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer determines that Councillors or a class of Councillors (eg newly elected Councillors) are to attend training courses or workshops for skill development related to a Councillor's role. Council will meet all costs:

Examples of mandatory training may include training for Councillor induction, code of conduct, meeting procedures and legislative obligations.

Discretionary Training - A Councillor may wish to attend a conference, workshop or training to improve skills relevant to their role (other than mandatory training); A Council resolution approval is required to pay the expenses for of these events.

5.5.1.3 Travel Costs & Councillor Private Vehicle Use

Councillors may incur travel costs for a number of reasons including attendance at Council meetings, travelling to conferences, training or workshops. This travel needs approval by the Mayor in advance prior to the event.

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~~Council will pay the cost of the~~ ~~In general, the most cost effective form of travel~~ even if a Councillor uses a different mode of transport ~~must be used.~~

~~A Councillors may request to travel using~~ use their ~~own~~ private vehicle for Council business purposes. ~~In these circumstances, Council will pay and claim a mileage allowance in accordance with the Australian Tax Office approved motor vehicle rates for business use of motor vehicle cents per kilometre method. All claims for payment are to be made on the Councillor Travel &/or Expense Claim Form.~~

~~This rate is the maximum that can be paid with no PAYG tax withheld on the first 5,000km during any financial year. Any claim beyond 5,000km is subject to PAYG taxation and is a reportable allowance for taxation purposes.~~

~~Councillors are required, as a minimum, to maintain comprehensive insurance and current vehicle registration for private vehicles used for elected member related travel activities.~~

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5.101.4 Accommodation

Where travel is over 100km one way to undertake Council business, Council may provide accommodation as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

When attending conferences, Councillors must take advantage of any package provided by conference organisers and, therefore, stay in the recommended accommodation unless prior approval has been granted by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer. In all other cases, the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer will approve payment of reasonable ~~what are~~ legitimate costs ~~for the purpose of reimbursement.~~

5.111.5 Meals

~~Council will pay~~ lors may claim for the reimbursement for the ~~of each actual cost per meal costs incurred by a Councillor~~ when travelling for Council ~~business-related purposes.~~

5.121.6 Hospitality Expenses

Council will pay the cost of Councillors attending official receptions and other functions organised by Council officers.

~~In addition, t~~ Where the Mayor is provided with a budget allocation of \$3,000 per annum ~~for~~ neurs ~~hospitality expenses incurred while conducting Council business, apart from official civic receptions organised by the Council, the maximum amount that may be reimbursed is~~ \$2,500 per annum ~~.~~

~~Hospitality expenses related to official receptions and other functions organised by Council officers are met from relevant approved budgets.~~

1.7 Taxis Cab Charge and Public Transport

Council will pay the cost of taxis, Uber or ~~lors may claim reimbursement for cab charge facilities or public transport tickets (rail, bus, ferry) for Councillors to attend official Council business.~~

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5.151.8 Expense Claims

Council will organise and pay for Councillor travel and accommodation wherever possible.

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~~Councillors may also claim reimbursement for cab charge facilities or public transport tickets (rail, bus, ferry) to attend official Council business. claim for the reimbursement of other costs incurred using the Councillor Expense Claim Form~~

6.2 Facilities

~~Facilities will be provided for Councillors to perform their role as a Councillor as follows: must be deemed necessary and required to assist Councillors in their official capacity. In accordance with statutory provisions, Council may only provide Councillors with the facilities listed below.~~

~~All facilities provided to Councillors remain the property of Council and must be accounted for during equipment audits. The facilities must be returned to Council when the Councillor's term expires, unless Council agrees to dispose of the facility in some other manner.~~

6.1.2.1 Administration Tools and Office Amenities

6.1.2.1.1 Office Space and Access to Meeting Rooms

~~The Mayor will be provided with a dedicated office in the Longreach administration building office.~~

~~Council will provide access to occasional meeting rooms for any Councillor to hold a Council related meeting. Such access must be booked through the Chief Executive Officer in advance of the meeting.~~

6.1.2.1.2 Administrative Support

~~The Mayor will be provided administration assistance relevant to the role of Mayor as determined by the assisted Chief Executive Officer by the Executive Assistant to the CEO, Mayor and Councillors, who will be shared with the Chief Executive Officer. Additional staffing will be provided as deemed to be warranted from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer based on workloads.~~

~~Limited administrative support will be provided to other Councillors by the current Administration staff based in the office of the Mayor as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.~~

6.1.2.1.3 Computer and Printer for Business Use

~~Each Councillor The Mayor will be provided with an electronic device (computer or tablet) and printer for Council business use. The standard of computer shall be similar to that available to the Chief Executive Officer.~~

6.1.2.1.4 Photocopier and Paper Shredder

~~Councillors are entitled to access printers, photocopiers and paper shredders for business use at Council offices.~~

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy --Appendix 2

~~6.1.52.1.5~~ Publications

Councillors ~~will be~~ provided access to copies of relevant legislation, books and journals ~~considered necessary for undertaking their duties~~ required to perform the role of Councillor.

~~6.1.62.1.6~~ Other Administrative Necessities

~~Subject to Council resolution or otherwise approved by~~ The Chief Executive Officer ~~may provide;~~ Councillors ~~may be provided~~ with other administrative necessities required to perform the role of Councillor ~~to meet the business of Council.~~

~~6.1.7~~ Advertising

~~Council will not reimburse or provide funds, services or facilities for the purpose of advertising for Councillors.~~

~~6.1.12.1.7~~ Maintenance Costs of any Council Owned Equipment

Council will cover all ongoing maintenance costs associated with fair wear and tear of Council owned equipment to ensure it is operating for optimal professional use.

~~6.1.12.1.8~~ Name Badge and Uniforms

Councillors will be provided with any safety equipment required as part of the role including, ~~for example, a~~ high visibility vest, safety helmet or safety glasses.

Councillors will be provided with a corporate uniform ~~jacket, shirts/blouse/polo shirts,~~ tie/scarf and name badge if requested in ~~writing.~~

~~6.22.2~~ Mayor's Vehicles and Provision of Fuel

Council will provide the Mayor with a motor ~~executive~~ vehicle for use ~~and its usage is~~ subject to the following conditions:

- ~~That~~ The vehicle will be permitted ~~allowed~~ to be home garaged at the normal place of residence of the Mayor ~~or the Mayor's business in Longreach;~~
- The ~~is~~ vehicle may be ~~is to be the primary vehicle provided for to~~ Councillors to travel to ~~and from required~~ Council related functions including meetings ~~of Council outside of the town of Longreach,~~ conferences, seminars, training ~~or,~~ professional development ~~and the like;~~ and,
- ~~The Mayor shall have~~ That as per Council's Vehicle Policy No. 4.4, full business use of the vehicle ~~be allowed~~ within Australia ~~the Country;~~ and full private use within the State of Queensland, or as otherwise approved by Chief Executive Officer.

~~6.32.3~~ Telecommunication Needs

The Mayor will be provided with a mobile phone with full ~~all~~ costs ~~associated~~ paid ~~for~~ by Council.

~~6.42.4~~ Legal Costs and Insurance Cover

11.6 - Councillor Expenses Reimbursement Policy --Appendix 2

Council may decide, pursuant to section 107 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, to cover costs incurred through any inquiry, investigation, hearing or legal proceedings into the conduct of a Councillor, or arising out of, or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his/her civic functions. Council shall specifically resolve on this matter on each and every occasion specifically.

Councillors will be covered under Council's Member's insurance policies while performing Council business discharging civic duties. Specifically, insurance cover will be provided for public liability, professional indemnity, Councillor's liability, personal accident, and/or workers compensation, international and domestic travel insurance.

6.52.5 Credit Card

A credit card may be made available to the Mayor and will be issued with the approval of the Chief Executive Officer. The credit card must only be used for business expenses directly related to Council business. Personal expenses not related to the business of Council must not be charged to the credit card.

A statement of expenses, including all receipts, must be used to reconcile all expenditure. This is to be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer each month as part of the normal payment and dissection process.

6.92.6 Provision of Meals

Councillors will be provided with light meals and morning and afternoon tea if they are required to attend statutory or other prescribed meetings that extend over meal periods.

6.92.7 Non Allowable Expenses

Requests for payment or reimbursement of expenses associated with the following is not eligible under this policy:

- Unreasonable alcohol expenses;
- Unreasonable personal telephone expenses;
- Toiletries;
- Mini-bar purchases;
- Traffic infringements;
- Laundering or dry cleaning;
- In-flight or in-house movies;
- Provide funds, services or facilities for the purpose of advertising for Councillors;
- Expenses incurred by or on behalf of others such as partners, family members and associates.

Authorised by resolution as at <<insert date>>:

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

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11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.7 - Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors Policy

11.7 Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors Policy

File Ref:

Consideration of amendments to the Acceptable Requests Guidelines Policy No. 2.28 which is due for its biennial review.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Acceptable Requests Guidelines Policy No 2.28

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2021-04-073)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Emslie

That Council adopts the Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors Policy No. 2.28, as presented.

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: *Kimberley Dillon, Executive Officer, Governance & Special Projects*

Background:

In accordance with the *Local Government Act* section 170A(7), the Acceptable Requests Guidelines Policy was established to provide clear guidelines for when a Councillor asks an employee for advice or information that the Council has access to, to assist them carrying out their responsibilities relating to Council and its business.

Issue:

Councillors identified an issue with the current policy and requested further advice be sought from Local Government Association Queensland.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.7 – Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors Policy

The importance of having current and up-to-date policies cannot be understated. Pursuant to good governance and decision-making, policies should be subject to ongoing review and be evaluated for their effectiveness during implementation. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2009*, policy development is specifically referred to as follows:

Section 12(3)(c) All Councillors have the following responsibilities – "...participating in council meetings, policy development, and decision-making, for the benefit of the local government area;..."

In general terms, policies require review due to either legislative change, changes to policy itself, or because of differing circumstances requiring a change to policy.

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:	Likely
Consequence:	Moderate
Rating:	High (12/25)

Environmental Management Factors:

N/A

Other Comments:

A copy of the revised policy is attached with highlighted sections of where changes have been made. There are a number of changes listed in the policy largely due to the separation of the request types 'advice' and 'information' in the policy. In the previous policy, the two request types were listed together, however, there is a difference in the request types and how they are proposed to be managed.


Appendices

1. 02-28 Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Crs Policy.pdf [↓](#)
2. 02-28 Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Crs_MarkUps.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Acceptable Requests Guidelines Policy No. 2.28, as presented.

Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors	
Policy Number:	2.28
Policy Category:	Statutory
Authorised by:	
Date approved:	
Review Date:	



**Longreach Regional
Council**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for circumstances where a Councillor requests advice or information from an employee.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Councillors and employees of Longreach Regional Council.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

DEFINITIONS

Advice – an opinion provided to another person about what action should be taken in a particular situation.

Information – any administrative, legal, financial, technical or statistical information held by Council in the form of a file, report, photo, correspondence or document.

Executive Leadership Team – the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Community Services, Director of Works and Manager of Human Resources and Workplace Health and Safety.

POLICY

Section 13 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides that the Chief Executive Officer has a responsibility for complying with requests from Councillors:

- a) For advice to assist the Councillors carry out their role as a Councillor or
- b) For information, that the Council has access to, relating to the Council.

Section 170A of the *Local Government Act 2009* requires the Council to adopt guidelines about the way in which a Councillor may ask a Council employee for advice or information to help Councillors carry out their responsibilities and the reasonable limits on requests that can be made.

All Councillors have a right to seek advice or information that will assist them in carrying out their official duties.

The Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to take all reasonable endeavours to comply with the request to provide information.

However, in making a request, a Councillor must not give a direction to any Council employee. The exception is the Mayor, who may give a direction to the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 171 of the *Local Government Act 2009* outlines the responsibility on Councillors for the use of information.

GUIDELINES

Councillors Seeking Advice

1. Councillors may only direct a request for advice to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. The Chief Executive Officer may refer the request to another officer for a response where appropriate.
3. The request for advice may be made verbally or in writing and the response may be given verbally or in writing.

Councillors Seeking Information

1. A Councillor may only direct a request for information to a member of the Executive Leadership Team (except as in clause 2).
2. A Councillor may request information that would ordinarily be given to the public from any employee (eg information on rates due date from a customer service officer).
3. A Councillor must submit a request for information in writing unless the officer receiving the request agrees to accept the request verbally.

Councillors Giving Direction to Employee

1. The Mayor may give a direction to the Chief Executive Officer. No other Councillor may give any direction to the Chief Executive Officer or any other employee (except as in clause 3).
2. Councillors wishing for a direction to be given to the Chief Executive Officer must provide the direction through the Mayor.
3. A Councillor may give a direction to an administrative support employee in accordance with the Administrative Support Guidelines made by the Chief Executive Officer.

Employee Responsibilities

1. Information provided by an officer to a Councillor under this policy, must be provided to all Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer.
2. If a Councillor makes a request to a Council employee other than under these guidelines, the employee must inform the Chief Executive Officer about the request as soon as is practicable.
3. If a Councillor directs or attempts to direct a Council employee about the way in which the employee's duties are to be performed, the employee must report this to the Chief Executive Officer.

Use of Information by Councillors


1. A person who is, or has been, a Councillor must not use information that was acquired as a Councillor to gain, directly or indirectly, a financial advantage for that person or someone else or to cause detriment to the Council.

11.7 - Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors Policy --Appendix 1

2. A Councillor must not release information that the Councillor knows, or should reasonably know, is information that is confidential to the Council.

Authorised by resolution as at <<insert date>>.

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

Acceptable Requests Guidelines by Councillors		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	2.28	
Policy Category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for circumstances where when a Councillor requests an employee for advice or information from an employee that the Council has access to, to assist them carrying out their responsibilities relating to Council and its business.

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SCOPE

This policy applies to all Councillors and employees of Longreach Regional Council.

LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 2009
- Local Government Regulation 2012

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DEFINITIONS

Advice/Information - advice and information includes details of what Councillors and employees are doing; any administrative, legal, financial, technical or statistical information held by Council and options available to achieve a particular thing of objective an opinion provided to another person about what action should be taken in a particular situation.

Information - any administrative, legal, financial, technical or statistical information held by Council in the form of a file, report, photo, correspondence or document.

Emergency Situations - A matter that may cause harm to the Council or Community, or damage the reputation of Council if not dealt with promptly.

Executive Leadership Team - includes the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Corporate Service, Director of Community and Cultural Services, and Director of Works and Manager of Human Resources and Workplace Health and Safety Infrastructure Services.

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 13 of the Local Government Act 2009 provides that the Chief Executive Officer has a responsibility for complying with requests from Councillors:

- a) For advice to assist the Councillors carry out their role as a Councillor or
- b) For information, that the Council has access to, relating to the Council.

Section 170A of the Local Government Act 2009 requires the Council to adopt guidelines about the way in which a Councillor may ask a Council employee for advice or information to help Councillors carry out their responsibilities and the reasonable limits on requests that can be made.

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Council acknowledges that it is not practical for all requests for information and advice to be directed to the Chief Executive Officer and that both arms of the local government being the

~~elected members and employees are required to work together to achieve Council's Vision as set out in the Corporate Plan.~~

All Councillors have a right to seek advice or information that will assist them in carrying out their official duties.

~~The Act requires and the Chief Executive Officer to take all reasonable endeavours to comply with the request to provide information. employees must provide them with information and advice in accordance with these guidelines.~~

~~However, in making a request, a Councillor must not give a direction to any Council employee. The exception is the Mayor, who may give a direction to the Chief Executive Officer.~~

~~Section 171 of the *Local Government Act 2009* outlines the responsibility on Councillors for the use of information.~~

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GUIDELINES

Councillors Seeking Advice

1. Councillors may only direct a request for advice to the Chief Executive Officer.
2. The Chief Executive Officer may refer the request to another officer for a response where appropriate.
3. The request for advice may be made verbally or in writing and the response may be given verbally or in writing.

Councillors Seeking Advice or Information

1. A Request for advice or information must comply with and be directed in line with the following requirements:
1. Councillors may will only direct a requests for advice or information to a member of the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Leadership Team (except as in clause 2).
 - a) A or Managers;
 2. Councillors may request from an employee advice or information that would ordinarily be given to the public from any employee (e.g: information on rates due date from with a customer service officer at a customer service centre).
 3. A Councillor must submit a request for information in writing unless the officer receiving the request agrees to accept the request verbally.
- b) ;
- c) To facilitate the timely and accountable flow of information, Councillors may submit requests via telephone, email or in writing:
- d) To facilitate with accurate record keeping, any staff member Executive Leadership Team who do receives telephone or information requests from a Councillor shall follow up with an email to the Councillor and will ensure the request is registered as a Councillor Request in the Customer Service system;
 - e) Councillors will request advice or information in a professional manner and in accord with the Councillor Code of Conduct, in a reasonable, just, respectful and non discriminatory way, with respect to the employee by not behaving towards the employee in an overbearing or threatening manner;
 - f) Councillors will respect the relationship with employees, and the legislative provisions around influencing decision makers, and will not pressure or direct an employee in relation to their work or recommendations they should make, or action they should take;
2. Councillors may be given approval by the Chief Executive Officer or the Executive Leadership Team to request advice and information from an employee other than the designated positions stated above, only in specific circumstances. In these circumstances, written approval will be provided to both the Councillor and employee.
3. This policy should not be used by a Councillor or employee as an alternate procedure for dealing with customer enquiries. All initial customer enquiries or complaints received by a Councillor

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~~should be directed to the customer service centre to be captured through normal request or complaint processes, rather than directly referring the matter to an individual employee.~~

Councillors Giving Direction to Employee

- ~~1. Only the Mayor may give a directions to the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with section 170 of the Local Government Act 2009. No other Councillor may give any direction to the Chief Executive Officer or any other employee (except as in clause 3) Executive Leadership Team.~~
- ~~2. Councillors wishing for a direction to be given to the Chief Executive Officer must provide the direction through the Mayor should first discuss the matter with Mayor and if unsatisfied, seek a resolution of Council to give the direction.~~
- ~~3. A Councillor may give a direction to an administrative support employee in accordance with the Administrative Support Guidelines made by the Chief Executive Officer.~~
- ~~3. No Councillor including the Mayor may give direction to any other employee or contractor of Council. Should a Councillor attempt to give direction to an employee or contractor, the employee or contractor is not required to act on those directions, and must inform the Chief Executive Officer of this direction, either directly or through the employee's or contractor's manager/supervisor.~~

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Employee Responsibilities

- ~~1. Copies of any information formal written advice provided by an officer to a Councillor under this policy, must should be provided, where practical and relevant, to all Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer.~~
- ~~2. Employees must keep records of advice given to Councillors as they would do when advising a member of the public;~~
- ~~3. If a Councillor makes a request to a Council employee other than under these guidelines, the employee must inform the Chief Executive Officer about the request as soon as is practicable, either directly or through their supervisor or manager;~~
- ~~4. If the Mayor or a Councillor directs or attempts to direct a Council employee about the way in which the employee's duties are to be performed, the employee must report this to the Chief Executive Officer, either directly or through their supervisor or manager;~~
- ~~5. Council employees should inform the Chief Executive Officer if they believe a Councillor has behaved inappropriately and/or not in accordance with these guidelines.~~

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Use of Information by Councillors

- ~~1. A person who is, or has been, a Councillor must not use information that was acquired as a Councillor to gain, directly or indirectly, a financial advantage for that person or someone else or to cause detriment to the Council.~~

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2. A Councillor must not release information that the Councillor knows, or should reasonably know, is information that is confidential to the Council.

Emergency Situation (After Hours)

Other than in emergency situations Councillors are not to contact an employee in relation to any Council matter outside normal office hours other than with the prior approval of the employee and Chief Executive Officer or Executive Leadership Team. If an after hours matter is of a non-emergency operational nature, Councillors will defer the matter for consideration until during normal office hours. Otherwise, Councillors must log a request through the general Council after hour's phone number when an emergency situation occurs after hours, Councillors may contact one of the following:

- Chief Executive Officer;
- Executive Leadership Team; or
- Manager

Authorised by resolution as at ~~20 July~~^{15 April} 2023¹.

Mitchell Murphy ~~Brett Walsh~~
Chief Executive Officer

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11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.8 - Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024

11.8 Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024

File Ref:

Consideration of the Longreach Regional Council Annual Operational Plan, which is presented for adoption.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* states:

174 Preparation and adoption of annual operational plan

- 1) A local government must prepare and adopt an annual operational plan for each financial year.
- 2) The local government may, but need not, adopt the annual operation plan for a financial year at the same time the local government adopts its budget for the financial year.
- 3) The chief executive officer must present a written assessment of the local government's progress towards implementing the annual operational plan at meetings of the local government held at regular intervals of not more than 3 months.
- 4) A local government may, by resolution, amend its annual operational plan at any time before the end of the financial year.
- 5) A local government must discharge its responsibilities in a way that is consistent with its annual operational plan.

Policy Considerations

01-11 Risk Management Policy

01-16 Project Decision Policy

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

OUR FINANCES	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
4.1	Improved financial performance and strategic financial management.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.8 - Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024

Budget Considerations

As aligned with the 2023/24 budget.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2022-07-194)

Moved Cr Emslie seconded Cr Martin

That pursuant to section 174(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, the Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023, as presented, be adopted.

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s:

Simon Kuttner – Executive Officer, Economic Development and Public Affairs

Background:

The *Local Government Regulation 2012* requires local governments in Queensland to 'prepare and adopt an annual operational plan for each financial year.' It should be noted that Council need not adopt the plan at the same time it adopts its budget. Furthermore, Council may amend the annual operational plan at any time during the financial year.

Issue:

The attached *Longreach Regional Council Annual Operational Plan 2023-24* has been prepared by the Executive Leadership Team with reference to the recently adopted *Longreach Regional Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028*. It is presented here for adoption.

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:	Minor
Rating:	Low (4/25)

Risk has been calculated based on proceeding as recommended.

Environmental Management Factors:

The attached plan contains multiple strategies and initiatives that address environmental management factors, in line with the *Longreach Regional Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028*.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.8 - Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. Draft Longreach Regional Council Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to section 174(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, adopts the Longreach Regional Council Annual Operational Plan 2023-2024, as presented.



Longreach Regional Council
ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN
2023-24





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About the Annual Operational Plan

The Longreach Regional Council Annual Operational Plan serves as a crucial roadmap for our targets and goals over a twelve-month period. It's not just a document; it's a powerful tool that guides our staff in determining their performance milestones, budgetary needs, and it forms part of the basis for their monthly reports to Council.

The strategies outlined in the Annual Operational Plan are rooted in the Longreach Regional Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028. This comprehensive plan was developed in consultation with Council's leadership, and it sets the long-term targets and goals that shape our future direction and our relationship with the community we serve.

Every year, during the adoption of our Annual Budget, the strategies from the Corporate Plan are carefully considered for the upcoming twelve months. They are evaluated alongside our commitments from previous decisions and resolutions, and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements. The selected initiatives for the next financial year are incorporated into our Annual Operational Plan. During the budgeting process, adequate funds and

resources are allocated to ensure the successful delivery of these initiatives throughout the year.

Section 104(5) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 175 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* outline the requirements and components of an operational plan. According to the regulation, the operational plan must align with the annual budget and clearly specify how Council will advance its five-year corporate plan and address operational risks. Our Annual Operational Plan is prepared in strict accordance with these guidelines.

Once adopted, the Annual Operational Plan undergoes quarterly reviews, which are conducted alongside the quarterly budget review. These reviews assess our progress towards achieving the outlined strategies while minimising any potential risks that could hinder service completion. The detailed information provided in the plan helps the Chief Executive Officer prepare quarterly reports to Council, highlighting progress made against performance measures.

The financial allocations required to execute the plan are included in the 2023/2024 Budget, which should be referenced alongside this plan.

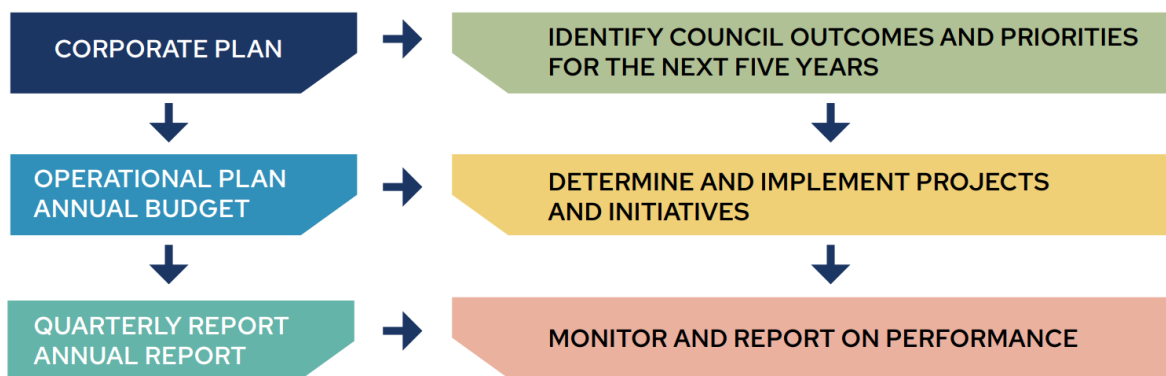




Strategic Framework

Council uses different ways to share information and make plans to decide what is most important given its available resources. These approaches help us effectively address the needs of the community in the short term, medium term, and long term.

Each strategy and plan includes a list of important things to focus on, key ideas to put into action, and specific steps to achieve desired results. They are considered when deciding on new ideas and how money should be spent, making sure our efforts match our long-term goals. We regularly check on the progress of these actions to see if they are being carried out as planned. This ongoing process allows for changes and updates as needed, making sure we stay on track in reaching our objectives.



Reporting

In adherence with the statutory reporting requirements of the Local Government Act 2009 and our commitment to strategic foresight, we conduct annual reviews of the Corporate Plan. These reviews not only track our progress but also contribute to the development of our operational plan and budget for the following year.

Every three months, the Chief Executive Officer compiles a diligent review of the Annual Operational Plan to be presented to Council. This review serves to outline how well we have fared in relation to the goals outlined in our Corporate Plan, and the progress made in executing the activities detailed in our Annual Operational Plan.

Once the financial year draws to a close, Council undertakes the task of creating an Annual Report. This report serves as a comprehensive review of

our achievements throughout the reporting year. It offers the community valuable insights into our performance, providing both operational and financial information regarding how well we have fulfilled our obligations and service delivery commitments as specified in our Corporate and Operational Plans.

Risk Management

Council has a Risk Management Framework, guided by policy, which promotes a consistent and organised approach to risk management across the organisation. This framework follows the guidelines set by AS/NZ ISO 31000:2018.

The Audit and Risk Committee plays a supervisory role in managing strategic risks. They review the Strategic Risk Register on a quarterly basis, along with the Executive Leadership Team. At the operational level, risk management is carried out by individual departments, supported by our Workplace Health and Safety team.

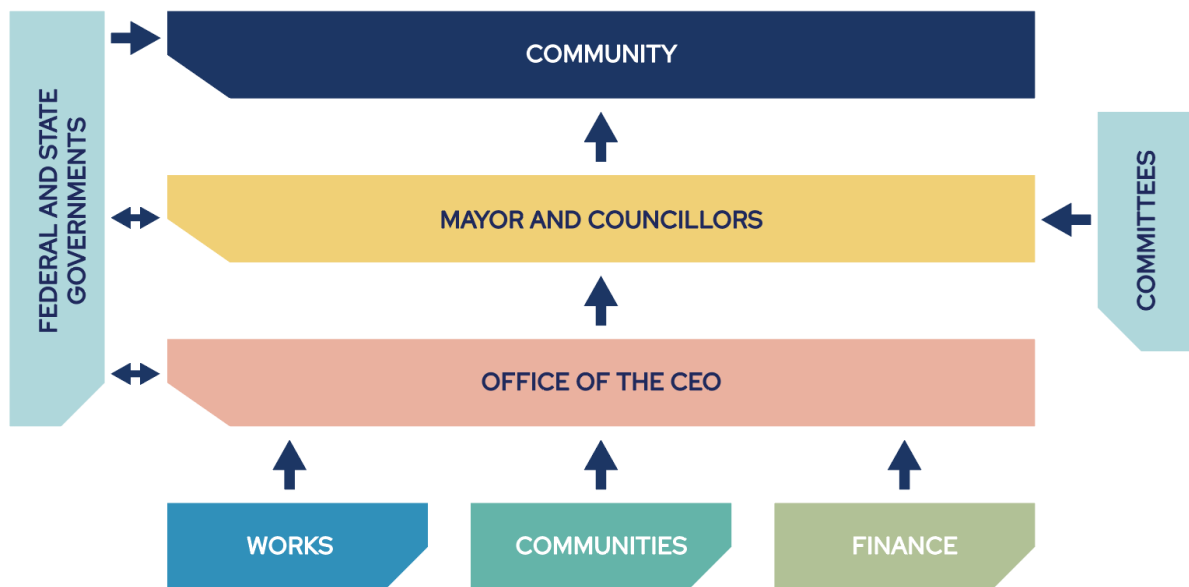




Organisational Structure

Within our organisational structure, a community-focus emerges. The community is given highest importance, with the Mayor and Councillors responsible for representing them and addressing their needs. The Chief Executive Officer oversees all operations and ensures effective governance practices. Within the Office of the CEO are several important strategic functions such as people and culture, safety, economic development, governance, planning and development, and regulatory services.

Further down the structure, we find three specialised directorates. The Works directorate manages and maintains infrastructure and civil works including roads, waste management, water and sewerage. The Communities directorate engages with the community, and manages community facilities like libraries, showgrounds, town halls, pools, parks and gardens. Lastly, the Finance directorate handles financial resources, including budgeting, fiscal planning, plus business systems including payroll, information technology, and procurement.



Reporting lines and accountability flows through the organisation up to the Directors that make up the Executive Leadership Team, through the Chief Executive Officer, up to the Mayor and Councillors then on to the community at large. Council is also guided by various committees including advisory committees, working groups, and the Audit & Risk Committee. State and federal governments provide further authority and guidance through legislation, service delivery, and funding.

This structure, and the distribution of functions within it, has been carefully designed to ensure that transparency and accountability is embedded in our culture, fostering a strong connection between Council and the community it serves.





Annual Planning Overview

In order to prioritise and determine the initiatives and services we fund and provide to our community each year, a comprehensive process is undertaken. This process ensures that all proposed items are in harmony with our long-term strategic goals and the sustainability of our core services. It includes the identification and proficient management of operational risks, which greatly influences the decision-making process.

Annual Operational Plan

The Annual Operational Plan outlines important operational initiatives that match the focus areas and strategic goals of the five-year Corporate Plan. It also encompasses the services provided to our community. Each of our strategic themes – Community, Economy, Services, Finances, and Leadership – has its own specific strategies and performance milestones that provide guidance on how we aim to achieve our vision.

Project Decision Framework

In the challenging task of allocating resources for various projects, Council faces numerous competing interests with limited funds. We recognise the advantages of adopting a disciplined approach to project decision making, by considering project need, benefits, complexity, cost, and risk, so that approved and prioritised projects provide meaningful value for money.

Our Project Decision Group is made up of executive leadership and senior staff. It meets monthly to make recommendations on project progression, priority, timeframe, and the need for further planning. The group submits its recommendations to Councillors, who make the final decision.

To aid in this decision-making process, we have developed a set of criteria that will be used to evaluate and rank each project. This approach ensures a fair and justifiable method for selecting which projects receive funding.

The ten criteria are each rated on a scale. Additionally, each criterion carries a weighting that reflects its significance in the decision-making process. A higher rating indicates a higher rank for the project.

Once the criteria are applied to each project, a list of ranked projects is generated. This ranked schedule serves as a useful tool in determining which projects will be included in an upcoming budget.

During the budget process, our Project Decision Group initially assess and rank the criteria ratings for each project. Later, during a series of budget workshops, the Councillors are invited to contribute their input on criteria ratings for projects, focusing on exceptional cases. They also review the project rankings to finalise the approved projects for the budget.

Annual Budget

Our Annual Budget serves as the financial framework that enables us to make a positive impact in our community. It is designed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*, ensuring that funding parameters are established for significant initiatives and projects outlined in the Annual Operational Plan, as well as the essential core services we provide.

The budget ensures that every activity we undertake receives the necessary funding and is carefully planned. Additionally, the Annual Budget plays a crucial role in helping us achieve our long-term financial goals. By aligning our budgetary decisions with these goals, we work towards creating a financially sustainable future for the organisation and the community we serve. We're committed to transparency and accountability in our financial practices, and the Annual Budget serves as a key instrument in achieving these aims.





One-off and Capital Projects 2023-24

In each Annual Budget, a number of one-off and capital projects are supported, beyond the day-to-day delivery of services. Many are put forward to Council directly by community members, and some are identified as requests by community based groups and progress associations. Others are identified and scheduled in accordance with rigorous Asset Management Plans. These projects are identified, prioritised, and matched to external or internal funding in line with the Project Decision Framework.

By striking a balance between responsible asset management projects and exciting new initiatives, we aim to support both sustainability and innovation in our services. This helps us meet the ongoing needs of our community while also laying the groundwork for progress.

One-off and Capital Projects currently scheduled for completion in the 2023-24 financial year are detailed in the table below. These projects are subject to review throughout the year:

New Initiatives		
Project name/description	Location	Directorate
Squash Courts upgrade	Longreach	Communities
Build new multipurpose court	Ilfracombe	Communities
New Longreach SES boat trailer shed	Longreach	Communities
Wave Pavilion Upgrade Project (showgrounds)	Longreach	Communities
Library Upgrade Project	Longreach	Communities
Eagle Street improve Swan Street streetscape	Longreach	Communities
Apex Park - New street furniture	Longreach	Communities
Beersheba Park shade structure	Longreach	Communities
Raising Thomson River Weirs - Stage 1	Longreach	Works
Funded LSHS and Our Ladies School Carpark project	Longreach	Works
Race horse training pool	Ilfracombe	Works
Pave and Seal turn-around at Fuel Pod	Yaraka	Works
Longreach long-distance coach stop	Longreach	Works
Ilfracombe long-distance coach stop, East and West	Ilfracombe	Works
Bailey Street upgrade	Ilfracombe	Works
Footpath to Childcare Centre from CBD	Longreach	Works

Asset Management Projects		
Project name/description	Location	Directorate
Repair wall, Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre	Isisford	Communities
Upgrade wading pool chlorinators	Longreach	Communities
Upgrade pool pump	Isisford	Communities
Replace main office air conditioners	Longreach	Communities
Longreach Swimming Pool mower	Longreach	Communities





Asset Management Projects		
Project name/description	Location	Directorate
Civic Centre shade sail	Longreach	Communities
New executive housing	Longreach	Communities
Housing upgrades	Yaraka	Communities
Rehabilitate road to weed washdown facility	Ilfracombe	Works
Bogewong Alroy Road (replace concrete floodway)	Longreach	Works
Crossmoor Road gravel re-sheet section	Longreach	Works
Town streets resealing	Longreach	Works
Drainage upgrade Bustard/Crow Lane, Bustard/Cassowary	Longreach	Works
Stonehenge River Road - Reseal 4 Mile Creek	Longreach	Works
Bude Road gravel re-sheet section	Longreach	Works
Rural road signs upgrade	Isisford	Works
Rural property signs upgrade Stage 1	Isisford	Works
Silsoe Road Reseal section	Longreach	Works
St Mary's Street Rehab & New Kerb	Isisford	Works
Stonehenge River Road - Section Reseal	Longreach	Works
All areas ongoing Grid Replacement Program	Longreach	Works
Fleet replacement program	Longreach	Works
Corella Lane Pave and Seal	Longreach	Works
Water mains replacement and sewer relining	Longreach	Works
Isisford-Bimerah Road Gravel re-sheet section	Isisford	Works
Arno crossing remote river reading	Yaraka	Works
Upgrades to Water Tower	Ilfracombe	Works
Electrical switchboards upgrade at Murray McMillan Dam	Ilfracombe	Works
Fencing of town dams	Yaraka	Works
Concrete slab for Water Treatment Plant generator	Longreach	Works





Strategies and Initiatives by theme

<h3>Our Community</h3> <p><i>We focus on making our region a great place to live.</i></p>				
Corporate Plan Outcome	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate
1.1 Council infrastructure & services support liveability and community amenity	1.1.1 Implementation of Housing strategy	Progress actions from the Housing Strategy	Year-one actions completed	Office of the CEO
	1.1.2 Development, adoption and implementation of Facilities Master Plans	Adoption of Facilities Master Plans	Two Facilities Master Plans adopted	Communities
1.2 Council recognises cultures, heritage and supports all peoples	1.2.1 Recognise all cultures and heritages through a range of initiatives and advocacy	Stakeholder and community engagement activities	Number of initiatives and successful advocacy outcomes	Communities
	1.2.2 Provide opportunities for all peoples to contribute to the community	Stakeholder and community engagement activities with a focus on the youth and disability sector	Establishment of a youth council	Communities
	1.2.3 Review and improvement of draft Reconciliation Action Plan	Commence stakeholder and community engagement	Approved project management plan	Communities
1.3 The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected	1.3.2 Development and adoption of a Biosecurity Plan	Review and drafting of revised Stockroute Management Plan	Stockroute Management Plan v.02 draft is considered by Council	Office of the CEO





<h2 style="margin: 0;">Our Economy</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>We make it easy for people to invest and do business in the region.</i></p>				
Corporate Plan Outcome	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate
Council infrastructure and services support local industries and growth	2.2.2 Development, adoption and implementation of an Economic Development Strategy	Development of a draft Economic Development Strategy	Draft Economic Development Strategy considered by Council	Office of the CEO
	2.2.3 Development, adoption of and implementation of a Destination Strategy	Development of a draft Destination Strategy	Draft Destination Strategy considered by Council	Office of the CEO





<h2 style="margin: 0;">Our Services</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>We strive to deliver our core services to a consistently high standard.</i></p>				
Corporate Plan Outcome	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate
A secure water supply that is resilient to climate factors	3.1.1 Develop initiatives to increase water access and storage capacity for the region	Commence construction of the Thomson River Weir Raising Project	Development approval Funding approved Construction commenced	Works
		Repair Ilfracombe elevated water storage	Solution to repairing Ilfracombe water storage developed and implemented	Works
Sustainable infrastructure and services that represent value for money, are environmentally responsible, and are responsive to community needs	3.2.1 Development, adoption and implementation of Strategic Asset Management Plan	Strategic Asset Management Plan is adopted and action plan commenced	Plan is adopted and year-one actions are completed	All Departments
	3.2.2 Development, adoption and implementation of an Active Transport Network Strategy	Develop and adopt an Active Transport Network Strategy	Draft Active Transport Network Strategy considered by Council	Works
Construct high quality transport infrastructure in partnership with external agencies	3.3.1 Advocate for road funding to upgrade state owned roads	Develop advocacy plan for the Department of Transport and Main Roads	Increased funding for roads	Works





Our Finances

We will strategically manage our finances to improve our resilience, to overcome adversity and realise opportunities.

Corporate Plan Outcome	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate
Improved financial performance and strategic financial management	4.1.1 Achieve efficiency through technology and smarter work processes	Implementation of the ICT Strategic Plan	Year-one actions are completed	Finance
		Timely, insightful and accurate management reporting	Monthly management reports are published within three business days of month end	Finance
	4.1.2 Agreed asset and service levels are used to achieve sustainable outcomes	Asset Management Plans are updated and integrated into the operational and capital budget programs	The Strategic Asset Management Plan is adopted and year one targets are met	Finance
		Service level plans are updated and maintained	Service level plans are updated for all key services and costs broken down by activity	Finance
	4.1.3 Integrated planning across functions with a future focus	Projects are reviewed and progressed through the Project Decision Group	Pipeline of current and future year shovel ready projects established and reviewed by Project Decision Group	Finance
		Procurement requirements are viewed on a consolidated basis	Forward looking procurement schedule developed based on OPEX and CAPEX programs	Finance
		Council remains responsive to opportunities and threats	Forecasts are updated and reviewed monthly	Finance
	4.1.4 External funding opportunities are maximised	New grant opportunities are identified, pursued, and existing grant milestones are met	Grant budget achieved	Finance





Our Leadership

We will work together as a team for the benefit of Council and our community.

Corporate Plan Outcome	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate
Council will have a value driven culture	5.1.1 Development, adoption and implementation of Safety and Wellbeing Strategy	Stakeholder engagement and consultation on draft Safety and Wellness Strategy	Adoption of the Safety and Wellness Strategy	Office of the CEO
	5.1.2 Investment in employee training and development	Stakeholder engagement and consultation for training needs analysis	Adopted training needs analysis	Office of the CEO
Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices	5.2.1 The risk management framework is integrated into all council decisions and activities	Council maintains an effective risk management and audit program	Audit and Risk Committee meetings are held quarterly	Finance
		Documentation of Council's critical safety risks	Developed and adopted audit of hazards program	Office of the CEO
	5.2.2 Implement a Community Engagement Strategy	Commence review of existing engagement process to ensure consistency in approach	Adoption of Community Engagement Policy	Communities
Council delivers a positive customer experience in all service areas	5.3.1 Development, adoption and implementation of a Customer Experience Strategy	Commence a review of Council's customer service charter and service level agreements	Completion of customer service charter and service level agreements review	Communities
Council is resilient to climate factors	5.4.1 Explore opportunities to partner with other entities to respond to climate risk	Participate in the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program	Attendance and participate in scheduled workshop	Office of the CEO
		Commence review of Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan	Review of Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan completed	Works





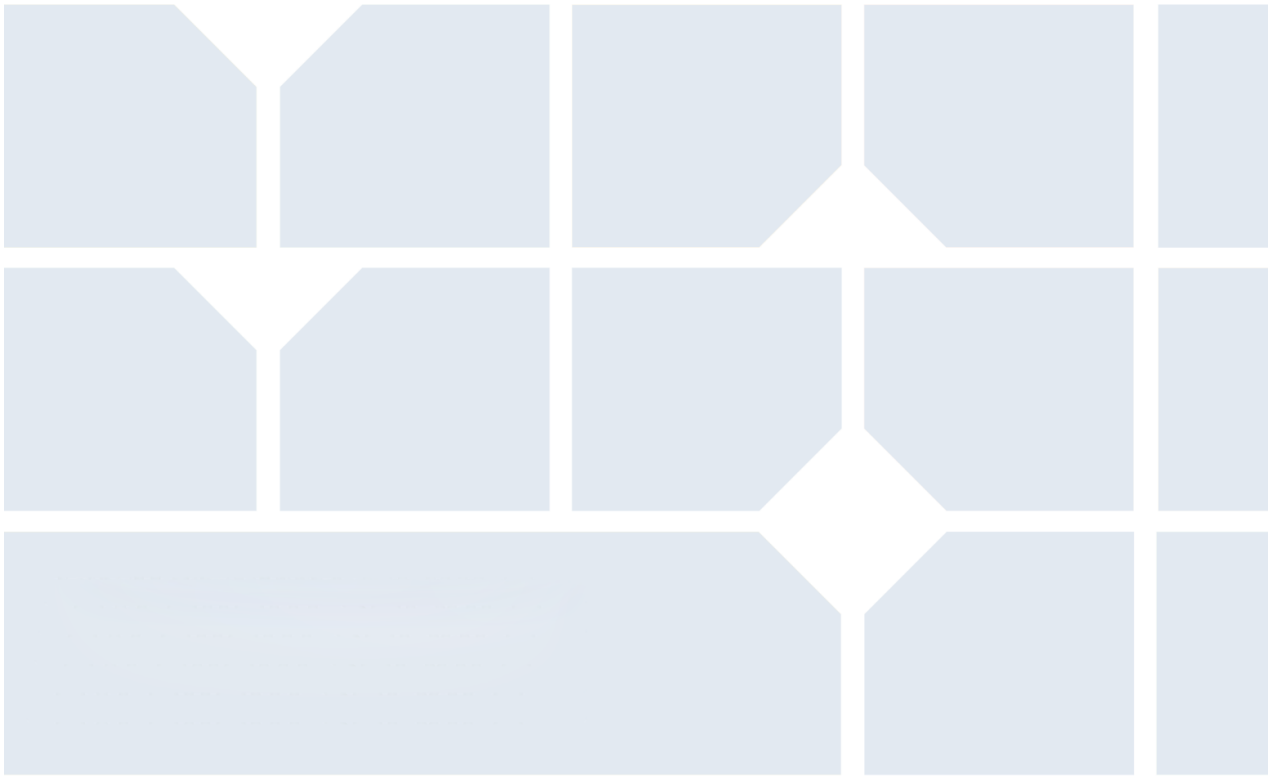
Our Leadership <i>We will work together as a team for the benefit of Council and our community.</i>				
Corporate Plan Outcome	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate
		Engage with tertiary sector on climate resilient strategies	Stakeholder meeting	Office of the CEO
	5.4.2 Community awareness and preparedness for disaster events	Adopt flood study and community action plan	Adoption of flood study and community action plan	Works
		In partnership with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority develop a Local Resilience Action Plan	Adoption of a Local Resilience Action Plan	Communities





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Contacts

Council Website www.longreach.qld.gov.au
Telephone (07) 4658 4111
Email assist@longreach.qld.gov.au
Postal Address PO Box 144, Ilfracombe, QLD 4727

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES

Ilfracombe - 1 Devon Street, Ilfracombe QLD 4727
Isisford - 20 St Mary Street, Isisford QLD 4731
Longreach - 96 Eagle Street, Longreach QLD 4730



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.9 - Request to Allocate 2024 Special Holiday

11.9 Request to Allocate 2024 Special Holiday

File Ref:

Consideration of dates for the 2024 Special Holiday in the Longreach Regional Council Local Government Area.

Council Action

Recognise
Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Holidays Act 1983
Industrial Relations Act 2016

Policy Considerations

04-01 Employment Policy

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.1	Council will have a values driven culture.

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2022-07-195)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Bignell

That pursuant to section 4 of the Holidays Act 1983, the Office of Industrial Relations be advised that Council:

- 1. Seeks to nominate Friday 12 May 2023 as a Special/Show Holiday for the bounded locality of Longreach; and*
- 2. Seeks to nominate Wednesday 6 September 2023 as a Special/Show Holiday for the bounded localities of Ilfracombe and Isisford (to include communities of Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka).*

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.9 - Request to Allocate 2024 Special Holiday

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s:

Simon Kuttner – Executive Officer, Economic Development & Public Affairs

Background:

In correspondence received from the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) Council is invited, in accordance with the *Holidays Act 1983*, to request special holidays to be observed during the following year for our region. Submissions for 2024 were due to be lodged by 3 July, but Council has been granted dispensation by the OIR to allow the matter to be referred to this meeting.

Upon receiving Ministerial approval, the holidays will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette.

Issue:

Unless they are aligned to an annual agricultural, horticultural, or industrial show, these special holidays are gazetted as 'bank' holidays and are not recognised as public holidays by employers.

Council approaches the Longreach Show Society each year to ensure they support the nomination of their event for a special holiday. Council also approaches community associations in Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka to seek their input.

The Longreach Show Society have confirmed that they are supportive of Friday 24 May being nominated a special holiday in Longreach. The Ilfracombe District Progress Association have confirmed their support for that date being named a special holiday in the Ilfracombe bounded locality. This date will be recognised as a public holiday by employers in those localities.

Isisford Industry Recreation and Development Association are intending to meet to consider dates that may line up with a possible celebration of the towns sesquicentenary in 2024. The Yaraka Sport and Progress Association are also yet to meet to consider dates. Recommendations from these communities will be tabled at the meeting, noting that if the date is not associated with an annual agricultural, horticultural, or industrial show, it will not be recognised as a public holiday by employers in those localities.

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:	Rare
Consequence:	Minor
Rating:	Low (2/25)

The above risk has been calculated based on Council proceeding as recommended.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.9 - Request to Allocate 2024 Special Holiday

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. OIR Special Holiday Request Letter 2024.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to section 4 of the Holidays Act 1983, applies to the Office of Industrial Relations for the following Special Holidays in 2024:

1. *Friday 24 May 2024 for the bounded localities of Longreach and Ilfracombe for the purpose of the annual Longreach Show; and*
2. *<insert date> for the bounded localities of Isisford and Yaraka for the purpose of <insert purpose>.*

11.9 - Request to Allocate 2024 Special Holiday --Appendix 1



Office of
Industrial Relations

Department of Education

15 May 2023

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

As you may be aware, each year in accordance with the *Holidays Act 1983* local governments are invited to request special holidays to be observed during the following year for districts in their area.

If you wish to request special holidays to be observed during 2024 for districts in your local government area, please complete the attached request form and submit via email to info@oir.qld.gov.au by no later than **Friday, 3 July 2023**.

A local council requested special holiday is a public holiday only if it is in respect of an agricultural, horticultural or industrial show. Under federal industrial relations legislation, on a public holiday employees are, without loss of ordinary pay, entitled to be absent from work or refuse to work in reasonable circumstances. Employees who work on a public holiday are entitled to penalty rates in accordance with their award or agreement.

A special holiday for any other reason is not a public holiday but is a bank holiday only and under the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*, is only a holiday for banks and insurance offices and under a directive of the *Public Service Act 2008*, a holiday for public service employees unless otherwise determined by a chief executive.

Upon receiving Ministerial approval, the holidays will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette. Confirmation of the approved special holidays together with a link to the Queensland Government Gazette will be emailed to your office.

Should you require further information regarding this process, please contact Ms Patricia Faulkner, Office of Industrial Relations on (07) 3406 9845 or email patricia.faulkner@oir.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A J James".

A J (Tony) James
Assistant Director-General
Office of Industrial Relations

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11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy

11.10 Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy

File Ref:

Consideration of the Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy, which is presented for endorsement.

Council Action

Recognise
Advocate
Partner
Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

11-05 Council Housing Policy
06-01 Removal of a Dwelling Policy

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.

OUR ECONOMY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
2.1	Collaborative engagement with stakeholders to maximise economic opportunities.
2.2	Council infrastructure and services support local industries and growth opportunities.

OUR SERVICES	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
3.2	Sustainable infrastructure and services that represent value for money, are environmentally responsible, and are responsive to community needs.

Budget Considerations

No Council resources have been allocated towards implementation of this strategy at this stage. Future actions will be funded through the Project Decision Group and normal budget preparation process.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.10 - Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2023-03-067)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Emslie

That Council receives and endorses the Queensland Housing Strategy 2021-2025 Longreach Regional Council Local Housing Action Plan, as presented and amended.

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s:

Simon Kuttner – Executive Officer, Economic Development & Public Affairs

Background:

Commissioned late last year and prepared on our behalf by consultants from CPR Group, this Housing Strategy examines the current housing situation in the Longreach region and addresses challenges and opportunities for sustainable housing. The strategy provides recommended actions based on data collection and analysis.

Housing supply is a complex and ever-changing system. While there are external factors impacting the market that are beyond Council's sphere of influence and available resources, this strategy will focus on our own ability to make a positive impact on housing issues in our region.

Issue:

The Strategy provides high-level actions and outcomes for the next five years. Each action specifies Council's role, which can involve monitoring, advocating, engaging, partnering, facilitating, planning, providing financial assistance, or building and maintaining. Given the ever-changing nature of housing supply, it is recommended to be flexible when prioritising these actions and to regularly review and update the strategy as necessary.

It is intended that this strategy will be subordinate to the recently adopted 'Queensland Housing Strategy 2021-2025 Longreach Regional Council Local Housing Action Plan', which was developed in partnership with the Queensland Government and Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC).

Council is asked to consider the strategy and receive it for endorsement.

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:	Possible
Consequence:	Moderate
Rating:	Medium (9/25)

Risk has been calculated based on proceeding as recommended.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy

Environmental Management Factors:

Consideration of this plan in future land use, planning and development matters will be expected.

Other Comments:

Councillors may like to consider amendments to the strategy before receiving and endorsing it.

Appendices

1. Draft Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives and endorses the Longreach Regional Council Housing Strategy, as presented.



Longreach Regional Council
HOUSING STRATEGY





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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Iningsi, Malinjji and Kuunkari people, on which we operate; and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



CPRGROUP
connelly project resources

This project was proudly completed by CPR Group in conjunction with Longreach Regional Council, 2023
www.cprgroup.com.au
PO Box 2092, Sunshine Plaza Qld 4558

1. Introduction

Longreach Regional Council recognises a housing crisis is affecting our community, as it is in many other Australian and regional communities, and is dedicated to finding solutions which will support the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our region, for everyone. Through this Housing Strategy, Council defines outcomes and seeks actions so that residents of Longreach and surrounding regions will always have a safe and secure place to live.

The Housing Strategy outcomes and actions support the vision for:

Community and Partnerships

A connected network working together to understand the lived experience and making homes for our community

Diversity and Accessibility

Everyone in the Longreach region has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home

Liveability and Strategy

A location of choice where everyone is proud to call Longreach home

This Housing Strategy reviews the current housing situation in the Longreach region and addresses the challenges and opportunities for sustainable housing to provide recommended actions. This report includes the data collection and analysis portion of the housing strategy. The recommended next steps is to form a Housing Stakeholder Reference Group and conduct community engagement to inform the outcomes and actions.

Housing supply is complex, highly integrated and dynamic. It is recognised that there are numerous external forces influencing housing which are outside of Council's ability to change. This strategy will therefore not focus on what cannot be changed but focus on the impact Council can have on the housing within the Longreach region. There are opportunities beyond the minimum requirement of complying with state legislation, "While a local government in the Australian Federation is an instrument of state and territory governments, many do much more than simply comply with state legislation, taking the initiative on a wide range of issues to ensure sustainable and liveable communities."¹

¹ Martin et al, 'Australian Journal of Regional Studies', Rural Local Governance and Housing: Local Government as Facilitator, 27/1 (2021), 4-25.

As further explained in “2.2 Strategic Framework” on page 14, Council’s role is placed into a framework using the following keywords: Monitor, Advocate, Engage, Partner, Facilitate, Plan, Financially assist, Build and maintain.

The Western Queensland Alliance of Councils’ (WQAC) Housing Solutions Study highlights how an underinvestment in housing for many years and declines in the quantity and quality of housing stock, has led to a lack of available, suitable, and affordable housing in Western Queensland. The availability and diversity of quality housing stock is a key barrier to growing the economic and social potential of Western Queensland², and this is certainly true for Longreach. It is also limiting the community’s access to their essential care needs.

Outback Independent Living, a community group in Longreach, experienced difficulty in attracting a disability service provider to Longreach. The trade shortages restricted the provider’s ability to build disability accommodation and their staff were not able to find a place to stay due to the housing shortage. People with a disability in Longreach are having to make the tough decision to go without essential services or move away from their home.

This confirms the observation made by WQAC, “Employers – from government departments, to essential service providers, to private enterprise – all reported difficulty in attracting and retaining staff in large part due to housing shortages and/or sub-standard housing.”³

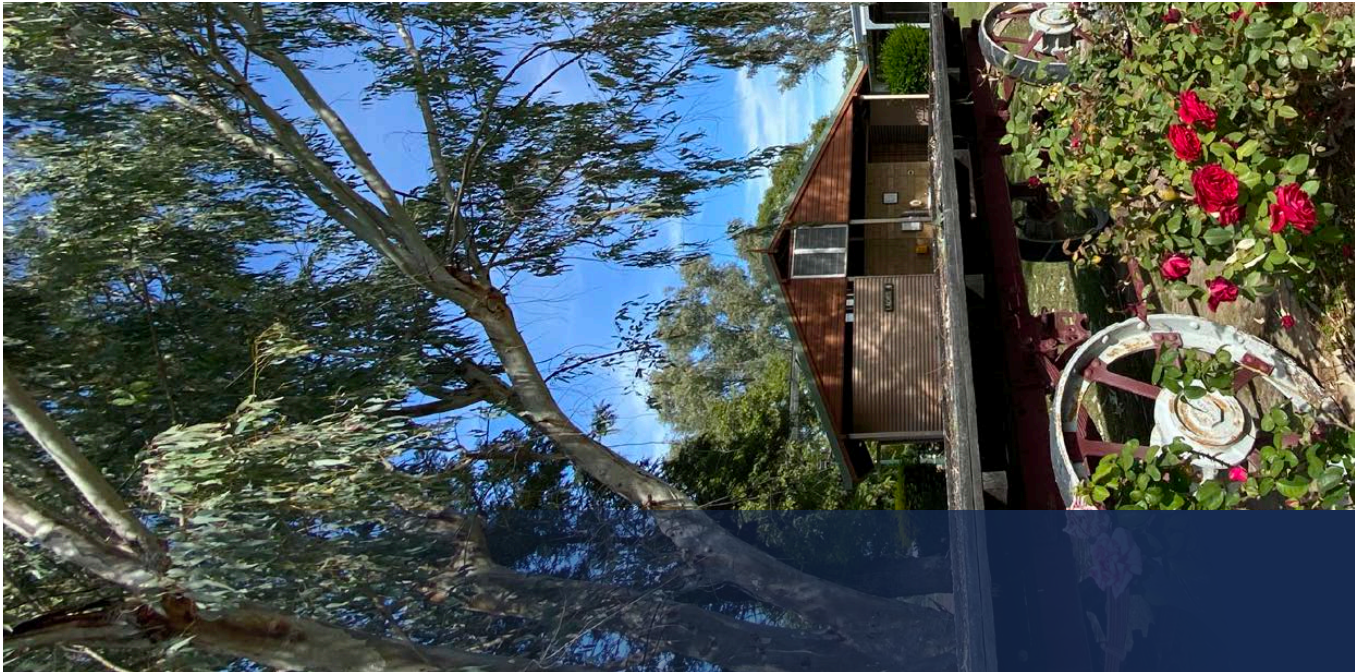
The diagram on the following page visually represents the key barriers and impacts to housing supply. Severe trade labour shortages and high material costs have contributed to high build costs, resulting in low valuations compared to build costs, significantly reducing access to finance for new builds and renovations.

Further, the demographic change in the Longreach LGA impacts the types of housing required. With the decrease in families with children, the average people per household decreased from 2.5 in 2011 to 2.3 in 2016 and remains at 2.3 in 2021. For example, if the population remains and the average people per household went to 2.2 – 72 more houses would be needed. As there are fewer options available for single or couple households, they could be using housing with more space and bedrooms than required, taking the dwelling off the market for families that may require more space. And potentially perpetuating this demographic change.

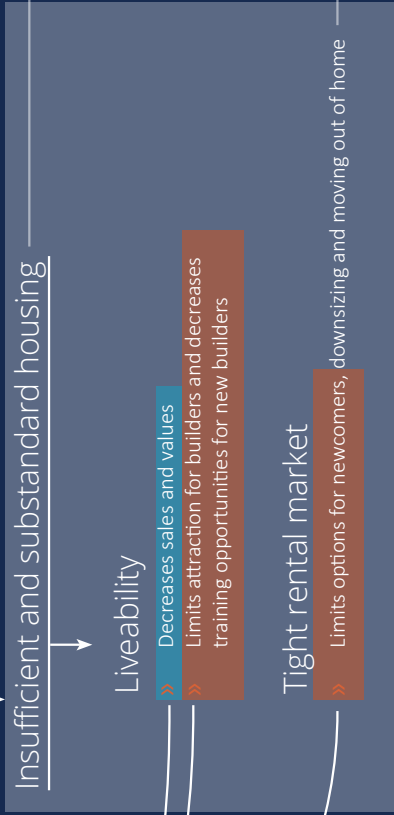
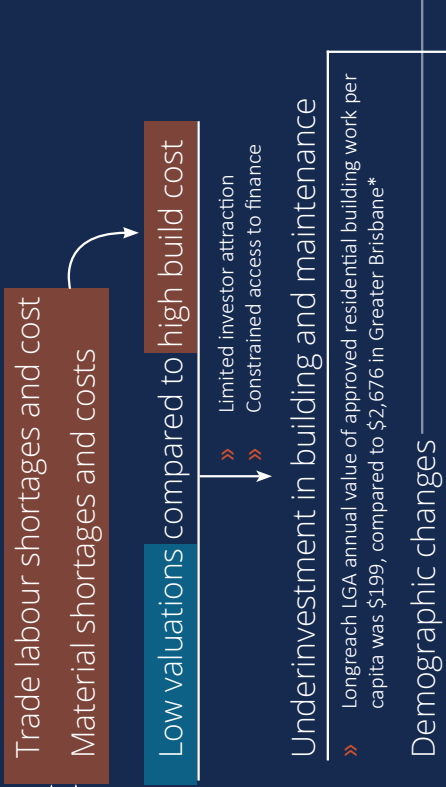
Insufficient and substandard housing can create a downward spiral impacting livability, growth, service provision and the ability for everyone in the community, regardless of income, to meet their essential care needs. As demonstrated in the diagram, liveability is a pivotal point to reduce the impact of the downward spiral- and it is here that Council can apply a strategic approach to improve housing in the region, supported by collaborative partnerships and creative solutions.

² Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

³ Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.



Housing Barriers and Impact



» **Example external influences**

- » Rural location (freight and material costs/availability)
- » Building conditions (soil type)
- » Global and national influences
- » Draught and weather events
- » Federal government initiatives and policies
- » Privatisation of housing
- » Interest rates

» **Missing middle - need for housing diversity**

- » 9,91% decrease in couple families with children
- » Ageing population
- » People per household decreased from 2.5 in 2011 to 2.3 in 2016 and 2021

Medium density housing provides options for older residents to downsize, workers moving to the region, and lower income households.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census data, accessed September 2022

» **Vacant dwellings - houses falling into disrepair**

Percentage of unoccupied dwellings 2021

Longreach	» 17%	» 29%	» 22%	» 11%
				QLD

» Ilfracombe had the greatest increase in unoccupied dwellings in 2016 when it reached almost half the amount of dwellings at 41%

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021 Census data, accessed September 2022

» **Tight rental market**

Longreach (4730)	» 0.2%	» 0%	» 0%	» 0.7%
				QLD*
				Ilfracombe (4727)

» **Decline in rented properties**

Percentage of change from 2011 to 2021

Longreach	» -16%	» -72%	» -39%
			Ilfracombe

October 2022, SQM Research Pty Ltd. *March 2022, grb, REIQ.

* (avg over the 3 yrs to June 2020), Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021)

2. Context

2.1 Longreach Overview

2.1.1 Region

The Longreach Regional Council area spans 40,638 square kilometres, situated 700 kilometres from the coast, west of Rockhampton, and includes the outback townships of Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka. Longreach is the largest town in Central Queensland and is an important rural service centre as well as a tourist destination, largely driven by the Qantas Founders Outback Museum and the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame. The top five industries by the number of employees⁴ are:

1. Health care and social assistance
2. Agricultural, forestry and fishing
3. Public Administration and safety
4. Education and training
5. Tourism

Interestingly, construction is the sixth highest employer and the second highest output generator at \$73.954 M, under agriculture, forestry and fishing at \$89.215 M. A further indication of the high prices due to the demand in the region.

The agricultural sector has seen the greatest decline in the number of jobs since 2011. As industries modernise, as with all industries, they require less people—this could be contributing to population decline.

Longreach is a cornerstone of Queensland's Outback Tourism Region. In the year ending March 2022 TEQ (Tourism & Events Queensland) reported there were 868,000 domestic visitors to Outback Queensland⁵. The tourist season in Longreach extends from April to September. With the top industries in agriculture and tourism, there is a strong seasonal workforce.

The map to the right shows the Longreach LGA (Local Government Area) divided by the SA1s.

Within the LGA there are three main suburbs Longreach, Ilfracombe and Isisford. Isisford includes the towns Isisford and Yaraka. The following Suburbs and Localities (SAL) have been used in the demographics and data, where available.

- » Longreach (Qld) (code 31685)
- » Ilfracombe (code 31383)
- » Isisford (code 31416)

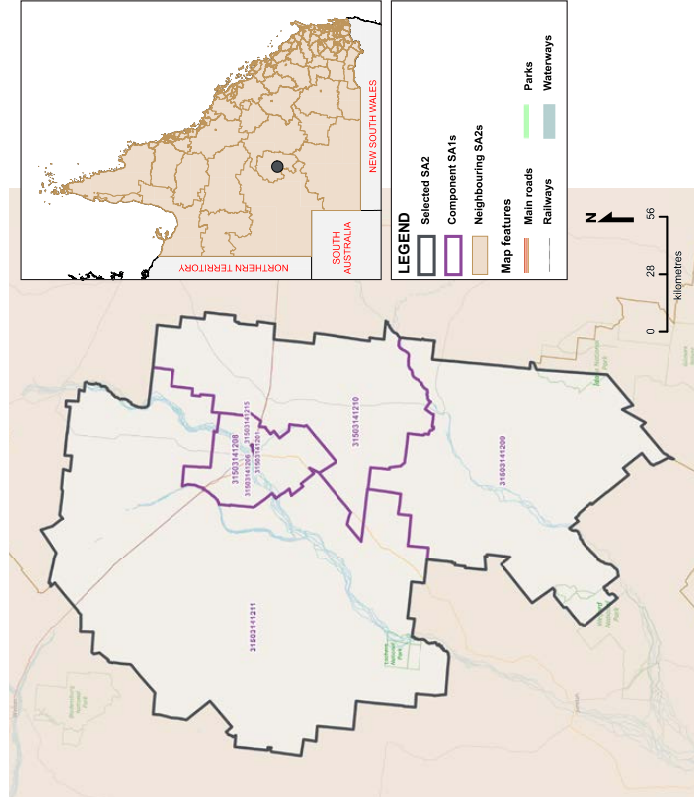


Figure 1: SA2 and SA1 regions in Longreach (source: Queensland Government's Office, Queensland Treasury <https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/geographies/maps>)

4. <https://app.replan.com.au/longreach/economy/industries/employment?state=LX&FBJ5RdHv19FqpwvrmYBXGCTEh8zITXXGV0u028ZJHNH3dUghM1zGZGYP>
 5. <https://teq.queensland.com/content/dam/teq/corporate/corporate-searchable-assets/industry/research/regional-snapshots/03-2022-regional-snapshots/Outback-Regional-Snapshot-YE-March-2022.pdf>

2.1.2 Drought

The Longreach Regional Council area has had a formal Queensland Government drought declaration since 01/01/2014. Changes in the economic circumstances of Longreach further demonstrates the impact of drought on the community. Since full drought was declared in 2014, only one year had above average rainfall. 2016 saw increased rainfall and also an increase in Gross Regional Product at \$332.757m (nominal), which then dropped to \$281.581m the following year, a loss of \$51.173m.

The impacts of drought on rural communities have been widely acknowledged in studies such as “Social Impacts of Drought”, an Australian report to NSW Agriculture by Charles Sturt University⁶ and “How Does Drought Affect Our Lives?” from the National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska⁷. Expenditure by farm families in smaller towns is a significant input to small businesses and is an important source of income for many non-farm businesses. Service industries like retail and wholesale trade, transport and storage, finance and machinery repairs are all affected by farmers’ spending patterns.

2022 has exceeded the average yearly rainfall and is approaching the total annual rainfall last seen in 2016⁸. The healthy rainfall this year could positively impact the local economy and provide a good opportunity to inspire house maintenance and contributions to community housing initiatives.

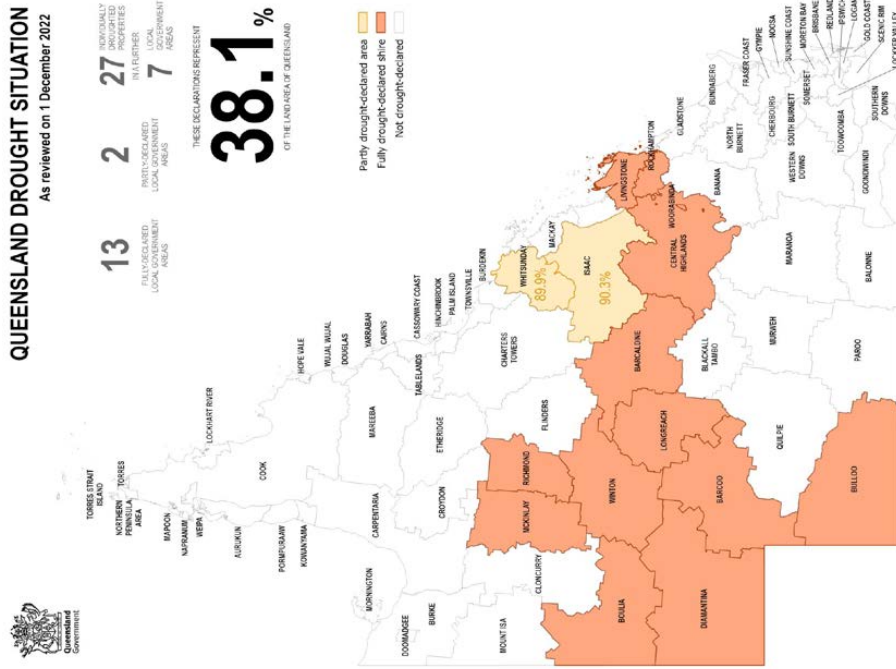


Figure 2: Queensland Drought Situation, 1 December 2022, longpaddock.qld.gov.au

6. Alston & Kent. Social Impacts of Drought, A report to NSW Agriculture, Centre for Rural Social Research, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, 2004 https://www.csiu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/70488/Social-Impacts-of-Drought.pdf

7. National Drought Mitigation Center, How Does Drought Affect Our Lives? <https://drought.lum.edu/Education/DroughttoKids/DroughtEffects.aspx> [accessed October, 2021]

8. Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology, Monthly rainfall, Longreach TM (http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/weatherData/avftp_nccObsCode=1598p_display_type=dataFile&startYear=8p_c=&stn_num=036161)

2.1.3 Population

The current population of the Longreach LGA is 3,647 based on the 2021 census. Population declined by -13% between 2011 and 2016, with the decline slowing down from 2016 to 2021 to -0.36%. This is a lot less than the projected decline from the Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition⁹, which forecast a -10% decline from 2016 and 2021. The Queensland Government projections estimates an average decline of -5% from 2021 to 2041.

Overall, the actual average population decline from 2011 to 2021 was -6.49%, and from 2001 to 2021 it was -1.19%.

Longreach LGA	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Census Population	4,329	3,523	4,189	3,660	3,647

Table 1: Population within the Longreach LGA as of the 2021 census. (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Census Population	Ilfracombe			Isisford			Longreach			
	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021	
348	259	310	310	215	218	218	218	3,630	3,179	3,119

Table 2: Population of SALs on the census year from 2011-2021 (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

The Longreach Planning Scheme estimated the following population:

Total Population	Ilfracombe			Isisford			Longreach		
	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031
321	353	385	385	298	317	341	3,892	4,008	4,145

Table 3: Forecast population in the Longreach Planning Scheme

The current limitations on housing stock, if not addressed, will stifle population growth, potentially leading to further decline in population.

The following population projections are used in the strategy:

Longreach LGA 2026 population estimates

Projection Category	Population Projection for 2026	Note
High	4,008	Based on Longreach Regional Council Planning Scheme
Medium	3,763	Based on Longreach Regional Council Planning Scheme, minus the difference in 2021 actual and projection
Low	3,160	Based on Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition

Table 4: High, Medium and Low population forecasts

As per the 2021 Census, 6% of the Longreach LGA population is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. In comparison, 4.6% of the Queensland population is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. There is a slightly higher percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people within the town of Longreach compared to Ilfracombe and Isisford.

No. of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	2011		2016		2021	
	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach
287	6.85%	5.33%	195	6.85%	223	6.11%

Table 5: Population of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in the Longreach LGA (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (2021)	2011		2016		2021	
	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach
3.87%	4.59%	6.54%	3.87%	4.59%	6.54%	

Table 6: Population percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people at the 2021 census (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

9 Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population by age and sex, regions of Australia, 2016 (cat no. 3235.0).

2.1.4 Demographics

The following demographic indicators are based on census data and incorporates the latest 2021 release along with the 2011 and 2016 data to identify trends and changes over time. It is noted that the census has made small random changes to smaller regions for privacy reasons. These changes may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from the table totals.

Overall the median age in 2021 of the region was older than the median age in 2011. There has been a decrease in the number of births and children, along with a decrease in couple families with children. The Longreach area has seen an increase of median weekly income rates by 39.81%, which is 4.18% higher than the state average, suggesting a wealth increase to the area. While the increase of median weekly income rates in Ilfracombe and Isisford have been well below the state average. This could be indicative of the loss of working-age adults in those areas, and the increase of pension age individuals.

The following tables provide a summary of the demographic indicators for Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach and the total Longreach LGA region.

Gender

Gender	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		Total		Change 2016-2021	Comment
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Total Population	315	100%	219	100%	3,126	100%	3,654	100%		Overall since 2016, the region has more females, than males (+42 or 51:49). Ilfracombe has proportionately less females than males (-43 or 43:57).
Female	136	43%	99	45%	1,616	52%	1,848	51%	-1.12%	
Male	179	57%	120	55%	1,510	48%	1,806	49%	0.84%	

Table 7: Gender numbers and percentage (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Age

Age Groups	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		Total		Change 2016-2021	Comment
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
Total Population	322	100%	211	100%	3,077	100%	3,647	100%	-0.38%	Overall, from 2016 to 2021, the overall population decline of -0.38% consists of a reduction in children (-8.47%), and people aged 40 to 64 (-4.93%), and corrected by the increase of people aged 20 to 39 (+7.60%) and people aged over 65 years (+10.55%). Longreach has the highest portion of children, Ilfracombe has the highest portion of middle- and pre-retirement age, and Isisford has the highest portion of older persons. Decline in children since 2011 was highest in Ilfracombe (-39.84%), then Longreach (-28.78%) and Isisford (-17.50%). For 2020, the number of births in the Longreach region was 32, in comparison to 66 and 50 births in 2011 and 2016 respectively, a decline of 106% since 2011. Ageing population and increase of 65 years and over since 2011 most significant in Isisford (+125%), Ilfracombe (+90%) and Longreach (+18%). Ilfracombe has seen a significant population increase in people aged over 40 years of 34.09% since 2011, while in other areas have increased by 1.53% in Isisford, and declined by 3.02% in Longreach.
Children and up to 19 years of age	74	23%	33	16%	777	25%	864	24%	-8.47%	
People aged 20 to 39 years	71	22%	45	21%	822	27%	949	26%	7.60%	
People aged 40 to 64 years	137	43%	72	34%	974	32%	1,195	33%	-4.93%	
People aged 65 years and over	40	12%	61	29%	504	16%	639	18%	10.55%	

Table 8: Age group distribution (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Median Age	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		LGA		Change 2011-2021	Comment
	Age	Change %	Age	Change %	Age	Change %	Age	Change %		
Census Year										Overall the median age in 2021 of the region was older, than the median age in 2011. Ilfracombe had the highest increase median age, which coincides with the Age Group data table where the number of people 40 years and older has increased by 26.47% since 2011. Whereas Isisford and Longreach has seen a decline in working age people between 20 and 64 years as they have transitioned to 65 years and older, or have left the region, potentially due to the decline in aged care capacity.
2011	34.00		47.00		34.83		34.00			
2016	43.00		47.00		39.25		40.00			
2021	43.00	26.47%	54.00	14.89%	39.50	13.40%	40.00	17.65%		

Table 9: Median age (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Family Composition

Family Composition	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		Total		Change 2016-2021		Comment
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total number of family groups	70	100%	66	100%	739	100%	869	100%	-2.80%		Overall there has been a 2.80% decrease in the number of families in the Longreach region from 2016 to 2021, with a 9.01% decrease in couple families with children, coinciding with the decline in children in the Age Groups table, as parents transition to empty nesters and pre-retirement. There is an increase of single parent families (9.92%), from the Ilfracombe area, despite the significant decline in children and increase of people 40 years and over for the area.
Couple family with children	27	39%	18	27%	286	39%	323	37%	-9.01%		
Couple family without children	31	44%	42	64%	329	45%	394	45%	-1.25%		
One parent family	12	17%	6	9%	121	16%	133	15%	9.92%		
Other family	-	0%	-	0%	3	0%	19	2%	0.00%		

Table 10: Family composition (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Income

Median Weekly Income	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		LGA		QLD State		Change 2011-2021	Comment
	Amount	Change %	Amount	Change %	Amount	Change %	Amount	Change %	Amount	Change %		
Census Year												Overall the region has seen an increase to median weekly income rates by 34.80%, marginally below the state average of 35.63%, from 2011 to 2021. The increase of median weekly income rates in Ilfracombe and Isisford have been well below the state average of 10.23% and 20.05% respectively. This could be indicative of the loss of working-age adults in those areas, and the increase of pension age individuals. The Longreach area has seen an increase of median weekly income rates by 39.81%, which is 4.18% higher than the state average, suggesting a wealth increase to the area.
2011	1202.00		863.00		1217.75		1158.00		1235.00			
2016	1166.00		766.00		1313.92		1276.00		1402.00			
2021	1325.00	10.23%	1036.00	20.05%	1702.50	39.81%	1561.00	34.80%	1675.00	35.63%		

Table 11: Median weekly income (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Education

Type of Educational Institution	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		Total		Change 2016-2021		Comment
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total	59	100%	29	100%	592	100%	682	100%	2,711	2.71%	There were 29 more school age children attending pre- and primary school in 2021, than 2016, and 4 less secondary school students. Isisford saw the largest increase in primary school students (+15 students), and Ilfracombe saw the largest increases in tertiary students (+9 students). Overall, the number of tertiary students has declined by 7 students between 2016 and 2021, most of the decline is from the Longreach region (-11 students).
Preschool	3	5%	3	10%	40	7%	46	7%	9,52%	9.52%	
Primary School	28	47%	22	76%	268	45%	316	46%	8,59%	8.59%	
Secondary School	15	25%	-	0%	164	28%	181	27%	-2,16%	-2.16%	
Tertiary	13	22%	4	14%	120	20%	139	20%	-4,79%	-4.79%	

Table 12: Current attendance of educational institutions (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Cultural Diversity

Country of Birth (top responses)	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		Total		Change 2016-2021		Comment
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total Population	246	100%	192	100%	2,671	100%	3,087	100%			The Longreach region has a more diverse population compared to the other regions. The top five non-Australian countries of birth include England, Kiribati, New Zealand, Philippines and South Africa. NOTE: as this data set provides the top responses for each region, the total number does not match the individual SA1 data sets.
Australia	236	96%	186	97%	2,476	93%	2,905	94%		-4.19%	
Brazil		0%		0%	5	0%		0%			
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)		0%		0%	5	0%		0%			
England	5	2%	3	2%	38	1%	53	2%		-3.94%	
Germany		0%		0%	5	0%		0%			
India		0%		0%	3	0%		0%			
Kiribati		0%		0%	24	1%	20	1%			
Nauru		0%		0%	3	0%		0%			
Nepal		0%		0%	3	0%		0%			
Netherlands		0%		0%	3	0%		0%			
New Zealand	5	2%	3	2%	72	3%	73	2%		-2.67%	
Philippines		0%		0%	15	1%	19	1%		0.00%	
South Africa		0%		0%	16	1%	17	1%			
Sri Lanka		0%		0%	3	0%		0%			

Table 13: Countries of birth (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

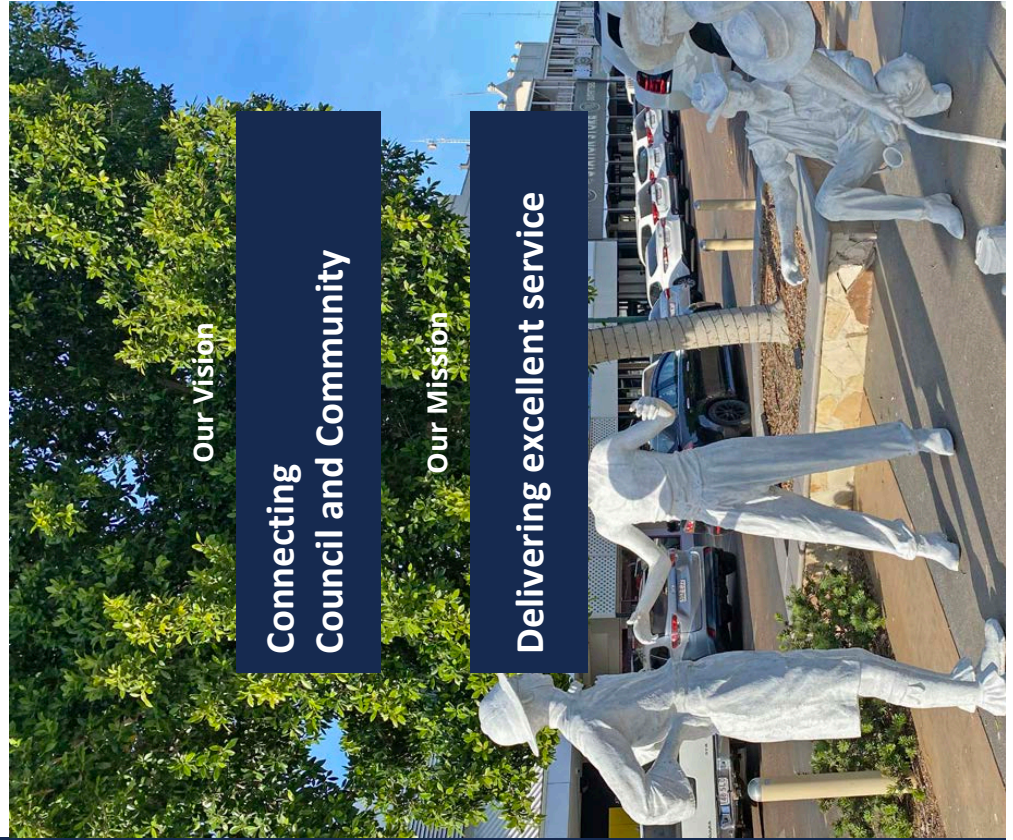
Health Conditions

Long-Term Health Conditions	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach		Total		Comment
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total	118	100%	101	100%	1,447	100%	1,686	100%	<p>The main three long-term health conditions for the region include Mental Health, Asthma, and Arthritis. In Isisford, Mental Health ranked 5th (representing 4.13% of the population with a Mental Health condition), where Asthma, Diabetes, Arthritis and Cancer were more prevalent. In Ilfracombe, Mental Health was selected as the most common, representing 8.06% of the population.</p> <p>Of the 965 respondents with a long-term health condition, representing 26.46% of the population, 68% selected one condition, 20% selected two, and 11% selected three or more long-term health conditions.</p> <p>The Long-Term Health Condition data collection commenced in 2021. There is no comparable data.</p>
Any other long-term health condition(s)	16	14%	9	9%	224	15%	254	15%	
Arthritis	8	7%	17	17%	243	17%	261	15%	
Asthma	11	9%	19	19%	244	17%	275	16%	
Cancer (including remission)	12	10%	10	10%	77	5%	98	6%	
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	-	0%	-	0%	54	4%	52	3%	
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	18	15%	16	16%	133	9%	172	10%	
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	11	9%	8	8%	120	8%	148	9%	
Kidney disease	5	4%	6	6%	35	2%	43	3%	
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	8	7%	3	3%	50	3%	67	4%	
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	25	21%	9	9%	246	17%	282	17%	
Stroke	4	3%	4	4%	21	1%	34	2%	

Table 14: Health conditions (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

2.2 Strategic Framework

2.2.1 Council Vision and Mission



2.2.2 Council's Role

At the housing policy and funding level, the primary responsibility is with the Commonwealth and State Government. Local government's role in housing is strongly influenced by State legislation, such as regulating building standards, and through access to funding and facilitation of social housing. Under Commonwealth and State legislation, the local government is responsible for developing and implementing the planning scheme and collecting rates. There are a range of roles outside of these mandatory actions Councils may choose to undertake at their own discretion, depending on resource availability and the needs of the local community.

Council is able to utilise important on-the-ground knowledge of their region to guide planning that meets the needs of the community now and into the future. Council can influence housing delivery and impact livability to help ensure households can meet their basic needs and stay healthy.

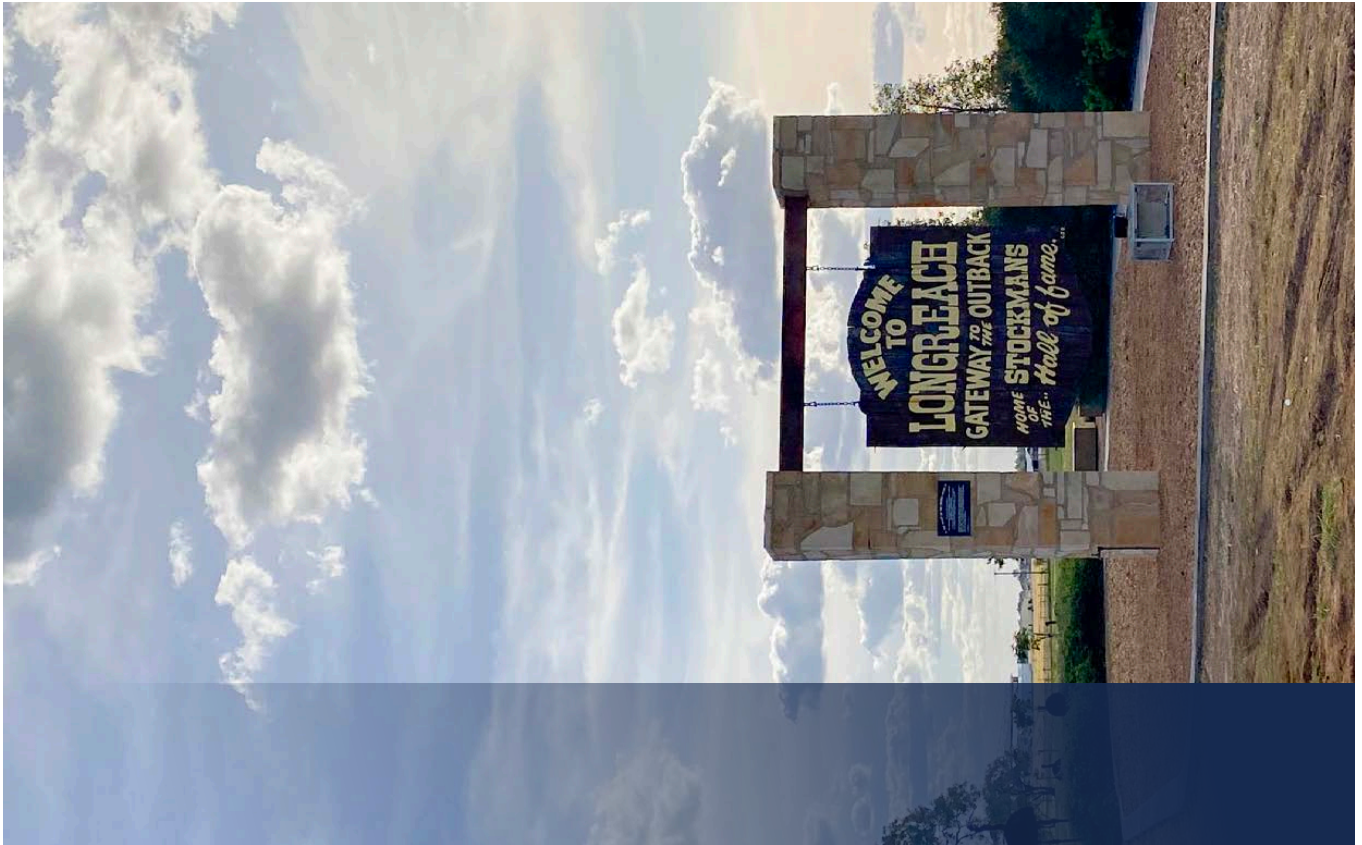
The below points outline Longreach Regional Council's role in regards to housing:

- » **Monitor** the housing market
- » **Advocate** to State and Federal Government regarding policy, funding and investment
- » **Engage** with the community, hear their needs and share information
- » **Partner** with housing providers, not-for-profit groups, service providers and other Councils
- » **Facilitate** community initiatives
- » **Plan** strategically through up-to-date planning scheme, policies and strategies
- » **Financially assist** the community through grants, funding schemes and fee waivers
- » **Build and maintain** local housing stock to support staff attraction and retention, and community liveability

2.2.3 Policy Context

The Longreach Housing Strategy fits within the broader policy context via the following plans and strategies:

- » Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027
 - Supporting the strategy's objective that "Every Queenslander has access to a safe, secure and affordable home that meets their needs and enables participation in the social and economic life of our prosperous state."
- » Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025
 - Furthering the values, "Place-based: Empower communities to develop local solutions", "Person-centred: Services and support to meet people's needs", "Partnering: A strong and diverse housing sector".
- Noting opportunities for the Queensland Government to support regional housing by "working with local councils to improve the availability, diversity and quality of housing in rural and remote Queensland through local housing plans, to encourage community liveability, resilience and social and economic growth and prosperity."
- » Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023
 - Incorporating key themes: "Develop local solutions with shared leadership, deliver appropriate housing, provide greater housing choices, utilise housing delivery to provide jobs, training and opportunities to grow communities"
- » Longreach Regional Council Corporate Plan, 2024-2028
 - Contributing to Council's vision, "Connecting Council and Community".
 - Supporting Council's mission, "Delivering excellent service."
- » Longreach Regional Planning Scheme
 - Facilitating the strategic aspirations for the Longreach Community to maintain and enhance "a good quality life, based on our safe, relaxed and outdoor lifestyle, which provides for and connects everyone in the community" and "a prosperous economy, linking and ensuring the sustainability of all the region's communities, connected to the State and national economy, and underpinned by a skilled local resident workforce."
 - Within the Planning Scheme Priority Infrastructure Areas and zones.



3. The Current Housing Market

3.1 National Context

Longreach is not alone in experiencing a housing crisis. The reason and events leading to the crisis are multifaceted. For context, a summary of some of the factors are listed below:

- » The 2019-20 bushfires through Australia depleted supplies of structural pine, used for house framing
- » Material shortage driven by demand during COVID19, influenced by federal grants for building and renovation
- » The Russia-Ukraine war affected fuel costs and other costs of living
- » The 2022 floods displaced affected residents and restricted access to materials
- » Drop of interest rates and increased housing demand raised housing costs and rent
- » Long term consequences of privatising the housing market

At the time of this strategy interest rates are rising and housing costs are decreasing. The increasing interest rates put further pressure on households experiencing rental and mortgage stress and is further considered in “4.2.1 Assisted Housing Need” on page 29.

Within Western Queensland there are further challenges to consider including cost of freight, fuel prices, slow or declining population, labour shortage, cost of labour, low volume of sales, low housing valuations and the long term impact of drought. These barriers faced in Western Queensland and Longreach severely constrain access to finance. Significant capital is required to secure a loan due to the low valuations compared to build costs and greater assessed risk. It is estimated that current housing pressures are likely to persist, and even worsen for some time yet¹⁰.

3.2 Dwellings

3.2.1 Occupied Private Dwellings

In the Longreach region, there was an average decline in occupied private dwellings since 2011 of -6.19%. The decline slowed down from 2016 to 2021 to -1.97%. The average number of people per household decreased from 2.5 in 2011 to 2.3 in 2016, and remains 2.3 in 2021. This is less people per household compared to the Queensland average of 2.5.

There are a number of possible reasons for a decline in the number of people per household. The supporting data suggests that this could be attributed to the change of the family demographic in the region, with fewer families with children. The change of demographic in the region could be further affecting the housing supply, as there are fewer options available for single or couple households, they could be using housing with more space and bedrooms than they require, taking the dwelling off the market. This is further supported by the Dwelling Structure by Household Composition and Family Composition in “3.2.3 Dwelling Types” on page 18. This data shows that 29% of separate houses are occupied by couples with no children and 28% are occupied by lone person households, while 27% are occupied by couples with children.

Having smaller dwelling types (townhouses, apartments) available for lone person and couple households could free up housing for larger families.

¹⁰ Hopkins, D., and Houghton, K. 2021, Building the Good Life: Meeting the Demand for Regional Housing, RAI Discussion Paper, The Regional Australia Institute, Canberra.

3.2.2 Unoccupied Private Dwellings

The amount of unoccupied private dwellings in the Longreach LGA rose in 2016 and then declined in 2021. As of the 2021 census 19% of dwellings in the Longreach LGA were unoccupied, greater than the Queensland average of 11%. Isisford had the highest percentage of unoccupied dwellings at 29%, followed by Ilfracombe at 22%. Ilfracombe had the greatest increase in unoccupied dwellings in 2016 when it reached almost half the amount of dwellings at 41%.

The unoccupied private dwellings definition as per the ABS is “structures built specifically for living purposes which are habitable, but unoccupied on Census night. Vacant houses, holiday homes, huts and cabins (other than seasonal workers’ quarters) are counted as unoccupied private dwellings. Also included are newly completed dwellings not yet occupied, dwellings which are vacant because they are due for demolition or repair, and dwellings to let.

The data doesn’t confirm the types of unoccupied dwellings within Longreach. However further research suggests that the large numbers are not due to holiday homes, newly completed dwellings or dwellings to let:

- » A search on Airbnb only returned 5 private rooms in Ilfracombe (Evanston Station Outback Experience) and 3 separate houses in Longreach available as holiday rentals
- » The rental vacancy rate in the month of the 2021 census was recorded as being very tight at 0.3%¹¹
- » There were only 2 building approvals for new residential houses in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Due to the supporting data, it is more likely the high percentage of unoccupied dwellings is due to:

- » Dwellings which are vacant because they are due for demolition or repair
- » ‘Town Houses’ - second dwellings in town for rural residents to use when required
- » Unused second dwellings, huts and cabins on farming properties
- » Investment properties left vacant and not rented to avoid damage by renters and expensive repairs
- » Housing for seasonal workers which were vacant during the census

	2011	2016	2021
Longreach LGA Dwelling count total	1,842	1,785	1,650
Occupied private dwellings	1,528	1,369	1,342
Unoccupied private dwellings	314	416	308
Percentage of unoccupied private dwellings	17%	23%	19%

Table 15: Occupied and unoccupied private dwellings in Longreach LGA (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

	Ilfracombe			Isisford			Longreach		
	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
Occupied private dwellings	115	88	107	101	86	88	1,315	1,170	1,150
Unoccupied private dwellings	24	60	30	29	44	36	264	294	234
Percentage of unoccupied private dwellings	17%	41%	22%	22%	34%	29%	17%	20%	17%

Table 16: Occupied and unoccupied private dwellings per SAL (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (Small random changes have been made to all cell values for privacy reasons. These changes may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from the table totals.))

Longreach LGA	2011	2016	2021
Average number of people per household	2.5	2.3	2.3

Table 17: Average number of people per household in the Longreach LGA (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

	Ilfracombe		Isisford		Longreach (Qld)	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Average number of people per household	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3

Table 18: Average number of people per household per SAL in 2021 (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

11. SQM Research Pty Ltd https://sqmresearch.com.au/graph_vacancy.php?postcode=4730&t=1

3.2.3 Dwelling Types

Understandable for a rural location, Longreach LGA has a lower percentage of semi-detached (4.6%) and flats or apartments (2.5%) compared to the Queensland average (11.7% and 12.5%). In Longreach there has been an increase in people living in semi-detached housing and decrease in people living in flats or apartments. There were no semi-detached, flats or apartments reported in Ilfracombe or Isisford. Since the 2016 census, the region has seen a reduction of 1 bedroom dwellings (-15.63%) and 4 or more bedroom dwellings (-6.51%), and an increase of 2 (+3.03%) and 3 (+2.76%) bedroom dwellings.

In comparison to couple families with no children and lone person households, there are less couple families with children living in separate houses. 29% of separate houses are occupied by couples with no children and 28% are occupied by lone person households, while only 2.7% are occupied by couples with children.

Longreach LGA has a higher percentage of other dwellings at 2.8% compared to the Queensland average of 0.7%. Indicating a higher percentage of people living in caravans, cabins, houseboats, houses or flats attached to a shop, office etc. While not specifically mentioned by the census, this category could also contain alternative accommodation on rural properties, such as shearing quarters and dormitories. As of 2021, Ilfracombe had the highest percentage of people living in other dwellings at 5.6%. Within the Longreach region, the census data reported 8 families with children living in a caravan and 4 living in a cabin or houseboat.

If more semi-detached, flats or apartments were available for lone persons or couples, the families in other types of dwellings may then have access to a house, recognising that income may be a barrier and support may be required. This is further addressed in "4.2 The Housing Continuum" on page 29. Due to the increase in people living in semi-detached housing, compared to the decline of people living in flats or apartments, townhouses could be seen as a preferred option and provide a gentler transition to medium density housing.

Dwelling structure in Longreach LGA comparison (2021)	Longreach LGA	% Longreach	% QLD	% Australia
Separate house	1,184	88.2	74.8	72.3
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	62	4.6	11.7	12.6
Flat or apartment	34	2.5	12.5	14.2
Other dwelling	38	2.8	0.7	0.6

Table 19: Dwelling structure as per the 2021 census (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Dwelling structure	Ilfracombe		Isisford			Longreach		
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
Separate house	114	83	102	87	76	84	1,163	1,046
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	41
Flat or apartment	0	0	0	3	0	0	83	50
Other dwelling	0	5	6	6	10	3	24	22
Total	114	88	108	96	86	87	1,307	1,160
								1,117

Table 20: Dwelling structures (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (Small random changes have been made to all cell values for privacy reasons. These changes may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from the table totals.))

Dwelling Structures by Family Composition

	Family Households					
	Couple family with no children	Couple family with children	One parent family	Other family	Lone person households	Group households
Separate house	347	316	126	12	336	41
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc. with:						
One storey	5	0	4	0	36	0
Two or more storeys	6	0	0	0	5	4
Flat or apartment:						
In a one or two storey block	3	0	0	0	28	3
Other dwelling:						
Caravan	9	8	0	0	9	0
Cabin, houseboat	0	4	0	0	4	0
Improvised home, tent, sleepers out	0	0	0	0	0	0
House or flat attached to a shop, office etc.	0	0	0	0	5	0
Other Dwelling Total	9	8	0	0	19	0

Table 21: Dwelling structure by family composition (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. Small random changes have been made to all cell values for privacy reasons. These changes may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from the table totals.)

Number of Bedrooms

Number of bedrooms in Longreach LGA comparison (2021)	Longreach LGA	% Longreach	% QLD	% Australia	
					Occupied private dwellings (excl. visitor only and other non-classifiable households)
	13	1	0.5	0.5	
	54	4	4.7	5.3	
	238	17.7	17	19.1	
	558	41.5	37.5	39	
	447	33.2	38.8	34.8	

Table 22: Number of bedrooms in Longreach LGA (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

	Ilfracombe			Isisford			Longreach		
	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
None (includes studio apartments or bedsiters)	0	3	0	0	4	0	6	6	3
1 bedroom	5	3	0	4	9	14	51	44	31
2 bedrooms	15	6	20	17	16	21	231	209	210
3 bedrooms	46	43	46	45	29	38	556	466	479
4 or more bedrooms	47	32	40	26	18	20	431	426	385
Number of bedrooms not stated	0	4	5	6	3	5	41	32	34
Number of bedrooms total	113	91	111	98	79	98	1,316	1,183	1,142

Table 23: Number of bedrooms (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

3.3 Rental Vacancy Rates

The Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) classes rental markets into three categories: tight (0 – 2.5%), healthy (2.6 – 3.5%), or weak (3.6% – plus). Rental vacancy rates are at record lows across Australia. As of September 2022, at 0.9%, it is a very tight market. Queensland’s average rental vacancy rate of the March 2022 quarter was 0.7%¹², while in Longreach (postcode 4730), as of September 2022, the vacancy rate was 0.1%¹³.

October 2014 to February 2017 the vacancy rate was over 3.6%, indicating a weak rental market. It decreased in 2017, reaching a low of 1.9% in December. It rose again in December 2018 to 4.5%. The next drop was in September 2019 when it reached 1.2%. It then rose to around 3% until it went to below 1% again in August 2020. It started another decline in February 2021, reaching 0% in July. The rate has since remained tight, under 1.2%¹⁴.

Ilfracombe has a small rental stock, therefore the vacancy rates fluctuate from 0% when one rental is made available. The data showed no rental vacancies in Isisford during the data’s capture period since September 2009.

3.4 Tenure

Within the Longreach LGA owner owned or mortgaged properties have stayed at 56% of the other tenure types. The percentage of properties rented has decreased slightly from 39% in 2016 to 36% in 2021. Isisford has the largest number of owner owned properties, and Longreach has the highest number of rentals.

Within the suburbs of Ilfracombe and Isisford the percentage of rented properties have more greatly decreased. Especially in Isisford where the percentage of rented properties decreased from 37% in 2011 to 11% in 2021. The decline could be a symptom from a reliance on investors to provide rental stock, and due to the high construction price and low market costs, there is less investment in housing builds.

The large variation in Ilfracombe and Isisford could also be due to the small data set - when one property is removed or added it has a large impact on the percentage. Further investigation would be needed to determine if this large decline is due to the preference of the community to own or to the limited rental properties available in these regions. It is recommended to consult with real estate agents and other stakeholders working in these areas to confirm demand.

Rentals play an important role in supporting growth and access to housing by providing newcomers with a temporary residence before potentially purchasing a house at a later stage, by providing local young people with an option to move out of home, or by providing homes for people not able to purchase a house.¹⁵

RAI has received widespread feedback that it is the most vulnerable (low-income earners who don’t qualify for, or can’t access, public housing and who rent privately) who are affected by rental market pressures.¹⁶

The WQAC Housing Solutions Study reported on the poor state of rental properties in the Longreach region due to landlord budget constraints and access to trades.¹⁷

The Other Tenure Type category increase may be due to the recategorisation of data from the 2016 to 2021 census.

Tenure type in Longreach LGA	2011	2011%	2016	2016%	2021	2021%
Tenure type total	1,526	100%	1,365	100%	1,337	100%
Owner owned or mortgaged	855	56%	759	56%	746	56%
Rented	602	39%	536	39%	476	36%
Other - tenure type or not stated	69	5%	70	5%	115	9%

Table 24: Tenure type in Longreach LGA (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

12 Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) <https://www.reiq.com/articles/queensland-vacancy-rates-reach-record-lows/#:~:text=%E2%80%9Cwith%20record%20low%20vacancy%20rates,for%20both%20investors%20and%20tenants,%E2%80%9D>

13 SQM Research Pty Ltd https://sqmresearch.com.au/graph_vacancy.php?postcode=4730&t=1

14 SQM Research Pty Ltd https://sqmresearch.com.au/graph_vacancy.php?postcode=4730&t=1

15 M. Funch, Nordikom Communications, Breaking the downward spiral: Improving rural housing markets in the Nordic Region

16 Hopkins, D., and Houghton, K. 2021, Building the Good Life: Meeting the Demand for Regional Housing, RAI Discussion Paper, The Regional Australia Institute, Canberra.

17 Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study, ‘To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland’, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

Tenure type per SAL	Ilfracombe					Isisford					Longreach (QLD)							
	2011	2011%	2016	2016%	2021	2021%	2011	2011%	2016	2016%	2021	2021%	2011	2011%	2016	2016%	2021	2021%
Tenure type - total	115	100%	91	100%	107	100%	98	100%	82	100%	95	100%	1,312	100%	1,188	100%	1,156	100%
Owner owned or mortgaged	71	62%	67	74%	70	65%	55	56%	52	63%	64	67%	713	54%	636	54%	630	54%
Rented	36	31%	21	23%	22	21%	36	37%	24	29%	10	11%	534	41%	505	43%	451	39%
Other - tenure type or not stated	8	7%	3	3%	15	14%	7	7%	6	7%	21	22%	65	5%	47	4%	75	6%

Table 25: Tenure Type per SAL (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

3.5 Housing Costs

3.5.1 Median Sales Price

In 2022 there has been an increase of house, unit and land sales in the Longreach region. The increase in sales in 2022 could, in part, be due to the increase in housing stock, as indicated in the building approval data. As well as the low interest rates and COVID19 induced housing boom.

Within Longreach (postcode 4730) there has been a decrease in property listings, from 147 in May 2021 to 98 in September 2022¹⁸. A potential indication that old housing stock sitting on the market has been sold or removed.

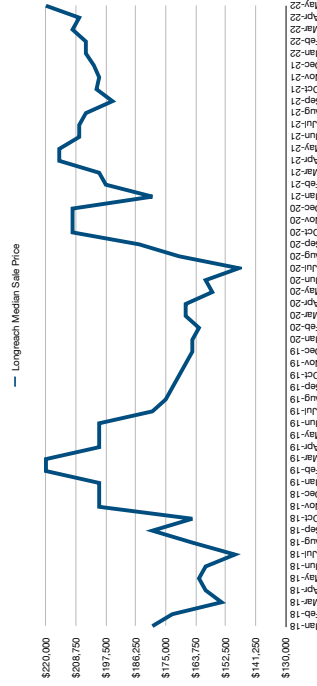


Figure 3: Longreach region median sale price (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

¹⁸ SQM Research PTY LTD (<https://sqmresearch.com.au/total-property-listings.php?postcode=4730&t=1>)

House Sales Per Annum

Period Ending	Longreach		Isisford		Ilfracombe	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
May 2022	91	2	4			
May 2021	56	4	6			
May 2020	42	0	2			
May 2019	26	4	2			
May 2018	22	5	4			
May 2017	31	0	1			
May 2016	21	4	2			
May 2015	34	2	3			
May 2014	32	2	5			
May 2013	31	1	3			

Table 26: House sales per annum based on postcode (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

Land Sales Per Annum

Period Ending	Longreach		Isisford		Ilfracombe	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
May 2022	9	3	1			
May 2021	3	4	0			
May 2020	3	1	0			
May 2019	2	0	0			
May 2018	2	2	1			
May 2017	2	0	0			
May 2016	1	0	0			
May 2015	4	2	1			
May 2014	3	1	2			
May 2013	10	2	3			

Table 27: Land sales per annum based on postcode (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

Unit Sales Per Annum

Period Ending	Longreach	
	Number	Number
May 2022	7	
May 2021	3	
May 2020	2	
May 2019	3	
May 2018	1	
May 2017	2	
May 2016	1	
May 2015	0	
May 2014	1	
May 2013	3	

Table 28: Unit sales per annum based on postcode (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

3.5.2 Mortgage Repayments and Weekly Rent

Overall, there has been a decrease in median mortgage repayments. As there has been an average increase in house prices, this is more likely due to the interest rate at the time of the census. The RBA Cash Rate Target below shows the reduction in line with the rate reductions from 4.68% in 2016 to 0.1% in 2021.

Year	RBA Cash Rate Target %
2011	4.68%
2016	1.71%
2021	0.10%

Table 29: RBA cash rate target

	Ilfracombe			Isisford			Longreach		
	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021	2011	2016	2021
Median Monthly Mortgage Repayment	\$912	\$895	\$607	\$676	\$523	\$521	\$1,222	\$1,284	\$1,088
Median Weekly Rent	\$96	\$100	\$190	\$50	\$78	\$95	\$163	\$167	\$241.83

Table 31: Mortgage and rent payments (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Longreach LGA 2021	Longreach		Queensland	
	#	%	#	%
Renter households with rent payments greater than 30% of household income	59	12.4%		32.3%
Owner with mortgage households with mortgage repayments greater than 30% of household income	29	9.4%		11.9%

Table 32: Rent and mortgage payments greater than 30% of income (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach	Total
Income to mortgage ratio				
2011	17.51%	18.08%	23.16%	29.19%
2016	17.71%	15.76%	22.55%	23.51%
2021	10.57%	11.61%	14.75%	16.01%

Table 33: Average monthly mortgage payment divided by the average monthly income (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach	Total
Income to rental ratio				
2011	8%	6%	13%	12%
2016	9%	10%	13%	14%
2021	14%	9%	14%	13%

Table 34: Average monthly rental payment divided by the average monthly income (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Longreach	Total
Return on Investment				
2011	-54.39%	-67.95%	-42.14%	-58.00%
2016	-51.58%	-35.37%	-43.65%	-40.00%
2021	35.64%	-20.99%	-3.71%	-19.98%

Table 35: Return on investment-net profit (rent minus mortgage) by the mortgage repayments (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

As of the 2021 census there were 12.4% renter households with rent payments greater than 30% of household income rental and 9.4% of mortgage households with mortgage repayments greater than 30% of household income. Compared to the Queensland average, the Longreach region has fewer renters and owners in renter/mortgage stress. As this indicator is a new variable in 2021, comparisons are not able to be made from the historical census data. It is also noted the level of stress was unable to be determined due to missing data (households in which income and/or housing costs were not, or were only partially stated) for 15.8% of renter households and 17.1% mortgage households. For further comparison, the income to mortgage ratio is provided in the table below to show the average monthly mortgage payment divided by the average monthly income. This ratio indicates that the average percentage of income used on mortgage repayments has decreased, however the percentage of income used on rent has increased in Ilfracombe and Longreach.

The WQAC Housing Solutions Study calculated the gross annual rental yield in Longreach, based on an average three years to April 2021, to be 8.4%¹⁹. In comparison, the national gross annual rental yield over the same time period was 3.4%. The high rental yields could attract smaller-scale investors seeking yields over capital gains. The gross annual rental yield is based on dividing the annual rent by the value of the property. A monthly return on investment (RoI) was also calculated based on dividing the net profit (rent minus mortgage) by the mortgage. This showed that there has been an increase in the RoI, however only Ilfracombe has a positive RoI.

Longreach LGA	2011	2016	2021
Mortgage Monthly Repayments	\$1,465	\$1,300	\$1,083
Median Weekly Rent	\$142	\$180	\$200

Table 30: Mortgage and rent payments in Longreach LGA (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

19 "Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland", Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

3.6 Development

Across each of the WQAC Local Government Areas, total residential building work approved per capita was worth an average of just \$319 per annum over the three years to June 2020. In Greater Brisbane it was \$2,676. The Longreach LGA annual value of approved residential building work per capita (average over the three years to June 2020) was \$199.²⁰

In 2020-21 and 2021-22 there was a rise in residential building approvals. In 2020-21 \$674 was spent per capita, and it reached \$1,264 per capita in 2021-22. This is likely due to the building boom that occurred nation-wide, spurred on by lower interest rates, Federal funding and the impacts of COVID-19. Part of the increase could also be due to inflation costs and the increase in building and material costs due to demand.

Longreach

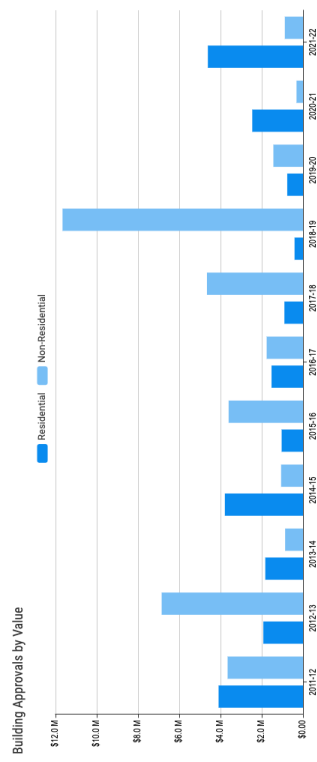


Figure 4: Building Approvals by Value (source: REMPLAN (<https://app.rempian.com.au/longreach/community/housing/ownership?state=8W05qtlk3qlawQNmKAWicWtR2AlpU8VZKU4FFRFBuBF9j>))

A breakdown of the types of building approvals for the 2021-22 financial year shows that 14 residential approvals have been granted, including 12 townhouses.²¹

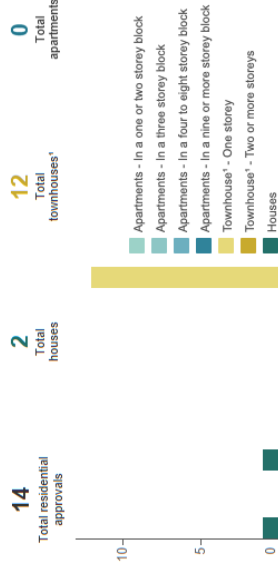


Figure 5: Building approvals in Longreach 2021-22 (source: <https://www.housingdata.gov.au/visualisation/housing-market/building-approvals-local-government-area>)

The graph below shows the number of residential buildings by their built date in the Longreach region from RP Data, and further indicates the decrease in the number of dwellings built over time.

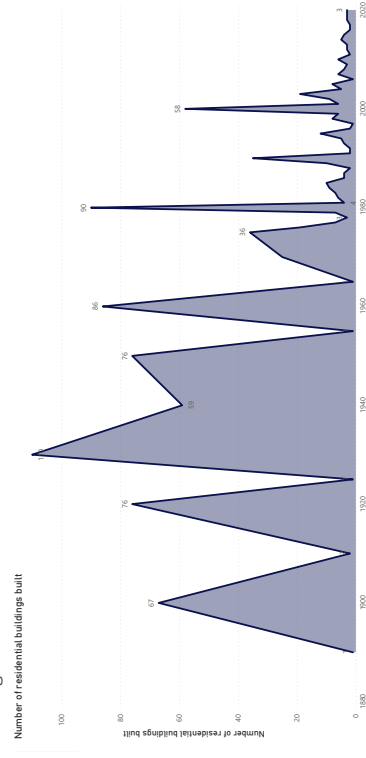


Figure 6: Buildings built year of dwellings in Longreach (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

20 *Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

21 <https://www.housingdata.gov.au/visualisation/housing-market/building-approvals-local-government-area>

3.7 Land

The WQAC Housing Solutions Study reported that the Longreach Regional Council has 35 shovel-ready lots on the market. Among this overall parcel of land/estate, only four lots have been sold to be built upon.

The rates data from Council shows there are 33 lots of low density residential land vacant and only 3 lots of medium density residential land vacant. RP Data shows that the medium density zones mainly consists of houses (see Figure 7). As the low residential land in the planning scheme does not allow for multiple dwelling, this limits the options for new townhouses or apartments.

It is noted in the planning scheme that low density residential zone “accommodates predominantly dwelling houses on a range of lot sizes, however dual occupancy, community services and facilities, and small scale aged persons’ accommodation which is designed to be compatible with amenity and the existing Longreach character are also encouraged in the zone”, where “each lot contains no more than one caretaker’s accommodation unit, dwelling house, dwelling unit or dual occupancy.”²²

With less opportunities for multiple dwelling, renting out dual occupancy / secondary dwellings could provide additional dwellings in the short term. Council can share information regarding State Government’s initiatives to encourage homeowners to rent secondary dwellings for the next three years under emergency planning changes to help activate these dwellings in the market.²³

The WQAC Housing Solutions Study reported that there are constraints to residential development in the current planning scheme, particularly for high-end housing stock on rural living/rural residential style lots. “With limited vacant rural residential stock, the criteria for subdividing (reconfiguring a lot) rural land is currently an obstacle.”²⁴ There is a potential opportunity that providing further rural living lots would alleviate some of the pressure on the urban residential lots to allow affordable housing in the low density zone. However it is important to note the points discussed in the Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment on Availability of Rural Residential and Rural Lifestyle Lots:

“Providing rural living opportunities is about offering a lifestyle choice – it will only ever play a minor role in accommodating future population growth in the region.

Urban residential development within towns remains the preferred and most cost-efficient means of housing the region’s population. Care should be taken in planning to protect urban and township areas from being encroached and constrained in terms of future expansion, by the occurrence of rural living development on their fringes.”²⁵

Total residential land parcels by zone

Zone	Longreach	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Grand Total
Centre	106			106
Low Density Residential	1,126			1,126
Medium Density Residential	210			210
Rural Residential	4			4
Township		148	143	291
Grand Total	1,446	148	143	1,737

Table 36: Total residential land parcels by zone (source- Longreach Regional Council rates data)

Total vacant residential land by zone

Zone	Longreach	Ilfracombe	Isisford	Grand Total
Low Density Residential	33			33
Medium Density Residential	3			3
Rural			2	2
Township		17	23	40
Grand Total	38	17	25	80

Table 37: Total vacant residential land by zone (source- Longreach Regional Council rates data)

22 Longreach Regional Planning Scheme, 2015

23 <https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-issues-and-interests/changes-to-secondary-dwellings>

24 ‘Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland’, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

25 Longreach Regional Council, Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment (major Amendment No.2), Issues Paper, topic 5. Availability of Rural Residential and Rural Lifestyle Lots

Longreach Zone Map

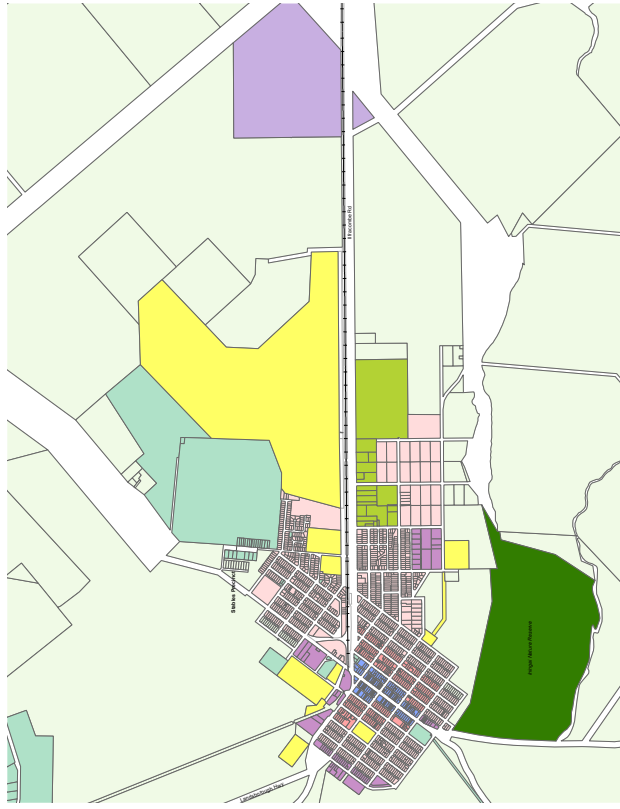


Figure 8: Longreach Zone Map (source: Longreach Regional Planning Scheme, 2015)

Map of all residential buildings in Longreach

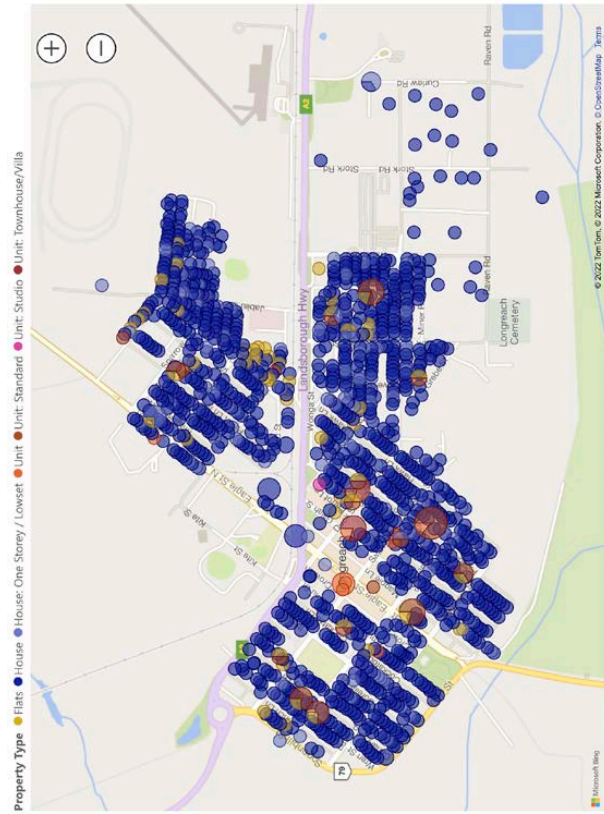


Figure 7: Map of all residential buildings in Longreach (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

3.8 Council Assets

Council owned housing stock in Longreach plays an important role in attracting and retaining staff and contractors and ensuring Council's recruitment is not impacted by the tight housing market. Of note, currently seven of the dwellings are being rented by the public.

As stated in the Council Housing Policy, below are Council's objectives in relation to their housing stock:

1. Commitment to providing housing for identified positions within the organisation;
2. Commitment to provide housing for employees and private tenants on a contract specific basis;
3. Asset Management principles as identified in Council's Asset Management Plan;
4. To assist in the retention of suitably qualified and experienced staff with the organisation; and
5. Continual improvement to ensure housing stocks are maintained at an acceptable standard as detailed in Council's Asset Management Plan.

It is recommended to conduct a review of the housing conditions and develop a strategy for upgrading and/or turning over existing housing assets, taking into account the need for housing for Council staff and ensuring the wider housing market is not impacted.

Potential avenues to investigate during the development of the strategy include:

- » Rent-to-own opportunities
 - Improves ties to the community
 - Work-around for higher finance requirements which act as a barrier to home ownership
- » Selling some of the current stock to expand private rental stock and use proceeds to contribute to new development
 - Development of middle density (townhouses) could provide improved housing diversity

The table below shows the 20 dwellings currently owned by Council.²⁶

The tenant types are noted as:

- » Public: 7 dwellings
- » Public/Employee: 4 dwellings
- » Currently used by a Contractor: 4 dwellings
- » Employee: 2 dwellings
- » Pool Lessee: 1 dwelling
- » Current CEO Accommodation: 1 dwelling
- » Vacant - Employee: 1 dwelling

Address	Town	Tenant Type
22 Flinders Street	Iffracombe	Public
4 McMaster Drive	Iffracombe	Employee
24 Mitchell Street	Iffracombe	Public
12 Saint Agnes Street	Isisford	Currently used by a Contractor
14 Saint Agnes Street	Isisford	Currently used by a Contractor
10 Saint Helena Street	Isisford	Public/Employee
12 Saint Helena Street	Isisford	Public/Employee
2 Saint Mary Street	Isisford	Public
26 Saint Mary Street	Isisford	Public
28 Saint Mary Street	Isisford	Currently used by a Contractor
2/37 Saint Mary Street	Isisford	Public/Employee
3/37 Saint Mary Street	Isisford	Public
4/37 Saint Mary Street	Isisford	Public
15 Saint Osyth Street	Isisford	Public/Employee
5 Bluebird Court	Longreach	Employee
Kite Street (Showgrounds)	Longreach	Pool Lessee
57 Quail Street	Longreach	Currently used by a Contractor
1/8 Robin Road	Longreach	Current CEO Accommodation
2/8 Robin Road	Longreach	Vacant - Employee
Jarley Street	Yaraka	Public

²⁶ 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), 15, <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

3.9 State Government Assets

In total there are 123 dwellings owned by the Queensland Government within Longreach, of which 103 are noted as being owned by The State of Queensland (represented by the department of housing and public works). It should be noted that this data is from RP Data, which captures data through public sales and therefore may have some inaccuracies.

As reported in the WQAC Housing Solutions Study, the state government divested a large portion of housing stock in the September quarter of 2014, negatively impacting the housing cost in the region. This demonstrates the sensitivity of the housing market in Longreach, which should be considered if further state or local government housing is sold.

“Because of its significant presence in local housing markets, state government housing policy and plans can weigh on the overall local market. In Longreach, for example, the state government divested itself of a large volume of its stock. This flooded the local housing market and sank local housing values.”²⁷

There is an opportunity for the Government to turnover a percentage of stock, after taking into consideration social housing needs into the future and the potential shock to the market, and have new housing built through partnership with the private sector.

The map below shows the residential dwellings owned by Queensland Government, as per RP Data.

Property Type ● Flats ● House ● One Storey / Lowset ● Unit

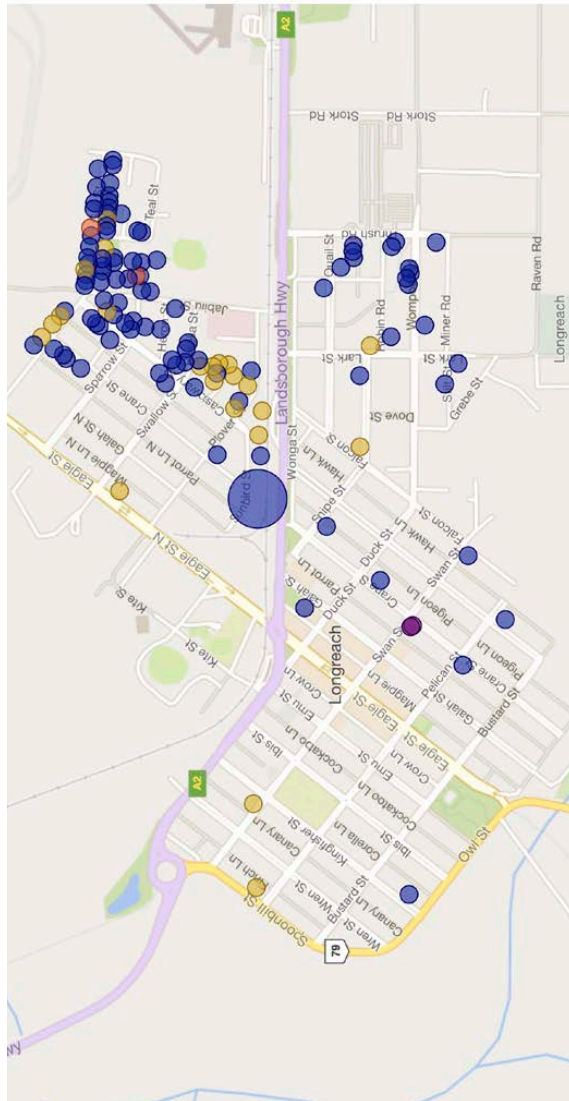


Figure 9: Queensland Owned residential dwellings (source: RP Data Pty Ltd trading as CoreLogic Asia Pacific (CoreLogic))

27. “Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland”, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), 15. <https://wqac.com.au/> Longreach Regional Council | HOUSING STRATEGY 28

4. Housing Needs

4.1 Missing Middle

Housing diversity ensures there is appropriate housing for all household types, incomes and situations. There is a recognised need in Australia for further medium density housing, also known as the ‘missing middle’. This is not just a need identified in urban areas, rather communities of varying sizes have reported there is demand for medium-density dwellings²⁸.

The change in the family demographic in the Longreach region, with fewer families with children, means there is now a greater need for middle density housing. Having smaller dwelling types (townhouses, apartments) available for lone person and couple households could free up housing for larger families. Medium density housing can also provide options for older residents looking to downsize, options for skilled workers moving into the region, and more affordable options for lower income households.

In Longreach there has been an increase in people living in semi-detached housing, compared to the decline of people living in flats or apartments, townhouses could be seen as a preferred option and would provide a gentler transition to medium density housing. In June 2022, 12 townhouses were approved for development. If completed this would provide a great start to filling the missing middle.

“Housing diversity: townhouses, micro lots, triplexes, that gentle density, that medium density up to about three storeys is a really important part of our system. We need so much more of it”

– Matt Collins, Planning Institute of Australia²⁹

4.2 The Housing Continuum

The Housing Continuum outlines the types of housing options needed for people in varying life circumstances from crisis accommodation, through to social housing, affordable and private rental housing and affordable home ownership options.

While it can be seen as a linear pathway where home ownership is the goal, in reality home ownership is not always achievable and may not be the goal, rather it demonstrates the differing types of housing needed to support people in differing circumstances.

Assisted				Market	
Emergency Housing	Temporary Housing	Social Housing	Affordable Rental	Affordable Home Ownership	Private Home Ownership

4.2.1 Assisted Housing Need

There are currently no methodologically consistent estimates of assisted housing need in Australia, and the “dearth of data is particularly acute at LGA level.”³⁰ Through a combination of a number of interacting models, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) modelled housing needs by state and territory to 2025. In the report, housing need is defined as “the aggregate of households unable to access market provided housing or requiring some form of housing assistance in the private rental market to avoid a position of rental stress.”

Based on multiplying the Queensland estimate for 2021 by the population percentage of Longreach in the same year, the estimated assisted housing needs for Longreach equals 216.

²⁸ Hopkins, D., and Houghton, K. 2021. Building the Good Life: Meeting the Demand for Regional Housing. RAI Discussion Paper, The Regional Australia Institute, Canberra.

²⁹ Queensland Housing Summit. Outcomes report. November 2022.

³⁰ Rowley, S., Leishman, C., Baker, E., Bentley, B., and Lester, L. (2017) Modelling housing need in Australia to 2025, AHURI Final Report 287, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne, <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/final-reports/287>, doi: 10.18408/ahuri-81.06901.

4.2.2 Emergency Housing

Longreach Regional Council has a local disaster management plan which provides the framework for the management and operations of weather-based disasters. Evacuation Centres have been identified by the Longreach Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) for use should the community require evacuation or a central facility during a disaster event.

The flood and fire disasters across Queensland and NSW have highlighted the importance of disaster management, including evacuation and emergency housing. These disasters have also had an impact on housing supply in the affected regions. With the labour and material shortages in Longreach, alternative options for temporary shelter while buildings are repaired may need to be considered. Emergency housing may also be required for other events outside of weather-based disasters, for example economic or geo-political.

While outside of the scope of this project it is recommended to review the emergency housing needs in the region, beyond weather-based disasters, including emergency housing and temporary accommodation for those in need. When considering temporary housing in Longreach, it is important to note that as tourism is a major industry, short term visitor accommodation is rarely available, and if this accommodation was temporarily occupied as emergency housing it would impact on the tourism sector.

There has been an increase in the number of people living in ‘other’ dwellings (caravans, boats, cabins etc.) and an increase in rental and mortgage stress. These data points suggest that there could be a potential increase in the number of people requiring assisted housing, especially if the interest rates and cost of living continue to rise.

Social Housing register June 2021	
Households	6
People	12

Tenancies in Government managed social rental housing	
Households	56
People	126
Homeless Flags	4
Disability Tenancy	19
Indigenous Tenancy	28
Over Crowded >=1 required	5
Under Occupied >=2 spare beds	5

Table 39: Social housing data

Adding together the number of social housing and Commonwealth Rent Assistance placements the current number of assisted housing in Longreach for that year was 211. Adding in the number of households living in a caravan, cabin or boat, and the number on the social housing waitlist, the total number of households requiring assistance is 229.

Using the difference between the estimated number of 216 and the actual number of 229, the below table shows the estimated need for assisted housing to 2026 based on low, medium and high population projections.

	2021	2026 Low	2026 Medium	2026 High
Total housing need	229	199	230	238
Additional social housing estimate	12	3	14	19

Table 38: Estimated assisted housing need

It is important to note that this is an estimate only, and applied at the LGA level its stability is further reduced. Due to the gaps and challenges in acquiring data at the LGA level and required investment to complete a full model of the housing needs, this approach provides an estimate to support advocacy for more social housing to the Queensland Government. The Queensland Government established a 4-year \$1.8 billion Housing Investment Growth Initiative³¹. The returns from this fund (up to \$40 million per annum) are to be directed to new social housing supply.

It is recommended that while these estimates provide a guideline at the time of this report, the housing needs should be regularly reviewed and targets should remain flexible to meet potential needs into the future.

31. <https://www.cdde.qld.gov.au/about/strategy/housing/queensland-housing-investment-growth-initiative>

4.3 New Households

A high-level estimate for new households has been calculated based on dividing the forecast population (high, medium and low) by the average person per household (as reported in the census).

Rather than an in-depth model, which would require a large investment, particularly considering the data limitations at the LGA level, this calculation is designed to provide a guideline only. Inherent with a high-level estimate, there were necessary assumptions and simplifications made to produce these figures:

- » The estimate assumes that the current housing need is 0 and uses the forecast population to determine the future need. Reports from the community would suggest that the current housing need is below 0, however it is difficult to quantify the number of houses required due to the data limitations and complexity. As limited housing stock restricts growth, we have set the need to 0 and used the forecast population as an indicator of future need. The population won't be able to grow without the homes for people to live.
- » The calculation to the suburb level uses the current percentage of population compared to the total LGA population and assumes a consistent growth rate across the three regions.
- » Population is only one indicator of housing need. There are multiple interacting factors including socioeconomic influences which are not considered in this estimate. The other sections in this report aim to address a more comprehensive view of the current situation and should be considered alongside this estimate.
- » As evidenced by the current need in Longreach, a declining population does not mean that housing investment is not required. Over time, houses will reach their end of life, particularly if not consistently maintained, and the housing needs of the community change over time therefore current housing stock may not be adequate even when there is a declining population. The low population estimate (based on a declining population) should not be considered as an indicator of no need or no required investment.

Region	Number of required new households based on population		
	High population estimate	Medium population estimate	Low population estimate
Ilfracombe	14	5	-19
Isisford	10	4	-14
Longreach	135	44	-182
Total	159	53	-215

Table 40: New household estimate by population forecast

4.4 Older Residents

In Longreach in 2021, there were 636 residents aged over 65 years, making up over 17% of the total population. In comparison to other very remote regions, as classified by the ABS 2016 Remoteness Areas, Longreach is the eighth region with a higher portion of older people.

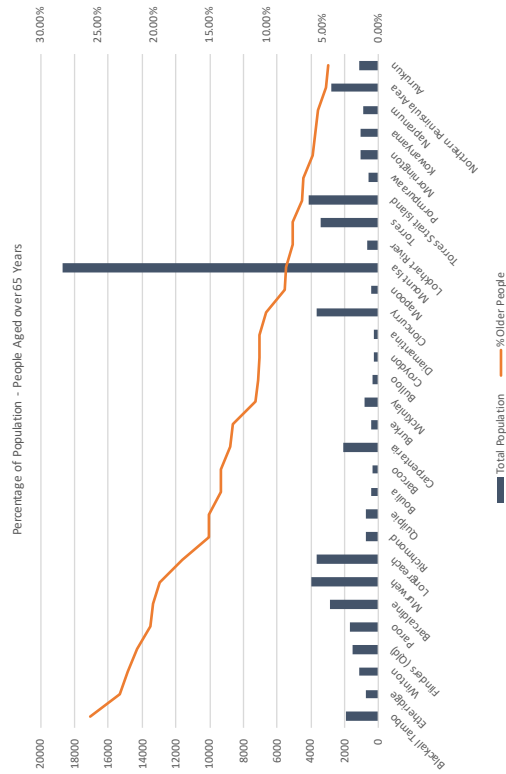


Figure 10: Very Remote LGA Regions in Queensland, Percentage of Population - People Aged over 65 Years

4.5 People with a Disability

The Census in 2021 found that 183 people in the Longreach region had a need for assistance. Of these 183 people, 113 were over 65 years of age, or 62%. People with a disability aged over 65 are not eligible to apply for an NDIS plan, unless they were approved for a plan prior to turning 65. As of September 2022, 61 people in the Longreach region had an NDIS plan. This could mean that up to 9 people in the Longreach region have a disability and do not have an NDIS plan.

The National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland (NIISQ) in June 2022 had 47 participants for Western Queensland including the areas of Darling Downs, Outback Queensland and Toowoomba.

As of September 2022 from the Department of Social Services, 103 individuals in Longreach received a disability support pension, and 64 received carers allowance, and 25 individuals received carers payment.

NDIS Utilisation and Service Providers

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides funding to eligible people with disability to gain more time with family and friends, greater independence, access to new skills, jobs, or volunteering in their community, and an improved quality of life. The NDIS also connects anyone with disability to services in their community. This includes connections to doctors, community groups, sporting clubs, support groups, libraries and schools, as well as providing information about what support is provided by each state and territory government. The NDIS supports over 500,000 Australians with disability to access the services and support they need.

As of September 2022, 61 people in the Longreach region had an NDIS plan. As of March 2022, there were 14 active NDIS providers in Longreach, it is unknown how many of those 14 providers are only providing telehealth NDIS services. The NDIS data also shows that people with a disability in Longreach are only using 50% of their NDIS plan budget.

According to the local disability advocacy organisation, Outback Independent Living Inc, there is no available respite, emergency, short-term, or long-term accommodation services for people with a disability in Longreach. The availability of allied health providers and NDIS service providers increases the attractiveness of the Longreach region for existing families to stay in Longreach and for new families to move to Longreach.

Support Category	Active participants with approved plans	Active providers	Participants per provider	Total plan budgets (\$m)	Average plan budget (\$)	Payments (\$m)	Average Payments (\$)	Utilisation	Outcomes indicator on choice and control	Has the NDIS helped with choice and control?
All support categories	49	14	3.5	1.5	30,969	0.8	15,572	50%	64%	86%

Table 4.1: ndis participant numbers and average plan budgets in Longreach (Source: <https://data.ndis.gov.au/data-downloads/#participant> Data current as at: 31 March 2022)

Communities such as Halcyon Communities by Stockland in the northern suburbs of the Gold Coast region, have created a lifestyle-rich community for older people. The land lease model incorporates many household expenses into a weekly site fee, allowing for sustainable and affordable services, continuation of pension and rental assistance payments, and supportive and independent facilities.

The increase of retirement villages has increased the availability of housing stock as empty nesters downsize into an attractive, lifestyle-rich community model.

Research by AHURI found that people choose to live in a retirement village for a number of reasons: declining health (the most cited reason); the need to reduce responsibility and maintenance; the need for assistance while not being a burden on families; social isolation and loneliness; and a desire to take control over their future³⁵.

Older people in the Longreach region will continue to increase as the population ages, and if the population declines as the younger population moves away from Longreach. There is an opportunity to increase housing stock by creating attractive retirement villages for empty nesters looking to downsize. This will alleviate the mental and health risks of older women who will be most impacted by isolation and loneliness, especially when aged over 85.

35 AHURI, <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/research/news/retirement-villages-popular-model-could-be-improved>, 14 December 2022, [accessed 18 January 2022]

4.6 Attracting Workers

It can be difficult to attract workers to rural regions, particularly where permanent accommodation is inadequate. A key worker is defined as a worker who fulfils a role regarded as vital for the community, especially in the tourism, health, education, or infrastructure sectors. While a skilled worker refers to highly trained, educated, or experienced segments of the workforce. Both key and skilled workers are required to keep the economy and the community sustainable.

The lack of trade labour in Longreach has detrimentally affected housing development and maintenance. With trade labour shortages there is often a long wait time for regular maintenance, and it comes at a significant cost. It also causes a self-perpetuating downward spiral, as a lack of skilled labourers leads to reduced training opportunities for potential new workers, then without the workers to build, there is no accommodation for new workers to move to the region. This issue is well put in a response to a survey conducted by Regional Australia Institute, "it [recruitment difficulty] is becoming a serious constraint on economic activity. It is exacerbated by the housing crisis, such that even if employers can attract the talent they need, there is no accommodation for them."³⁶

This is certainly the case in Longreach, which has had a declining number of rentals and currently a very tight rental market. Further, the WQAC Housing Solutions Study noted the poor state of the rentals in the region.³⁷

The outcomes report from the Queensland Housing Summit recognises the difficulties in housing rural workers and includes the key action:

"Working with local governments to support accommodation for rural workers and relieving pressure on the existing housing stock³⁸". This is particularly required for rural areas that have a seasonal workforce, such as Longreach. The WQAC Housing Solutions Study also noted that the "local private rental market also struggles to deal with the seasonal nature of a lot of the residential housing demand – i.e., tourism workers – in terms of both the availability of housing and also the type of housing."³⁹

The Rebalance the Nation report by Regional Australia Institute includes a goal to increase the share of skilled workers employed in regional Australia to 80% of the

regional workforce. Here are some of the actions in the report to help achieve this goal:

- » Develop targeted workforce strategies and support programs to attract new workers and their families
 - » Build upon the Move to More campaign to boost awareness and attraction amongst city dwellers to consider the benefits of regional careers
 - » Encourage and incentivise the role that industry can play in proactively working with local communities to identify potential future skills gaps and work collaboratively towards implementing solutions
 - » Harness overseas talent through attraction and settlement support for both international migrants and the skilled expat community living abroad
- These goals can only be achieved if supported by available suitable regional housing.

4.7 Traditional Owners

As per the 2021 Census, 6% of the Longreach LGA population is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The Queensland Government's 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023' noted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are six times more likely to experience homelessness than other Queenslanders. In Longreach, 28 of the 56 social housing households have Indigenous tenancies. While an in depth report is out of scope of this strategy, it is recommended to engage with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members regarding housing needs before implementing initiatives.

The 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023' includes the following actions which were reviewed for the actions and recommendations of this report:

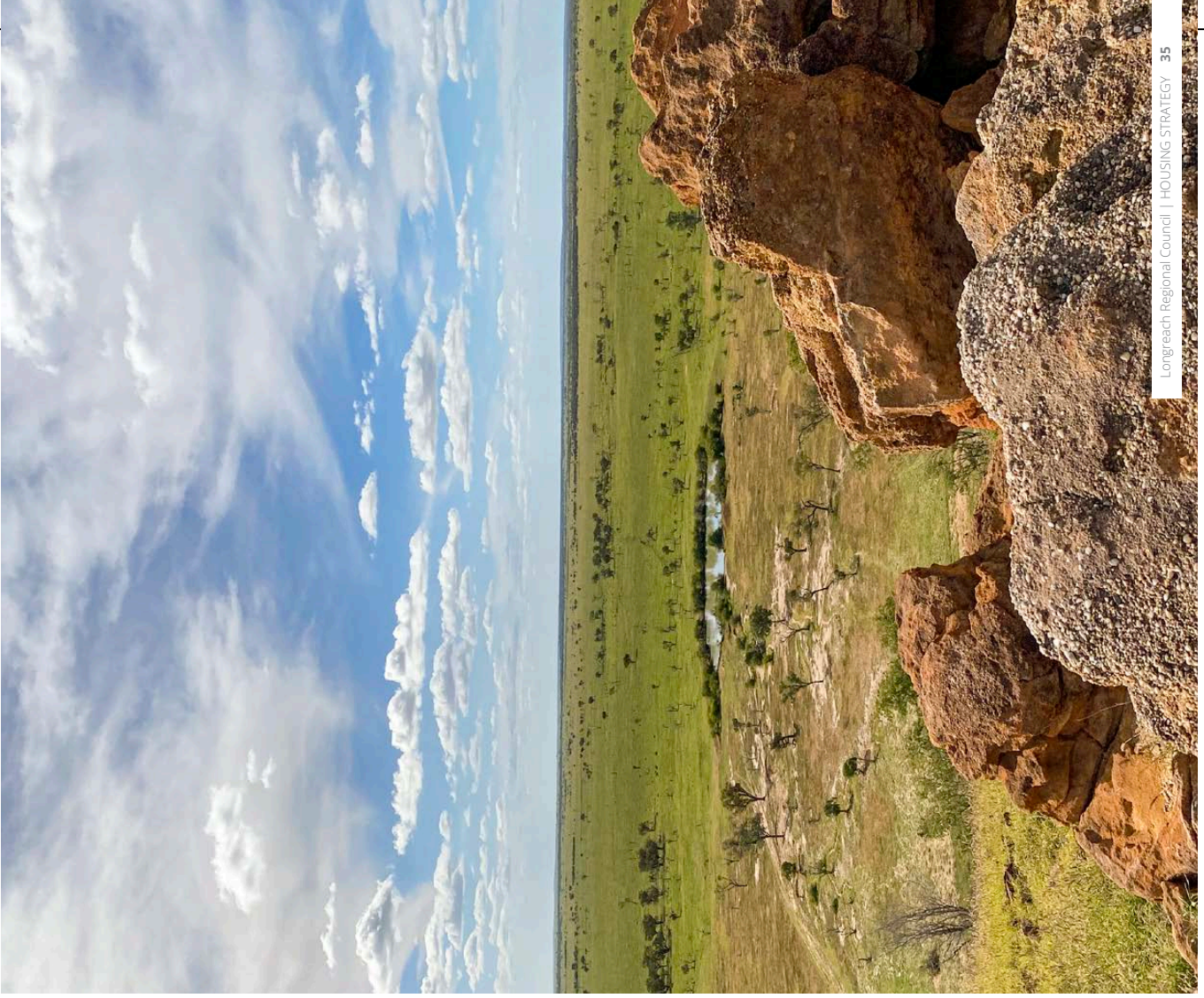
- » More housing and housing diversity is needed to meet demand, including resolution of land tenure issues where required
- » Community members need to be involved in decision-making and implementing outcomes
- » Build homes to suit local climates and meet security, sustainability and cultural needs
- » Use better quality materials

36 'Rebalance the Nation', Regionalisation Ambition 2032: A Framework to Rebalance the Nation, Regional Australia Institute, 2022.

37 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), 15, <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

38 Queensland Housing Summit, Outcomes report, November 2022.

39 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), 34, <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.



- » Reduce repairs and maintenance costs to reinvest into community priorities
 - Actions defined in the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan', partner with Queensland Government to deliver:
 - Using incentive-based approach, shift attitudes and behaviours to encourage better care for homes
 - Help homeowners and tenants to undertake their own repairs and maintenance, by establishing community toolboxes for people to borrow tools and equipment and access instructions
 - Expand opportunities for people to access education, training and employment, including construction apprenticeships, in regional and urban locations
- » Promote positive social interaction and outline tenants' rights and responsibilities
- » Develop housing choices based on local need
- » Educate and support people to access home ownership pathways
- » Increase the cultural awareness of support providers
- » Provide culturally-responsive housing options and services
- » Engage with communities on local construction and works programs
- » Support businesses to develop local employment and traineeship opportunities
- » Support and educate people to sustain their tenancies
- » Identify person-centred solutions to respond to individual needs
- » Implement case coordination and wraparound services

5. Opportunities

The following sections identify potential opportunities to support the delivery of the outcomes and actions as detailed in “7. Strategy” on page 41.

The opportunities are derived from case studies, industry research and funding opportunities and are a collated research output to provide further context for Council to consider when evaluating and executing the strategic actions.

5.1 Federal and State Funding and Initiatives

“The housing challenges facing communities in Western Queensland are multifaceted and will require the collective efforts of all levels of government and the private sector if enduring and tangible solutions are to be achieved.”⁴⁰

- » Monitor and access Federal and State funding and initiatives as necessary. Potential avenues for support and funding include:
 - The National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation affordable housing bond aggregator and its capacity building program
 - Build-to-rent opportunities
 - Federal and State housing strategy actions, policies and promises
- » Advocate for funding and delivery of initiatives and policy inclusive of rural Australia’s needs. The WQAC Housing Solutions Study proposes:
 - The state government could divest itself of its existing stock and have new housing built through partnership with the private sector.
 - State Government (the agency providing employee housing) partnering with a developer to build, own and then lease the premises on its behalf, in the form of a ‘BOOT’ – Build-Own-Operate-Transfer – model of development.
 - A Regional New Home (and major renovation) Guarantee by the Federal Government to guarantee a larger portion of a home loan based on the cost of construction rather than the value of the property.

5.2 Alternative Housing

“Modular, offsite, lower-cost housing construction should be considered to reduce the costs and constrained trade labour availability associated with building in-situ in these more remote locations.”⁴¹

- » Advocate to Queensland Government, and seek partnership opportunities, to continue work on expanding prefabricated home manufacturing in regional locations as noted in the Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report.
- » Continue to consider the inclusion of tiny houses and liveable shipping container conversions in the planning scheme.
 - As noted in the Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment ‘Tiny Houses and Liveable Shipping Container Conversions’: “Housing supply and infrastructure servicing have a greater impact on availability and affordability. These variables are affected by accessibility to construction materials, availability of skilled tradespeople and economic factors influencing workforce participation and development investment. Tiny houses and shipping container conversions may have some role to play in responding to these challenges and constraints. In determining the extent to which to support or deter these forms of building for residential use, their suitability and adaptability to the prevailing and projected climatic conditions of the Longreach region should also be considered.”⁴²
- » Develop a community engagement strategy to start a conversation, lead the community on a journey and seek co-design opportunities to support the transition into more medium density in Longreach
 - The Australian Local Government Association has suggested the two main hurdles for the take up of tiny homes is lack of a coherent regulatory and policy framework and a need to build community support.⁴³
- » Consider supporting ‘out-of-the box’ approaches to building homes
 - “To restart housing investment in Western Queensland, the nature of the current shortfall means that ‘out-of-the box’ approaches to actual methods of home building should be considered”⁴⁴

⁴⁰ ‘Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland’, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

⁴¹ Building Good Life, Foundations of Regional Housing (2022), Canberra, The Regional Australia Institute.

⁴² Longreach Regional Council, Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment (Major Amendment No. 2), Issues Paper, Topic 6: Tiny Houses and Liveable Shipping Container Conversions

⁴³ Lucie Chastel (2018), ‘The Potential of Tiny Houses: An Australian Primer – Perspective on Tiny Houses’, Australian Planning Institute.

⁴⁴ ‘Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland’, Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), 15, <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

- » Investigate initiatives to utilise vacant dwellings and activate unused secondary dwellings. Potential initiatives could include:
 - Initiatives to subsidise the demolition of vacant dilapidated buildings to ensure materials can be utilised for new development
 - Initiatives to encourage removal and relocation of vacant houses / unused second dwellings on rural properties onto prepared town land
 - Community groups/churches offering the use of land / buildings for community use
- » Investigate the utilisation of caravans parks or camping grounds for temporary accommodation and permanent residencies when required
 - 9 couples without children, 8 couples with children and 9 lone persons reported in the 2021 census that they lived in a caravan within the Longreach LGA.
 - The impact on the tourism industry should be considered, particularly during the tourism season when the caravan parks are at capacity

- » Seek partnerships and/or provide support to not-for-profit organisations that can support housing development and access, for example:
 - Jofit⁴⁶ works with a range of residential and commercial clients to create employment pathways into the construction and industry for vulnerable people
 - Outback Independent Living (OIL) supports people with a disability to access sustainable, permanent, and local accommodation, respite, and healthcare services in Outback Queensland
 - Bells Care Inc. based in Dalby Queensland, delivers home care package services with their innovative community-managed service delivery of aged care services. The model focuses on attracting, developing, supporting and retaining local residents to create a sustainable pipeline of workers
 - The funds for the Barcaldine Aged Care Facility were raised by the community and the land was gifted by the Council⁴⁷
 - Explore the potential role of Community Land Trusts – a form of shared ownership of a property, where the land component of a residential property is owned by a community-based, not for-profit legal entity and the actual building is owned (or leased long-term) by an individual household
- » Provide upskilling opportunities to community leaders
- » Form a local Housing Stakeholder Reference Group
 - The reference group can consist of representatives from Council, real estates, the construction industry, not-for-profits and the community
 - Activites the group could conduct include:
 - Monitoring the housing situation and reporting on the situation within the industry and community
 - Facilitate discussions on priority outcomes, actions and solutions
- » Connect and engage the community in a dialogue about their housing issues recognising the importance of the lived experience

5.3 Partnerships and Engagement

“Resilient communities emerge when community members are well connected and engaged in decision making about their collective future”⁴⁵

- » Work with the State Government to increase and diversify the supply of housing, including opportunities for alternative government and non-government investment and incentives
 - As per the action set out in the Queensland Government’s Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025 is ‘Work with regional councils to increase and diversify the supply of housing, including opportunities for alternative government and non-government investment and incentives.’
- » Alternative government opportunities include partnerships with developers of affordable housing
- » Develop a local housing investment prospectus – promotion of local housing markets to smaller-scale investors seeking yields over capital gains as proposed by the WQAC Housing Solution Study
 - Longreach had a high Gross Annual Rental Yield (average three years to April 2021) of 8.4%.
- » Work with other regional Councils to determine the scale of local undersupply and look to translate this into local investment opportunities through aggregated demand, as proposed by the WQAC Housing Solution Study

⁴⁵ Martin et al. ‘Australasian Journal of Regional Studies’, Rural Local Governance and Housing: Local Government as Facilitator, 27/1 (2021), 4-25.
⁴⁶ <https://jofit.org/>
⁴⁷ <https://www.gbengineers.com.au/post/barcaldine-aged-care>

5.4 Livability and Strategy

“The importance of liveability has become increasingly recognised across Australia as central to community and regional planning.”⁴⁸

- » Continue strategic planning to improve livability and attractiveness in the region and develop a Liveability Action Plan
 - Regional Institute Australia has a toolkit for rural and regional communities looking to grow⁴⁹. Council could follow the toolkit to develop a targeted, place-based Liveability Action Plan.
- » Actively encourage local volunteers and community groups to increase the attractiveness of the region
- » Develop initiatives to encourage house pride for owners and renters, improving living standards, street appeal and community pride
 - Initiatives could be incentive-based initially to shift attitudes towards better care for homes
 - Community toolboxes for people to borrow tools and equipment could remove some barriers to homeowners and tenants to undertake their own repairs and maintenance
 - Initiatives or funding to upgrade rental housing to suitable standards could lift the quality of rentals available and may encourage investors to put their vacant houses on the rental market
- » Consider incentives to encourage tradespeople to practise their trade in Longreach. The incentives could include:
 - Rent-to-buy scheme for labourers moving into the area
 - Review of the actions in ‘Rebalance the Nation’ report and work with Regional Institute Australia to promote Longreach as a destination for skilled workers
 - Expand opportunities for people to access education, training and employment, including construction apprenticeships
 - o Work with Queensland Government to meet their Housing Summit key action to ‘work with local governments to support accommodation for rural workers and relieving pressure on the existing housing stock’
- » Conduct further data collection, identification and mapping of underutilised housing to identify potential opportunities
- » Advocate for the Longreach Pastoral College to be used to meet the needs in the Longreach community
 - The WQAC Housing Solutions Study notes that it could be repurposed to meet demand for seasonal worker accommodation, as other local governments have done with similar facilities
 - There is also a need for a disability housing hub, which the facility would be well positioned to provide.
- » Explore Council led initiatives to support community access to housing
 - Council to be a mortgage guarantor with a local bank, providing a risk assessment was conducted. The terms could define a set timeframe when refinancing would be required.
 - Council could offer general rate concessions for both new and renovated dwellings or provide a home builder scheme, see “6. Case Studies” on page 39 for examples of Council led initiatives

⁴⁸ ‘Rebalance the Nation’, Regionalisation Ambition 2032, A Framework to Rebalance the Nation, Regional Australia Institute, 2022
⁴⁹ https://regionalaustralia.org.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Files/Liveabilitytoolkit_WEB2.pdf

6. Case Studies

The following table summarises a collection of case studies and examples of Councils from Australia and includes a number of international examples. The case studies concentrate on initiatives led by Council to influence and facilitate housing supply in their region and identifies the role Council had in the initiative – whether it was to monitor, advocate, engage, partner, facilitate, plan, financially assist or build and maintain.

Role	Council	Example Initiative	Note
Australian Examples			
Facilitate, Financially assist	Barcaldine Regional Council	Gifted the land to community lead initiative to fund an aged care facility ⁵⁰	
Build and maintain	Boulia LGA	Selling current stock to expand private rental stock and use proceeds to contribute to new development ⁵¹	
Financially assist	Bulloo LGA	Rent-to-buy scheme for staff members ⁵²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves employee ties to the community Employees paying less in mortgage payments than they would be in rent. Work around for higher finance requirements which act as a barrier to home ownership
Financially assist	Burke LGA	Council worked with Westpac and gained state ministerial approval to sell (off market) 21 council-owned properties at a 40 per cent discount to staff who were indigenous staff members ⁵³	
Partner, Facilitate	City of Burnie	'Burnie Works' a collective impact program ⁵⁴	Council works with Tasmanian State government agencies, NGOs and local community groups to identify and address the social and economic needs of families, including their housing needs
Build and maintain	Croydon Shire Council	A Council Housing Policy to use Council owned housing for employee housing ⁵⁵	Supports the retention of staff with required skills and qualifications, particularly where there is a recognised shortfall of private rental accommodation
Facilitate, Partner, Build and maintain, Financially assist	Gwydir Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports long standing local community groups providing aged care housing and a non-government aged care facility Owens the local caravan park which provides long term accommodation Acts as mortgage guarantor with the local Regional Australia Bank branch to ensure local employment⁵⁶ 	Local housing issues include the quality of housing stock, availability for farmers retiring off their farms, fit for purpose housing, including aged care housing.

50 <https://www.gbaengineers.com.au/post/barcaldine-aged-care-housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

51 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

52 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

53 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

54 Martin et al, 'Australasian Journal of Regional Studies', Rural Local Governance and Housing: Local Government as Facilitator, 27/1 (2021), 4-25.

55 Noosa Housing Needs Assessment 2021, Noosa Shire Council

56 Martin et al, 'Australasian Journal of Regional Studies', Rural Local Governance and Housing: Local Government as Facilitator, 27/1 (2021), 4-25.

Role	Council	Example Initiative	Note
Financially assist	Quilpie Shire Council	Home builder scheme- Council provides 5% of the build cost up to \$250,000 ⁵⁷	
Facilitate, Partner	Richmond Shire Council	Accessed crown land to offer a ballot to buy land for \$10, with pre-approval of finance to build ⁵⁸	Initiative to encourage new residents. Second ballot. The first resulted in four new houses.
Facilitate	Willoughby City Council	Facilitated affordable housing units managed by a community housing provider ⁵⁹	Council determined a need for affordable rental housing for key and essential workers
International Examples⁶⁰			
Build and maintain	Lolland, Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To achieve a better balance between supply and demand Demolishing vacant, dilapidated houses Providing 'flex house permission' to use more houses as second homes Purchase of houses in order to use them for social purposes, for clubs, parties etc. 	Main challenges include an oversupply of housing and dilapidated houses being used as cheap rentals
Build and maintain, Plan	Pudasjärvi, Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading rental housing to suitable standards Improving local attractiveness overall, including providing support for the local log and wood construction industry. 	Main challenges include a decreasing and ageing population which has put pressure on publicly owned rental housing.
Plan, Advocate, Engage, Partner	Frøya, Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping housing needs and developing a housing plan Active use of regulations and state funding opportunities Close dialogue between the municipality and local construction companies 	Main challenges include a lack of housing opportunities and a blocked housing market, partly due to remoteness
Engage, Facilitate	Nyköping, Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community groups build suitable housing for elderly people, which opened up housing opportunities for younger families Municipality actively encourages local volunteers to increase the attractiveness of the region 	Major challenge is decreasing prices.

Table 42: Council housing initiatives case studies

57 'Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Housing Solutions Study: To Build and Grow the Potential of Western Queensland', Regional Australian Institute, Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (September 2021), <https://wqac.com.au/housing-study>, accessed 19 August 2022.

58 <https://www.canterrimes.com.au/story/4632923/land-for-10-bucks/>

59 Noosa Housing Needs Assessment 2021, Noosa Shire Council

60 Michael Funch, Nordikom Communication, 'Breaking the downward spiral: Improving rural housing markets in the Nordic Region', Nordikom Communication (2020)

7. Strategy

The Strategy provides high-level actions and outcomes for the next five years to support the vision for:

Community and Partnerships

A connected network working together to understand the lived experience and making homes for our community

Diversity and Accessibility

Everyone in the Longreach region has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home

Liveability and Strategy

A location of choice where everyone is proud to call Longreach home

Each action identifies the role for Council – whether it is to: monitor, advocate, engage, partner, facilitate, plan, financially assist or build and maintain.

As housing supply is highly dynamic it is recommended to be flexible in the prioritisation of the actions and to regularly review and update the strategy as required.

7.1 Community and Partnerships

A connected network working together to understand the lived experience and making homes for our community

Outcome	Action	Role
A housing strategy that is well informed by the lived experience	Connect and engage the community in a dialogue about their housing issues recognising the importance of the lived experience.	Engage
	Engage with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members regarding housing needs and before implementing initiatives, consider the actions defined in the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan' and partner with Queensland Government to deliver.	
	Consult with real estate agents and other stakeholders and community members in Ilfracombe and Isisford to confirm housing and rental demand.	
	Advocate for funding and delivery of initiatives and policy inclusive of rural Australia needs.	
	Monitor and access Federal and State funding and initiatives as necessary.	Advocate
	Work with the State Government to increase and diversify the supply of housing, including opportunities for alternative government and non-government investment and incentives.	Monitor
	Work with other regional Councils to determine the scale of local undersupply and look to translating this into local investment opportunities through aggregated demand.	Advocate
		Partner

7.2 Diversity and Accessibility

Everyone in the Longreach region has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home

Outcome	Action	Role
Diverse housing to suit the needs of everyone in our community	Monitor vacant land or dilapidated buildings within the medium density zone to identify opportunities / partnership to develop multiple dwelling, prioritising townhouses.	Monitor
	Share information regarding State Governments initiatives to encourage homeowners to rent secondary dwellings for the next three years under emergency planning changes to help activate these dwellings in the market.	Engage
	Continue to reassess the planning scheme as per Issues Paper Topic 5 'Availability of Rural Residential and Rural Lifestyle Lots' to reassess how the surrounding expansive agricultural land is treated.	Plan
	Advocate to Government to turnover a percentage of stock, after taking into consideration future social housing needs and limited potential shock to the market, and to have new housing built through partnership with the private sector.	Advocate
	Review emergency housing needs in the region	Plan
	Advocate to Queensland Government for more social housing in Longreach to meet current and future needs.	Advocate
	Monitor the needs of aged care housing in Longreach and investigate initiatives to support older residents to downsize.	Monitor
	Support community initiatives to develop disability housing and attract services to Longreach.	Advocate
	Develop targeted workforce strategies and support programs to attract new workers and their families.	Plan
	Work with Queensland Government to meet their Housing Summit key action to 'work with local governments to support accommodation for rural workers and relieving pressure on the existing housing stock.	Partner
Alternative housing options that meet the needs of the community	Continue to provide housing stock to attract and retain staff and contractors and ensure housing stocks are maintained at an acceptable standard.	Build and maintain
	Conduct a review of Council assets and develop a strategy for upgrading and/or turning over of existing housing assets, taking into account the need for housing for Council staff and ensuring the wider housing market is not impacted.	Plan
	Advocate to Queensland Government, and seek partnership opportunities, to continue work on expanding prefabricated home manufacturing in regional locations as noted in the Queensland Housing Summit Outcomes Report.	Advocate
	Continue to consider the inclusion of tiny houses and liveable shipping container conversions in the planning scheme.	Plan
	Consider supporting 'out-of-the box' approaches to building homes ensuring they suit local climates and meet security, sustainability and cultural needs.	Plan
	Investigate initiatives to utilise vacant dwellings and activate unused secondary dwellings.	Financially assist
	Share information regarding State Governments initiatives.	Engage
	Investigate the utilisation of caravans parks or camping grounds for temporary accommodation and permanent residencies when required.	Plan

7.3 Liveability and Strategy

A location of choice where everyone is proud to call Longreach home

Outcome	Action	Role
A community proud to call Longreach their home	Continue strategic planning to improve livability and attractiveness in the region.	Plan
	Actively encourage local volunteers and community groups to increase the attractiveness of the region.	Facilitate
	Develop initiatives to encourage house pride for owners and renters, improving living standards, street appeal and community pride.	Financially assist
A strategic approach to housing supply	Monitor the population and demographic changes in the Longreach region.	Monitor
	Conduct further data collection, identification and mapping of underutilised housing to identify potential opportunities.	Plan
	Regular review of the housing strategy and updates as new data is available to meet potential needs into the future.	Plan

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11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - June 2023

11.11 Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - June 2023

File Ref:

This report provides a summary of Council's health and safety performance as at 30 June 2023, highlighting issues, risks and opportunities impacting on employee health and safety in the workplace.

Council Action

Recognise

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011

Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Policy Considerations

Workplace Health and Safety Policy No 10.2

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
5.1	Council will have a values driven culture.

Budget Considerations

Operational Expenses YTD for Workplace Health and Safety are within current budget parameters.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officers:

Jessie McEniery, Acting Workplace Health and Safety Advisor

Grace Jones, Human Resources & Workplace Health & Safety Manager

Background:

Workplace Health and Safety provides a monthly update report of Council's health and safety performance.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - June 2023

Workplace Health and Safety Reporting – Period Ending 30 June 2023

- There were two injuries reported in June that required medical treatment and resulted from manual handling incidents. Both injuries were lost time injuries.
- A total of 6 incidents reported resulted in property damage to Council plant, namely minor panel or glass damage.
- There were two incidents considered notifiable under Queensland Workplace Health and Safety requirements, where the regulator was notified, which related to a serious injury or illness and an uncontrolled fire:
 - The incident reported as a serious injury or illness incident did not completely meet the criteria of a notifiable incident. However, the notification was made after engaging with WHSQ.
 - The incident reported as an uncontrolled fire was investigated and further controls were put in place to reduce the risk of a repeat incident. WHSQ has confirmed they will not be investigating the incident.

The below graphs depicts the Incident to Injury Ratio and Location of injuries for all incidents reported YTD.



11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.11 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - June 2023



WHS Updates/Consultation

- Council's Executive Leaders, Managers, Supervisors and Team Leaders participated in Due Diligence Awareness Training with Peak Services to understand their responsibilities around undertaking due diligence within their roles at Council and in particular when it comes to Workplace Health and Safety.
- The Safety Team have been working with relevant department and teams to address and close out corrective actions from the LGW and CACS audits that took place in October/November 2022. A number of actions have been completed or are in progress, with quarterly updates provided to both LGW and OIR on how Council is progressing with the audit actions plans.
- The WHS Advisor has commenced activities to identify Council's areas of critical risk, which will then be used to develop an internal audit plan. This will also include a gap analysis between Council's current process and changes in legislation and introduction of new code of practice.
- The WHS Advisor commenced preparation for the annual report for Council Safety Management System performance and will finalise the 4th quarter review of Council SMS Plan for 22/23 in July, to be presented at the next Council meeting. The Annual Report will also be provided to LGW as part of the MRO.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - June 2023

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: Possible

Consequence: Minor

Rating: M6

Risk assessments continue to be applied to find suitable controls for hazards in the workplace.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Workplace Health & Safety Update Report, as presented.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.12 - Information Report - Governance

11.12 Information Report - Governance

File Ref:

This report provides an update on a range of activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Governance Department.

Council Action

Recognise
Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: Brett Walsh, Chief Executive Officer

Background:

Officers provide an information update to Council on a monthly basis to outline achievements, challenges and statistical information for the various functional areas of Council.

Issue:

Chief Executive Officer Update

Following is a summary of activities undertaken for the period to 13 July 2023:

Strategic Leadership

- Attend monthly RAPAD meeting
- Attend monthly CEOs of the West (COWS) meeting

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.12 - Information Report - Governance

- Attend a Lake Eyre Basin review consultation meeting
- Complete the adoption of the new 5-year Corporate Plan
- Attend a Disaster Management Funding review consultation meeting
- Attend the Disaster Recovery Forum in Longreach

Operational Management

- Discuss options for Park Run course adjustments
- Discuss options for developing the MICE market
- Progress with the application for the Thomson River Weirs
- Discuss options for the State High School car park

Financial Management

- Complete the adoption of the 2023-24 budget (thanks to the Finance team)
- Receive advice that Council's application to the Housing Infrastructure Fund has moved to the business case stage

Workforce Capability

- Prepare the new Certified Agreement for lodging with the Qld Industrial Relations Commission after a successful employee vote
- Complete the appointment of the new Director of Works
- Appoint the new Fleet and Workshop Manager
- Finalise the new Organisational Structure after a successful consultation phase
- Complete annual Performance Appraisals for employees

Stakeholder Engagement

- Meet with the District Director of Transport and Main Roads to discuss current and future projects
- Meet with Longreach Tourist Park representatives to discuss issues
- Meet with QUT during the Qld Connects workshop in Longreach
- Meet with Opera Qld for a debrief of the Festival of Outback Opera
- Meet with Ergon Energy to discuss issues including Longreach intersections
- Meet with Member for Maranoa David Littleproud MP to discuss key projects and tour of child care centre
- Meet with the Ilfracombe community to update them on the budget projects including the construction of a new multipurpose court
- Meet with CEO of Qld Reconstruction Authority, Jake Ellwood, to discuss funding proposals
- Attend GrowQ Innovation Expo
- Meet with Outback Pioneers representatives to discuss development proposals
- Meet with Assistant Ministers attending the Regional Community Forum
- Attend careers session at Longreach State High School

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

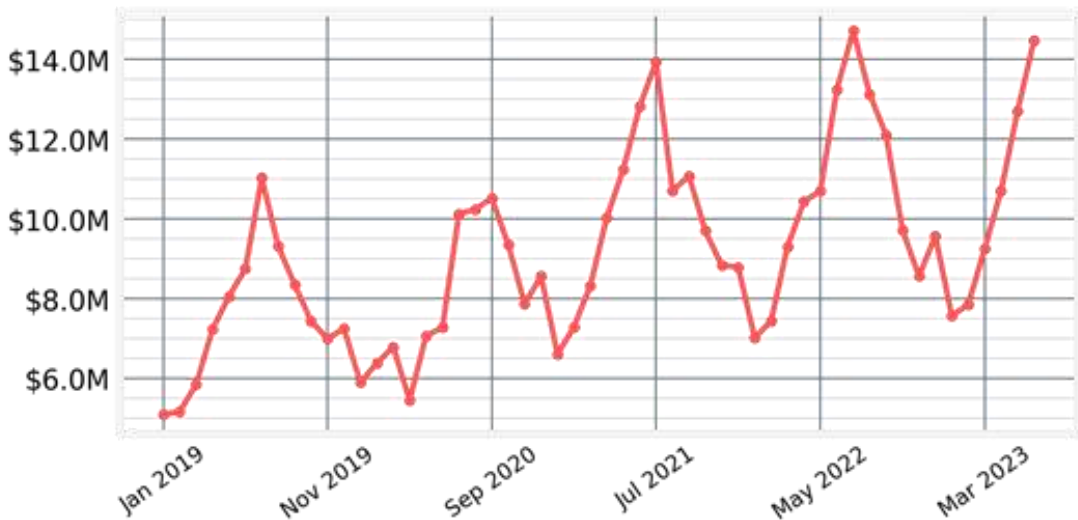
Economic/Consumer Spending Data (Spendmapp)

July data has not yet been released. For the month of June 2023:

Total Local Spend was \$14.5M. This is a 9.29% increase from the same time last year.
 Resident Local Spend was \$7.3M. This is a 23.22% increase from the same time last year.
 Visitor Local Spend was \$7.2M. This is a -1.87% decrease from the same time last year.

Total Local Spend

The total amount spent with merchants within the Longreach Regional Council LGA.



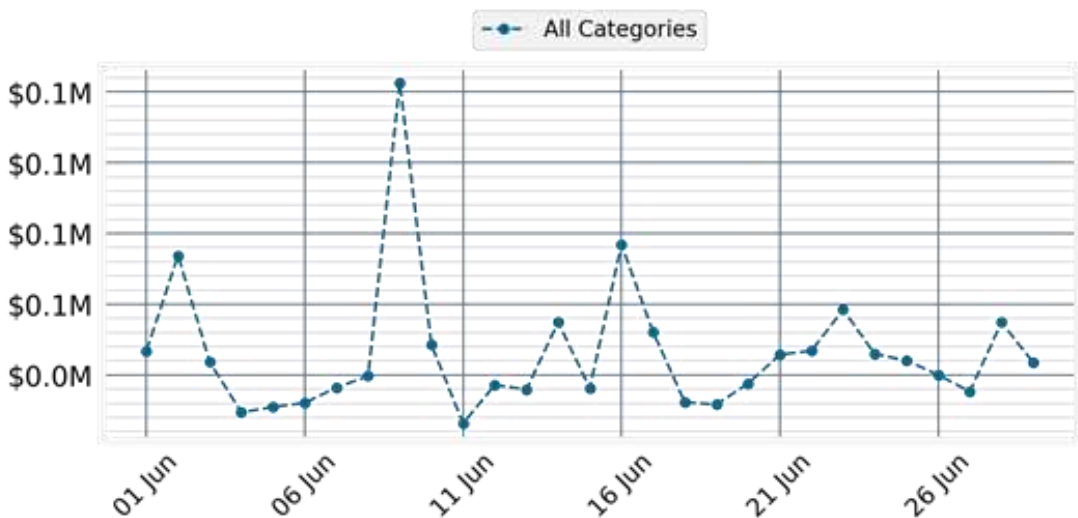
The Top 3 Suburbs by Resident Escape Spend for June 2023

Resident Escape Spend by destination Suburbs (i.e. where the spending goes to).

- Emerald: \$310k
- Barcaldine: \$150k
- Brisbane City: \$110k

Night Time Economy for June 2023

The biggest spending night of the month of June 2023 was Friday 9 June.



11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Tourism Update

Longreach Explore Centre (Visitor Information):

June has seen exciting times with a major addition to our market, Outback Aussie Tours introduced the long awaited Outback Rail Adventure just in time for School holidays. The Powerhouse and Historical Museum has doubled its numbers for this month compared to June 2022.

We are slowly gaining traction with an increase in visitor numbers and it is pleasing to see the changes. We have increased opening hours which has worked well, in addition there is more interest from tour groups due to showcasing our product to these companies. Camping numbers while down for Longreach at Apex Park have increased considerably compared to 2023 for Isisford at the Barcoo and Oma camp grounds.

Longreach Explore Centre (Visitor Information) Statistics through the door (financial year) 2022- 2023:

Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023
5,089	3,813	2,955	1,678	1,223	142	236	181	596	1,217	2,605	3,131

July 2021 – June 2022	July 2022 – June 2023	Difference
24,882	22,866	↓ 2,016

Bookings made by information centre staff on behalf of Operators for the month of June **\$98,024**.

Longreach Regional Council Approved Camping Areas (financial year) 2022-2023:

Location	June 2023 Campers	2022 -2023 YTD Campers
Apex Park	1,641	8,804
Emergency Camping Passes	0	0
Barcoo Weir/Oma Waterhole	1,002	3,210
Yaraka	N/A	

Longreach Powerhouse and Historical Museum Statistics (financial year) 2022-2023:

Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023
924	713	569	230	0	0	2	1	75	319	555	817

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Human Resources

Staffing Levels 30 June 2023

Longreach Based FTE	Operational	Admin/ Supervisors	Contract	Total
Full Time	55.0	40.0	10.0	105.0
Permanent Part Time	1.1	3.7		4.8
Total Permanent Employees	56.1	43.7	10.0	109.8
Temporary Full Time	1.0	3.0	1.0	5.0
Temporary Part Time				-
Apprentices - Trades	2.0			2.0
Traineeships				-
Casual Staff	0.8	2.0		2.8
Total Temporary Employees	3.8	5.0	1.0	9.8
Total Current Employees FTE	59.9	48.7	11.0	119.6
Current Vacant Positions	6.0	3.0	2.0	11.0
Ilfracombe Based FTE	Operational	Admin/ Supervisors	Contract	Total
Full Time	18.0	5.0	2.0	25.0
Permanent Part Time	-		0.8	0.8
Total Permanent Employees	18.0	5.0	2.8	25.8
Temporary Full Time				-
Temporary Part Time				-
Casual Staff	0.5	0.2		0.7
Total Temporary Employees	0.5	0.2	-	0.7
Total Current Employees FTE	18.5	5.2	2.8	26.5
Current Vacant Positions	1.0			1.0

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

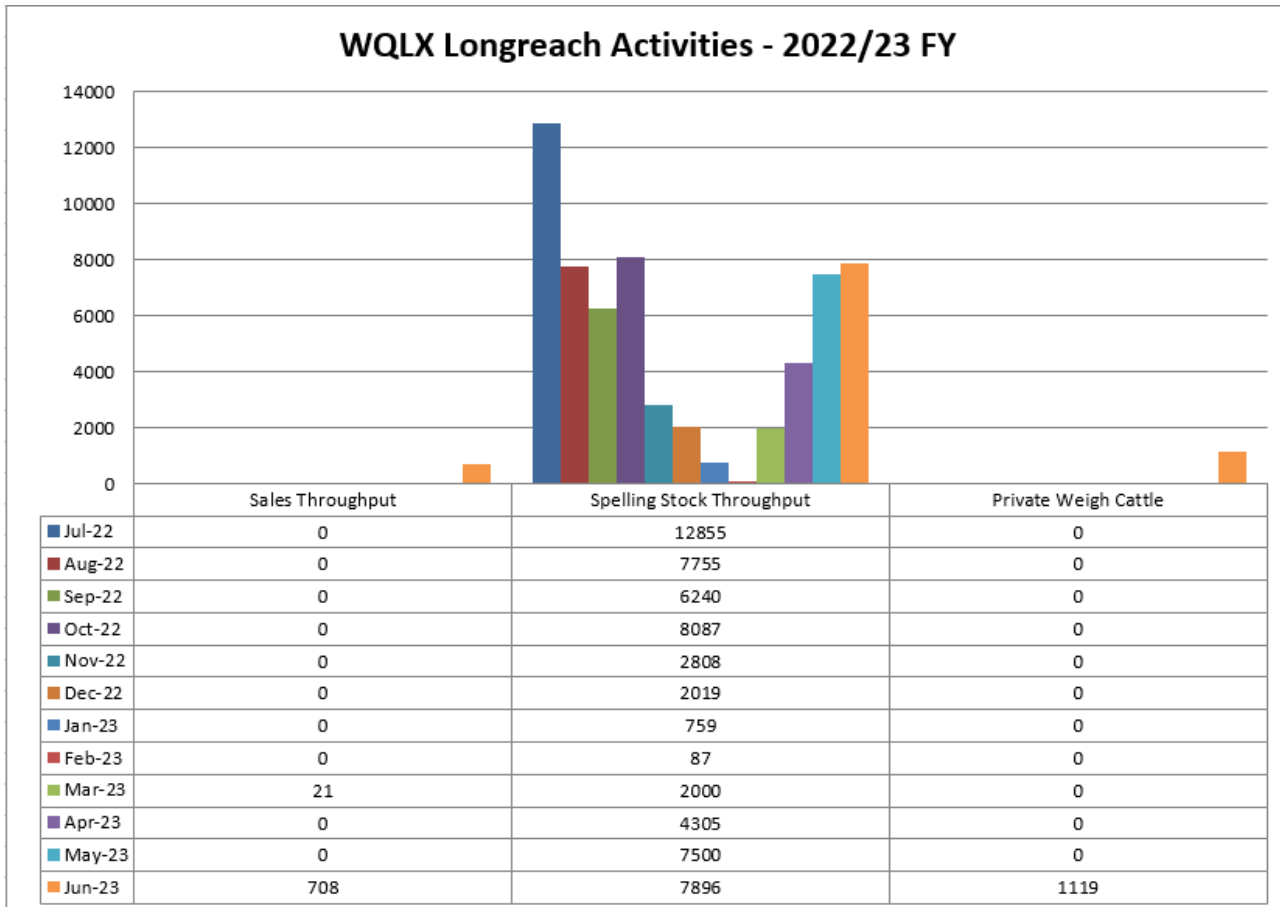
Isisford Based FTE	Operational	Admin/ Supervisors	Contract	Total
Full Time	10.0	5.0		15.0
Permanent Part Time		1.2		1.2
Total Permanent Employees	10.0	6.2	-	16.2
Temporary Full Time				-
Temporary Part Time				-
Apprentices - Trades	1.0			1.0
Traineeships				-
Casual Staff	0.4			0.4
Total Temporary Employees	1.4	-	-	1.4
Total Current Employees FTE	11.4	6.2	-	17.6
Current Vacant Positions	1.0			1.0
Yaraka Based FTE	Operational	Admin/ Supervisors	Contract	Total
Full Time				-
Permanent Part Time	0.9			0.9
Total Permanent Employees	0.9	-	-	0.9
Temporary Full Time				-
Casual Staff	0.2			0.2
Total Temporary Employees	0.2	-	-	0.2
Total Current Employees FTE	1.1	-	-	1.1
Current Vacant Positions				-

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

ALL Employees FTE	Operational	Admin/ Supervisors	Contract	Total	Last Month	30/06/2022
Full Time	83.0	50.0	12.0	145.0	146.0	138.0
Permanent Part Time	1.9	4.9	0.8	7.7	7.7	8.3
Total Permanent Employees	84.9	54.9	12.8	152.7	153.7	146.3
Temporary Full Time	1.0	3.0	1.0	5.0	6.0	5.0
Temporary Part Time	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apprentices - Trades	3.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0
Traineeships	-	-	-	-	-	1.0
Casual Staff	1.9	2.2	-	4.1	3.8	5.0
Total Temporary Employees	5.9	5.2	1.0	12.1	12.8	14.0
Total Current Employees FTE	90.9	60.1	13.8	164.8	166.5	160.3
Current Vacant Positions	8.0	3.0	2.0	13.0	10.0	17.0
Complement FTE				177.8	176.5	177.3

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Saleyards – Throughput Figures



11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Regulatory Services – Compliance (Local Laws)

Throughout June, Regulatory Services Compliance Officers continued with routine tasks, including town patrols, monitoring illegal water use, overgrown vegetation, feral animal control, pest weed spraying and various animal related non-compliances. All Longreach Regional Council townships are currently on Level 1 Water Restrictions. Sprinkler use is limited to 6:00am-9:00am and 5:00pm-8:00pm daily.

The main points of interest for June were:

1. The total number of animals impounded during June was 21, being 16 dogs, 3 cats and 2 goats. Of the impounded dogs, 12 were impounded for wandering at large, 1 was seized under AMCDA s125, and 3 were held for extenuating circumstances. 3 dogs were repeat offenders for wandering at large, and 2 dogs were surrendered. 3 cats were wandering on private property, and 2 goats were wandering at large in a public place.
2. Overgrown and unsightly properties have eased slightly, however most remaining overgrowns have dried off and are presenting fire hazards. Officers are patrolling for overgrown vegetation that could present a fire risk, harbour vermin and reptiles, and affect amenity. Remedial notices will continue to be sent.
3. To end June, the following statistics were determined:
 - Registration renewal rate: ~78.24% (previous registration period ended 15/08/2022)
 - Total dogs registered across Region for 2022/2023 rego period: 701 dogs
 - Dogs with registration expired 15/08/2022, not renewed or updated (excluding cancelled/deceased/transferred registrations): 173
 - New registrations for dogs within current rego period (since 15/08/2022): 165 dogs
 - Microchipping rate across Region (details on LRC file): ~75.34%
 - Total animals impounded YTD 2023: 103
4. Work remains ongoing to summarise the findings of the Pets, People and Places survey, and subsequent development of the draft Animal Management Strategy.
5. Officers undertook discussions with business owners along Eagle Street and in the vicinity of Magpie Lane, where a large number of feral cats have been identified as causing nuisance. Council will commence a feral cat trapping program with participating businesses during July.
6. Officers undertook Cat and Dog Breed Identification and Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control (ACDC) training.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Regulatory Services Tasks Completed – June 2023			
Animals	130	Water	65
Dogs Impounded	16	Watering / Sprinkler Patrols	49
Domestic Cats Impounded	3	Illegal Water Usage – Residential	8
Pound Releases	17	Illegal Water Usage – Business/Public	0
Animals Euthanised – unclaimed*	0	Water Leaks Reported/Observed	0
Animals Euthanised – surrendered	2	Water Exemption Applications/Permits	0
Animals Rehomed	0	Notices / Fines Issued	8
Feral Cats Trapped and Euthanised	17	Property	67
Dog Attacks / Investigations	3	Town Common Patrols	11
Dogs Involved in Attacks	3	Common Gates Open / Damaged	2
Dog Traps Issued	1	Town Patrols - Longreach	22
Cat Traps Issued	15	Town Patrols - Ilfracombe	18
Wandering Dogs (not impounded)	11	Town Patrols - Isisford	1
Wandering Animals Reported / Impounded (other than dogs)	2	Town Patrols - Yaraka	0
Wandering Animal Posts on FB – not reported to Council (min)	11	Camping / Apex Park / River Patrols	5
Barking Dogs Reported	3	Overgrown / Unsightly Reports (initial + follow up) (private + LRC-controlled)	8
Animal Inspections – Extra dogs/cats, adequate housing, insecure enclosure, compliance checks	0	Overgrown / Unsightly Notices Issued (unattended, falling within follow-up timeframes)	0
Assist with Animal Welfare	0	Notices / Fines Issued	0
Notices / Fines Issued	26	Other	82
Vehicles	1	Customer Service Requests	32
Abandoned Vehicles	1	Equipment Maintenance	4
Vehicles Impounded/Processed	0	After Hours Call Out	6
Impounded Vehicle Release	0	Impound Facility Maintenance	39
		Illegal Dumping / Littering	1
		Pest Weed Spraying by LLO	0

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Total	345
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Regulatory Services – Rural Lands

Town Commons

There were no applications received for Town Common Agistment during the month. Inspections are ongoing to determine the correct description and amount of horses and cattle being kept on each Common.

No pasture assessments have been conducted as new staff require training in this skill.

Ongoing Town Common Issues:

- Poor quality or lack of boundary fences between Landholders and Town Commons, including flood-damaged sections of fencing
- Infrastructure being damaged by vehicles, particularly gates being run over
- Gates being left open, causing a safety issue for the horses being agisted on the Commons
- Illegal dumping of rubbish
- Pest weeds –
 - Longreach Common; Jumping Cholla, Parkinsonia, Prickly Acacia, Rubber Vine, Sticky Florestina.
 - Ilfracombe Common: Prickly Acacia, Parthenium, Sticky Florestina, Parky
 - Isisford Common: Rubber Vine, Prickly Acacia, Parthenium, Parkinsonia, Sticky Florestina, Tiger Pear
 - Yaraka Common: Parkinsonia

Stock Routes & Reserves

Council continues to await a response from DoR regarding the Stock Route amendment submission sent in January 2023.

Ongoing Reserve Issues:

- Poor quality or lack of boundary fences between Landholders and Reserves
- Illegal dumping of rubbish
- Pest weeds

Two travelling stock permits were utilised during June.

Permit to Occupy (PTO)

There were no PTOs submitted to Council this month.

Water Facilities (WF)

Eighteen water facility inspections were completed.

There were no water agreements application received.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.12 - Information Report - Governance

Pest Weeds

Ongoing Pest Weed Issues:

- Lack of awareness, support and obligations within the Community in regards to Pest Weeds i.e. Parthenium, Sticky Florestina, Cacti.
- Continual rains, which will delay/slow down pest weed spraying programs, as well as increase the spread and density of pest weeds
- New and emerging Pest Weeds

Pest Animals

Wild Dog / Feral Cat Bounties – Year to Date

Division	Scalp Bounty - Dog 22/23 YTD	Contract Dog Trapper 22/23 YTD	Scalp Bounty - Cat 22/23 YTD
1	-	7	-
2	3	49	-
3	138	-	1
4	12	-	65
Total	153	56	66

Training

Rural Lands staff attended training with Biosecurity Qld/DAF regarding biosecurity compliance, annual pest distribution survey, powers of entry, and local government biosecurity plans.

Meetings

Rural Lands staff attended 2 x meetings – Shire Rural Lands Officer Group catch-up and Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group catch-up. These meetings were brief and opportunistic whilst multiple officers across the RAPAD region were in the same place for the abovementioned training.

Sticky Florestina Research Project

Our department is currently working with the Invasive Plant and Animal Science, Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on a research project regarding Sticky Florestina. The project will involve monitoring seed viability, germination, response to rainfall and weather conditions, cut-stem response, and other key factors to better understand this pest weed which is progressing across our region.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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Summary of main tasks / issues completed by Rural Lands department during the month:

- Water facility maintenance reports and inspections.
- Management of drovers with travelling stock.
- Minimal pest weed spraying as the ground has been too dry. Spot spraying occurred as required.
- Fencing maintenance at Ilfracombe South Common.
- Capital works project management, and submission of EOs for next year.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.12 - Information Report - Governance

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: Rare

Consequence: Insignificant

Rating: Low (1/25)

Low risk, informational report only.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Governance information report, as presented.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 Monthly Financial Statements

File Ref:

Consideration of the financial statements for the period ending 30 June 2023:

CFO report for the month of June 2023

Financial overview

Since the last Council meeting, the Commonwealth Government changed its decision to defer the payment of the 2023/24 Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) until the 2023/24 financial year. In a reversal of the original decision, it was announced that 100% of the 2023/24 FAG will be paid before 30 June 2023. On the 28th of June, Council received \$11.8 million in FAG.

The \$11.8 million grant represents an 18.6% increase on the 2022/23 FAG allocation to Council, higher than the expected 10% increase to 11.0 million. It is important to note however, that this amount represents substantially the entire FAG income expected for the next 12 months. As the 13-month cash forecast illustrates, if there is another change to the FAG methodology at the end of the 2023/24 financial year, Council's cash balance may reduce to \$21.0 million, the targeted cash balance in the 2023/24 budget.

The uncertainty created by the constant and rapid changes in the FAG methodology makes planning and cash management difficult for local governments. The best outcome will be for the 100% prepayment in June methodology to continue in perpetuity. Until there is certainty, Council should operate under the assumption that the 2024/25 FAG allocation will be deferred and maintain its current budgeted expenditure.

With the end of the financial year, the financial results presented in the June management reports will be close to the results published in the 2022/23 financial reports, although the final results may change as final reconciliations and the audit is performed.

YTD summary

Council has recognised a net surplus YTD of \$7.4 million compared to the budget surplus \$64,000. As previously noted, this is due to the change in the FAG payment timing.

Expenses in most programs remain within budget with a few exceptions noted in more detail later in the report.

Capital expenditure remains low to budget primarily due to delays in fleet purchases, caused by market factors.

Overall Council's financial performance, position and cash flows are significantly better than expected.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements

Financial performance

Statement of financial performance	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Budget \$'000	Last YTD \$'000	Full year budget \$'000
Total revenue	58,538	52,821	52,174	52,821
Total expenses	51,143	52,757	47,404	52,757
Net surplus or (deficit)	7,395	64	4,771	64

Council's financial performance to the end of June is significantly better than expected in most respects with the main variances to budget caused by:

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net result
Finance (FAG)	\$6,454	\$681k	\$7,135k
2021 flood damage	(\$172k)	\$1,409k	\$1,237k
2022 flood damage	\$1,550K	(\$1,550k)	\$0K
TMR works	\$329k	(\$447k)	(\$118k)
Capital grant income	(\$2,387k)	0	(\$2,387k)
Other programs	(\$57k)	\$1,521k	\$1,464
Net	\$5,717k	\$1,614k	\$7,331 k

(positive amounts = favourable variance, negative amounts = unfavourable variance)

Council's YTD net result is higher than budget due to the prepayment of the FAG. Wages are \$1.4 million under budget YTD due to vacancies throughout the year and the timing of the EBA negotiations. The full impact of the EBA increases will not be recognised until the 2023/24 financial year, so wages for the full year will remain under budget.

Council's net result for the YTD to June is a surplus of \$7.4 million.

Program performance










Overall programs have been operating within or under budget and the detailed program report is attached. There were six programs where YTD expenses were over budget. These variances are caused by:

- Disaster Management and regional coordination, Tourism, museums and VIC and Showgrounds and sporting facilities - revaluation picked up assets that were not depreciating in these areas hence the higher expense.
- Depots and airstrips - some extra maintenance at the Longreach depot that was not programmed but required.
- Development services - due to the reallocation of wages from Communities Administration to this program.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements

- Cemeteries – extra costs have been incurred in maintaining the cemeteries. Most of these costs have been Council labour and plant costs that were redeployed from parks and gardens.
- Swimming pools – higher energy costs and the cost of chemicals to maintain the pools are higher than budget and are likely to create a permanent budget variance.
- Rates – permanent difference due to write offs.

Program	Expenses	
	YTD	Budget YTD
Disaster management and regional coordination	(282)	(253) 
Tourism, museums and VIC	(900)	(794) 
Depot and airstrips	(401)	(339) 
RADF	(41)	(38) 
Development services	(234)	(190) 
Showgrounds and sporting facilities	(840)	(738) 
Cemeteries	(383)	(311) 
Swimming pools	(1,185)	(979) 
Rates	(288)	(126) 

Cash

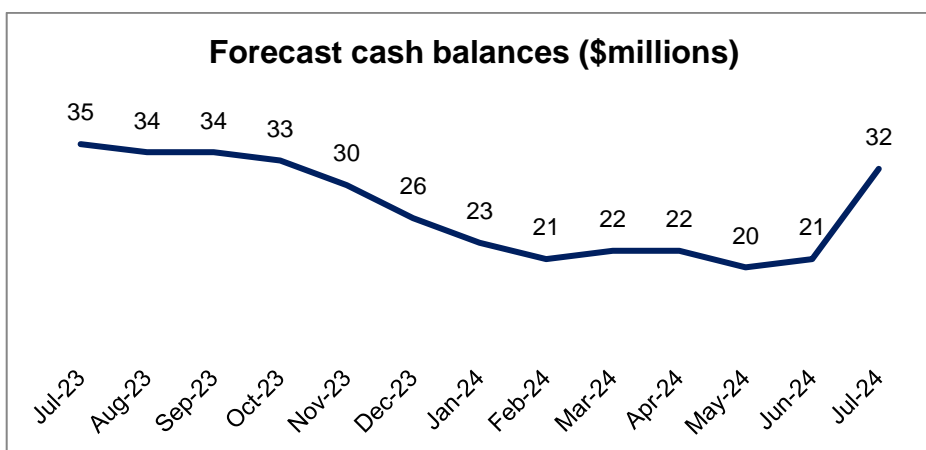
Statement of cash flows	YTD Actual	Full year budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	9,330	(1,924)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	(5,325)	(7,551)
Net cash outflows from financing activities	(2,929)	(1,244)
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	1,077	(10,719)
Opening cash balance	34,074	34,074
Closing cash balance	35,151	23,355

At the end of June, Council had a cash balance of \$35.2 million (unrestricted \$31.7 million). Council's unrestricted cash balance is sufficient to cover 9 months of cash expenses. The new financial sustainability target for cash cover set by the Queensland Government is 4 months.

The 13-month rolling forecast indicates that Council will be able to maintain a cash balance of at between \$20 million and \$35 million in the short term and is likely to end the 2023/24 financial year with a cash balance of around \$21 million, depending on the FAG timing.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements



Council has deployed cash in a number of term deposits to increase its return on investment, illustrated in the table below:

Term Deposit	Maturity date	Rate
\$10,000,000	14/01/2024	4.74%
\$8,000,000	5/07/2024	5.63%
\$5,000,000	3/11/2023	5.22%

Financial position

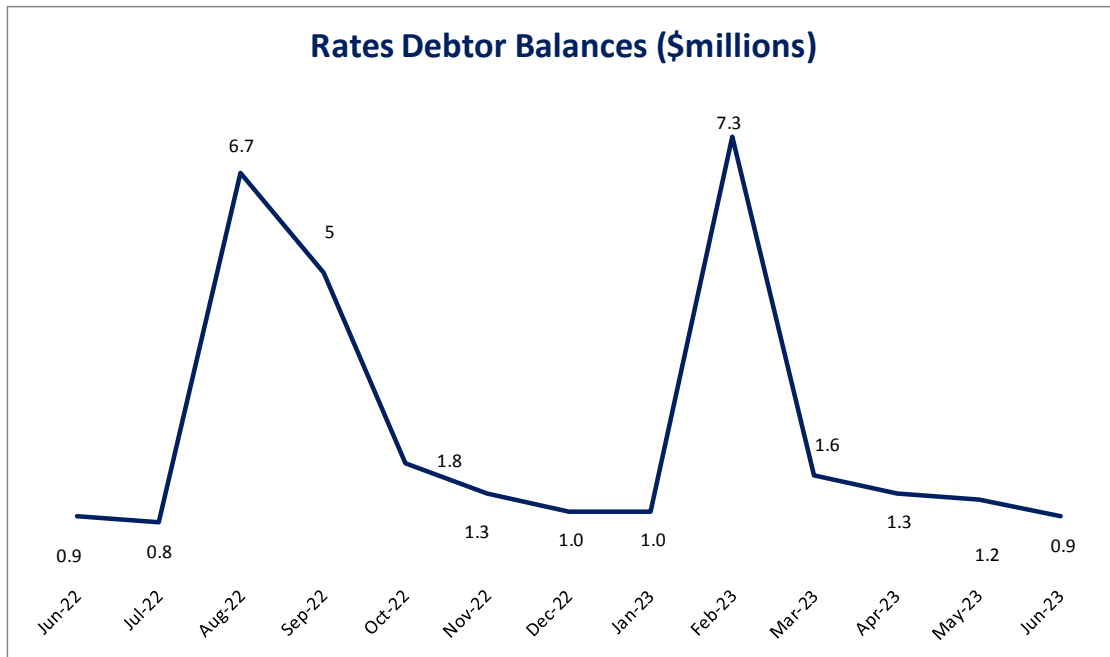
Statement of financial position	YTD Actual	Actual June 2022	Full year budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total assets	418,014	391,345	385,190
Total liabilities	28,097	33,309	27,172
Net community assets	389,916	358,036	358,018
Community equity			
Asset revaluation reserve	174,551	150,094	150,095
Retained surplus	215,365	207,941	207,923
Total community equity	389,916	358,036	358,018

Council maintains a sound financial position and good working capital with current assets exceeding current liabilities by 3.98 times. The June results include the result of the annual revaluation process, which has increased the fair value of Council's road, water, sewer, buildings and other assets by \$24.5 million.

The rates debtor balance is \$0.9 million.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements

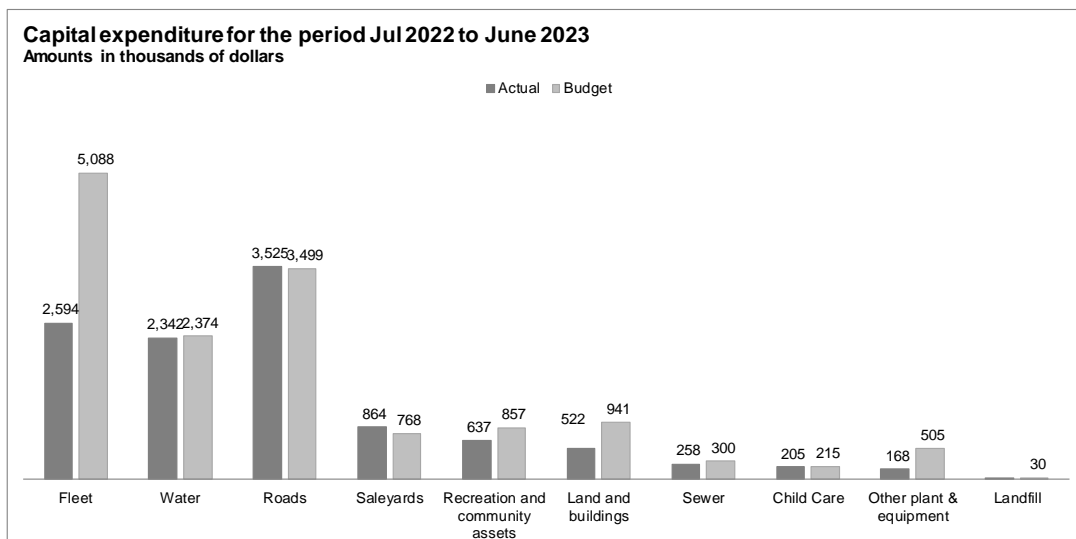


The aging of the outstanding rates is illustrated below. There is \$316k of unpaid rates that are over 1-year old (less than 1% of total rates revenue). Fifty ratepayers that have been referred to external debt collection. Of those, nine have either paid their debt in full or entered into a payment arrangement. The remainder are being escalated to court action.

	Current	1 year	2 years	3 years
Outstanding rates	\$561,574.00	\$164,285	\$85,112	\$67,074
Number of assessments	189	54	30	17

* the number of assessments can represent the same ratepayer in each aging category. For example, the 17 ratepayers in the 3 years column will also be included in the current, 1 year and 2 year columns.

The property, plant and equipment balance finished at 76% of budgeted capital expenditure being spent YTD. The most significant variance is in the purchase of fleet assets due to supply chain delays.



12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements

Liabilities mainly comprise QTC loan balances as illustrated below.

Loan	Rate	Expiry date	Book value	Unrealised	
				Market value	gain/(loss)
Saleyard land purchase	2.950%	15/12/2026	278	274	5
Water project 15/16	2.939%	15/06/2036	538	485	53
Sewer infrastructure	6.565%	15/09/2026	510	527	(17)
ACC land purchase	5.244%	15/03/2032	569	586	(18)
Water project	5.282%	15/06/2029	2,618	2,683	(65)
LWDEFS loan 1	3.693%	15/12/2036	10,563	9,934	629
Total borrowings			15,075	14,489	586

Risks

The main risks to Council's short term financial performance, position and cash flow are:

Risk	Description	Treatment	Rating
Change in timing and amount of Financial Assistance Grant.	There is a change to the methodology used by the Commonwealth to prepay the Financial Assistance Grants. If the prepayment is discontinued or the amount changes, it will impact the financial result and cash position for FY23.	Maintain a cash balance large enough that Council will be able to continue providing services until the FY24 grant payments are received. Maintain forecasting and prepare to be flexible in how Council operates.	This risk has materialised. Council has sufficient cash to adapt to this event and has adjusted its 2023/24 budget to the lower cash availability.
Project related grant income is not realized. Reputational damage with funding bodies.	If projects are not completed within the timeframes according to the grant conditions, grant income may not be realized in FY23. The main risk is project delays due to wet weather.	Improve project reporting and risk assessments. Improve cross-functional communications across project teams, grant administration and procurement.	Likelihood – Possible Consequence – Major (capital grant income is a significant part of Council's ability to fund capex) Rating – High
Costs continue to increase rapidly placing pressure on Council's ability to sustainably provide services.	The cost of wages, goods and services, particularly construction materials continue to increase at a higher rate than previously experienced, increasing the cost of providing services and maintaining assets.	Prioritise services and projects to allocate limited resources to the most important community areas. Maintain reporting and forecasting to identify issues and where necessary, revise budgets.	Likelihood – Almost certain Consequence – Moderate Rating - High

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements

Appendices

1. Financial Statements 30.06.23.pdf [↓](#)
2. Directorate reports 30.06.23.pdf [↓](#)
3. Capital as at 30.06.2023.pdf [↓](#)
4. Grants Report Council [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the monthly financial statements for the period ending 30 June 2023, as presented.

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 1

Statement of financial performance	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Budget \$'000	Last YTD \$'000	Full year budget \$'000
Revenue				
Rates, levies and charges	11,670	11,890	11,360	11,890
Fees and charges	2,081	2,638	1,952	2,638
Recoverable works income	7,998	7,626	8,822	7,626
Other revenue	1,466	467	1,014	467
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	29,353	21,844	22,683	21,844
Capital grants, subsidies and income	5,474	7,716	6,144	7,716
Profit on sale of assets	495	640	199	640
Total revenue	58,538	52,821	52,174	52,821
Expenses				
Employee expenses	15,166	16,606	14,747	16,606
Materials and services	26,467	26,798	23,486	26,798
Finance expenses	765	858	975	858
Depreciation	8,745	8,495	8,197	8,495
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
Total expenses	51,143	52,757	47,404	52,757
Net surplus or (deficit)	7,395	64	4,771	64
Operating deficit				
Net surplus/(deficit)	7,395	64	4,771	64
less capital grants and income	(5,969)	(8,356)	(6,343)	(8,356)
Operating deficit	1,427	(8,292)	(1,572)	(8,292)

Statement of financial position	YTD Actual \$'000	Actual June 2022 \$'000	Full year budget \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	35,151	34,074	23,355
Current trade and other receivables	5,303	5,646	979
Inventories	983	1,418	650
Non-current assets			
Trade and other receivables	11,075	11,689	10,460
Property, plant and equipment	365,502	338,518	349,746
Other non-current assets	-	-	-
Total assets	418,014	391,345	385,190
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6,001	8,283	5,395
Current borrowings	1,244	1,241	1,382
Current provisions	3,175	3,027	1,500
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	13,812	16,744	15,329
Provisions	3,866	4,014	3,566
Total liabilities	28,097	33,309	27,172
Net community assets	389,916	358,036	358,018
Community equity			
Asset revaluation reserve	174,551	150,094	150,095
Retained surplus	215,365	207,941	207,923
Total community equity	389,916	358,036	358,018

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 1

Statement of cash flows	YTD Actual	Full year budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from ratepayers and customers	24,173	23,343
Receipts from grants	25,599	21,955
Payments to employees	(15,167)	(16,746)
Payments to suppliers	(24,509)	(29,750)
Interest paid	(765)	(726)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	9,330	(1,924)
Cash flows from Investing activities		
Receipts from capital grants	5,474	7,594
Receipts from sale of assets	604	-
Payments for capital expenditure	(11,402)	(15,145)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	(5,325)	(7,551)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Loan repayments	(2,929)	(1,244)
Net cash outflows from financing activities	(2,929)	(1,244)
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	1,077	(10,719)
Opening cash balance	34,074	34,074
Closing cash balance	35,151	23,355

Statement of changes in equity	YTD Actual	Full year budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Accumulated surplus		
Opening balance	207,942	207,941
Recognise land sold in prior years	28	-
Net profit or (loss)	7,395	(18)
Closing accumulated surplus	215,365	207,923
Asset revaluation reserve		
Opening balance	150,094	150,094
Other comprehensive income	24,457	-
Closing asset revaluation reserve	174,551	150,094
Total community equity	389,916	358,017

Longreach Regional Council
 Program Report
 for the YTD June 2023

Program	Revenue		Expenses		Net result	
	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget full year
Office of the CEO						
Human resources	42	-	(1,165)	(1,282)	(1,122)	(1,282)
Governance	4	-	(812)	(832)	(808)	(832)
Elected member expenses	-	-	(535)	(544)	(535)	(544)
Disaster management and regional coordination	190	112	(282)	(253)	(91)	(141)
Economic development	-	-	(134)	(178)	(134)	(178)
Tourism, museums and VIC	169	130	(900)	(794)	(731)	(664)
Total Office of the CEO	405	242	(3,827)	(3,882)	(3,422)	(3,640)
Infrastructure Services						
Infrastructure administration	-	-	(772)	(849)	(772)	(849)
Depot and airstrips	10	-	(401)	(339)	(401)	(339)
Roads, streets and stormwater	63	-	(6,518)	(6,148)	(6,508)	(6,148)
2019 NDRA event	1,096	1,000	(3)	-	61	-
2020 NDRA event	10,191	10,363	(1,096)	(1,000)	-	-
2021 NDRA event	1,550	-	(10,191)	(11,600)	-	(1,237)
2022 NDRA event	7,901	7,572	(1,550)	-	591	709
Contract works	332	135	(7,309)	(6,862)	1,480	670
Fleet management	1,784	1,637	1,147	535	988	840
Sewerage	1,102	1,025	(796)	(797)	407	233
Waste management	3,423	3,257	(695)	(792)	707	(11)
Water			(2,716)	(3,269)		
Total Infrastructure Services	27,452	24,989	(30,899)	(31,122)	(3,446)	(6,133)

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12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 2

	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Community Services							
Health and environmental services							(89)
Child Care	16	13	(85)	(102)	(70)	(89)	
Community development and events	2,125	2,777	(2,634)	(2,703)	(509)	73	73
Donations and sponsorship	64	-	(319)	(389)	(255)	(389)	(389)
RADF	-	-	(146)	(162)	(146)	(162)	(162)
Community administration	69	28	(41)	(38)	27	(10)	(10)
Libraries	9	-	(706)	(836)	(697)	(836)	(836)
Community centres and halls	12	4	(183)	(237)	(172)	(233)	(233)
Public conveniences	155	167	(517)	(647)	(362)	(480)	(480)
Development services	20	8	(123)	(405)	(104)	(397)	(397)
Council housing	64	60	(234)	(190)	(170)	(130)	(130)
Showgrounds and sporting facilities	94	100	(285)	(326)	(192)	(226)	(226)
Cemeteries	84	150	(840)	(738)	(756)	(588)	(588)
Parks and gardens	159	130	(383)	(311)	(224)	(181)	(181)
Swimming pools	25	15	(1,844)	(1,851)	(1,819)	(1,836)	(1,836)
	9	8	(1,185)	(979)	(1,176)	(971)	(971)
Total Community Services	2,903	3,459	(9,527)	(9,914)	(6,624)	(6,455)	(6,455)
Financial Services							
Insurance	5	25	(632)	(629)	(628)	(604)	(604)
Finance	15,887	9,433	(770)	(1,451)	15,117	7,982	7,982
Asset management	-	-	(255)	(318)	(255)	(318)	(318)
Rates	4,936	5,452	(288)	(126)	4,648	5,310	5,310
LW/DEFS	508	495	(525)	(478)	(17)	17	17
Internal recharges	85	35	(359)	5	(275)	40	40
Total Financial Services	21,420	15,439	(2,829)	(2,997)	18,591	12,427	12,427
Corporate Services							
Corporate administration	5	-	(1,564)	(1,589)	(1,559)	(1,589)	(1,589)
IT	-	-	(1,107)	(1,199)	(1,107)	(1,199)	(1,199)
Land, leased out assets and commercial businesses	163	92	(489)	(523)	(326)	(431)	(431)
Saleyards	57	107	(9)	(556)	48	(449)	(449)
Local laws	163	151	(892)	(975)	(729)	(823)	(823)
Total Corporate Services	389	350	(4,061)	(4,841)	(3,672)	(4,491)	(4,491)
Total Council Operating Result	52,569	44,480	(51,142)	(52,757)	1,427	(8,292)	(8,292)

Notes to the program report

- 1 - Disaster Management expenses came in higher than budget due to Depreciation picked up in revaluations.
- 2- Depreciation on Museums picked up in revaluations.
- 3 - Depot operations are higher for the YTD as unscheduled maintenance occurred.
- 4 - Road expenses over budget due to more maintenance on Town Streets and Rural Roads not picked up by flood damage.
- 5 - Child care revenues are significantly lower than budget due to fewer children attending. The ability to generate higher revenue at the centre is dependant on being able to adequately staff the centre to safely and legally supervise children. The ratios are defined by regulation. If the ratios cannot be maintained due to availability of staff then both expenses and revenues drop.
- 6 - RADF expenses are higher to a grant which came in but not spent by the end of the Financial year.
- 7 - Development services expenses are higher due to the timing of the planning scheme review to budget and the allocation of staff wages from Communities Administration.
- 8- Depreciation on Showgrounds picked up in revaluations.
- 9 - Cemetery costs remain above budget. Apart from a higher number of funerals in the first half of the year, the wet weather has meant that people and plant that would have spent time in other open spaces have been redeployed to the cemeteries to maintain weed control.
- 10 - The costs of maintaining the pools remains challenging as the higher volume of rain has an impact on the volume of chemicals required to maintain pool water quality. Energy costs to run the pools have also reached the annual budget amount.
- 11 - Insurance claims remain low, particularly the number of vehicle damage claims from windscreen damage and roof strikes. A couple of larger claims are still being progressed.
- 12 - The prepayment of the Financial Assistance Grant has been paid at 100% of the 2023/24 FAG.
- 13 - Rates revenue is lower than budget as a higher number of ratepayers paid their rates notices within the discount period.
- 14- Loan fees were budgeted to finance but were allocated to correct functions.

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 3

Capital as at 30.06.2023

Infrastructure	Amended Budget.	YTD Actual.	
22.23 Longreach Town Weirs Capping	150,000	-	0%
22.23 Murray Dam Ilfracombe Pump / Isisford Dam Pump Refurbishments	25,000	18,982	76%
Bailey Street - Ilfracombe	96,000	-	0%
DCP Security Fencing - Isisford Waste Facility	30,000	25,000	83%
Dsdilgp Grant 21-22 Isisford Weir Replacement	278,918	303,618	109%
FLEET MANAGEMENT- Capital Works Plant & Equipment	5,138,968	2,663,587	52%
Ilfracombe - Car Park Opposite Caravan Park	30,000	33,821	113%
Ilfracombe / Drainage Upgrade	50,000	47,692	0%
Ilfracombe WTP Upgrade and Automation	97,000	99,818	103%
Isisford Footpath - Golden West Hotel To St Catherine Street	47,300	51,372	109%
Isisford WTP Clarifier	265,000	267,746	101%
LGGSP Longreach Sewer Relining	300,000	187,282	62%
LGGSP Longreach Water Mains Replacement	700,000	37,534	5%
Lrci P3 Eagle Street Road Upgrade	775,000	772,850	100%
Lrci P3 Isisford / Pave And Seal New Road To Airport Including New Alignment	335,000	383,720	115%
Lrci P3 Isisford Footpath	70,000	62,497	89%
Lrci P3 Longreach Footpath	98,000	97,354	99%
Ptiip 22.23 Ilfracombe (East) Bus Stop	50,000	16,200	32%
Ptiip 22.23 Ilfracombe (West) Bus Stop	50,000	8,600	17%
Ptiip 22.23 Longreach Bus Stop	50,000	8,900	18%
R2R 21/22 - Wellshot St - Ilf Streets Reseal	197,640	201,819	102%
R2R 22/23 - Glenloch Road / Install Concrete Floodway/ Ch Tbc	40,000	54,342	136%
R2R 22/23 - Gride Renewal (All Areas)	150,000	146,026	97%
R2R 22/23 - Isisford/ Reseal Bimerah Road Ch 0 Ch.450	29,700	30,189	102%
R2R 22/23 - Isisford/ Reseal Racecourse Road	92,400	88,434	96%
R2R 22/23 - Longreach - Silsoe Road / Repair Downstream Batter / Ch 26.660	84,075	82,795	98%
R2R 22/23 - Longreach / Kite Street / Pave And Seal	120,000	130,374	109%
R2R 22/23 - Longreach/Cranse Street/ Pave & Seal Centre Section/ Between Snipe & Wc	90,000	99,389	110%
R2R 22/23 - Morella - Silsoe Road / Reseal And Prep Ch 45.767 To Ch 52.726	282,425	288,994	102%
R2R 22/23 - Silsoe - Vergemont road / Install concrete floodway / ch 4.150	100,000	108,664	109%
R2R 22/23 - Town Street Reseals (All Areas)	450,000	408,185	91%
R2R 22/23 - Westlands - Gaza Road / Install Concrete Floodway/ Ch 20.430	40,000	40,024	100%
ST003 - SPS upgrade/SCADA and Electrical	95,000	163,165	172%
Tids 22.23 - Longreach - Tocal Road / Reinstate Concrete Floodway (Tocal Creek)	100,000	127,807	128%
Tids 22.23 - Morella Silsoe Rd Reseal	200,000	187,217	94%
Tids 22.23 - Morella - Silsoe Road / Reseal And Prep Ch 0 - Ch .600 / Ch 15.350 - Ch 17.65	100,000	91,490	91%
W4Q 21- 24 - Water Mains Highway And Railway Crossings Longreach	250,000	-	0%
W4Q 21-24 Water Mains Replacement Stage 2 Isisford	970,000	972,316	100%
W4Q COVID Ilfracombe SP1 Upgrade	48,000	30,469	63%
W4Q COVID Isisford WTP Upgrade	389,000	327,413	84%
Grand Total	12,464,426	8,665,685	70%

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 3

Community & Project Management	Amended Budget..	YTD Actual	
2023 Cemetery Plinth	15,500.00	15,500.00	100%
22.23 Variable message boards	85,000.00	84,199.99	99%
Replace fencing 22-24 Flinders Street (council housing)	25,000.00	-	0%
Cemetery Planter Boxes	19,000.00	19,000.00	100%
Child Care Expansion Cabinetry	50,000.00	42,600.00	85%
Civic Centre Storage	6,000.00	-	0%
Councillor CAPEX to allow for community Projects	100,000.00	-	0%
Eagle Street Beautification	60,000.00	45,344.11	0%
Edkins Park Shade Structure	140,000.00	170,843.50	122%
Executive House	650,000.00	333,673.20	51%
House Stumping x 2	80,000.00	-	0%
Ilfracombe Rec Centre Toilet Refit	-	9,300.00	0%
Iningai Reserve Refurbishment	-	38,979.97	0%
Jarley Street - Fencing Replacement	20,000.00	-	0%
Lrci P1 Isisford Community Hall Renovations	-	28,974.11	0%
LRCI P2 Electronic Signboards	85,000.00	63,321.27	74%
Lrci P3 Childcare Playground (New)	162,000.00	161,934.43	100%
Lrci P3 Edkins Park Ablutions Block	330,000.00	317,574.17	96%
Lrci P3 Ilfracombe Rec Centre Capital Aircons	65,000.00	-	0%
Lrci P3 Ilfracombe Rec Centre Maintenance Flooring	-	12,022.73	0%
Lrci P3 Isisford Park Renovations	50,000.00	44,930.00	90%
LRCI P3 Longreach Library Roof Replacement	71,350.00	47,727.27	0%
LRCI P3 Longreach Showgrounds Rodeo Arena Surface replacement	31,000.00	19,600.00	63%
LRCI P3 New planting, irrigation, turf, shade structure, seating and path	25,000.00	-	0%
Lrci P3 Rec Centre Stairs/Landing Replacement	15,000.00	-	0%
Lrci P3 Showgrounds Audio Upgrade	45,000.00	46,465.47	103%
LRCI P3 Wool Pavilion Concreting	120,000.00	137,151.26	114%
Lrcip2 Thomson River Masterplan Stage 2	69,463.00	65,256.84	94%
SES Support Grant - Longreach SES flood boat shed	92,625.50	-	0%
Showgrounds Irrigation Replacement	36,000.00	36,000.00	0%
Grand Total	2,447,938.50	1,740,398.32	71%
Corporate			
	Amended Budget .	YTD Actual .	
22.23 Vic Printer	10,000.00	-	0%
BBR4 21- Saleyards Transit and spelling	131,583.00	338,140.27	257%
Bor521 Wqlx Redevelopment Stage 2	305,930.00	305,930.00	0%
Hvspp21 - Saleyards Heavy Vehicle Turning	330,462.00	220,308.00	0%
Isisford Depot Concrete Slab	20,000.00	-	0%
Longreach Administration Building Air Conditioning Replacement	350,000.00	-	0%
Lrcip2 - Isisford Town And Dam Exclusion Fence	-	83,764.34	0%
Yaraka Fuel Depot	-	22,883.99	0%
Grand Total	1,147,975.00	971,026.60	85%

Grant/s Information

(current as of Monday, 10 July 2023)

Completed Grants

The below table outlines those Grants that were active as at, or since 01 July 2022, and have now been finalised.

Grant #	Name	Title	Grant Subsidy Amount	Income Received to Date	Income Yet to Receive	Grant Start Date	Grant End Date
GC2022165	Department Environment & Science	LID Signis40 - Keep Old Clean Road Signage	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	\$ -	01/05/2022	31/12/2022
GC2021115	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	EECE 2021/2023 - Longreach & District Child Care Services	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ -	01/06/2021	30/06/2023
GC2022164	DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND SCIENCE	PAC Grant - Purchase Of Four Variable Message Signboards Mounted On Trailers project	\$ 65,099.00	\$ 65,099.00	\$ -	01/05/2022	23/01/2023
GC202102	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 1 LRCM Airport Walking Path	\$ 276,500.00	\$ 276,500.00	\$ -	29/01/2021	28/02/2023
GC202103	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 2 LRCM Thomson River Redevelopment - Stage 2	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	29/01/2021	28/02/2023
GC202104	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 3 LISFORD Town and Dam Exclusion Fence	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 155,000.00	\$ -	29/01/2021	28/02/2023
GC202105	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 4 LRCM Pedestrian Infrastructure Maintenance at Inmingal Park	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	29/01/2021	28/02/2023
GC202106	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 8 LRCM Lionesse Park Footpath Replacement	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	29/01/2021	28/02/2023
GC202107	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 6 LRCM Aquatic Centre BBQ and Playground Upgrade	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	01/02/2021	28/02/2023
GC202109	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P2- 7 Electronic Roadside Signboards	\$ 72,165.00	\$ 72,165.00	\$ -	01/02/2021	28/02/2023
GC2020080	DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT	BoR ROBLONG 0038 - WOLX - Stage 2	\$ 874,120.00	\$ 874,120.00	\$ -	25/08/2020	03/10/2022
GC202122	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	Special Purpose Grant - Isisford Weir Repairs	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ -	16/06/2021	30/06/2023
GC2022162	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	FAGs 2022/2023 - General	\$ 7,715,196.00	\$ 7,715,196.00	\$ -	07/04/2022	30/06/2023
GC2022163	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	FAGs 2022/2023 - Roads	\$ 2,278,116.00	\$ 2,278,116.00	\$ -	07/04/2022	30/06/2023
GC2023186	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	FAG's - Financial Assistance Grants 2023/2024 FY	\$ 11,848,708.00	\$ 11,848,708.00	\$ -	30/04/2023	30/06/2024
GC202138	Dept. OF EMPLOYMENT, SMALL BUSINESS & TRAINING	Skilling QLD for Work First Start Progr am 2021-22	\$ 495,000.00	\$ 495,000.00	\$ -	01/07/2021	23/02/2023
GC2023203	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	TIDS - 2022/2023 Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	01/07/2022	30/06/2023
GC202135	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	MWPC CN 16460 - Muttaburra Craiesie Rd	\$ 4,108,179.00	\$ 4,108,179.00	\$ -	01/07/2021	30/06/2023
GC202136	FOUNDATION FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL RENEWAL	FRRR Round 1 - Future Drought's Fund's Network to Build Drought Resilience	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ -	17/10/2021	29/08/2022
GC2022177	NATIONAL AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL LIMITED	NADC 2023 - Australia Day COVID Safe Grant 2023	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	31/12/2022	30/06/2023
GC2022167	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES Support Grant 2022/2023 - Isisford Facility Upgrade and Fit out	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	01/07/2022	30/06/2023
GC2022170	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	State Emergency Services - Local Government Subsidy 2022/2023	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ -	27/09/2022	30/06/2023
GC2022183	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES Support Grant 2022/2023 - Isisford SES Driveaway	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	01/07/2022	30/06/2023
GC202123	QUEENSLAND HEALTH	LMH 2021/2022	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	01/06/2021	30/11/2022
GC2020096	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA NDRRA 2019/20 - LRC0071920EREC	\$ 10,611,931.15	\$ 10,611,931.15	\$ -	19/11/2020	30/06/2023
GC2023178	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA - LRC00222122BENWK - 10 Nov - 3 Dec 2021 Event	\$ 104,550.30	\$ 104,550.30	\$ -	11/01/2023	30/06/2023
GC2022171	STATE LIBRARY OF QLD	First 5 Forever Subsidy (2022/2023)	\$ 4,607.00	\$ 4,607.00	\$ -	17/10/2022	30/06/2023
GC2022172	STATE LIBRARY OF QLD	Service Development Subsidy 2022-2023	\$ 8,715.00	\$ 8,715.00	\$ -	05/10/2022	30/06/2023
		Total	\$ 40,223,108.45	\$ 40,223,108.45	\$ -		

Lodged Grants

The below table provides a list of Grant opportunities that have been applied for. At time of writing, the outcome of these Grants has not been determined.

Grant #	Name	Title	Grant Subsidy Amount	Income Received to Date	Income Yet to Receive	Grant Start Date	Grant End Date
GC2023204	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Professional Development & Paid Practicum Subsidy - FY24	\$ 13,679.64	\$ -	\$ 13,679.64	01/07/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023180	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	STIP - Longreach State High School - Parking & Drop-off Area	\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ 450,000.00	12/09/2022	30/06/2024
GC2023181	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	Walking Local Government Grant 2022/2023	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	30/06/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023200	DEPT OF SENIORS, DISABILITY SERVICES & ABORIGINAL	ILG 202324 - Iningai Park Signage	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	04/09/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023194	TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIP	HIIF - Teal Street Development 2023	\$ 3,943,970.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	01/09/2023	30/10/2025
		Total	\$ 4,467,649.64	\$ -	\$ 4,467,649.64		

Approved Grants

Outlined below are all Grants that are currently active in the SynergySoft system. The below includes multi-year funding rounds, where income will be received at agreed milestones and/or scheduled dates until the completion dates.

Grant #	Name	Title	Grant Subsidy Amount	Income Received to Date	Income Yet to Receive	Grant Start Date	Grant End Date
GC2023193	Department of Agriculture & Fisheries	OCFG - Queensland Community Fishing Grants 2023	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	27/04/2023	01/07/2024
GC2023119	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	CCCF Round 3 2021/2024 - Sustainability Support - 4-59703A3/4-G80 DY06/4-68XY0BB	\$ 870,000.00	\$ 630,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	01/01/2021	30/06/2024
GC2023184	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	OKFS_Longreach Kindergarten Service, 01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023	\$ 32,325.50	\$ 18,783.79	\$ 13,541.71	01/01/2023	30/06/2023
GC2023192	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	EECC - Kinty Uplift Program 2023	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	28/03/2023	31/12/2023
GC2023185	DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & PUBLIC WORKS	MIPI - Longreach Squash Courts Upgrade	\$ 328,692.00	\$ 164,346.00	\$ 164,346.00	28/06/2023	31/12/2024
GC2023081	DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND SCIENCE	BBR Round 4 - BBRF 11V000466 - WQLX Transit and Spelling Facility Upgrade	\$ 719,584.00	\$ 506,666.00	\$ 212,918.00	25/08/2020	30/06/2023
GC201901	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	Roads 2 Recovery 2019/24	\$ 7177,052.00	\$ 5136316.64	\$ 2,040,735.36	30/06/2019	30/06/2024
GC202142	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 1 LRCI Childcare Playground Replacement	\$ 162,000.00	\$ 81,000.00	\$ 81,000.00	01/01/2021	30/06/2024
GC2022146	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 2 Yarakka Tree Line	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022147	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 3 Isisford MPC Kiosk Repair	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 9,750.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022148	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 4 Isisford Park Renovations	\$ 44,500.00	\$ 22,250.00	\$ 22,250.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022149	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 6 ILF Rec. Centre Maintenance	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022150	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 8 LRCI Showgrounds Landscaping	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022151	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 9 LRCI Showground Audio Upgrade	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022153	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 11 Painting of LRCI Civic Centre	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022154	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 12 LRCI Edkins Park Ablution Block	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022155	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 13 LRCI Eagle St Beautification	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022156	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 14 LRCI Eagle St Landsborough HWY and Pelican St	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 387,500.00	\$ 387,500.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022157	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 15 Isisford Footpaths	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022159	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 17 Longreach Footpaths	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 49,000.00	\$ 49,000.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022160	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 16 Isisford Airport Road	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 167,500.00	\$ 167,500.00	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2023187	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 18 Longreach Showgrounds Rodao Arena Resurfacing	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023188	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 19 Powehouse Museum Centenary Garden	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023189	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 20 Wool Pavillion Concreting	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023190	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 21 Longreach Library Roof Replacement	\$ 71,350.00	\$ 35,675.00	\$ 35,675.00	21/03/2023	30/06/2024

12.1 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 4

Grant #	Name	Title	Grant Subsidy Amount	Income Received to Date	Income Yet to Receive	Grant Start Date	Grant End Date
GC2019036	DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT	BoR Rd Long 0056 - Railway Siding Extension	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	12/12/2019	01/09/2024
GC2020093	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	HVSPP Round 7 - Sleyards Heavy Vehicle Upgrades	\$ 550,770.00	\$ 220,308.00	\$ 330,462.00	29/11/2020	30/06/2023
GC2022175	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	MWPC - CN17474 - 95B Longreach - Jundah Road	\$ 4,540,093.56	\$ 2,846,778.67	\$ 1,693,314.89	30/06/2022	30/06/2023
GC2023179	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	STIP - Our Lady's Primary School - Turn around facility	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 115,000.00	12/09/2022	30/06/2024
GC2023201	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	TIDS - CN19182 Weilsnot Street RCBC	\$ 33,924.00	\$ -	\$ 33,924.00	01/01/2023	30/06/2023
GC2023202	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	TIDS - CN-21356-2023/2024 Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	01/07/2023	30/06/2024
GC2020066	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 1/8 ISISFORD Major repairs to OBIC	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020067	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 2/8 ISISFORD Ablutions Block	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020068	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 3/8 LRCH Renovations to GA waiting room	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020069	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 4/8 LRCH Sewer Pump Station upgrade	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020070	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 4/8 LRCH Sewer Pump Remote Telemetry and Electrical	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 67,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020071	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 5/8 ISISFORD Weir Pump Replacement	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020072	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 5/8 ISISFORD WTP Upgrade and Electrical Upgrade	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 189,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020073	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 6/8 Ilfracombe WTP upgrade and Automation	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020074	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 7/8 LRCH Valve installation	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020075	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 8/8 LRCH Water Re Lift Pumps	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020076	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 4/8 LRCH Pump Station 2 Genset	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020077	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 6/8 IIF Sewer Pump Station 1 Upgrade	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC2020078	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 COVID 2021 - 8/8 LRCH Elevated Reservoir Repairs	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	30/07/2020	30/06/2023
GC202116	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 2021/2024 - 1/2 ISISFORD Water Mains Replacement - Stage 2	\$ 870,000.00	\$ 783,000.00	\$ 87,000.00	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
GC202117	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W40 2021/2024 - 2/2 LRCH Water Mains Replacement (Highway & Railway) - Stage 2	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
GC2022169	DEPT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT	LGSP 2022/2024 - Water and Sewerage Replacement	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 163,636.00	\$ 436,364.00	01/07/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022174	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES Support - Driving safety for Longreach	\$ 17,597.08	\$ -	\$ 17,597.08	01/07/2023	30/06/2024
GC2022176	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES Support - Sensor lights for Flood Boat Shed	\$ 3,795.00	\$ -	\$ 3,795.00	01/01/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023191	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES Support Grant 2022/2023 - Longreach SES New Flood Boat Shed	\$ 80,362.00	\$ -	\$ 80,362.00	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2020079	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA 2018/19 - LRC.00151819E.FWIN	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 109,918.00	\$ 45,082.00	30/06/2020	06/02/2024
GC2021129	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA NDRA 2021/2023 - LRC.00192021F.REC	\$ 11,547,221.28	\$ 9,125,233.07	\$ 2,421,988.21	12/08/2021	30/06/2024
GC2022168	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	GRQ 2022/2023 - LRC.00212223AQGR - Get Ready Queensland	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 8,730.00	\$ 970.00	01/07/2022	30/06/2023
GC2022173	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	ORRRF - 2022-2023 Regional Disaster Management Coordinator	\$ 207,500.00	\$ -	\$ 207,500.00	01/01/2023	30/06/2026
GC2023195	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA - LRC.002521221REC (21 April to 12 May 2022 events)	\$ 14,930,609.89	\$ 4,469,339.07	\$ 10,461,270.82	09/05/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023197	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA - LRC.00262122B.WPF - WPS Flood Studios	\$ 103,500.00	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 72,450.00	31/05/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023198	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	GRQ - Get Ready Queensland 2023/24	\$ 9,700.00	\$ -	\$ 9,700.00	01/07/2023	30/06/2024
GC2022166	Translink Division- Transport Dept	PT11IP - Long Distance Coach Stops Grant	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	01/06/2022	30/06/2024
	Total		\$ 47,581,776.31	\$ 27,047,280.24	\$ 20,540,496.07		

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.2 - Interim Audit Report

12.2 Interim Audit Report

File Ref:

Presentation of Interim Audit Report.

Council Action

Recognise

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulations 2012

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR FINANCES	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
4.1	Improved financial performance and strategic financial management.

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Not applicable

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer*

Background:

As part of the annual audit of Council's financial statements, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) performs an interim audit visit prior to the end of the financial year. The purpose of the visit is to perform tests of Council's internal controls to determine if they can be relied upon when auditing the financial statements. The interim audit is also a valuable time for management and auditors to discuss key accounting issues to enable the preparation of the financial statements within statutory timeframes.

Issue:

Attached is QAO's Interim Audit Report for the 2022/23 financial year for Council's information.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.2 - Interim Audit Report

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: Possible
Consequence: Moderate
Rating: Medium (9/25)

Maintaining an effective control environment assists in the preparation of reliable and timely financial statements.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. Longreach Regional Council - Interim Audit Report [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the report as presented.



2023 INTERIM REPORT

Longreach Regional Council

30 June 2023

12.2 - Interim Audit Report --Appendix 1



30 June 2023

Councillor Anthony (Tony) Rayner
Mayor
Longreach Regional Council

Dear Cr Rayner

2023 Interim report

We present our interim report for Longreach Regional Council for the financial year ending 30 June 2023. This report details the results of our interim work performed to 30 April 2023. Under section 213 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, you must present a copy of this report at your council's next ordinary meeting.

Results of our interim audit

In this phase, we assessed the design and implementation of your internal controls relevant to the financial report, and whether they are operating effectively. We assessed the key controls we intend to rely on in auditing your financial statements. Our audit does not assess all controls that management has implemented across the organisation.

Deficiencies:

- One raised in the current year, relating to Manual Journals
- Two unresolved from prior years

Based on the results of our testing completed to date, we have determined your internal control environment does support an audit strategy where we can rely upon your entity's controls.

Refer to *section 1* for further details.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the audit report, please contact me on 0421 056 478.

Yours sincerely

Timothy Cronin
PKF, Engagement Partner

Enc.

cc.

Brett Walsh, CEO, Longreach Regional Council

Bill Ringrose, Chairperson Audit and Risk Committee

1. Status of issues

Internal control issues

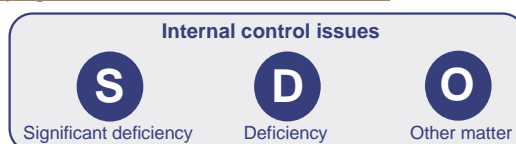
The following table identifies the number of deficiencies in internal controls and other matters we have identified. Details of the deficiencies we identified during our interim audit are outlined further in this section. Refer to section 2 *Matters previously reported* for the status of previously raised issues.

Issues	Significant deficiencies	Deficiencies	Other matters*
Current year issues	-	1	-
Prior year issues – unresolved	-	-	2
Total issues	-	1	2

*Queensland Audit Office only tracks resolution of other matters where management has committed to implementing action.

The following section details control deficiencies and other matters identified as at 30 June 2023. It includes a response from management.

Our ratings are as follows. For more information and detail on our rating definitions, please see the webpage here: www.qao.qld.gov.au/information-internal-controls or scan the QR code.



D Deficiency

23IR-1 Manual Journals – review and approval process

Control activities

Observation

Walkthrough of financial reporting processes highlighted that manual journals prepared by the finance team are not reviewed or authorised by senior staff.

We were advised that this is due to current staff shortages at council.

Implication

As journal entries are part of the financial reporting process, the lack of reviewer approval of journal entries may increase opportunities for unusual transactions occurring without being detected and resolved on a timely basis.

QAO recommendation

Whilst it is understood that resourcing at council is an on-going challenge, it is important that there is a process to review journals. In discussion with management, an alternative of a monthly review of journals by the Chief Financial Officer was discussed.

12.2 - Interim Audit Report --Appendix 1

2023 Interim report

Management response

Management has in place a process where only specific personnel have authority to create and post journals and those people work within guidelines set by the CFO. However, management acknowledges that the review process recommended by QAO is not overly burdensome and will improve oversight. Management will implement effective immediately.



Responsible officer: Chief Financial Officer

Status: Resolved pending audit clearance

Action date: 30 June 2023

2. Matters previously reported

The following table summarises the status of deficiencies, financial reporting issues, and other matters previously reported to you.

Ref.	Rating	Issue	Status
21CR-4		Revaluations – Synergy Asset Revaluations Journals Asset revaluation journals posted on an individual asset basis in the general ledger instead of the usual practice of a summary journal.	Resolved pending audit clearance Advised by Synergy that this is a system issue. We will review the progress of this issue during our final visit. Responsible officer: Chief Finance Officer Revised action date: 30 June 2023
21CR-5		End of Year Journals – Synergy Council was not able to provide QAO with end of year adjusting journals due to limitations of Synergy.	Resolved pending audit clearance We will review the progress of this issue during our final visit. Responsible officer: Chief Finance Officer Action date 30 June 2023



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Suggest an audit topic



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12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

12.3 Information Report - Financial Services

File Ref:

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of June 2023 for the Financial Services Department.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

N/A

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR ECONOMY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
2.1	Collaborative engagement with stakeholders to maximise economic opportunities.

OUR FINANCES	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
4.1	Improved financial performance and strategic financial management.

OUR LEADERSHIP	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
5.3	Council delivers a positive customer experience in all service areas.

Budget Considerations

As per approved 2022/23 budget.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer*

Background:

Officers are requested to provide an information update to Council on a monthly basis to outline achievements, challenges and statistical information for the various functional areas in Council.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Issue:

Information Technology

Adapt SD WAN

Some of you may be aware that earlier this year council completed the migration from our old internet platform to a new platform called Adapt SD WAN. Longreach was recognised by Telstra to have implemented a new and innovative service that greatly enhanced council capabilities and security in way of a case study. You may have seen that the video that was created to showcase our work was screened to a national audience.

I will outline below some of the benefits that this has brought to council without going into technical details:

Pricing

Telstra provided Council with attractive commercial terms that will see an estimated \$74,971 ex GST savings over the next three years. By modernising plans and updating Council's equipment to improve Council's resiliency to outages & weather events.

Disaster Management

Council's Eagle Street office operates as a disaster management centre. Eagle Street is a hub site allowing Council owned fibre links from its other location in Longreach. We have designed a highly available setup to ensure critical communications during weather events or national outages.

- NBN Fibre (400Mbps) will be setup as the primary service.
- Telstra Fibre (100Mbps) will be setup as a primary service to compliment the Telstra Fibre.
- Telstra 5G when available will operate as a secondary service in the event of a fibre cut or major outage. Until 5G is available 4G will be utilised.
- NBN's Business grade VISIP satellite (30/5Mbps) will be utilised in the event of a Town wide Telstra outage impacting fixed line & mobile services.

This allows Council to continue make phone calls and provide business critical services during significant weather and outage events like never before.

Improved Speeds

This solution includes improved speeds across Council's entire infrastructure. Most significantly are the Longreach offices at Eagle Street going from 50Mbps to 400Mbps & the Early Learning Centre from 10Mbps to 50Mbps, allowing the childcare to deliver a range of innovative technologies that were unreliable before.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Greater Security

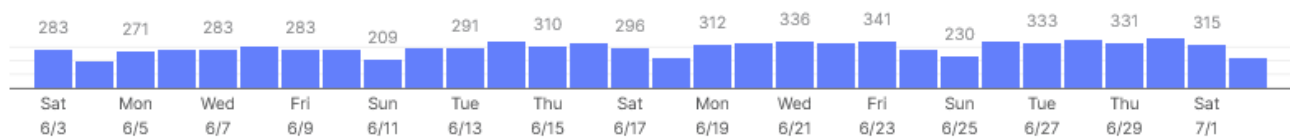
Along with the above mentioned benefits council have also implemented a new intrusion detection firewall (Prisma) and a site traffic monitoring system (Velo Cloud) which will greatly enhance council's security and visibility of all traffic into and out of council.

With the implementation of these new technologies council is now in a position to take advantage of technologies such as Microsoft Azure and modernize the entire council network to be in line with modern technology. This change will also allow the flexibility for council to trial and adopt modern programs and technologies to greatly enhance the security and automation of processes.

Public Wi-Fi Usage (last 30 days)

Below is a series of information relating to the council provided public use Wi-Fi network for the last month. The busiest section is the Apex Park as more visitors to the region are utilising the service available, closely followed by the Longreach Library links. The busiest in terms of actual people using the Wi-Fi network was Prices Plus followed closely by the Merino Bakery. The Wi-Fi network had an average of 295 users per day with 1737 unique people over this period, for a total use of 1.59TB of data.

Clients per day



Top devices

Name	Model	# Clients	Usage	% Usage
Apex Park	MR74	380	398.8 GB	24.42%
Library Meeting Room	MR33	343	380.57 GB	23.30%
Library Entrance	MR36	662	360.43 GB	22.07%
Prices Plus	MR33	1266	135.93 GB	8.32%
Kinnon	MR33	979	113.31 GB	6.94%
Merino Bakery	MR33	1253	104.24 GB	6.38%
Vinnies	MR33	1100	84.46 GB	5.17%
VIC AP	MR33	904	33.34 GB	2.04%
Mercury Business Supplies	MR33	789	22.2 GB	1.36%

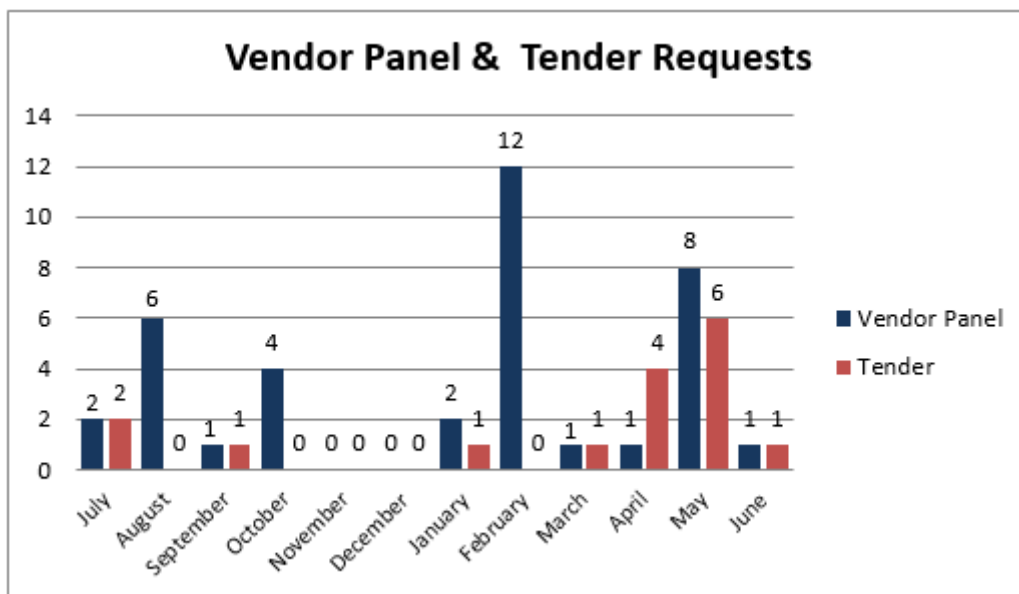
12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

PROCUREMENT

Purchasing Thresholds for Purchase Orders YTD			
Order Value	Amount	Order Value	Value Invoiced
Under \$100	353	\$17,898.12	\$21,649.32
\$100 - \$5,000	2446	\$2,036,411.27	\$1,783,897.72
\$5,001 - Under \$15,000	565	\$3,812,416.44	\$3,356,781.96
\$15,000+	267	\$13,166,184.13	\$10,789,394.57
\$200,000+	32	\$15,475,515.01	\$11,805,549.35
Total	3663	\$34,508,424.97	\$27,757,272.92

The table above shows the number of payments made by purchasing threshold outlined in the procurement policy for 2022/23 financial year and the total amount spent in each threshold.

2022/2023



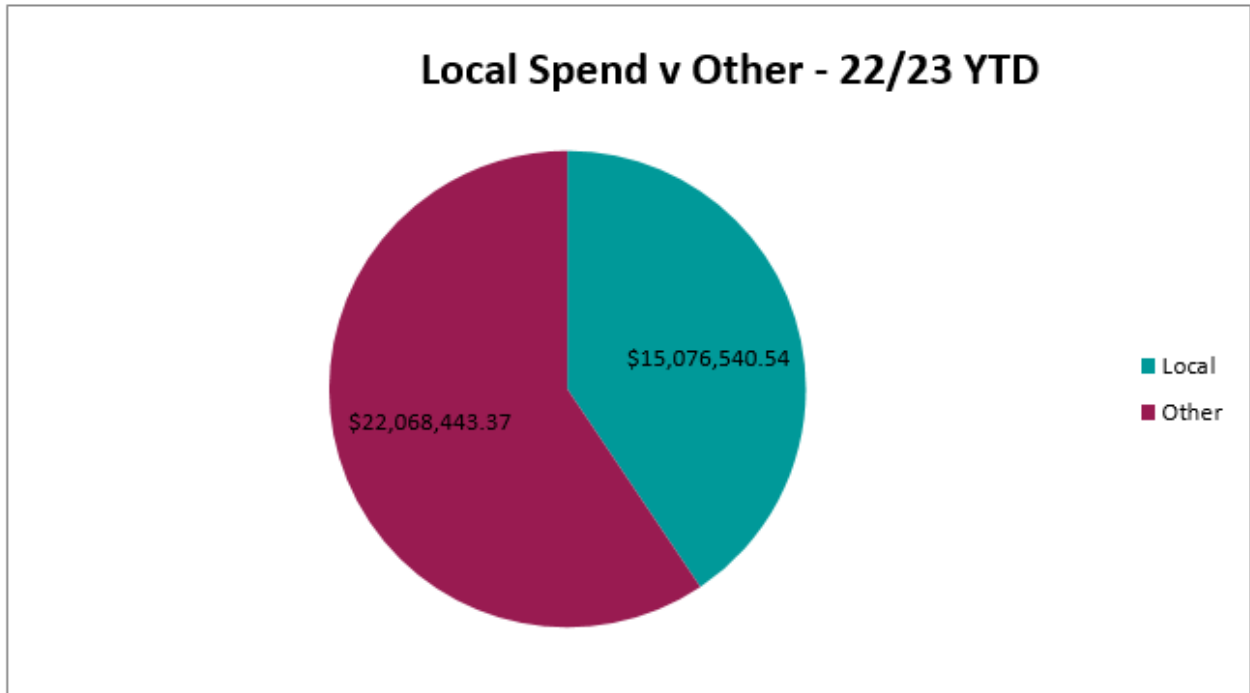
Total, Q Tender and Vendor Panel requests broken down by work request category for 2022/2023 financial year.

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Top 24 Suppliers YTD 22/23

Creditor Name	Sum of Invoice Amount
RAYNERS CRANE HIRE PTY LTD AS TTE	\$ 5,978,105.95
MOORE CIVIL & PLANT HIRE PTY LTD	\$ 1,818,728.07
TROPIC PETROLEUM	\$ 1,472,960.47
JT COX CONCRETE & LANDSCAPE PTY LTD	\$ 1,311,416.80
FULTON HOGAN INDUSTRIES PTY LTD	\$ 1,232,517.15
GEORGE BOURNE & ASSOCIATES	\$ 1,158,292.68
OMA CONTRACTING	\$ 888,177.27
CAPRICORN PLUMBING & DRAINAGE PTY LTD	\$ 827,832.74
HASTINGS DEERING (AUSTRALIA) L	\$ 796,811.22
SOPHARR PTY LTD T/A KENT CONSTRUCTION	\$ 682,237.13
ERGON ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED	\$ 680,376.22
LGM QUEENSLAND (Queensland Local Government Mutual)	\$ 629,114.47
BORAL RESOURCES (QLD) PTY LIMITED	\$ 611,728.33
WIDELAND TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT	\$ 600,313.84
WESTERN QUEENSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE PTY LTD	\$ 563,323.51
BORAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS GROUP	\$ 488,786.23
PROTERRA GROUP	\$ 481,686.53
RDO EQUIPMENT PTY LTD	\$ 471,307.98
AUSROAD	\$ 463,045.20
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AUTO PTY LTD	\$ 422,339.66
PROJECT DELIVERY MANAGERS PTY LTD	\$ 396,384.00
TRAILER SALES PTY LTD	\$ 379,996.53
TELSTRA LIMITED	\$ 365,933.68
CHAMPION CONTRACTING	\$ 346,237.90
AQUATEC MAXCON PTY LTD	\$ 315,290.23
FLEXIHIRE	\$ 299,522.36
CIVICA PTY LTD	\$ 288,130.28
LANDMARK PRODUCTS PTY LTD	\$ 272,420.00
MILNE BROS EQUIPMENT	\$ 269,394.30
SORT IT WATER TREATMENT SERVICES PTY LTD	\$ 247,222.95
LONGREACH TRANSPORT CO PTY LTD	\$ 247,100.00
SAUNDERS ELECTRIC	\$ 246,690.64
ABYSS DEMOLITION PTY LTD	\$ 238,913.00
CENTWEST ENGINEERING AND STEEL SUPPLIES PTY LTD TTE	\$ 234,924.59
BTX GROUP PTY LTD	\$ 230,667.93
HOUSE PROUD	\$ 223,402.73
Alpha Learn to Swim Pty Ltd	\$ 218,511.85
PORTSMITH PETOLEUM PTY LTD	\$ 213,119.96
G & D BALLARD INVESTMENTS PTY LTD	\$ 210,600.00

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services



The graph outlined above depicts the spend year to date for 2022/2023 financial year, broken down by local v other expenditure.

The definition of a 'local' in the finance system to generate this report was any businesses that have an address of Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford or Yaraka compared to other businesses in the finance system.

Request for Quote/Tender	Number of Businesses Request Sent	Pre-Qualified Panel used or Open Tender?	Responses	Awarded Locally
MAY				
VP308500- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2022-2023 Dry Hire Multi Tyre Roller	19	Pre-Qual Panel	7	Yes
VP308416 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2022-2023 Labourers Roller Operators	19	Pre-Qual Panel	2	Yes
VP308417- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2022-2023 Wet Hire Grader Crews	23	Pre-Qual Panel	4	Yes
VP308414 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2022-2023 Water Tankers Wet Hire	21	Pre-Qual Panel	3	Yes
VP308342 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2022-2023 Dry Hire Graders	20	Pre-Qual Panel	3	No

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Request for Quote/Tender	Number of Businesses Request Sent	Pre-Qualified Panel used or Open Tender?	Responses	Awarded Locally
VP306957 - 2022-2023 Stock Route Water Facility Capital Works	20	Pre-Qual Panel	2	Yes
JUNE				
VP309154 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2022-2023 Inspector / Coordinator	73	Pre-Qual Panel	5	No
VP310389 - Supply and Delivery Culverts	25	Pre-Qual and Local Buy Panel	2	Yes
LRC152022 - Longreach Regional Council Thomson River Weir Raising Environmental Approval Process	Open Tender	QTender	5	No
JULY				
VP215234 - Longreach MPC - Resurface Line Marking	78	Pre-Qual Panel	1	No
VP315321 - Ilfracombe Sewer Pump Station Upgrade	225	Pre-Qual Panel	1	No
LRC172022 - Construction of Executive Housing	Open Tender	QTender	1	Yes
LRC162022 - Disposal of 28 St Mary Street, Isisford	Open Tender	QTender	2	No
AUGUST				
VP310389 - Supply and Delivery Culverts	25	Local Buy Panel	2	Yes
VP315234 - MPC - Resurface Line Marking	78	Local Buy Panel	1	No
VP320619 - Wet Hire Triple Road Train Side Tippers	9	Pre-Qual Panel	Current	Yes
VP320779 - Establishment and Disestablishment Eagle Street, Longreach	54	Local Buy Panel	Current	No
LRCQ62022 - Wild Dog Trapping	Open	Advertised and Emailed	Current	Yes
LRCQ72022 - Pest Weed Spraying	Open	Advertised and Emailed	Current	Yes
VP323798 - Supply only Pre-Coated Aggregate	8	Pre Qualified Panel	Current	Yes
VP323808 - Cart, Heat and Spray Bitumen	52	Local Buy Panel	Current	No
SEPTEMBER				

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Request for Quote/Tender	Number of Businesses Request Sent	Pre-Qualified Panel used or Open Tender?	Responses	Awarded Locally
VP328669 – Isisford Water Treatment Plant Supply & Install UV System	132	Local Buy Panel	2	No
LRC182022 – Expression of Interest – Sale of the Ilfracombe Post Office	Open EOI	QTender	3	To Proceed To Tender
OCTOBER				
VP330755 – Installation of Concrete Footpath	5	Pre Qualified Panel	1	Yes
VP331854 – Kerbside Collection Services	5	Pre Qualified Panel	1	Yes
VP333185 – Tractor Slashing & Brush Cutting (Wet Hire)	8	Pre Qualified Panel	1	Yes
VP325946 – Regional RCD Testing and Electrical Inspection 2022-2024	3	Pre Qualified Panel	1	Yes
DECEMBER				
RFT VP339333 – Sale of Ilfracombe Post Office Property and Assets (Closed Tender for EOI Respondents only)	3	Closed Tender	3	No
JANUARY				
VP316472 – Supply and Delivery of 9 x Heavy Plant 22-23	103	Local Buy Panels	14	No
VP316474 – Supply and Delivery of 5 x Commercial Plant 22-23	33	Local Buy Panels	1	Yes
LRC212023 – Sale by Tender Lot 151 on SP259530	Public Tender	Open Tender	4	Not Awarded
FEBRUARY				
VP345787 – Hire of Padfoot Roller	21	Pre Qualified Panel	10	Yes
VP347022 – 2022-2023 Stock Route Water Facility Capital Works – 12 Mile	14	Pre Qualified Panels	14	Yes
VP347248 – Supply Aggregate	5	Pre Qualified Panel	2	Yes
VP347269 – Supply, Cart, Heat and Spray Bitumen	48	Local Buy Panel	3	No
VP347833 – Supply and Delivery Concrete Box Culverts	15	Local Buy Panel Pre Qual Supplier	4	Yes

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Request for Quote/Tender	Number of Businesses Request Sent	Pre-Qualified Panel used or Open Tender?	Responses	Awarded Locally
VP348054 – Supply Pre-Coated Aggregate (X Bin)	5	Pre Qualified Panel	2	Yes
VP348060 – Supply Pre-Coated Aggregate (X Bin)	5	Pre Qualified Panel	2	Yes
VP348065 – Supply, Cart, Heat and Spray Bitumen	48	Local Buy Panel	3	No
VP348072 – Supply, Cart, Heat and Spray Bitumen	48	Local Buy Panel	3	No
VP349663 – Supply, Cart, Heat and Spray Bitumen	48	Local Buy Panel	3	No
VP349671 – Supply Pre-Coated Aggregate (X Bin)	5	Pre Qualified Panel	1	Yes
VP347557 – Pre-Coated Aggregate	3	Pre Qualified Panel	2	Yes
MARCH				
VP350840 – Supply and Delivery Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts	16	Pre Qualified Panel & Local Buy Panel	2	Yes
LRC192023 – Supply and Replace Air Conditioning Units Longreach Administration Building	Public Tender	Open Tender QTender	1	No
APRIL				
VP358097 – New Airport Road	7	Local Buy Panel	2	No
LRC222023 – Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers – Quarry Products	Public Tender	QTender	2	Not yet awarded
LRC232023 – Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Wet and Dry Hire	Public Tender	QTender	17	Not yet awarded
LRC242023 – Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers – Trades and Services	Public Tender	QTender	16	Not yet awarded
LRC252023 – Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Supplies	Public Tender	QTender	17	Not yet awarded
MAY				
VP357768- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Dry Hire Multi Tyre Roller	22 – LRC092021	Pre-Qual Panel	8	Not yet awarded

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT
12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

Request for Quote/Tender	Number of Businesses Request Sent	Pre-Qualified Panel used or Open Tender?	Responses	Awarded Locally
VP357742 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Plant Operators / Labourers	4 - LRC102021	Pre-Qual Panel	2	Not yet awarded
VP357995- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Wet Hire Grader Crews	26 - LRC092021	Pre-Qual Panel	4	Not yet awarded
VP357998 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Water Tankers Wet Hire	24 - LRC092021	Pre-Qual Panel	3	Not yet awarded
VP357760 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Dry Hire Graders	23 - LRC092021	Pre-Qual Panel	2	Not yet awarded
VP357777 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Inspector / Coordinator	69 - LRC112021	Pre-Qual Panel	4	Not yet awarded
VP363395 - WQ35 Road Base Supply (Ex-Bin)	6 - LRC082021	Pre-Qual Panel	2	Yes
VP363383 - Supply 40mm-50mm Mudrock (Ex-Bin)	6 - LRC082021	Pre-Qual Panel	2	Not yet awarded
LRC282023- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Dry Hire Multi Tyre Roller	Public Tender	QTender	3	Not yet awarded
LRC262023 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Plant Operators / Labourers	Public Tender	QTender	1	Not yet awarded
LRC302023- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Wet Hire Grader Crews	Public Tender	QTender	2	Not yet awarded
LRC312023 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Water Tankers Wet Hire	Public Tender	QTender	1	Not yet awarded
LRC272023 - Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Dry Hire Graders	Public Tender	QTender	3	Not yet awarded
LRC292023 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA) 2023-2024 Inspector / Coordinator	Public Tender	QTender	10	Not yet awarded
JUNE				
VP364978 - Supply and Delivery Reinforced Concrete Box Culverts	3	Vendor Panel	3	Not yet awarded
LRC322023 - Freight Services Contract 2023-2025: Longreach to Surrounding Towns and Return	Public Tender	QTender	Open	Not Yet awarded

12. FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

12.3 - Information Report - Financial Services

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: Rare

Consequence: Insignificant

Rating: Low (1/25)

Low risk, informational report only.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Financial Services information report as presented.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

13. CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Nil Reports

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.1 - Community Donations - Individuals

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.1 Community Donations - Individuals

File Ref:

Considerations of applications received for the month of July 2023 in accordance with the Community Donation Policy 11.06.

Council Action

Partner

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Community Donation No. 11.06

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.
1.2	Council recognises cultural heritage and supports inclusion of all peoples.
1.3	The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.

Budget Considerations

\$112,000.00 has been committed and allocated to Community Donations YTD.

Category	Total Budget	Budget Committed (not yet paid)	Budget Remaining	Budget required to meet Community Donations (including Community Groups)	Budget remaining for future applications
Community Donations	\$112,000.00	0.00	\$112,000.00	\$6,050.00	\$105,950.00

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Monthly resolutions

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: Abby Lewis, Community Development Coordinator

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.1 - Community Donations - Individuals

Background:

Longreach Regional Council Individual Donations Program received three applications for the month of July 2023.

1. Cooper Mullen was selected to attend the North West Boys Rugby League State Championships Team. Cooper travelled to Gladstone on 22 – 27 June 2023.

Cooper Mullen	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	No
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 22/23 Financial Year?</i>	No
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
<i>Cooper Mullen</i> \$350.00	<i>Cooper Mullen</i> \$350.00

2. Riley Walton was selected to attend the North West Team to compete in the 10-12 years Cross Country Team in Hervey Bay. Riley will complete in the 3km race and 1km sprint. Riley will travel to Hervey Bay on 15-17 July 2023.

Riley Walton	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	No
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 22/23 Financial Year?</i>	No
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
<i>Riley Walton</i> \$350.00	<i>Riley Walton</i> \$350.00

3. James Walker was selected to attend the North West Team to compete in the 10-12 years Cross Country Team in Hervey Bay. James will travel to Hervey Bay on 15-17 July 2023.

James Walker	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	No
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 22/23 Financial Year?</i>	No
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
<i>James Walker</i> \$350.00	<i>James Walker</i> \$350.00

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.1 - Community Donations - Individuals

Recommendation:

That Council endorses the allocation of funds from the Community Donations Program, in accordance with the Community Donations Policy No. 11.6, as follows:

Organisation/ Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
<i>Cooper Mullen</i>	<i>North West Boys Rugby League State Championships</i>	<i>22 - 27 June 2023</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>
<i>Riley Walton</i>	<i>North West Cross Country</i>	<i>15 - 17 July 2023</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>
<i>James Walker</i>	<i>North West Cross Country</i>	<i>15 - 17 July 2023</i>	<i>\$350.00</i>
TOTAL			\$1,050.00

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.2 - Community Donations - Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association

14.2 Community Donations - Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association

File Ref:

Consideration of a Community Donations application received in July in accordance with the Community Donations Policy No. 11.06.

Council Action

Partner
 Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Community Donations Policy No. 11.06

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.
1.2	Council recognises cultural heritage and supports inclusion of all peoples.
1.3	The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.

Budget Considerations

\$112,000.00 has been committed and allocated to Community Donations YTD.

Category	Total Budget	Budget Committed (not yet paid)	Budget Remaining	Budget required to meet Community Donations (including individuals) for July 2023	Budget remaining for future applications
Community Donations	\$112,000.00	0.00	\$112,000.00	\$6,050.00	\$105,950.00

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.2 - Community Donations - Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2018-09-266)

Moved Cr Emslie seconded Cr Smith

That Council endorses the allocation of funds from the Community Grants Program as contained in the following table. This was completed in accordance with the Community Grants Program Policy No. 11.06:

<i>Organisation/ Name</i>	<i>Event/Project Activity</i>	<i>Event Date</i>	<i>Grant Requested</i>	<i>Grant Approved</i>
<i>Our Lady's Catholic School Fete Committee</i>	<i>Our Lady's Catholic School Twilight Fete</i>	<i>2 November 2018</i>	<i>\$5,000.00 Financial Assistance</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: *Abby Lewis - Community Development Coordinator*

Background:

Longreach Regional Council Community Donations program:

- Enhances the community's resilience, wellbeing, sustainability and liveability
- Contributes to vibrant and engaged communities
- Provides community organisations with financial support to meet identified community need and provides benefit to the broader Longreach region communities
- Achieves Council's strategic objectives, as identified in the Corporate Plan.

Community Donations (financial and in-kind support) are offered each financial year. Each Community Group is eligible to apply for a maximum of \$5,000 per financial year. All applications will be assessed against eligibility and assessment criteria as stated in this Policy and the Program Guidelines.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.2 - Community Donations - Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association

Issue:

Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association

Our Lady's Fete	
<i>Has the Community group applied for funds in the past?</i>	Yes
<i>Has the Community Group applied for funds within the 22/23 Financial Year?</i>	No
<i>Does the Community Group have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No
<i>Has the event/ project been previously funded by Council?</i>	Yes

Our Lady's Parents and Friends Association are hosting their School Fete on Friday 6 October 2023 at Our Lady's School. This is their first year back since 2019, as it has been difficult to hold large events in the wake of COVID. There will be lots of great games for the whole family to enjoy, such as splat-a-rat, tin can alley, pluck a duck, food stalls, great raffles and prizes on offer as well as a 'parent's challenge'. This event is open to the whole community, families and visitors to the region.

The total grant recommended of \$5,000 (financial) will go towards the cost of equipment from Flexihire, a fairy floss machine and materials for games to be assembled for children and their families to participate in.

The application was reviewed by a panel and scored against the criteria of the Longreach Regional Council's Community Donations Assessment Guidelines. The result was to support Our Lady's Fete to the value of 100%. All supporting documentation was supplied with their application.

<i>Grant Requested</i>	<i>Grant Recommended</i>
<i>Financial \$5,000.00</i>	<i>Financial \$5,000.00</i>
<i>Total \$5,000.00</i>	<i>Total \$5,000.00</i>

Appendices

1. Our Lady's Application.pdf [↓](#)

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.2 - Community Donations - Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association

Recommendation:

That Council endorses the following allocation of funds from the Community Donations Program in accordance with the Community Donations Policy No. 11.06;

<i>Organisation/ Name</i>	<i>Event/Activity</i>	<i>Grant Requested</i>	<i>Grant Approved</i>
<i>Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association</i>	<i>Our Lady's Fete</i>	<i>Financial \$5,000.00</i>	<i>Financial \$5,000.00</i>
		<i>TOTAL \$5,000.00</i>	<i>TOTAL \$5,000.00</i>

APPLICATION FORM



CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: (Group or Organisation)	Our Lady's School Parents and Friends Association
ABN if applicable	ABN: 21 528 592 597
Contact Person's Name:	Lisa Neuendorf
Postal Address:	85 Eagle Street Longreach QLD 4730
Telephone:	49948375
Mobile:	0447636787
Email:	oll_pandfsecretary@rok.catholic.edu.au

EVENT DETAILS

Event Name:	Our Lady's Fete
Event Date:	Friday 6th October
Description of what Council funds will be used for: No more than approx 200 words.	<p>To help run a successful Fete, we would like to purchase materials to construct carnival style games that will be fun for all ages to play.</p> <p>Games like Splat-a-rat, Tin-can-alley, pick-a-nose, pluck-a-duck, a ticket booth and a football pass game</p> <p>We would also like to purchase a Fairy Floss Machine. The aim of the fairy floss machine would be support community events and to use for our Fete.</p> <p>We would also like to hire equipment to make our Fete user friendly and enjoyable for all participants. Extra outdoor lighting and hire extra toilets to enhance usability for all people attending the Fete.</p>
Financial Amount Requested:	\$ 5000
In-kind Support Requested:	\$



DETAILED BUDGET BREAKDOWN

INCOME List any source of income supply i.e other sponsorship, ticket sales, cash contributions, etc.	Amount	EXPENSES List any expenses incurred by your organisation for the project or event the application relates to.	Amount	Tick what is being funded by Council
Bar	\$ 3000	Side Show Alley Games	\$ 2080	✓
Food	\$ 3000	Fairy Floss Machine	\$ 1535	✓
Ticket Sales	\$ 6000	Amusement Rides	\$ 37400	
Challenge/Calcutta	\$ 5000	Bar/Food Expenses	\$ 2000	
Stall Income	\$ 250	Equipment Hire	\$ 6000	
Seeking Donations from local businesses	\$?	Flexihire Equipment	\$ 1400	✓
TOTAL	\$ 17250	TOTAL	\$ 50500	
<p>Comments or other details:</p> <p>The figures contained in this budget are a rough estimate at this stage. We are in the process of seeking support from local businesses and school families alike.</p> <p>We have also applied for Community Gambling Benefit Fund Grant to fund the Amusement Rides and the Equipment Hire for the Fete. We are still waiting to hear if we have been successful.</p>				

In-Kind support component List items and \$ amounts (e.g stage, chairs, tables) Please refer to the fees and charges: www.longreach.qld.gov.au/rates-fees-charges/rates-fees-charges-1	Amount	Other comments
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	



ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Explain how your event demonstrates strong community or individual benefit, or need of support.

In October 2023, the Our Lady's Parents and Friends Association are holding a Fete. We chose this date because there aren't many family events at this time of year. We would like for this event to bring our whole Central West Community together. As a committee we have tried to think outside the box on how to bring in other community groups to participate in our event. We are holding an inaugural 'Parent's Challenge' where we will invite other P&C groups to compete to win a cash prize for their School. As a group we haven't held a Fete since 2019. It has been difficult to hold large events in the wake of COVID and we would like for this event to be of benefit both to the wider community as well as our School community.

Explain how your event will contribute to the Longreach Regional Council community (eg Economic Development, Tourism, Liveability, wellbeing etc.)

This event will promote within in our community and further a field what a great place Longreach is to live, work and play. We are hopeful that the Fete will encourage all people to enjoy events within their local community and will enhance their experience of living in our wonderful region. We would also hope to promote other local business through our Fete, by inviting local stall holders. This will strengthen ties within the community and assist with community spirit and wellbeing.

Is your event based within the Longreach Regional Council Area

Yes No

How many people are expected to attend? (Please indicate)

0-50 51-100 100-200 200 and over

Provide a brief explanation of what type of attendants your event will attract (eg visitors from other towns, key community groups)

Our main target audience is families. We are hoping to attract visitors from other towns as well as local community groups including other P&C Associations and P&F Associations for our 'Parent's Challenge' event. We aim to have something for people of all ages. We are also inviting local businesses to hold stall's at the Fete to advertise

How do you intend to acknowledge Council's support (if approved) at the event or within the project or activity?

We would place signs on each 'side show game' that Coucil supplied the funds to construct as well as permanent signage on the Fairy Floss Machine.

We would also acknowledge Council on advertising, social media and through announcements on the night.

Have you sought funding through other avenues for your project/activity (grants, corporate sponsorship, fundraising, etc)?

Yes: No:

If YES, please provide details?

We have applied for a Community Gambling Benefit Fund Grant to offset the cost associated with bringing amusement rides to Longreach and for the Longreach Event Hire equipment. We are also applying for a Multipurpose Group Grant to help with the cost of hiring equipment for the Fete.

We have also also written to corporate sponsors seeking assistance as well as local busines



Does the applicant have any Longreach Regional Council funded projects or activities that have not been acquitted in accordance with the relevant Program Policy and Guidelines?

Yes No

Does the applicant have any Longreach Regional Council funded projects or activities that have not been acquitted in accordance with the relevant Program Policy and Guidelines?

Yes No

Does the Organisation/Applicant have any overdue debt with Council (excluding organisations with a payment arrangement)?

Yes No

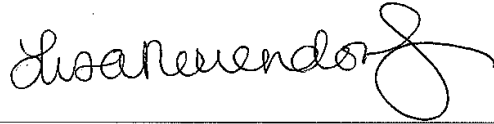
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

- Evidence of the event or project (i.e quotes, facilities bookings, etc)*
- Relevant public liability insurance (if required)
- Booking form/s completed (facility hire and equipment hire)
- A copy of the organisations most recent bank statement (for applications over \$1,000 only)

*if groups are unable to provide evidence of the event or project due to the dependency of funding or extenuating circumstances, please indicate on the application form. Council may still consider the application based on supplied information (i.e budget).

DECLARATION BY RECIPIENT

- I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information detailed in this application (and relevant attachments) is true and correct.
- I understand I may be asked to provide the Council with additional information on the funded project.
- I consent to Longreach Regional Council publishing the applicants name in reports and publication statements.

<p>Signature: Note: If you are under the age of 18, your legal guardian must also sign this application</p>	
Date:	26 June 2023
Name in full:	Lisa Neuendorf
Community Group/ Organisation:	Our Lady's P&F Association
Position in Group or Organisation: (if applicable)	Fundraising Coordinator

Privacy Collection Statement: Longreach Regional Council is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all personal information is secure. Council is collecting your personal or community groups information for the purpose of assessing your application for Community Donations.

SUBMIT

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.3 - Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730

14.3 Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730

Consideration of an application for an Exemption Certificate for construction of a shed, on the basis that the effects of the development are minor or inconsequential.

Assessment Report

Section 46 of the *Planning Act 2016* enables a local government to give an owner of a premises an exemption certificate, which states a development approval is not required for assessable development.

An exemption certificate is intended to be used as a tool to address the inappropriate categorisation of development while more permanent measures, such as amending Council's Planning Scheme are implemented.

The effect of an exemption certificate is that the development subject to the certificate is still classified as assessable development; however, a development approval is not required.

Council, in its role as assessment manager, can give an exemption certificate for assessable development in a very limited number of circumstances (as opposed to the applicant making a development application). In summary, it can be issued when:

- The effects of development would be minor or inconsequential; or
- There is an error in the Planning Scheme, which unintentionally triggers planning approval for a certain development scenario; or
- The particular circumstance upon which planning approval was required for a certain development scenario no longer applies/exists.

The landowners propose to build a 150m² shed with a maximum height to the eaves of 3.5m at the rear of their property at 152 Ibis Street, Longreach formally described as Lot 915 on L3576. Figure 1 identifies the proposed shed location.

The landowners have made an enquiry to Council about the proposed development outlining the shed is to provide a covered area for their personal vehicles, trailer, boat and storage of tools.

The subject site is in a residential area of Longreach and does not contain any features of local environmental significance or interest. A shed is an ordinary development outcome in town and will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts. The shed will be subject to a building application and will be developed in accordance with conditions set by the building permit (for example, regarding the implementation of erosion and sediment control measures).

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.3 - Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730

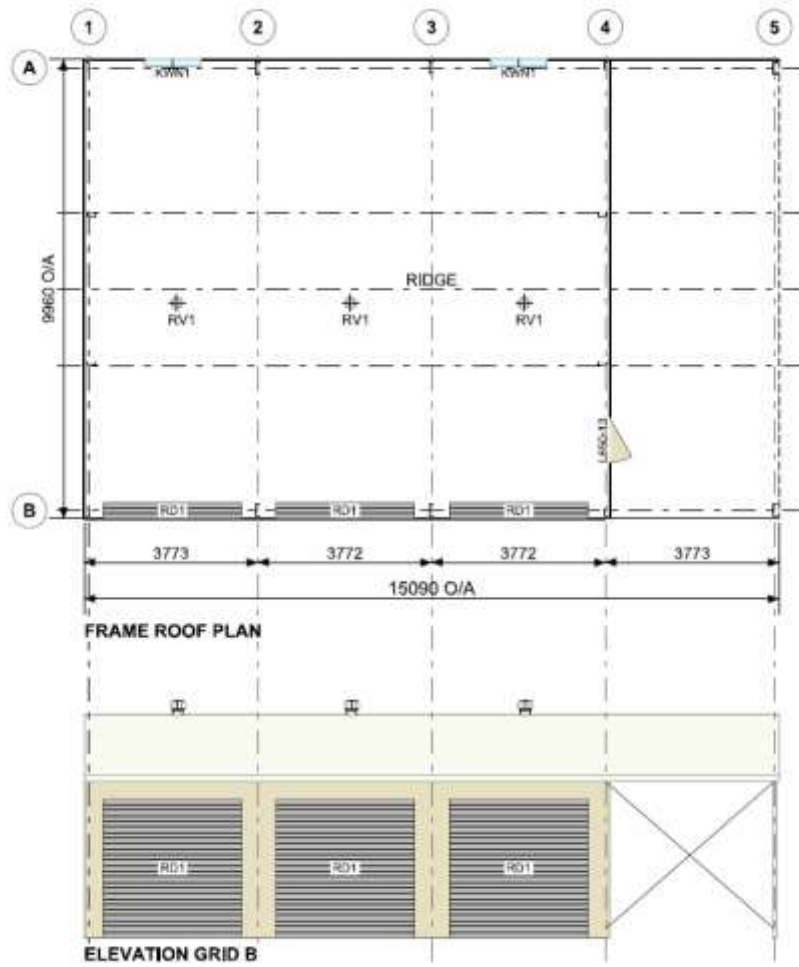
Instead of giving a development approval, an exemption certificate is considered appropriate in this instance due to the minor and inconsequential nature of the proposed shed as outlined in this report.

Figure 1 – Location of Property and proposed shed on the property (not to scale)



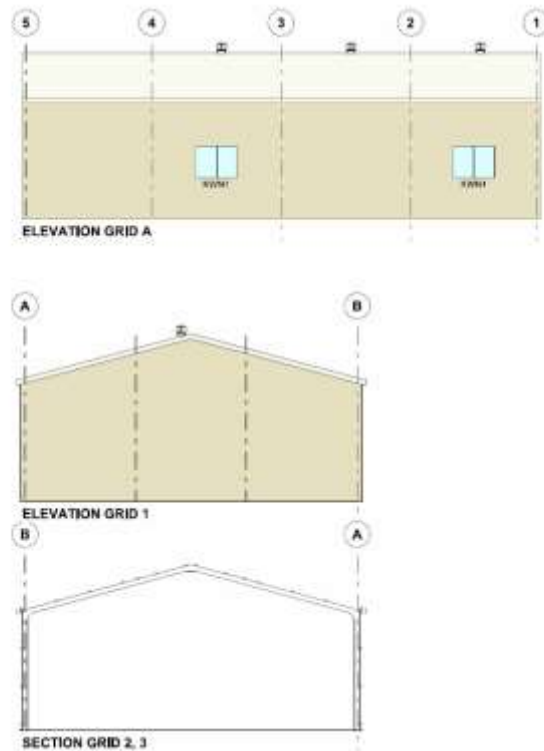
14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.3 - Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730

Figure 2 – Shed Plans



14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.3 - Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730



The table below sets out the details of the proposal and relevant Planning Scheme criteria.

Proposal details	
Existing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site area = 1214m² • Dwelling house = one • Existing outbuildings = one
Proposal description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed shed = L 11.23m x W 10m x H 3.5m • Covered Awning = L 3.77m x W 10m x H 3.5m • Total floor area = 150m²
Planning Scheme details	
Zone	Low Density Residential Zone
Planning controls	Maximum total floor area for shed = 120m ² Maximum eaves height for shed = 3.5m ²
Type of application required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development application for carrying out building work assessable against the Planning Scheme • Application would be subject to code assessment

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.3 - Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730

Assessment benchmark	<p>Performance Outcome 1 of the Low Density Residential Zone Code:</p> <p>PO1</p> <p><i>The design and density of dwellings, dual occupancies and any associated outbuildings or other structures:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Contributes to and does not detract from the residential amenity and character of the neighbourhood;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Limits impacts on neighbours in terms of privacy, overlooking or overshadowing; and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Ensures outbuildings and structures are ancillary to the residential floor area.</i></p>
----------------------	--

The effects of development, in this instance for a 150m² shed is deemed minor and inconsequential for the following reasons:

- The shed will be of a similar scale to sheds in the locality and is located a reasonable distance from surrounding development.

Figure 3

Zone	Current planning provisions (total floor area / building height to eaves*)	When Exemption Certificate may be appropriate (total floor area / building height to eaves**)
Low density residential zone	120m ² / 3.5m	180m ² / 5.5m, depending on the circumstance
Medium density residential zone	90m ² / 3m to eaves	180m ² / 5.5m, depending on the circumstance
Township zone	120m ² / 3.5m	To be determined on a case-by-case basis
Rural residential zone	160m ² / 5m to eaves	To be determined on a case-by-case basis

- The shed will not detract from the residential amenity and character of the neighbourhood because:
 - Total resulting site cover will be approximately 15% of site area. The Queensland Development Code MP1.2 (Design and siting standard for single detached housing – on lots 450m² and over), allows for up to 50% site cover for residential development, before approval is required from Council (through a concurrence agency referral as part of a development application for a Development Permit for Building Work assessable under the Building Act); and
 - The proposed shed is consistent with the provisions outlined in the table above (see Figure 3).
 - The shed will be located in the Low Density Residential zone. The shed will be of a similar scale to sheds in the locality and is located a reasonable distance from surrounding development.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.3 - Exemption Certificate for a Class 10a Shed at 152 Ibis St, Longreach Qld 4730

- It is considered that the shed is of an appropriate scale for the locality and should not have detrimental impacts on adjoining properties.
- The location and size of the shed will not cause unreasonable impacts on neighbours in terms of privacy, overlooking or shadowing.

A siting variation application has also been submitted for consideration in the July Council Meeting for a 4m setback from the Cockatoo Lane boundary.

Recommendation:

That Council grants an Exemption Certificate, pursuant to Section 46 of the Planning Act 2016, for proposed building work assessable against the Planning Scheme, for a 150m² Class 10 Shed at 152 Ibis Street, Longreach (Lot 915 on L3576).

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.4 - Referral Agency Assessment Application (Alternative Siting Assessment) - 152 Ibis Street, Longreach

14.4 Referral Agency Assessment Application (Alternative Siting Assessment) - 152 Ibis Street, Longreach

File Ref: DA23/24-003

Consideration of a Referral Agency Assessment Application for an alternative siting assessment lodged with Council on July 10 2023, for a shed to be constructed on land located at 152 Ibis Street, Longreach and described as Lot 915 on L3576.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Building Act 1975

Planning Act 2016

Planning Regulation 2017

Queensland Development Code

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *Emily O'Hanlon, Business Support Officer*
Jason Burger, Consultant Building Certifier

Background:

The applicant has requested to construct a shed within the required 6m setback from the Cockatoo Lane, road boundary. The information provided within the application locates the proposed structure to be built with a 4m setback from the Cockatoo Lane, road boundary. Roller door opening and access opens directly into the yard, not onto the lane.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.4 - Referral Agency Assessment Application (Alternative Siting Assessment) - 152 Ibis Street, Longreach



Issue:

The proposed structure setback is not in line with the requirements of the Queensland Development Code, hence the reason for the application being referred to Council for consideration.

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: Rare
Consequence: Minor
Rating: Low (2/25)

Environmental Management Factors:

N/A

Other Comments:

The application has been assessed by Jason Burger, Council's Consultant Building Certifier who has recommended that Council approve the proposed structure location based on the following:

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.4 - Referral Agency Assessment Application (Alternative Siting Assessment) - 152 Ibis Street, Longreach

- The proposed reduced setback of 4m to Cockatoo Lane boundary in lieu of the required 6m setback would have little effect on the surrounding properties and roadways.
- The proposed shed roller door opening (indicated on site map in red) open into the yard and not directly onto the lane.
- No direct access to the shed from the Lane, as all doors face inward on the property.
- The proposed shed is located to ensure clear access is maintained to Council's sewer.

Appendices

1. Siting Assessment Sheet - 152 Ibis St - 11.07.23.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council approves the construction of a shed with a 4m setback from the Cockatoo Lane road boundary at 152 Ibis Street, Longreach, and formally described as Lot 915 on L3576, pursuant to section 32 and 33 of the Building Act 1975, Planning Act 2016 and schedule 9, table 3 of the Planning Regulations 2017.

14.4 - Referral Agency Assessment Application (Alternative Siting Assessment) - 152 Ibis Street, Longreach --Appendix 1

SITING VARIATION ASSESSMENT SHEET
For Single Residential Use Class 1 & 10 Buildings

Address 152 Ibis Street, Longreach Lot / Plan No: 915 on L3576

Relevant Residential Code issues for consideration			Comments/Likely Impact
	Yes	No	
Does the proposal maintain residential amenity both internal and external to the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal meet the accommodation and associated needs of one family?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal provide for physical access and connection to a constructed road?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cockatoo Lane
Is the maximum height of a building or structure higher than 8.5 metres?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the area covered by buildings or roofed structures greater than 50% of the lot?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal provide adequate provision for recreational space?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are the location and design of car parking provision appropriate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the proposal sited, designed and constructed in a manner which does not cause a nuisance or disturbance to the occupiers or users of nearby land, particularly nearby residents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct access onto cockatoo laneway from shed, doors located facing into yard.
Does the proposal adversely affect the visual character and aesthetics of the nearby area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Similar sheds along laneway with same setbacks.
Is the proposal compatible with the physical characteristics of the site and its surrounds?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As per above
Is the height of the proposed buildings or structures compatible with the physical characteristics of the site and its surrounds?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the proposed buildings or structures sited and designed to provide:			
- Space around buildings and structures?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Access to natural light and ventilation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Provision for privacy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Will the proposal affect any existing approved pool fence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Will the proposal comply with the "Deemed to Satisfy" provisions of the BSA for fire separation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal require Build Over/Near Council infrastructure approval?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clear of Council Sewer by 2.5m
Does the proposal encroach into a registered easement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the proposal shed near and Urban Stormwater Flow Path?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

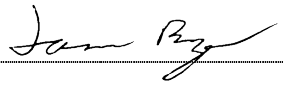
Form No: GBA-SF164

Issue Date: July 2019

14.4 - Referral Agency Assessment Application (Alternative Siting Assessment) - 152 Ibis Street, Longreach --Appendix 1

Relevant Residential Code issues for consideration	Yes	No	Comments/Likely Impact
Is a statement required from the owners of the adjoining properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are further grounds for consideration of the proposal required from the applicant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Summary		
There is no other alternative location for the shed as there is a sewer main traversing the site.		
Can approval be issued? Recommendation:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Inspector's Name	<u>Jason Burger</u>	Contact Number	<u>0438 605 811</u>	Date	<u>11/07/2023</u>
Signature	<u></u>				

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

14.5 Information Report - Planning & Development Report

File Ref:

This report provides an update on Development Services that has occurred during the month of June 2023.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

n/a

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.
1.2	Council recognises cultural heritage and supports inclusion of all peoples.

OUR ECONOMY	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
2.1	Collaborative engagement with stakeholders to maximise economic opportunities.
2.2	Council infrastructure and services support local industries and growth opportunities.

Budget Considerations

As per approved 2022/23 budget

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *Emily O'Hanlon, Business Support Officer*

Background

This information report provides a monthly update on the planning services that Council provides to support planning and development activity across the local government area.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

Issue:

1. DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

No new applications have been received by Council since the last monthly report. There are two applications currently under assessment. One application is currently in its appeal period.

An application has been made by Tanya Anne Johnson seeking a Development Permit for a Material Change of Use for Short-term accommodation (up to 6 guests) over land at 22 Wompoo Road, Longreach.

The proposal involves the reuse of an existing dwelling house for Air BnB type accommodation for up to six (6) guests.

The subject site is in the Low Density Residential Zone wherein the proposal is categorised as Assessable Development that is subject to Impact Assessment. As the application is subject to Impact Assessment it will be required to be publicly notified for a period 15 business days.

The application is properly made, and Council issued a confirmation notice on 1 June 2023. Council did not issue an information request. Public notification for the application commenced on 10 July 2023 and is expected to finish on or around 31 July 2023.

1.1	Council reference:	DA22/23-011
	Application:	Development Application for a Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Short-term accommodation (up to 6 guests)
	Street address:	22 Wompoo Road, Longreach
	Property description:	Lot 26 on L35729
	Day application was made:	1 June 2023
	Category of assessment:	Impact
	Public notification required:	Yes
	Applicant:	Tanya Anne Johnson
	Status:	Public notification stage

An application has been made by Leigh McCracken C/- Planning Approval Group, seeking a Development Permit for a Material Change of Use for Short-term accommodation (16 units) over land at 103 Wompoo Road, Longreach.

The proposal includes sixteen one-bedroom self-contained short-term accommodation units. Each unit has a veranda and a carport. The proposal includes a common swimming pool and landscaping. All units are accessible from a common driveway off Wompoo Road.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

The subject site is in the Low Density Residential Zone wherein the proposal is categorised as Assessable Development that is subject to Impact Assessment. The site is included in the Flood Hazard Overlay and is included in the 'Significant' Flood Hazard area.

As the application is subject to Impact Assessment it will be required to be publicly notified for a period of 15 business days.

The application is properly made, and Council issued an Information request on 20 March 2023 raising significant concerns with the proposal. The applicant had to 20 June 2023 to respond to the Information request. Council has sent the applicant a reminder regarding the timing of the information request response. In response, the applicant requested an extension to this period.

Council has agreed to extend the information request response period to 20 July 2023.

1.2	Council reference:	DA22/23-007
	Application:	Development Application for a Development Permit for Material Change of Use for Short-term accommodation (16 units)
	Street address:	103 Wompoo Road, Longreach
	Property description:	Lot 5 on SP159860
	Day application was made:	23 February 2023
	Category of assessment:	Impact Assessment
	Public notification required:	Yes
	Applicant:	Leigh McCracken C/- Planning Approval Group
	Status:	Information response stage

The following application was approved at the June General meeting with the decision notice issued to the applicant soon thereafter. The applicant has a 20 business day Appeal Period within which they can file an appeal. At this stage, there has been no indication that the applicant will pursue this course. The Appeal Period for the application is expected to finish around 25 July 2023.

1.3	Council reference:	DA22/23-010
	Application:	Development Application for a Development Permit for Building Work for a Shed
	Street address:	30-36 Thrush Road, Longreach
	Property description:	Lot 34 and 35 on L35712
	Day application was made:	4 May 2023
	Category of assessment:	Code
	Public notification required:	No
	Applicant:	Mark and Suzann Kinsey
	Decision date:	22 June 2023
	Status:	Appeal period

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

2. GENERAL PLANNING SERVICES, ENQUIRIES AND ADVICE

2.1 CUSTOMER REQUESTS

The following customer requests have been received and responded to over the past month:

PLANNING ENQUIRIES			
Date received	Customer Details	Details of Enquiry	Status
08/06/23	Potential purchaser	<p><u>Request</u> Council received a request regarding the addition of a shed on a site that is included on the Environmental Management Register.</p> <p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is in the Low density residential zone • The site is included Environmental Management Register • Council is currently reviewing the request to confirm if there are any planning implications • A shed is considered to be building work and not a Material change of use • Generally, where only involving building work and not a Material change of use there will be no planning requirements in relation to the Environmental Management Register. 	Ongoing
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES			
Date received	Customer details	Type	Status
13/06/2023	Conveyancing company	Council received a request for a Standard Planning and Development Certificate for land holding in the Medium density residential zone.	Issued
EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES			
Nil			
SURVEY PLAN ENDORSEMENT			
Nil			

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

Development Applications Received

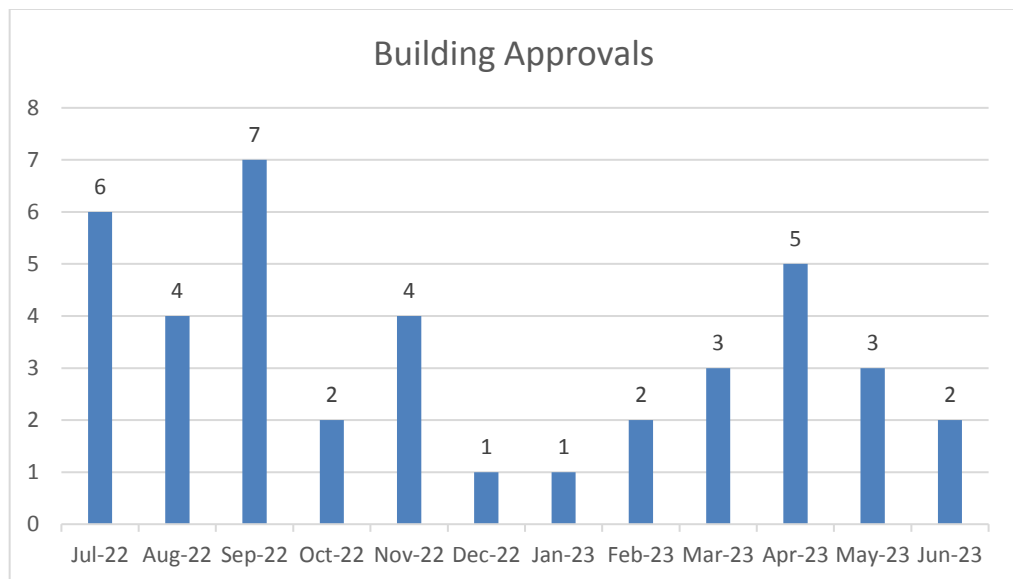
Application Type	JUNE	YTD
Building (Council Certifier)	1	24
Building (Private Certifier)	0	8
Certificate of Classification	0	0
Change of Classification	0	0
Endorsement of Survey Plan	0	0
Exemption Certificate	0	3
Material Change of Use	0	5
Minor Change (MCU)	0	1
Minor Change (Op Works)	0	0
Building Work (Assessable)	0	1
Operational Works	0	0
Plumbing & Drainage	0	6
Reconfiguration of a Lot	0	1
Siting Variation	1	6

Planning Enquiries

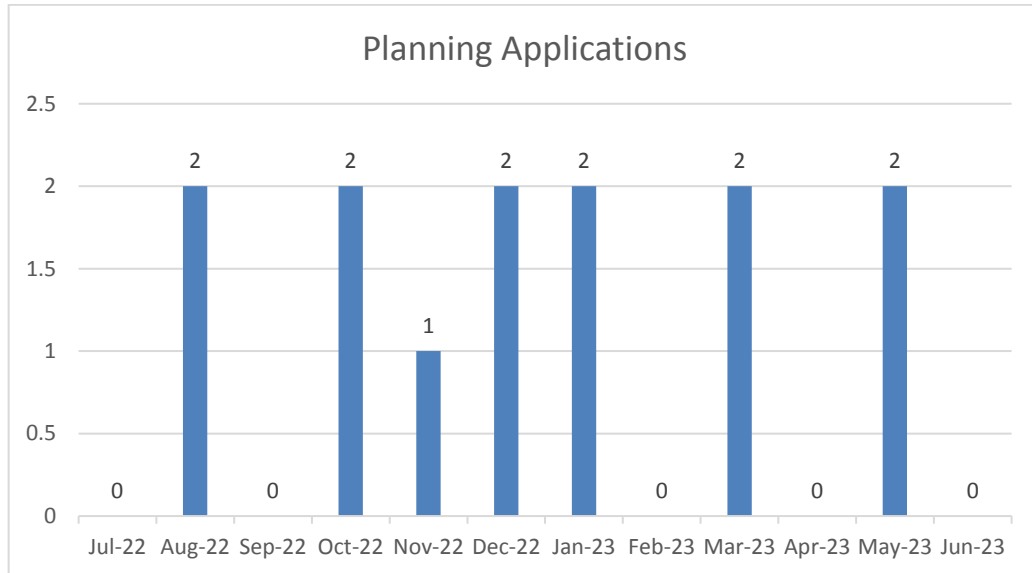
JUNE	YTD
1	40

Building Record Searches/Planning Certificates

JUNE	YTD
3	51



14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report



2.2 LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME – PROPOSED MAJOR AMENDMENT PROJECT

Reel Planning has been engaged to assist Council to undertake a proposed major amendment to the *Longreach Regional Council Planning Scheme 2015*.

The next process step is for the Planning Minister to give Council notice, under Chapter 2, Part 4, section 17.5 of the Minister’s Guidelines and Rules, of:

- the outcome of the State interest review;
- whether Council may proceed to publicly consult the proposed major amendment of the planning scheme;
- the communications strategy that Council must implement when proceeding to public consultation.

This notice is generally expected to be issued within 60 business days of the proposed major amendment being lodged for State interest review, less any period subject to a pause notice – so in this instance, a response was expected by April 2023.

The ongoing delay remains consistent with the experience of other local governments currently waiting on similar notices. Reel Planning continues to follow up DSDILGP regarding the processing of Council’s request, most recently as 10 July 2023, where DSDILGP advised that Council’s request remains within the internal approval processes of DSDILGP and the Planning Minister.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.5 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

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: Rare
Consequence: Insignificant
Rating: Low (1/25)
Low risk, informational report only.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Planning & Development information report, as presented.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

14.6 Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

File Ref:

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of June for the Community & Cultural Services Department.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

n/a

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.
1.2	Council recognises cultural heritage and supports inclusion of all peoples.
1.3	The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

As per approved 2023/24 budget

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officers: *Community & Cultural Services Officers*

Background

Officers are requested to provide an information update to Council on a monthly basis to outline achievements, challenges and statistical information for the various functional areas in Council.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

Library Services

Lots of visitors to the library this month with constant printing off of forms required for Big Red Bash. The library is back to normal with furniture in correct places after the roof replacement and open access computers should be updated by next month. Interlibrary loans requests have increased significantly this month, and the last week of the school holidays has been extremely busy with many visitors as well as local families.

Library Statistics (financial year)

	Longreach		Ilfracombe		Isisford	
	June	YTD	June	YTD	June	YTD
Items Borrowed	507	2,960	24	190	38	154
New Members	6	66	3	6	1	7
Total Members	1,597		151		71	

Swimming Pools

Alpha Learn To Swim (ALTS) hosted 73 swimmers from Longreach and the surrounding region to attend the winter intensive swim clinic with special guest Olympian Chris Wright. Swimmers were treated to stories of Chris' experiences and gained some valuable tips as Chris and the senior ALTS team took sessions on different strokes during the day.

Pool usage statistics for June:

	Longreach		Ilfracombe		Isisford		Yaraka	
	JUNE	YTD	JUNE	YTD	JUNE	YTD	JUNE	YTD
Adults	517	4,343	626	1168	Closed	183	4	29
Children	724	4,528	158	439	Closed	82	4	34

Funeral Services

CEMETERY DETAILS / FIGURES - JUNE 2023	
FUNERAL TYPE	
Church & Grave Side Funeral	1
Church Service Only	
Graveside Funeral	4
Memorial Service	
Cremation	
Interment of Ashes - Private / Family Only	2
Interment of Ashes - Graveside Service	
Plaques arranged by LRC	2
Undertaker Service Only	

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

Childcare Services

We were visited by Phoenix Support for Educators consultant, Tara Hill, for our final of four week-long visits as part of our IDF funding through Inclusion Support. This project has been ongoing for 12 months and our Educators have learnt all about the Phoenix Cups Framework. In simple terms, The Phoenix Cups is a philosophical framework that helps to understand how to meet your most important life needs, and the needs of those around you. Our Educators have learnt how to discover what cups need to be kept full, how they influence behaviours and how you can use them to build relationships in all aspects of life. They have learnt how to rethink behaviour 'management' and how to support children's emerging social competence by meeting their dominant needs. Our Centre philosophy has changed to reflect what we have learnt as a service and how we will continue to use this concept to shape the way we educate and care for the littlest Longreach locals. If you are interested in finding out more about the Phoenix Cups Framework and identifying what your dominant cups are, head to <http://www.phoenixcups.com.au/quiz>.

Two of our team were very fortunate to be able to attend the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) QLD National Conference this month on the Gold Coast. They returned with invaluable knowledge to share with our team and we feel extremely thankful that we were successful in our application given that our location meant that it would have been an extremely expensive experience without the sponsorship.

The children seem to really be enjoying the cooler weather and spending lots of time both indoors and outdoors exploring, learning and having fun! Some focus experiences across the service have been sensory activities, making and playing musical instruments, planting seeds and propagating off-cut vegetables! We welcomed our Vacation Care children back to the Centre for the school holidays and they have been enjoying many themed days such as Pokemon Day and Ninja Warrior Day!



Phoenix Support Team

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

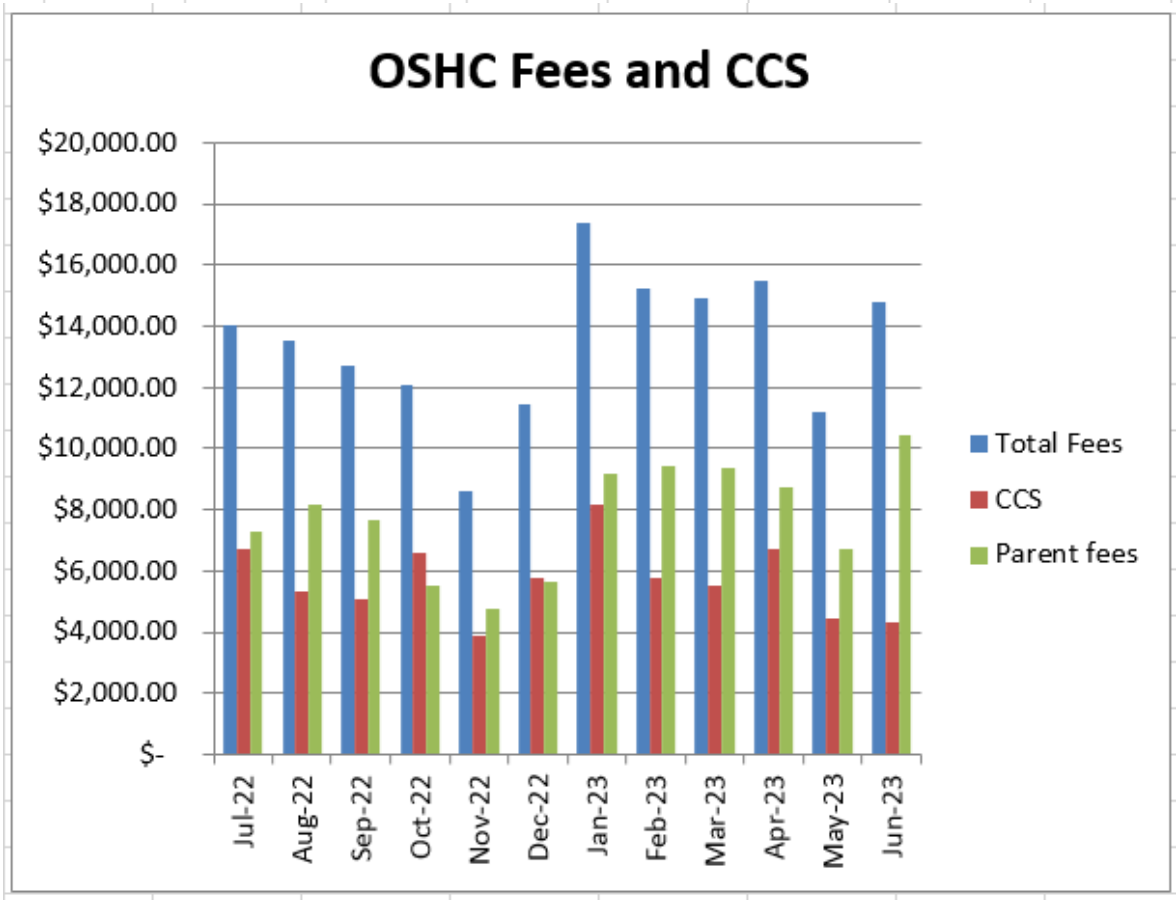
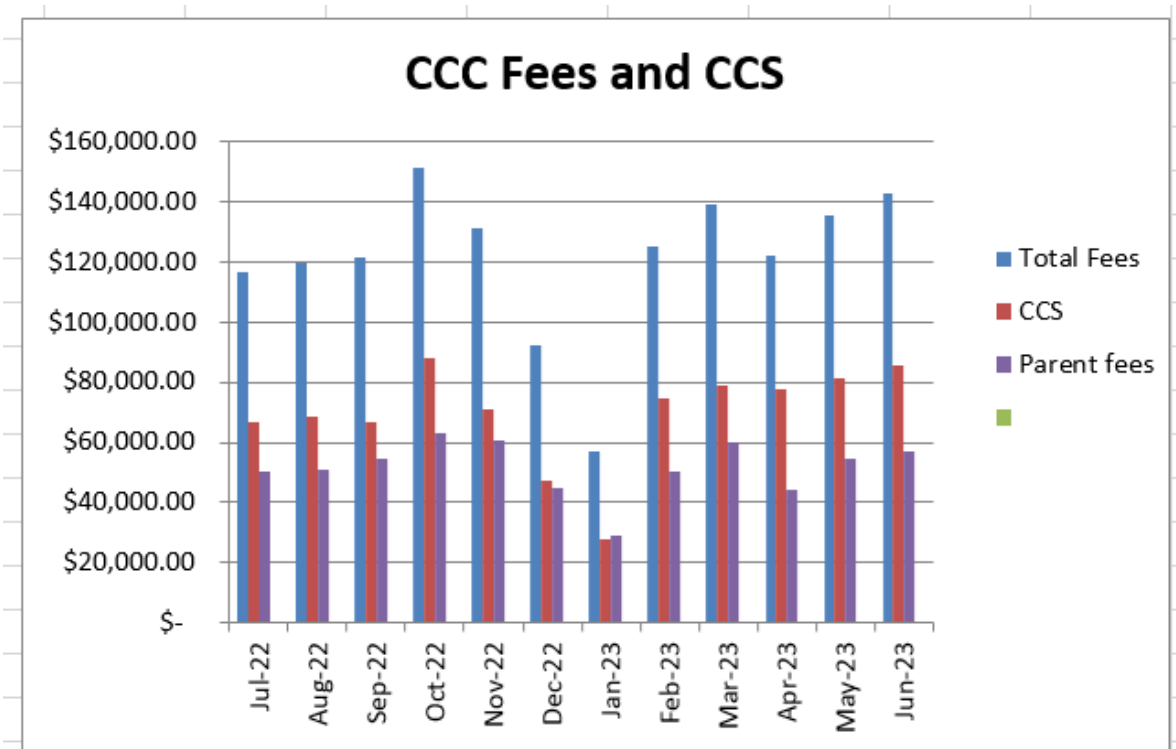


Phoenix Support Team Meeting



ACA Conference

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services



14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services



14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services



Parks and Horticulture Services

A number of the management and parks and gardens staff participated in training to undertake routine, operational and comprehensive inspections for park facilities. Our Playground equipment in Longreach and Ilfracombe (including the Childcare Centre) had their annual Specialist inspections and are still in excellent condition. Having staff qualified to do these checks will improve asset management of these facilities.

The centre median at the southern end of Eagle Street is undergoing a makeover. Council engaged the services of JT Cox to undertake the sandstone and cement work and Council will commence planting in the next few weeks. An established fig tree is also being sourced.

The Longreach/Ilfracombe Tigers Senior Rugby League Club hosted the Central West Rugby League Grand Final at the Longreach Showgrounds on the 10 June. The oval was in excellent condition thanks to our Longreach Horticulture and Town Services Team.

In June the water tower lights were lit up for the following occasions –

Date	Occasion	Colour
1-7	World Haemochromatosis Week	Red
8-22	Myasthenia Gravis Association	Blue
23-30	Scleroderma Australia – Shine Like a Sunflower	Yellow

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services



The Myasthenia Gravis Association of Qld Inc. displayed the above photo on their website.

Community Development

During the month of June there were a number of events and initiatives undertaken in the Community Development Team, key highlights are outlined below:

- Working closely with other Councils (Barcaldine, Blackall-Tambo and Barcoo) and the Disaster Coordinator to produce a "Get Ready" Calendar for 2024.
- Organising marketing collateral for the "Amateur Photo Competition" with deadline 31 August
- Establishing events and marketing strategy for Health and Wellbeing Month in October
- Working on a communication and engagement strategy for Council
- Applying for a grant to hold an event for Queensland Day 2024

Upcoming events (more details at longreach.qld.gov.au/events):

- Gardening Competition with prizes to be won, nominations are open until 31 July with the following categories: "Best use of Native Plants", "Best Corporate/Community Garden", "Best Rural Garden", "Best Town Garden" and "Best Flower Garden"
- NAIDOC march (down Eagle St) and celebrations at the Longreach Showgrounds on Thursday 20 July
- Upcoming Seniors month in August (note all activities are fully booked)
- Vietnam Veterans Day on Friday 18 August, 10am, Edkins Park

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

Project Management

Key projects highlights for the 2022/23 period:

- Approximately two-thirds of expenditure for 2022/23 projects was put towards the local economy (30 local contractors, with a total spend of \$1.22m)
- Of the 26 projects which were planned for the 2022/23 year, a total of 18 were completed (70%)
- 8 projects remain, with work on 4 projects continuing into the 23/24 year, 2 projects in the procurement phase and the remaining 4 to be completed by Q2 23/24.

Project risks are managed as follows:

- Weather - above average rain in the 2022/23 summer resulted in multiple project delays, however delivery outcomes stayed on scope and had limited impact on costs.
- Resourcing - local contractors are experiencing high work-loads, resulting in timing issues for project work. To counteract this, constant interacts are being taken with contractors to ensure clear communication and knowledge of everyone's workloads and movements.
- Cost - ongoing monitoring of material prices is undertaken due to the current market e.g. the Australian CPI for March 2023 was 7%.

Project	Description	Status	Funded By
CC013 - Childcare Playground Replacement		Complete	LRCI
CC014 - Longreach Childcare Cabinetry		Complete	LRC
CH022 - Replace fencing 22-24 Flinders Street (Council housing)	Project on hold	On hold	LRC
CH023 - Jarley Street - Fence Replacement	Project on hold	On hold	LRC
DS017 - Longreach SES New Flood Boat Shed	Procurement to be taken.	Procurement	LRC SES
HC023 - Ilfracombe Rec Centre Aircon		Complete	LRCI
LB006 - Longreach Library roof		In Progress	LRCI
LH010 - New CEO House	House foundations and shed completed.	In Progress	LRC
MCM200 - Longreach Cemetery Plinth Repairs		Complete	LRC
PK055 - Edkins Park Shade Structure		Complete	LRC
PK056 - Edkins Park Toilet Block Replacement		Complete	LRCI
PK060 - Eagle Street Beautification	Irrigation and planting in progress.	In Progress	LRCI
SG014 - Showground Audio		Complete	LRCI
SG015 - Longreach Netball Court Re-surfacing		Complete	Active Gameday
200003 - Civic Centre Internal Painting		Complete	LRCI
200002 - Showgrounds Landscaping		Complete	LRCI Queen Jubilee Program Lions
200005 - Longreach Cricket Pitch/Irrigation Replacement		Complete	LRC Active Gameday
300001 - Ilfracombe Rec Centre Flooring		Complete	LRCI
400001 - Isisford MPC Maintenance		Complete	LRCI
400002 - Isisford Park Renovations		Complete	LRCI
500001 - Yaraka Treeline		Complete	LRCI
MSG201 - Showground Electrical conduits		Complete	LRC
OCSOFF - Main Admin building south wall surveying	Finalising report	In Progress	LRC
SG017 - Wool Pavilion Concreting		Complete	LRCI
SG016 - Longreach Showgrounds Rodeo Arena Surface Replacement		Complete	LRCI
MU033 - Powerhouse Museum Centenary Garden Beautification	Planning in progress.	Procurement	LRCI

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT

14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services



Customer Service

After Hours Message Centre JUNE 2023

No. Calls Received	No. of Hang Ups	Total
28	58	86

During the month of June 2023 there were 28 after hours' calls received. The calls were related into the follow sections of Council:

SECTION	NUMBER OF CALLS
Water and Sewerage	3
Waste	0
Local Laws/Animal Management	14
Facilities	3
Funeral/ Undertaker Services	0
Tourism/VIC	5
Parks and Gardens	0
Roads	1
Other / Events	2

Customer Service Requests

A total of **136 Customer Service Requests** were received for the month of June 2023. Of these requests **106** were **completed** in June 2023.

Table below is a comparison of requests from **January 2022 to December 2023**.

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services



The following Customer Service Requests present in the system as **outstanding, in progress** or **responded to** as at 30 June 2023

OUTSTANDING	IN PROGRESS	RESPONDED TO	TOTAL
18	12	0	30

Community Funding

Successful funding applicants are required to complete and return the Longreach Regional Council acquittal form within three months of their nominated event or project date. The acquittal form must be accompanied with proof of payment of invoices and supporting documentation.

See Appendix 1 for a list of the acquittals that Council have received since April 2023.

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: Rare
 Consequence: Insignificant
 Rating: Low (1/25)

Low risk, informational report only.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

14. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REPORT
14.6 - Information Report - Community & Cultural Services

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. Council Meeting Acquittal April - June 23.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Community & Cultural Services information report, as presented.



Community Funding Stream Acquittal: April 2023 – June 2023

Funding Stream	Group or Individual Name	Event Name	Funding Amount	Project Summary	Event Benefits	Evidence of Council Acknowledgement
Community Groups	Longreach Netball Association	Beginners Coach and Intermediate Umpires Workshop	Financial \$1,050.00	Introduction to coaching and umpiring workshops for emerging players.	Economic Development	LRC logo displayed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising material Facebook page During workshop
Community Groups	Longreach Ilfracombe Tigers	Longreach Rugby League 9s Carnival	Financial \$5,000.00	13 football teams from across the Central West Region.	Economic Development	LRC logo displayed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising material Announced during the event
Community Groups	Longreach Amateur Swimming Club Inc.	2023 Kim Anderson Memorial Swim Meet	Financial \$2,507.78 In-Kind \$11.50	Swimming Carnival named in honour of the late Kim Anderson	Economic Development	LRC logo displayed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banner displayed at event
Sponsorship	Rotary International District 9560 Ltd	Rotary District 9560 2023 Conference	Financial \$4,297.36 In-Kind \$2,026.40	Communicating, connecting and collaborating through rotary stories and activities.	Economic Development, Tourism	LRC logo displayed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banner displayed at event Event program booklet
Sponsorship	Opera Queensland	Festival of Outback Opera	Financial \$10,000.00 In-Kind \$2,282.70	Festival of Outback Opera is a Tourism attraction engaging with the community for pop up performances in the Region.	Economic Development, Tourism	LRC logo displayed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising material.
Community Individual	Max Bruggemann	North West Swim Trials	Financial \$350.00	Based in Mt Isa on 16-17 February 2023.	Health and Wellbeing	Receipts provided for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fee.
Community Individual	Jackarra Jones	North West Netball	Financial \$350.00	Based in Brisbane on 27-30 April 2023	Health and Wellbeing	Receipts provided for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fee.
Community Individual	Jozette Jones	North West Netball	Financial \$350.00	Based in Brisbane on 27-30 April 2023	Health and Wellbeing	Receipts provided for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fee.
Community Individual	Sophie Elms	North West School Sport	Financial \$350.00	Based in Brisbane on 26-30 April 2023	Health and Wellbeing	Receipts provided for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fee.
Community Individual	Layah Williamson	North West Netball	Financial \$350.00	Based in Brisbane on 27-30 April 2023	Health and Wellbeing	Receipts provided for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fee.
Community Individual	Kobe Jackson	North West Netball	Financial \$350.00	Based in Brisbane on 27-30 April 2023	Health and Wellbeing	Receipts provided for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fee.

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT

15.1 Information Report - Infrastructure Services

File Ref:

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of July 2023 for the Infrastructure Department.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

n/a

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.
1.2	Council recognises cultural heritage and supports inclusion of all peoples.
1.3	The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.

OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

As per approved 2023/24 budget.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *Guy Goodman, Acting Director of Infrastructure Services*
Ingrid Miller, Engineering Technical Officer

Background:

Officers are requested to provide an information update to Council on a monthly basis to outline achievements, challenges and statistical information for the various functional areas in Council.

Manager of Operations Update - Current projects underway

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
R2R Projects					
Crossmoor Road	Gravel Resheet	0%	\$ 359,688.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence July 2023.
Bude Road	Gravel Resheet	0%	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence July 2023.

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
TIDS Projects					
Silsoe Road	Prep 10mm Reseal	0%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00	Prep work to commence in July 2023.
Stonehenge River Road	Prep 10mm Reseal	0%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00	Prep work to commence in July 2023
Isisford – Saint Mary Street	Install new kerb and rehabilitation	0%	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence in July 2023.
Bustard St /Crow Lane & Bustard St / Cassowary St	Install kerb entry units	0%	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence in July 2023. Units ordered.

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
NDRRA Projects 2022 Event					
Additional Area Road	Medium formation grade	10%	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Amor Downs Road	Medium formation grade	15%	\$ 124,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Arundel Road	Medium formation grade	60%	\$ 108,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Barcaldine Isisford Road	Medium formation grade	25%	\$ 179,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	Project started in May 2023.
Bogewong Road	Medium	35%	\$ 625,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	Project started in May

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

	formation grade				2023.
Campsie Road	Medium formation grade	5%	\$ 368,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Crossmoor Road	Medium formation grade	0%	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Fermoy Road	Medium formation grade	40%	\$ 404,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	Project started in May 2023.

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
MWPC					
Longreach – Jundah road	Pave and seal, culvert upgrade	50%	\$ 4,450,000.00	\$ 2,235,000.00	Concrete works have commenced. Concrete culverts are being delivered to site. Surveying completed. Crews have commenced worked on detours. 2km of sub base completed. Two replacement culvert structures completed. Variation in culvert pricing, waiting on reply from Main Roads. Rain has delayed project.
Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
Town Streets Projects					
Street Maintenance	Pot Hole Patching				Ongoing

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
RMPC Projects					
Longreach Jundah Road	Heavy Shoulder Grade	40%	As per RMPC Contract		Project started in May 2023. Rain has delayed progress.
Slashing All Areas	Slashing	90%	As per RMPC Contract		Project started in February 2023. Due to recent wet weather events, slashing will continue as required. Rain has delayed progress.
Ilfracombe-Isisford Road	Repair downstream batters	15%	As per RMPC Contract		Project started in June 2023. Rain has delayed progress.

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
Isisford Weir Upgrade					
Isisford	Weir upgrade	98%	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 1,120,000.00	Final stage completed. Cofferdam to be removed when plant becomes available.

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
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15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

LRCI4 Projects					
All Areas	Rural Road Signage Upgrade	0%	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 0.00	Data pickup has been completed. Signage to be ordered.
Isisford / Yaraka Area	Rural Property Signage Upgrade	0%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence in July 2023.
Yaraka	Pave & Seal around IOR Fuel Pod	0%	\$ 148,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to be scoped in July 2023.
Isisford – Bimerah Road	Gravel Resheet	0%	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence in August 2023. Chainages of gravel to be determined.

Maintenance Graders Locations

Note – All available maintenance graders will be working on formation grading projects for the 2022 flood damage in conjunction with normal maintenance grading programme.

Engineering Technical Officer Update

Current projects and operational undertakings underway for 2023/2024

Water & Sewer Projects			
Project	Location	% Completed	Comments
Water Mains Replacement	Longreach	10%	• Preparation of tender documents is progressing in partnership with GBA. Works are scheduled to commence during latter half of 2023.
SPS SCADA Upgrade (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)	All areas	100%	• System has been fully installed and is operational. Staff have received training and are utilising the system to monitor SPS network.
WTP ELR Replacement/Repair	Ilfracombe	5%	• Quote sourced for ELR replacement (stand & tank). Consideration of options based on condition assessments and reports is ongoing.
Exclusion fencing at Yaraka Town Dam	Yaraka	0%	• Procurement process to commence in August 2023.
Concrete slab for WTP Generator & Chlorine Area	Longreach	0%	• Procurement process to commence in August 2023.
Smart Water Meter Trial	Ilfracombe	10%	• Replacement smart meters will arrive approx. August 2023. Project on hold pending funding.
Isisford WTP - UV Treatment	Isisford	100%	• UV filters are fully installed. Some minor issues with electrical calibration with the WTP are being resolved.
Refurbishment of Murray, Shannon & Isisford Dam Pumps	Ilfracombe & Isisford	80%	• Pipework, floats and cabling will be installed during warmer weather conditions.


15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

Upgrade to Murray McMillan Dam Switchboard	Ilfracombe	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope of Works and design for electrical upgrade is complete. Tender process to commence in August 2023.
Ilfracombe WTP Valve Automation	Ilfracombe	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valves and actuators have arrived. Project on hold pending funding.

Waste Projects			
Project	Location	% Completed	Comments
Land Parcels	Longreach	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Plans lodged with DoR to extend the Longreach Landfill to the west. Decision has been delayed by the Department. Timeframe unknown.

Grants & Funding Projects		
Project	% Completed	Comments
Passenger Transport Infrastructure Investment Program	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of new coach stops at Ilfracombe & Longreach to commence early 23/24 FY.
SES Support Grant 2023/2024	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for replacement SES Vehicle has been approved.
School Transport Infrastructure Program	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and planning with Our Lady's & LSHS have commenced. Working through design concepts and sign off on Agreement. Works scheduled to commence late 2023/early 2024.

Plant & Fleet

Project	Task	Comment
Plant Replacement	Plant Procurement and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Garbage Truck has arrived and is operational. 2 x new Kubota tractors with slashers have arrived.  <p><i>New Garbage Truck ready to go into service.</i></p>
Plant Utilisation	Plant Utilisation data from NAVMAN for Prime Movers, Graders & Loaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navman Plant Utilisation Report for Prime Movers & Heavy Plant April-June 2023 is attached. Plant utilisation is on track across all areas thanks to favourable weather conditions and busy works schedules. Crews are working on various Flood Damage, TMR, RMPC, MWPC and Council projects throughout the road network.

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT

15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

Project	Task	Comment
Workshop Operations	General Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff continue to utilise Navman for managing timely servicing and maintenance of fleet. • Ongoing investigations into Fleet Management 3G to 4G migration options. • The new Fleet & Workshop Manager has commenced.

Waste Management

Waste Facilities Update

Longreach Waste Facility

- Quarterly Contractor Meeting held with Proterra – discussed ongoing operations and minor maintenance requests at the facility.
- Preparation of Waste Management Contract documentation is in progress for new contract period.

Ilfracombe Waste Facility

- Contractor is conducting routine cleaning of the facility.

Isisford Waste Facility

- Contractor conducting twice weekly covering of general waste.

Yaraka Waste Facility

- Contractor conducting regular covering of general waste.

Water & Sewerage

Water Operations

All Sites - Water Treatment & Network - General Update

- Weir and Dam levels at all sites are shown in Table 1 below.
- Routine water network maintenance undertaken and Customer Service Requests responded to as required across all sites.
- Team members attended SWIM Local Training in Brisbane during June 2023 to gain a better understanding of water reporting requirements and software tools.
- Team members have been conducting meter reads across the network for rates notices.



Jessica Parsons & Ingrid Miller at SWIM Local Training in Brisbane.

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

<p>Longreach Water Treatment & Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating as normal. Fairmount Weir is gravity feeding Thomson River to top up levels. <p>Ilfracombe Water Treatment & Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ilfracombe WTP & RO Plant – operating as normal. <p>Isisford Water Treatment & Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isisford WTP – operating as normal. <p>Yaraka Water Treatment & Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yaraka WTP – operating as normal.
Sewerage Operations
<p>Longreach Pump Stations & STP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine maintenance undertaken as required. <p>Ilfracombe Pump Stations & CED Ponds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine maintenance undertaken as required. <p>Isisford Pump Station & CED Ponds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine maintenance undertaken as required.

Table 1 – Estimated Current Weir/ Dam Levels (~ approximate level)

Dam	Approx. Current Level (m)	Approx. % Full	DMP Height Full	Comments
Longreach Town Weirs	8.3m	80.5%	10.3m	Widespread rainfall across the region has resulted in significant fills for all catchments.
Shannon Dam	~12.40m	88%	14.0m	
Murray Macmillan Dam	~7.1m	68%	10.3m	
Isisford Dam	~10.0m	90%	11m	
Isisford Weir	1.05m	80%	1.3m	
Yaraka North Dam	10.0m	80%	12.5m	
Yaraka South Dam	10.0m	80%	12.5m	

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: Rare

Consequence: Insignificant

Rating: Low (1/25)

Low risk, informational report only.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT

15.1 - Information Report - Infrastructure Services

Other Comments:



Isisford Weir completed at the Barcoo River.



New UV Filter System at Isisford WTP.

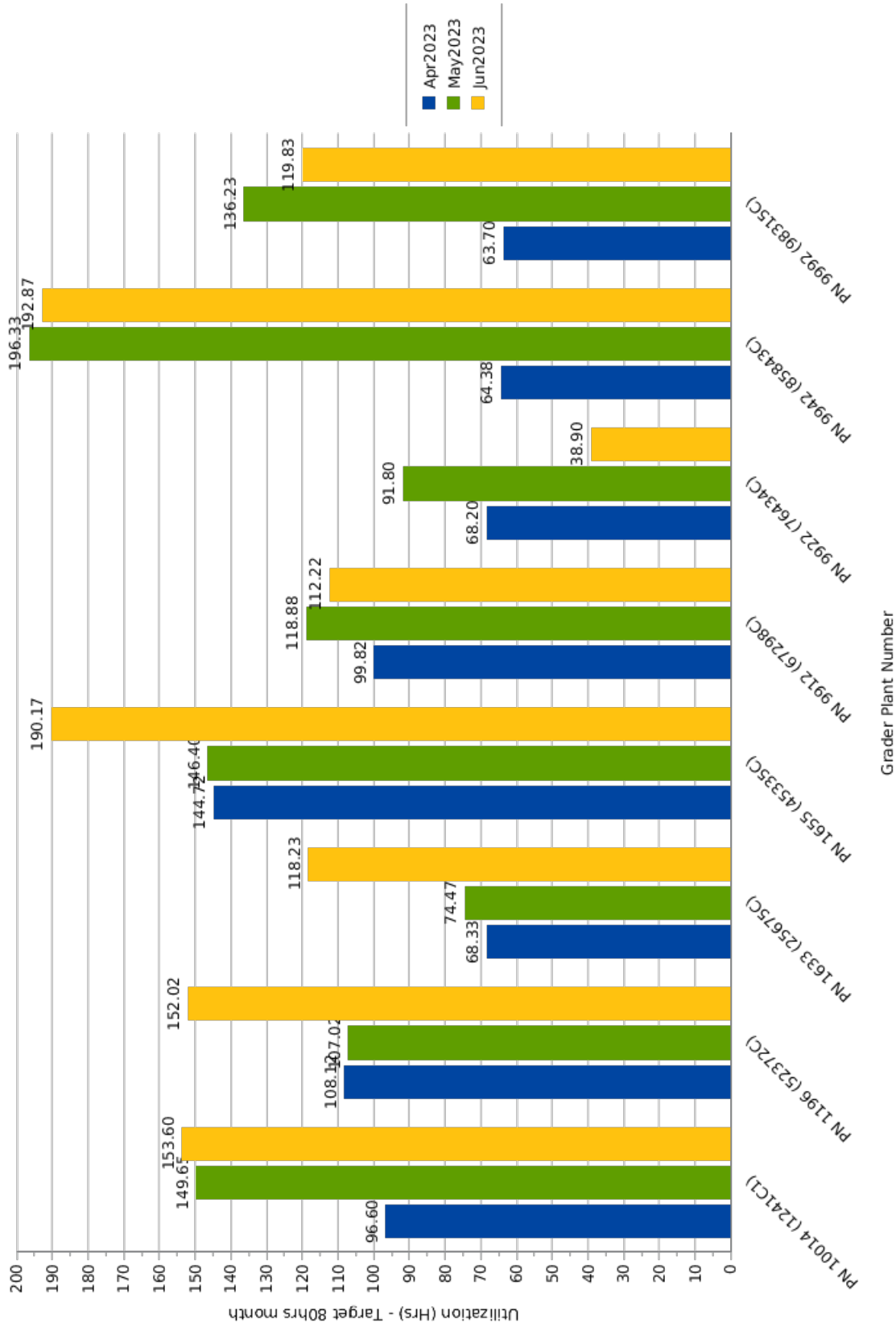
Appendices

1. Plant Utilisation April-June 2023 [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Infrastructure Information Report, as presented.

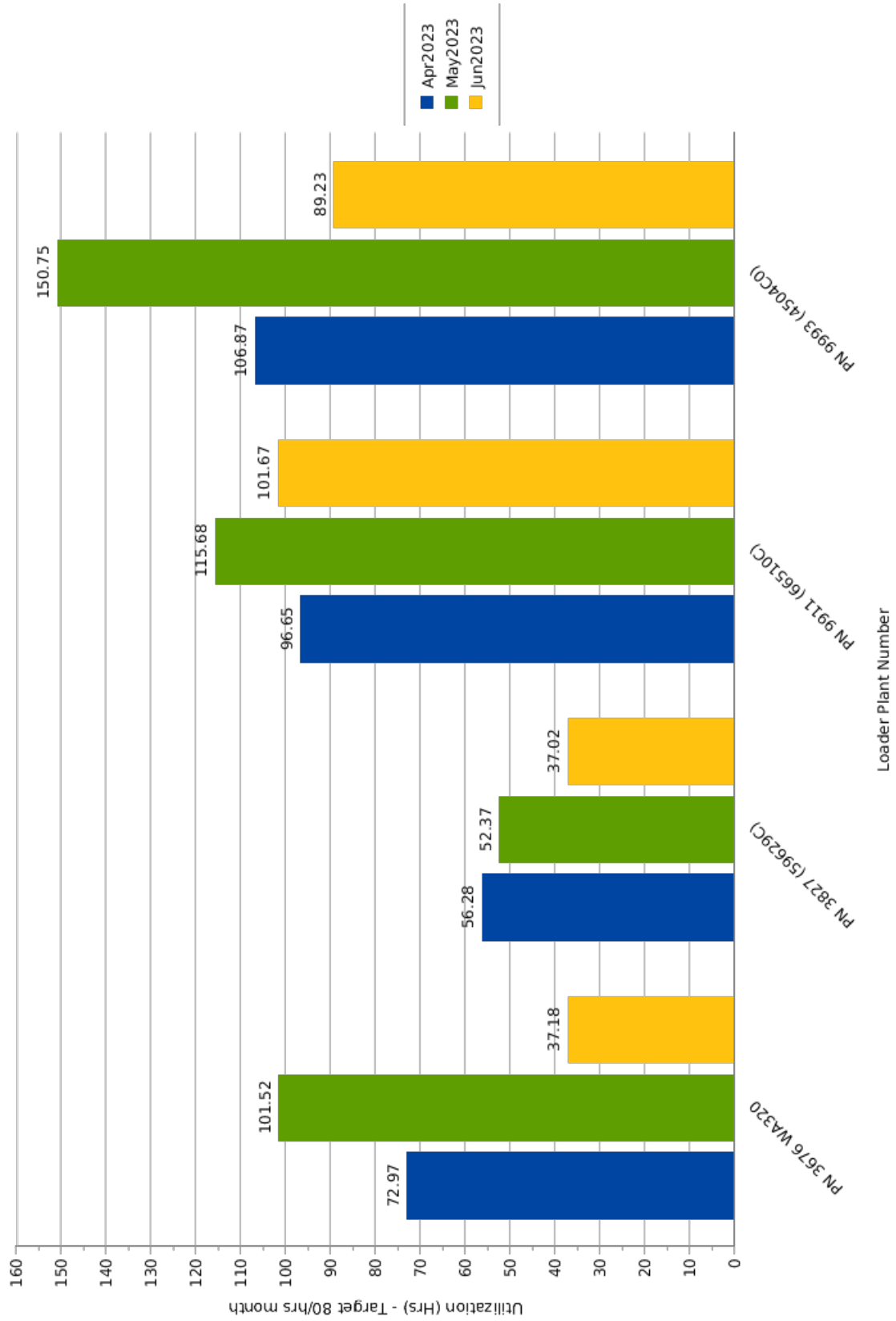
Grader Utilisation



Grader Utilisation

Grader Plant Number	Month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month
PN 10014 (1241C1)	Apr2023	96.60
	May2023	149.65
	Jun2023	153.60
PN 1196 (52372C)	Apr2023	108.12
	May2023	107.02
PN 1633 (25675C)	Jun2023	152.02
	Apr2023	68.33
PN 1655 (45335C)	May2023	74.47
	Jun2023	118.23
PN 9912 (67298C)	Apr2023	144.72
	May2023	146.40
	Jun2023	190.17
PN 9922 (76434C)	Apr2023	99.82
	May2023	118.88
PN 9942 (85843C)	Jun2023	112.22
	Apr2023	68.20
	May2023	91.80
PN 9992 (98315C)	Jun2023	38.90
	Apr2023	64.38
	May2023	196.33
	Jun2023	192.87
	Apr2023	63.70
	May2023	136.23
	Jun2023	119.83

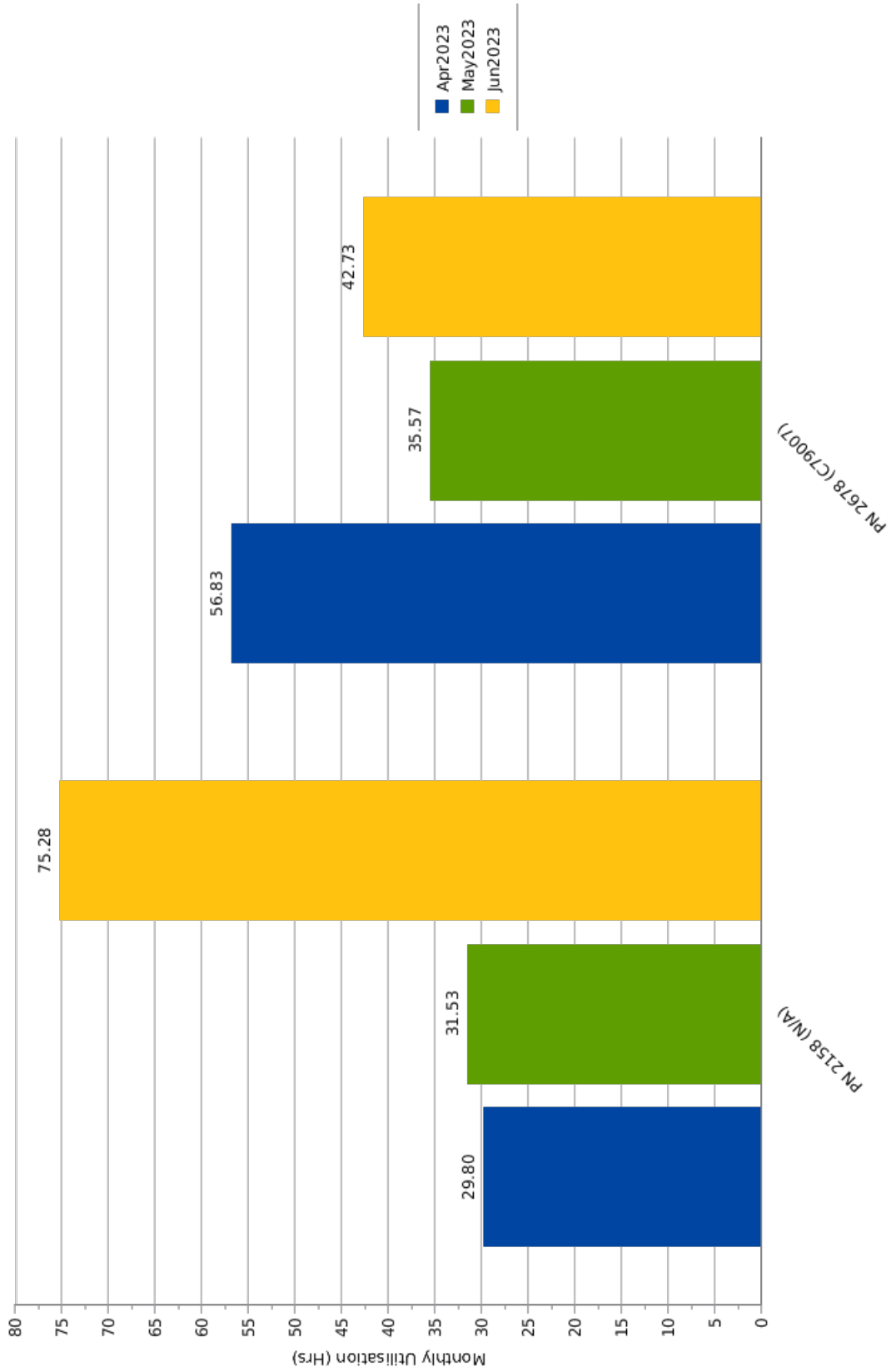
Loader Utilisation



Loader Utilisation

Loader Plant Number	Month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80/hrs month
PN 3676 WA320	Apr2023	72.97
	May2023	101.52
	Jun2023	37.18
PN 3827 (59629C)	Apr2023	56.28
	May2023	52.37
	Jun2023	37.02
PN 9911 (66510C)	Apr2023	96.65
	May2023	115.68
	Jun2023	101.67
PN 9993 (4504C0)	Apr2023	106.87
	May2023	150.75
	Jun2023	89.23

Stabiliser & Scraper Utilisation

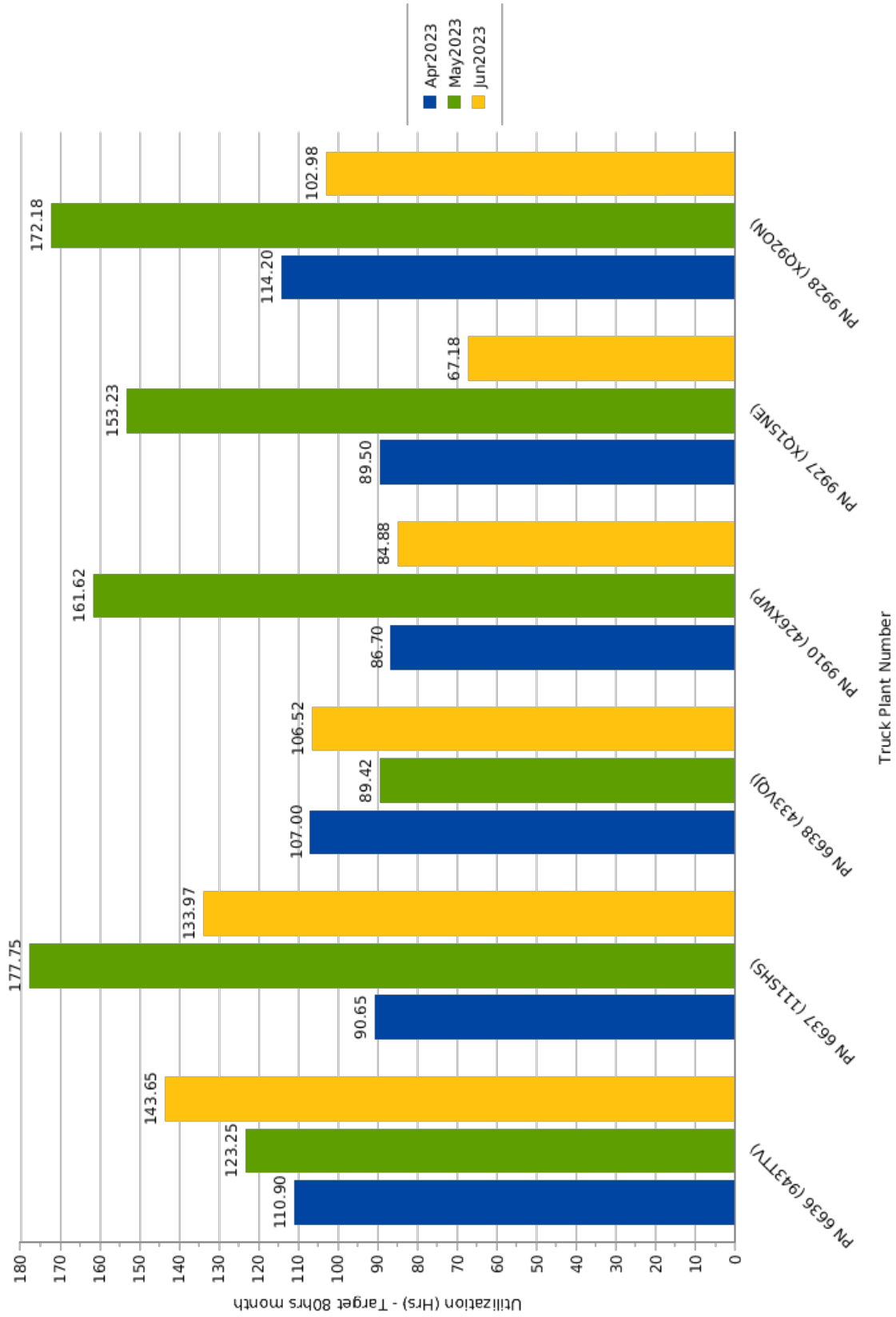


Stabiliser PN #2678 - Scraper PN #2158

Stabiliser & Scraper Utilisation

Month	Apr2023	May2023	Jun2023
	Monthly Utilisation (Hrs)	Monthly Utilisation (Hrs)	Monthly Utilisation (Hrs)
Stabiliser PN #2678 - Scraper PN #2158			
PN 2158 (N/A)	29.80	31.53	75.28
PN 2678 (C79007)	56.83	35.57	42.73

Truck Utilisation



Truck Utilisation

	Truck Plant Number		PN 6637 (111SHS)		PN 9910 (426XWP)		PN 9927 (XQ15NE)		PN 9928 (XQ92ON)	
Month	PN 6636 (943TTV)	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month
Apr2023	110.90	90.65	107.00	86.70	89.50	114.20				
May2023	123.25	177.75	89.42	161.62	153.23	172.18				
Jun2023	143.65	133.97	106.52	84.88	67.18	102.98				

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

16. LATE ITEMS

Nil for this meeting

17. CLOSED MATTERS

Recommendation:

That pursuant to section 242J(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 the meeting be closed to discuss the following matters, which are considered confidential for the reasons indicated.

17.1 Sale of Surplus Property

Consideration to dispose of surplus properties.

This report is considered confidential in accordance with section 254J(3) g, of the Local Government Regulation 2012, as it contains information relating to: negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the council for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the council.

18. CLOSURE OF MEETING