



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

**Address all correspondence to:
Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 144, Ilfracombe QLD 4727
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Email: assist@longreach.qld.gov.au
ABN: 16 834 804 112**

9 November 2023

Dear Councillors

Re: Meeting Notice for Council Meeting to be held on 16 November 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Council Meeting of the Longreach Regional Council will be held in the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach on Thursday 16 November 2023 commencing at 9:00am.

The Briefing Session for this meeting will be held in the Fairmount (East) room on Wednesday 16 November 2023 commencing at 9:00am as follows;

Your attendance at these meetings is requested.

Yours faithfully

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

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

Enc

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

Thursday 16 November 2023

Town Hall, Isisford

1.	Opening of Meeting	
2.	Prayer	
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**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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17.	Closure of Meeting	

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Vision:

Connecting Council and Community

Mission:

Delivering Excellent Service

Values:

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

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

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. PRAYER – Reverend Ben Kent, Reach Church

3. CONSIDERATION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4. DECLARATION OF ANY PRESCRIBED / DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

4.1 Declaration of Prescribed Conflicts of Interest on any Item of Business

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

4.2 Declaration of a Declarable Conflict of Interest on any Item of Business

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

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

Other Councillors may vote on this matter and decide if;

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

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Council - 26 October 2023

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL



Ordinary Meeting

Thursday 26 October 2023

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

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1 Opening of Meeting and Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9am.

"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, and we acknowledge elders past and present."

2 Prayer

Pastor Steve Cavill, Baptist Church, opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting paid its respects and observed a minutes silence for the passing of community members Douglas Harrison, Peter Ridgeway, Albert Johnson & Hugh Dicoski.

PRESENT

Councillors

Mayor	Cr AC Rayner
Deputy Mayor	Cr LJ Nunn
	Cr DJ Bignell
	Cr AJ Emslie
	Cr TM Hatch
	Cr DW Paterson
	Cr TFB Smith

Officers

Chief Executive Officer	Brett Walsh
Chief Financial Officer	David Wilson
Director of Communities	Karyn Stillwell
Director of Works	Andre Pretorius
Manager of Human Resources, Safety and Wellness	Grace Jones
Manager of Governance and Economy	Simon Kuttner
Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer, Mayor and Councillors	Elizabeth Neal

Apologies

Nil

3 Consideration of Leave of Absence

Nil

4 DECLARATION OF ANY PRESCRIBED / DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS AND SENIOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

4.1 Declaration of Prescribed Conflicts of Interest on any Item of Business

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

Cr Leonie Nunn declared a prescribed conflict of interest in item 12.2 LWDEF Concessions as she is a participant in the program.

Cr David Paterson declared a prescribed conflict of interest in item 12.2 LWDEF Concessions as he is a participant in the program.

Cr Tracy Hatch declared a prescribed conflict of interest in item 11.6 Information Report – Planning & Development Report as she may be interested in purchasing sometime in the future.

4.2 Declaration of a Declarable Conflict of Interest on any Item of Business

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

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

Other Councillors may vote on this matter and decide if;

(c) the Councillor must leave the meeting and not participate in a decision relating to the matter; or

(d) the Councillor may remain in the meeting and participate in a decision relating to the matter.

Cr Leonie Nunn declared a declareable conflict of interest in item 13.2 Sponsorship – AgForce Queensland as she is an AgForce member. Cr Nunn will voluntarily leave the meeting during the discussion and not participate in any decision.

Cr David Paterson declared a declareable conflict of interest in item 13.2 Sponsorship – AgForce Queensland as he is an AgForce member. Cr Paterson will voluntarily leave the meeting during the discussion and not participate in any decision.

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Council - Thursday 21 September 2023

(Res-2023-10-255)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Nunn

That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 21 September 2023, be confirmed.

CARRIED 7/0

6 Reception and Consideration of Mayor's Report

6.1 Mayoral Report

Consideration was given to the Mayor's Report

(Res-2023-10-256)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Smith

That Council receives the Mayoral Report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

7 Councillor Requests

Nil

8 Notices of Motion

Nil

9 Petitions

Nil

10 Deputations

Nil

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

11 Reception and Consideration of Chief Executive Officer's Report

Consideration was given to the Chief Executive Officer's Report

11.1 Councillor Information Correspondence

From the Chief Executive Officer, tabling a list of significant and relevant correspondence for Councillors and public information.

The following correspondence has been received up to 18 October 2023:

- Department of Transport and Main Roads - QLD Cycling Action Plan 2023 - 2025
- Notice of Proposed Works - Department of Defence
- Department of State Development -2024 Council Meeting dates
- Community Recovery - Minister for Treaty
- Community Recovery General Information Pack
- Queensland Police Service Restructure
- Local Government Division - Independent Assessor
- Department of Transport and Main Roads

(Res-2023-10-257)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Emslie

That Council receives the Councillor Information Correspondence Report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

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

October 2023			
12 Thursday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
13 Friday 9.00am- 11.00am	Audit & Risk Committee	Council Chambers, Longreach	Audit & Risk Committee
17 October 6pm - 10pm	Dirt Flame Flash Candles Club	Longreach Civic Centre	Public Event
18 October 6pm - 8pm	Luke S. Kennedy - Motivational Speaker	Longreach Civic Centre	Public Event
20 Friday	Big Day In	Longreach Civic Centre	Council employees

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
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25 Wednesday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
26 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Longreach	Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
28 Saturday 12pm - late	Isisford Races	Isisford Showground, Isisford-Ilfracombe Road,	Public Event
November 2023			
2 Thursday 1.00pm- 5.00pm	Land & Pest Management Meeting	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Land & Pest Committee
3 - 5 November Daily Event	Leading in the Central West	Ilfracombe Rec Centre	Public Event
11 Saturday	Ilfracombe Races	Ilfracombe Race Course	Public Event
11 Saturday 10:40am	Remembrance Day Service	Edkins Park	Public event
15 Wednesday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
16 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Isisford	Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
17 Friday 8:30am- 10:30am	Plant Committee Meeting	North Meeting Room Longreach Council Office	Plant Committee
23 Thursday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
27-30 Monday - Thursday	RAPAD Board Meeting	Brisbane	Mayor & CEO
30 Thursday	A not-so-silent Night Community Concert	Edkins Park	Public Event

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
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December 2023			
7 Thursday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
8 Friday 5pm to late	Lions Christmas Street Party	Eagle St	Public Event
13 Wednesday 9.00am – 10.30am	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Audit & Risk Committee
13 Wednesday 10.30am- 4.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
14 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Longreach	Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public

(Res-2023-10-258)

Moved Cr Paterson seconded Cr Emslie

That Council receives the Calendar of Events, as presented

CARRIED 7/0

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

11.3 2024 Council Meeting Dates

Consideration of the timing and location of the Council Ordinary Meetings for the 2024 calendar year.

(Res-2023-10-259)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Bignell

That Council, pursuant to section 254B(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, adopts the following Council Meetings for 2024:

Date	Meeting Type	Place	Time
Thurs 25 January 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 15 February 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Ilfracombe Recreation Centre	9.00am
Thurs 14 March 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 28 March 2024	Post-Election Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 18 April 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 16 May 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Town Hall, Isisford	9.00am
Thurs 20 June 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 18 July 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Town Hall, Yaraka	9.30am
Thurs 15 August 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Ilfracombe Recreation Centre	9.00am
Thurs 19 September 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 17 October 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am
Thurs 21 November 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Town Hall, Isisford	9.00am
Thurs 12 December 2024	Ordinary Meeting	Longreach Civic Centre	9.00am

CARRIED 7/0

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

11.4 Public Consultation Report - Longreach Region Planning Scheme 2015 (Major Amendment No.2)

Consideration of the Longreach Region Planning Scheme 2015 (Major Amendment No. 2) Public Consultation Report – to be submitted to the Minister for approval.

(Res-2023-10-260)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Smith

That Council, in relation to the proposed Longreach Region Planning Scheme 2015 (Major Amendment No. 2):

- 1. Endorses the Consultation Report (Attachment A) which provides a summary of the consultation activities undertaken;*
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to publish the Consultation Report on Council's website; and,*
- 3. Gives notice (including required materials) to the Planning Minister, in accordance with Section 21.1 and 21.2 of the Minister's Guidelines and Rules, and requests approval to adopt the amendment to the planning scheme.*

CARRIED 7/0

11.5 Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - September 2023

This report provides a summary of Council's health and safety performance as at 30 September 2023, highlighting issues, risks and opportunities impacting on employee health and safety in the workplace.

(Res-2023-10-261)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Bignell

That Council receives the Workplace Health & Safety Update Report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

11.6 Information Report - Planning & Development Report

This report provides an update on Development Services that has occurred during the month of September 2023.

(Res-2023-10-262)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Emslie

That Council receives the Planning & Development information report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

11.7 Information Report - Governance

This report provides an update on a range of activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Governance Department.

(Res-2023-10-263)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Paterson

That Council receives the Governance information report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

12 Reception and Consideration of Financial Report

12.1 Monthly Financial Statements

Consideration of the financial statements for the period ending 30 September 2023:

(Res-2023-10-264)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Bignell

That Council receives the monthly financial statements for the period ending 30 September 2023, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at 10:26am

The meeting resumed at 10:51 am with all present prior to the adjournment in attendance.

Attendance: Councillor Nunn and Councillor Paterson both left the meeting at 10:52 am.

12.2 LWDEF Concessions

A number of assessments identified as part of the Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme (LWDEFS) have been amalgamated or subdivided creating new assessments. The Plan as described in the Revenue Statement 2023-24 does not set out how the special charges are to be allocated to the new assessments.

The purpose of this paper is to set out the procedure for allocating special charges to the newly created assessments that will also require a resolution from Council to grant concessions to certain land owners.

(Res-2023-10-265)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Emslie

That Council adopts the following procedures in relation to a reconfiguration of a lot of a rateable assessment that is part of the Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme:

- 1) Council will obtain information from the original applicants to the LWDEFS to determine the total length and cost per metre of the fencing on each original rateable assessment on commencement of the scheme;*
- 2) By reference to mapping data, Council will measure the distance of the fencing on the new rateable assessments to apportion the costs of the scheme between each new assessment; and,*
- 3) Council will provide a concession to each of the new rateable assessments by deducting a concession amount from the gross amount of the special charge so that the net result of the concession is that the landowner will only pay a special charge equivalent to the amount calculated in steps 1 and 2 above.*

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

CARRIED 5/0

Crs Rayner, Smith, Emslie, Hatch & Bignell voted for the motion.

Attendance: Councillor Nunn and Councillor Paterson both returned to the meeting at 10:54 am.

12.3 Credit Card Policy

The credit card policy has been reviewed after the introduction of the digital card management system has made some parts irrelevant.

(Res-2023-10-266)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Nunn

That Council adopts the revised Credit Card Policy as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

12.4 Information Report - Finance

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of September 2023 for the Financial Services Department.

(Res-2023-10-267)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Emslie

That Council receives the Financial Services information report as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

13 Reception and Consideration of Director Communities Report

Consideration was given to the Director Communities Report

13.1 Community Donations - Ilfracombe Sport and Recreation Association

Consideration of a Community Donations application received in October in accordance with the Community Donations Policy No. 11.06.

(Res-2023-10-268)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Smith

That Council approves the following allocation of funds from the Community Donations Program in accordance with the Community Donations Policy No. 11.06;

Organisation/ Name	Event/Activity	Grant Requested	Grant Approved
<i>Ilfracombe Sport and Recreation Association</i>	<i>Ilfracombe Community Gym Mirror Installation</i>	<i>Financial \$3,445.52</i>	<i>Financial \$3,445.52</i>
		TOTAL \$3,445.52	TOTAL \$3,445.52

CARRIED 7/0

Attendance: Councillor Paterson and Councillor Nunn both left the Meeting at 10:58 am.

13.2 Sponsorship - AgForce Queensland

Consideration for Sponsorship application received for the month of October, in accordance with Council's Sponsorship Policy No. 11.07.

(Res-2023-10-269)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Hatch

That Council approves the allocation of funds from the 2023/2024 Sponsorship budget as contained in the following table, in accordance with the Sponsorship Policy No 11.07:

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
<i>AgForce Queensland</i>	<i>AgForce Northern Forum, Dinner and Industry Awards</i>	<i>21 November 2023</i>	<i>In-Kind \$1,765.20</i>
		TOTAL	\$1,765.20

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

CARRIED 5/0

Crs Rayner, Smith, Emslie, Hatch & Bignell voted for the motion.

Attendance: Councillor Nunn and Councillor Paterson both returned to the Meeting at 11:02 am.

13.3 Childcare Policies

Consideration of adoption of the new Medical Conditions Policy and the Safe Transportation Policy for Childcare Services.

(Res-2023-10-270)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Emslie

That Council:

- 1) Adopts the new Medical Conditions Policy, as presented and amended; and,*
- 2) Adopts the new Safe Transportation Policy, as presented and amended.*

CARRIED 7/0

13.4 Information Report - Community Services

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of September for the Community Services Department.

(Res-2023-10-271)

Moved Cr Emslie seconded Cr Smith

That Council receives the Community Services information report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

14 Reception and Consideration of Director of Works Report

Consideration was given to the Director Infrastructure Services Report

Information Report - Update on traffic management at intersections in Longreach

An information report to provide an update on discussions with Ergon with regards to traffic management near power poles located in intersections in Longreach.

(Res-2023-10-272)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Nunn

That Council receives the report as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

14.2 Information Report - Works

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of September/October 2023 for the Infrastructure Works Department.

(Res-2023-10-273)

Moved Cr Paterson seconded Cr Hatch

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

That Council receives the Works Information Report, as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

15 Late Items

15.1 Application for Works on Council Owned Land - Refurbishment of Longreach Tennis Courts

Consideration of an 'Application for works on Council owned land' from the Longreach Tennis Club to refurbish courts 3, 4 and 5 at the Longreach Tennis Club.

(Res-2023-10-274)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Nunn

That Council:

- (1) Grants the Longreach Tennis Club permission to refurbish courts 3, 4 and 5 at the Longreach Tennis Courts; and,*
- (2) Agrees to allocate a budget of \$30,000 towards the total project cost if the application is successful.*

CARRIED 7/0

16 Closed Matters

(Res-2023-10-275)

Moved Cr Emslie seconded Cr Bignell

That pursuant to section 254J(3)(g) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 the meeting be closed to discuss the following matters, which are considered confidential for the reasons indicated.

Item 16.1, Saleyard Contract Negotiation

CARRIED 7/0

(Res-2023-10-276)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Bignell

That Council moves out of closed session to vote on item 16.1, Saleyard Contract Negotiation.

CARRIED 7/0

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Ordinary Meeting
held on Thursday 26 October 2023 at the Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach**

16.1 Saleyard Contract Negotiation

AAM Investment Group Pty Ltd (AAMIG) has written to Council requesting amendments to the leases of the saleyards (Lot 1) and the vacant trust land used for grazing (Lot 2). This paper provides information so that Council may make a decision on how to respond to these requests.

(Res-2023-10-277)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Nunn

That Council responds to the requests made by AAMIG as follows:

- 1) Council will not be making any further financial contribution or incurring any further legal fees or any other costs to the rail siding extension project;*
- 2) Council will take no further action in progressing the rail siding project until there is formal written agreement by AAMIG to pay all unfunded costs, including legal and any other costs incurred by Council;*
- 3) Council does not accept the proposed variations to either of the property leases between Council and AAMIG, including the construction of improvements at Council's cost; and,*
- 4) That AAMIG takes all necessary steps as required by the terms of the leases to prevent unauthorised access or use of the leased premises.*

CARRIED 7/0

17 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:08am.

Minutes Certificate

These minutes are unconfirmed.

Cr AC Rayner
Mayor

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

6. MAYORAL REPORT

6.1 Mayoral Report

The Mayor attended meetings and engagements in the time since the last Council meeting, including but not limited to:

- The Mayor met with CEO of Watco East West Chris Hood to explore future growth opportunities for increased cattle and general freight including waste
- The Mayor welcomed Transport Minister Mark Bailey and Community Forum members for dinner at Mitchell Grass Retreat and attended the Community Forum at the Civic Centre
- The Mayor met with Acting DG TMR and District Director TMR to discuss road train access for the proposed industrial precinct
- The Mayor met with Acting DG Regional Economic Development, Manufacturing and Water to discuss the proposed industrial precinct development
- The Mayor spoke to Minister and DDG TMR about future road funding for LRC
- The Mayor attended RFDS 80th Anniversary in Charleville and continued advocacy for consideration of a RFDS Base in Longreach
- The Mayor hosted the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley on their Longreach visit to Scouts, School of Distance Education, Red Ridge, community volunteers' luncheon, Botanical path walk, BBQ breakfast for first responders and opening of the Centenary Park at the Powerhouse Museum
- The Mayor Inspected new social housing in Gull Street
- The Mayor attended a RESQ Board meeting in Cairns
- The Mayor chaired the RAPAD Board meeting in Tambo
- Mayor met with North West Regional Health to discuss support programs for local Carers.

The Mayor also undertook regular media engagements with Radio 4LG and ABC Western Queensland.

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Mayoral Report, as presented.

7. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS

None received at time of agenda preparation.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 Proposed Notice of Motion - Cr Smith - Grids Replacement Program Update

Consideration of a Notice of Motion regarding Council's replacement of Rural Grids since the new Grids Policy was adopted.

The notice was submitted by Cr Smith on 3 November 2023 as follows:

Cr Trevor Smith - *Notice is hereby given that I intend to move the following Motion at the Council Meeting to be held on 16 November 2023.*

Notice of Motion:

That Council provides a detailed formal report on Council's replacement of rural grids since the new Grids Policy was adopted, including:

- 1. Number of grids installed*
- 2. The name of the roads that the grids are installed on.*
- 3. The financial years that the grids were installed.*

9. PETITIONS

None received at time of agenda preparation.

10. DEPUTATIONS

None received at time of agenda preparation.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.1 – Councillor Information Correspondence

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.1 Councillor Information Correspondence

From the Chief Executive Officer, tabling a list of significant and relevant correspondence for Councillors and public information.

The following correspondence has been received up to 9 November 2023:

Research Highlights Invasive Plants and Animals Research 2022-23

Research Highlights

Ilfracombe Golf Club Inc – Thank you

Department of Environment and Science – Recycle Mater

Longreach Scouts - Thank you

Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water - Notice to extend watertight requirement

RAPAD - Communique-third-quarter-2023

Carer Gateway Dinner

Office for Rural Regional Queensland - 2024–2025 Regional Community Forums

LGW Bank Guarantee 2023-24

Appendices

1. LET - 2023 - 21 - 10 - Scouts - Thank you LRC grant [↓](#)
2. LET - 2023 - 23 - 10 - Director-General, Department of Environment and Science [↓](#)
3. LET - 2023 - 26 - 10 - Ilfracombe Golf Club Inc [↓](#)
4. EMA - 2023 - 25 - 10 - Research Highlights_Invasive Plants and Animals Research 2022-23 [↓](#)
5. EMA - 2023 - 25 - 10 - Research Highlights [↓](#)
6. EMA - 2023 - 27 - 10 - Notice to extend watertight requirement [↓](#)
7. EMA - 2023 - 6 - 11 - RAPAD-Communique-third-quarter-2023 [↓](#)
8. EMA - 2023 - 6 - 11 - Carer Gateway Dinner [↓](#)
9. EMA - 2023 - 8 - 11 - Office for Rural Regional Queensland - 2024–2025 Regional Community Forums [↓](#)
10. EMA - 2023 - 9 - 11 - LGW Bank Guarantee 2023-24. [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Councillor Information Correspondence Report, as presented.



Scouts Australia Queensland Branch Inc

ABN : 67 019 153 391

LONGREACH SCOUT GROUP

P O Box 381, Longreach Qld 4730



20 October 2023

The Chief Executor Officer
Longreach Regional Council
P O Box 144
Ilfracombe. Qld 4727

Dear Brett,

The Longreach Scout Group would like to thank the Council for their Sponsorship Donation of \$10,000, received today. This is a wonderful contribution towards the Longreach Scout Group Den, Museum, and the Avenue of Honour. Please relay our thanks to the Councillors and also Abby.

The Museum has been extended and now completed. The Structure of the Avenue of Honour is in place are we are working towards March 2024 to have completed with the names on the walls. The grounds and surrounds have been revamped and look great with the signage and trees.

We would also like to thank the Council for the work on the road outside of the Scout grounds. This has enhanced the area and keeps our town looking great.

Many thanks once again and I hope you enjoyed the evening – thanks for coming.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Palmer".

John Palmer OAM – Group Leader – Longreach

Scout Group

Group Leader: John Palmer OAM - 0407654343 - palmbp@bigpond.net.au

President : Laura Richards - 0467321194

Secretary: Erin Saltmarsh 0419378841

Treasurer: Kristie Osborne - 0400534181

Bank Details: Westpac Longreach 034194 180454



Department of
Environment and Science

Our Ref: CTS 18842/23

23 October 2023

Mr Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Longreach Regional Council
PO Box 144
ILFRACOMBE QLD 4727

Dear Mr Walsh

I am writing to update you on an activity the Department of Environment and Science (department) is running with Recycle Mate to support Queensland councils with kerbside waste management and recycling.

The activity is associated with a Statewide education and behaviour change program to help reduce waste, maximise recycling and assist councils in their efforts to deliver ongoing and consistent waste management behaviour change messaging for Queensland households' kerbside services.

Recycle Mate (<https://recyclemate.com.au/>) is an initiative of the Australian Council of Recycling (<https://acor.org.au/>) and was developed with Federal Government investment as a national education platform that all governments and organisations can utilise and build on. It is community driven and is expanding as more is learned about how the community searches for information and how such information is best delivered to support them.

All Queensland councils currently have free access to Recycle Mate. The department's Office of Circular Economy has been running online information sessions and face-to-face workshops to:

- build greater awareness about the current Recycle Mate opportunities and future opt-in enhancements
- complete data checks with councils to produce local government area specific data reports showing kerbside and away from home waste stream acceptance and non-acceptance information (including safe disposal options for problematic wastes such as batteries, vapes, chemicals and e-waste)
- complete local recycling options gap analysis to identify and add any other non-council owned facilities where priority items can be donated, recycled, repaired or safely disposed
- produce a waste stream gap analysis report and future options report for the department.

Feedback from Queensland councils that have participated in the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive and indicates that Recycle Mate is already ideally placed to deliver quality recycling education to local government communities in Queensland. Moreover, the new opt-in enhancements have the potential to significantly reduce the administrative burden of keeping information up-to-date and dealing with consumer enquiries about local recycling.

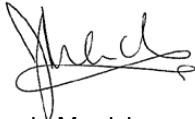
1 William Street Brisbane
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone + 61 7 3338 9304
Website www.des.qld.gov.au
ABN 46 640 294 485

11.1 - Councillor Information Correspondence --Appendix 2

Recycle Mate is not only relevant for councils with council kerbside recycling services. A key part of the Recycle Mate platform is in helping householders identify non-council/away from home options for appropriately recovering resources that would otherwise go to landfill. Furthermore, a gap analysis being conducted as part of the activity will create better understanding of how to work collectively with the Federal Government to identify and develop more recovery options for communities. As such, it is important to capture relevant data and insights from all councils to understand at a granular local level, what the gaps are and where to focus more effort.

I invite interested waste managers and educators, marketing staff and administrators in your organisation to contact Susy Trier, Senior Project Officer, Office of Circular Economy, Environment and Heritage Policy and Programs of the department on telephone (07) 3330 6045 or by email at circulareconomy@des.qld.gov.au to express interest in participating.

Yours sincerely



Jamie Merrick
Director-General

Ilfracombe Golf Club Inc
8941 Ilfracombe Isisford Rd
Ilfracombe, 4727

Abby Lewis
Community Development Officer
Longreach Regional Council
Po Box 144
Ilfracombe, 4727

Dear Abby,

On behalf of The Ilfracombe Golf Club Inc, I would like to take this opportunity to thank The LRC for their kind donation of \$1500, from the Community Donations Program, towards the running of our annual Golf Open which was held on Sunday, 17th September.

Your support for this annual event contributed greatly to a very successful day, with players travelling from as far away as Collinsville as well as a WA visitor, and for this we are most grateful.

Kind regards

Malcolm Brown (President)



Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries

25 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Research highlights: Invasive plants and animals research 2022-23

Please find enclosed Research highlights 2022-23, which outlines the progress of 44 research projects undertaken by Biosecurity Queensland in collaboration with our stakeholders. Please circulate this report to all relevant staff within your organisation. It is also available for download on our website at:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/research/highlights>

The partnership between Biosecurity Queensland and its stakeholders is critical to the management of weeds and pest animals in Queensland. The 2022-23 research program was endorsed by the Research Review Committee – a group of scientific, operations and policy staff from Biosecurity Queensland plus representatives from our external stakeholders including Local Government, AgForce, Queensland Farmers Federation, Queensland Conservation Council and NRM Regions Queensland.

Partly funded by the Land Protection Fund, this research program aims to better manage Queensland's worst weeds and pest animals, thereby reducing their impacts on agriculture, the environment and the community. The findings of the research are used to develop fact sheets, control manuals and other publications. These documents support landholders, local council areas and industry in the management of invasive plants and animals.

If you require any further information, please call Tony Pople on (07) 3708 8550 or email tony.pople@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Enrico Perotti".

Dr Enrico Perotti
General Manager
Invasive Plants and Animals
Biosecurity Queensland
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Ecosciences Precinct Dutton Park
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Queensland 4001 Australia
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ABN 66 934 348 189



Research Highlights

Invasive plants and animals research 2022-23

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries





Cover photo: Chital deer traversing fence, Spyglass Research Station, Basalt. Photo credit: Mohit Deolankar, James Cook University.

If you need an interpreter to help you understand this document, call **13 25 23** or visit **daf.qld.gov.au** and search for 'interpreter'.



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Introduction

This document summarises the 2022–23 program of the Invasive Plants and Animals research group in Biosecurity Queensland. Our applied research program aims to better manage Queensland's worst weeds and pest animals, reducing their impacts on agriculture, the environment and the community.

Our work is undertaken at four centres across the state:

- Ecosciences Precinct, Dutton Park
- Pest Animal Research Centre, Toowoomba
- Tropical Weeds Research Centre, Charters Towers
- Tropical Weeds Research Centre, South Johnstone.

We also collaborate with numerous Queensland, interstate and overseas organisations. Higher degree students are supported to work on several research projects in weed and pest animal management.

The research projects summarised in this document cover the development of effective control strategies and methods (e.g. biological control and herbicides), as well as improved knowledge of pest species' biology and assessment of pest impact.

Notable activities of the research program for 2022–23 are outlined below.

Invasive plant research

- Our weed biological control program has been supported by external funding bodies that are detailed at the end of this report. AgriFutures and the Australian Government have funded overseas surveys and host testing for biological control agents for prickly acacia, Navua sedge, giant rat's tail grass and Koster's curse since 2020. These projects were completed in early 2023.
- Approval was granted from the Australian Government to release the prickly acacia gall thrips. The agent has been released at numerous sites in north Queensland with early signs of establishment and impact. A new agent, a gall mite, is planned for host testing in South Africa and Australia but cannot start until the agent can be safely collected from Ethiopia which continues to experience civil unrest.
- Following on from the AgriFutures work, two promising agents for giant rat's tail grass need host testing in Australia. For this weed, a naturalised leaf smut pathogen was also discovered and is proving damaging. It is being assessed for active spread in Australia as a control agent. Endemic pathogens have also been identified that could be used as mycoherbicides or augmentative biological control for giant rat's tail grass.
- Two pathogens are showing promise as biological control agents for Navua sedge. Host testing is being completed and a release application for at least one should be drafted by mid-2024.



- Unfortunately, the agent being tested for *Miconia crenata* (Koster's curse) is not proving sufficiently host specific. Alternative agents are available and, given the high potential impact of Koster's curse, we will test one of these for host specificity.
- We are currently releasing a leaf-mining moth to control bellyache bush. This follows release of a previous agent during 2003-7 that failed to establish. Another insect agent has been identified and host testing will be undertaken initially in Argentina. Other weeds with current biological control projects include cat's claw creeper, lantana, parthenium, bellyache bush, chinee apple, sicklepod, *Urena lobata*, Singapore daisy, African tulip tree, harrisia and opuntoid cacti. We are hoping to submit applications to release pathogen agents for lantana, cat's claw creeper and bellyache bush with the Australian Government in 2023-24.
- We continue to mass-rear and release biological control agents to control Siam weed, parkinsonia and *Cylindropuntia* cacti. We are monitoring the releases of previously released biological control agents (e.g. cat's claw creeper and parthenium) to determine their establishment, spread and impact. This will help decide when releases can cease, the need for other agents or control methods, and to evaluate the benefit of biological control. A new project is compiling locations of agents released in Queensland. This will allow redistribution of agents by land managers without reliance on laboratory colonies.
- We are also optimising the use of wick wipers to selectively apply herbicides to giant rat's tail grass. A new project is working with land managers to identify and control or eradicate strategic outlier infestations of gamba grass, grader grass and giant rat's tail grass. The results will be documented as a set of case studies.
- Projects continue to support state and national eradication programs for numerous weeds, including red witchweed, miconia, mikania, limnocharis. We carry out ecological studies to determine seed bank persistence and age to maturity, developing control methods and techniques to monitor eradication progress. Properties infested with red witchweed (an obligate parasite of sugarcane, corn and other grasses) are being treated and progress towards eradication is being determined by monitoring depletion of the soil seedbank.
- Herbicide trials are being conducted for several weeds including Siam weed, sicklepod, gamba grass, Aleman grass, bogmoss and weedy shrubs and trees. A new project has started on the ecology and management of sticky florestina. Further trials have found that flumioxazin (Clipper®) and florasulfuron-benzyl (ProcellaCOR®) provide excellent control of many aquatic weeds including cabomba, water lettuce and Amazon frogbit, with low risk to native aquatic flora.
- We are studying the ecology of several weeds to assist management. Weed seed longevity and age at maturity is needed to determine the timing and duration of treatment at a site. Collaborative research with the Northern Territory on Siam weed ecology and control with herbicide and fire has been completed. The results will be incorporated into a best practice management manual.
- We have assessed over half of 200 emerging weed species in Queensland to determine their priority for management. Ideally, limited resources should be directed now before the weeds are widespread and abundant. Problematic weeds have common traits and are likely to be predictable.



- Drones are now being widely used to detect weeds in broadacre crops and spot spray. We are working to extend this capability to particular rangeland weeds such as parthenium, chinee apple and Navua sedge.

Pest animal research

- The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) has supported several pest animal and some weed projects through both funding and collaboration. These projects have been completed with reports available on the CISS website (<https://invasives.com.au/our-publications>). Future funding for new projects is unclear, but a portfolio of projects has been developed and adjusted to meet stakeholder demand.
- For wild dogs, we are continuing to monitor the response of wildlife to the removal of wild dogs inside cluster fences in western Queensland. We are trialling video-GPS collars on wild dogs to determine encounter rates with canid pest ejectors and cameras. We will also be assessing the ability of dogs to detect the odours of 1080 and possibly PAPP (para-aminopropiophenone) with ramifications to bait uptake.
- We continue to assess and develop surveillance methods for two high-risk pest animals, red-eared slider turtles and Asian black-spined toads. Current survey methods need modification if incursions are going to be detected sufficiently early and with an adequate degree of confidence.
- Best practice guidelines for peri-urban wild dog management are now available on the PestSmart website (<https://pestsmart.org.au/>). A glovebox guide for deer management is in press and will also be available on the PestSmart website. Workshops on best practice management of wild deer were delivered to pest managers in north Queensland in early 2023.
- We have continued our collaboration with NSW Department of Primary Industries on aspects of cost-effective management of deer in peri-urban, agricultural and conservation settings. A special issue of *Wildlife Research* is in publication, with 14 research articles on the ecology, impacts and management of wild deer in Australia. In north Queensland the collaboration includes James Cook University where a long-term project on chital deer ecology and management is moving into its final year of Australian Research Council funding.
- Southern Queensland rabbit abundance is currently relatively low due largely to biological control and removal of productive rabbit breeding sites (warrens, log piles). The productivity of other breeding sites is being assessed to help determine best strategies for minimising rates of population recovery.
- For rangeland populations of feral deer and pigs, we are evaluating control effectiveness at several demonstration sites. Following successes in temperate Australia, we hope to assess thermal-assisted shooting and monitoring.
- We are working with Southern Queensland Landscapes and CSIRO to better understand feral pig movements and habitat use. This will help design control and monitoring strategies and support modelling the spread of exotic diseases within feral pig populations.



Pesticide permits

- We obtain minor-use permits from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority as required for certain weed and pest animal species, pesticides, application methods and situations or environments. Sixteen minor-use or emergency-use permits were obtained in 2022-23.

Funding, collaboration and research priorities

In the 2022–23 financial year, Biosecurity Queensland’s Invasive Plants and Animals research program received funding from several sources. Expenditure from Queensland Government base funds was \$1.7 million; expenditure from the Land Protection Fund amounted to \$2.2 million; and expenditure under contracts with external partners totalled \$2.2 million (see ‘External funding’, page 85-86). Notable funding bodies for the latter were the Australian Government, AgriFutures Australia, CSIRO, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research New Zealand and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. The Queensland Government also provided approximately \$9.2 million in indirect costs that included facilities, equipment and support services.

Our research program for 2022–23 was endorsed by the Research Review Committee—a group of senior scientific, operations and policy staff from Biosecurity Queensland plus representatives from our external stakeholders, including Queensland local governments, AgForce, the Queensland Farmers’ Federation, the Queensland Conservation Council and NRM Regions Queensland. The committee critically reviews proposed and current projects and allocated investments and makes recommendations on strategic priorities.

Further information

For more information, visit the ‘Invasive plant and animal research’ page at daf.qld.gov.au. Journal articles and scientific reports can be obtained by emailing project leaders (see ‘Research staff’, pages 87-88). In addition, you can browse our recent scientific publications in the eResearch archive at daf.qld.gov.au (search ‘eResearch archive’).



Part 1: Invasive plant research

1. Integrated control of aquatic weeds

Project dates

July 2012 – June 2023

Project team

Tobias Bickel, Christine Perrett and Bahar Farahani

Project summary

Management of aquatic weeds is often challenging and there are limited control tools available. Site specific situations often limit the use and efficacy of control tools. Therefore, integration of multiple tools is often necessary for efficient control of aquatic weeds.

Clipper (flumioxazin) was registered as an aquatic herbicide with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority in 2020 and in 2021 CSIRO obtained a release permit for a biocontrol weevil, *Hydrothimetes natans*, to control cabomba in Australia. The CSIRO and DAF aquatic weed teams collaborate on research to integrate the herbicide and the biocontrol agent to achieve better control of cabomba in Queensland and Australia wide.

This year the aquatic weed management team conducted field trials with flumioxazin to control cabomba in a range of water bodies coupled with simultaneous releases of the biocontrol agent by CSIRO. The long-term management goal is for the biocontrol agent to reduce the overall cabomba population in release sites while the herbicide is used to remove cabomba from strategic locations (e.g. boat ramps) to prevent further spread of this weed. Field experiments were also conducted to test the control efficacy of the clipper effervescent tablet and how it is best employed for cabomba management. Lastly, research was carried out to quantify the regeneration of native aquatic plants after herbicide treatment from the soil seed bank to help managers restore wetlands after removal of invasive aquatic plants.

The work carried out this year shows that flumioxazin is a great operational tool for cabomba management under different scenarios and that it can be effectively integrated with the biological control agent.

Collaborators

- CSIRO
- Nguyen Nguyen and Junfeng Xu (University of Queensland)
- Department of Environment and Science
- Seqwater
- Townsville City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council



- NIWA New Zealand
- Macspred
- Sumitomo

Key publications

Bickel, T.O. (2019). Information on measures and related costs in relation to species included on the Union list: *Cabomba caroliniana*. *Technical note prepared by IUCN for the European Commission*, 43pp.

Kumaran, N. & **Bickel, T.O.** (2023). New tools for Integrated Management of Cabomba in Australia, *Management Guide (SEQwater, NRM managers)*, CSIRO, Brisbane, 23pp.

Nguyen, N.H.T., **Bickel, T.O.**, **Perrett, C.** & Adkins, S. (2021). Alien invasive macrophyte put into the shade: The native floating-leaved macrophyte *Nymphoides indica* reduces *Cabomba caroliniana* growth performance through competition for light, *Freshwater Biology*, 66: 1123-1135.

2. Water weed management research – new aquatic weed management tools

Project dates

January 2021 – June 2023

Project team

Tobias Bickel, Christine Perrett and Bahar Farahani

Project summary

Invasive aquatic weeds cause significant impacts to Queensland's freshwater resources. Most of these weeds are difficult to manage due to a lack of suitable control tools. In 2021, flumioxazin (Clipper herbicide) was registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for control of a wide range of aquatic weeds. The team also conducted experiments to assess a new aquatic herbicide, florpyrauxifen-benzyl (ProcellaCOR).

We carried out laboratory and field trials with flumioxazin and florpyrauxifen benzyl in a wide range of water bodies infested with different aquatic weeds to gauge control efficacy in different situations and different targets while also monitoring non-target effects.

Flumioxazin provided excellent control of Amazon frogbit, kidney-leaved mudplantain, hairy water hyssop (*Bacopa lanigera*), Mexican water lily and water lettuce in the field. It also gave good control of sagittaria, both submerged and emergent. Florpyrauxifen-benzyl efficiently controlled parrots feather, *Rotala rotundifolia* and sagittaria. Experiments also demonstrated that flumioxazin and florpyrauxifen-benzyl cause limited to no damage to many native aquatic plants, especially valuable emergent plants along the shoreline.



This project generated data for the registration of ProcellaCOR in Australia. Together, these two new herbicides will greatly aid the efficient management of many aquatic weeds in Queensland and all over Australia. The team is currently preparing a manual for best practice management of aquatic weeds with these two new herbicides.

Collaborators

- Mathew McVay (University of Queensland)
- Marie Bigot (CSIRO)
- Department of Environment and Science
- SePro, USA
- Macspred
- Sunwater
- Logan City Council
- Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Gold Coast City Council
- Brisbane City Council
- NIWA, New Zealand
- Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
- NSW Department of Primary Industries

Key publications

Bickel, T.O., Perret, C., Farahani, B. & Oudyn, F. (2021). Control of invasive aquatic plants with Procellacor (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) in Australia. *Report (submitted to SePro, USA & APVMA)*, DAF, Brisbane, 25pp.

Bickel, T.O., Farahani, B.S., Perrett, C., Xu, J. & Vitelli, J. (2022). *Control of the emerging aquatic weed Amazon frogbit with flumioxazin*, in Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference, Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia, Adelaide, 25 – 29 September.

3. Research supporting the management of nationally significant tropical weeds

Project dates

July 2008 – June 2024

Project team

Simon Brooks and Kirsty Gough

Project summary

The project develops and refines metrics to monitor progress towards eradication of several tropical weeds under the National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program. These need to be spatially and temporally consistent.

The project quantifies aspects of the life history of weeds targeted for eradication that influence the timing and location of field control operations. These include seed-bank persistence, age to maturity and dispersal potential. Effective control measures are also investigated.

Field and glasshouse trials investigating seed persistence of *Limnocharis flava*, *Miconia calvenscens*, *M. racemosa*, *M. nervosa* and *Mikania micrantha* have been running for 7-13 years, with all species showing persistent seed banks. Bulk or depth field soil seed bank samples were collected from *L. flava*, *M. micrantha* and *M. racemosa* infestations. Field crew data and observations on the growth to maturity and reproductive seasonality of invasive melastomes are being used to refine guidelines for identifying and preventing seed producing plants. A habitat suitability model will be used to design surveys to detect and remove *M. calvenscens*.

Collaborators

- Kim Erbacher, John Edwards, Alex Diczbalis, Michael Graham and Moya Calvert (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Tom Price, Nigel Weston and Bert Lukitsch, (Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security NT)
- Jacob Maher and Phil Cassey (University of Adelaide).

Key publications

Brooks, S. & Jeffery, M. (2018). *Progress in the eradication of Mikania micrantha from Australia*. In: Proceedings of the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference, eds. S. Johnson, L. Weston, H. Wu and B. Auld. The Weed Society of New South Wales. 9-13 September. pp. 350-3.

Brooks, S., Erbacher, K. & Maher, J. (2022). *Progress towards the eradication of Limnocharis flava from Australia*. In: Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide, South Australia. pp. 262-5.

Brooks, S. & Erbacher, K. (2022). *Progress in the eradication of Miconia calvenscens from Australia*. In: Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide, South Australia. pp. 63-6.

4. Weed seed dynamics

Project dates

August 2007 – June 2030

Project team

Simon Brooks, Danielle Brazier and Clare Warren

Project summary

Seed longevity is an important determinant of the duration of weed control. This project investigates the seed longevity of priority weeds by burying seeds enclosed in bags in different soil types, under grassed and bare conditions and at various depths. Completed trials have shown that neem and yellow bells have relatively transient soil seed banks that are exhausted after 1 year. The seed packets of yellow oleander, stevia, gamba grass, chinee apple, calotrope and mesquite were exhausted in <5 years. Trials of lantana and parthenium showed small numbers of seeds retained viability for up to 10 years, while viable prickly acacia seed was retrieved after 13 years. Tropical soda apple has been added to this trial, which still contains prickly acacia, Harissa cactus and immersed sagittaria. Seeds of some species germinated in packets at depth, and a glasshouse pot trial has commenced to investigate the effect of seed burial depth on seedling emergence.

In field enclosures, we are also monitoring the emergence of seedlings of neem, leucaena, prickly acacia, chinee apple and mesquite. Neem tree seedling emergence concluded in less than a year, while prickly acacia, mesquite and leucaena emergence reflects weeds with long-lived seed banks. Elephant ear vine fruit and parkinsonia pods have been added to the field emergence trial.

A series of experiments have continued which compare the data from buried seed packet trials to a laboratory test of relative longevity, the Controlled Ageing Test (CAT). Correlating results from the CAT and packet trials will help to classify seeds of weeds into broad seed longevity categories over a shorter time frame.



Figure 1 Emergent parkinsonia plant



Figure 2 Tropical soda apple seeds buried in pipes as part of seed burial trials

Collaborators

- Shane Campbell and Bagirath Chauhan (University of Queensland)
- Geoff Swan, Matthew Ryan and Ashley Blokland (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Faiz Bebawi

Key publications

Long, R.L., Panetta, F.D., Steadman, K.J., Probert R., Bekker, R.M., **Brooks, S.J.** & Adkins, S.W. (2008). Seed persistence in the field may be predicted by laboratory-controlled ageing. *Weed Science* 56: 523-8.

5. Best practice management and remote detection of *Chromolaena odorata* in the Northern Territory

Project dates

June 2021 to June 2023.

Project team

Simon Brooks, Clare Warren, Dannielle Brazier and Kelli Murree

Project summary

The Northern Territory Government received Commonwealth funding for the project 'Advancing the detection, control and management of Siam weed in northern Australia'. As collaborators, Biosecurity Queensland receives funding from the Northern Territory to assist with the remote detection of *Chromolaena odorata* and provides information for inclusion in a best practice manual. Both aspects of the project are beneficial to Queensland, with the consolidation of best practice information requested by local stakeholders.

This project investigated the timing of seed maturity relative to flower head morphology, to determine when herbicide and fire treatments should be applied to prevent development of mature seed. Trials in 2021 and 2022 retrieved viable seed from contained potted specimens from late July onwards, despite flower structures being present and fortnightly treatments with a fluroxypyr herbicide. Field observations also showed seed development was prevented by fires in June and early July. We identified a shorter window to implement control measures to prevent viable seed production, after the weed is detectable from the air in late June.

This project is also investigating the efficacy of low volume foliar herbicides applied to potted specimens via a ground-based boom. Pot trials have identified appropriate rates, active ingredients and number passes. As a result, Northern Territory staff have been applying double passes of a fluroxypyr herbicide which has improved control outcomes.



Figure 3 Experimental treatment of chromolaena with fire in the Northern Territory



Figure 4 Herbicide treatment of chromolaena using a ground-based boom



Figure 5 Chromolaena plants before treatment



Figure 6 Chromolaena plants after treatment



Figure 7 Aerial view of plot after different treatments



Collaborators

- Tom Price, Shelley Inglis, Nigel Weston, Joshua Maeer and Louis Elliot (Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security NT)
- Deepak Guatam (RMIT)
- David Green, Ashley Blokland and Rob Cobon (Biosecurity Queensland)

6. Encapsulated herbicide control of woody weeds

Project dates

January 2021- June 2025

Project team

Simon Brooks, Dannielle Brazier and Clare Warren

Project summary

Stem injection is an under-utilised tool for the control of woody shrubs and small trees. There is a new tool to deliver a granular encapsulated herbicide directly into woody stems. This method is safer to applicators as there is no need to mix with water or diesel as a carrier, or to have any contact with the herbicide. This method is also safer for the environment as the herbicide is contained in the target plant. As such, it may be suitable for use near water bodies and desirable vegetation.

A successful trial on rubber vine has concluded with several active ingredients (metsulfuron-methyl, metsulfuron + aminopyralid and picloram) found to be highly effective. After 18 months aminopyralid + metsulfuron, picloram and clopyralid stem-injected capsules controlled over 92% of leucaena plants. Encapsulated herbicide is also promising for the control of African tulip trees and pond apple. Trials on neem trees have also recently been established. Subject to trial results and research gaps, the project will continue to refine rates and investigate active ingredients suited to stem injection as either dry or liquid formulations. This project has also assisted a PhD candidate from the University of Queensland establish encapsulated herbicide trials on chinee apple.



Figure 8 Establishing encapsulated herbicide trials on neem tree



Figure 9 Site infested with neem trees



Figure 10 Pond apple trial setup



Figure 11 Pond apple trial assessment



Collaborators

- Vic Galea (University of Queensland and Bioherbicides Australia)
- Shane Campbell and Ciara O'Brien (University of Queensland)
- Matt Buckman (Hinchinbrook Shire Council)
- Chris Roach (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)
- David Green (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Melissa Hayes (Whitsunday Regional Council)

Key publications

Goulter, K.C. Galea V.J. & Riikonen, P. (2018). *Encapsulated dry herbicides: A novel approach for control of trees*. Proceedings of the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference 2018. Edited by Stephen Johnson, Leslie Weston, Hanwen Wu and Bruce Auld. pp. 247-250. (The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. Sydney).

McKenzie, J., Brazier D., Owen A., Vitelli J. & Mayer, B. (2010). *Stem injection: a control technique often overlooked for exotic woody weeds*. Proceedings of the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference, ed. S.M. Zydenbos, pp. 459-61. (New Zealand Plant Protection Society, Christchurch).

7. Biological control of Koster's curse (*Miconia crenata*)

Project dates

April 2020 – June 2023

Project team

Jason Callander and David Comben

Project summary

Miconia crenata (syn. *Clidemia hirta*; Koster's curse) is a fast growing weed of grazing, plantations, cropping and natural ecosystems in many countries across the world. When found in north Queensland, this weed was made a target of a national cost-share eradication program. As more infestations of the weed were discovered in Queensland, far outside the exclusion zone, eradication was deemed improbable, and the species was transitioned to "management". Currently two isolated populations exist, but if left uncontrolled, Koster's curse has the potential to spread south along the Queensland coast, as far as Hervey Bay. Prospects for biological control of Koster's curse are good, with a half a dozen agents historically tested and released in Hawai'i and two new prospective agents identified in Brazil in the last decade.

A biological control project was initiated with funding from the Australian Government. This project initially assessed *Liothrips urichi* Karny (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae), reported to be effective against the weed in numerous countries where it has been released and established. Detailed host specificity testing of the prospective agent, undertaken in the quarantine facility at Ecosciences Precinct, encountered off-target feeding and development

on a few native Melastomataceae species. The scope of host testing was reduced to focus on these native taxa and comprehensively assess the level of risk this prospective agent might pose. Data were applied to an Australian biological control risk model developed recently by Agriculture Victoria. The model indicated that although the thrips is highly unlikely to fully utilise any of the non-target plant species as hosts, there is a moderate risk of potential spill-over damage. While there are no published reports or field observations of off-target impacts by *Liothrips urichi* in its native or introduced ranges, further work on *Liothrips urichi* has been suspended. Future research will focus on *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* f. sp. *clidemiae* (leaf spot pathogen), *Allorhogas clidemiae* (fruit galling wasp) and *Mompha trithalama* (fruit feeding moth).

Collaborators

- Aradhana Deesh and Takala Talacakau (Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji)
- Tracy Johnson (USDA, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Hawaii)
- Local governments
- Barbara Waterhouse (Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy)
- Kim Erbacher and Kim Badcock (Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program, South Johnstone)
- Peter Green (Senior Biosecurity Officer, Cairns)
- Sid Clayton (Kuranda City Council, Kuranda)
- Garry Sankowsky (Cairns)

Key publications

Comben, D.F., Callander, J.T., Taylor, T. & Day, M.D. (2020). *Proposed plant host test list for assessing the risk of biological control agents for *Clidemia hirta* (L.) D.Don.* (submitted to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland, Australia.

8. Biological control of cactus species

Project dates

July 2021 – June 2023

Project team

Jason Callander and Zachary Shortland

Project summary

Invasive opuntoid cacti are found within most Australian states and territories, with a great potential for increased distribution from the regions where they are currently established. Chemical control can be effective for some species, but in some regions the costs of chemical control exceed the value of the land, highlighting the importance of finding



alternative novel, cost effective approaches to control invasive cacti in Australia. Biocontrol of some invasive cacti in Australia has been highly successful in many areas. However, for other species, no biocontrol agents have been deliberately released, and in most cases, differences in biotic and abiotic conditions influencing their efficacy have not been identified. This project seeks to 1) contribute to the reduction of impact and spread of invasive cacti in Queensland using host-specific and damaging biological control agents, 2) identify additional control options for landholders to make best use of biocontrol agents available to them for management of tree form cacti, and 3) maintain *Dactylopius* and *Cactoblastis* colonies to supply starter colonies of biocontrol agents to Biosecurity Officers and local governments as required.

Collaborators

- Jeffery Newton (Longreach Regional Council)
- Duncan Swan, Tex Hayward and Stephen Downey (Biosecurity Officers, BQ)
- Mark Oswald, Pest Management Officer (Mackay Regional Council)
- Matt Tucker, Ranger Sunshine Coast (Department of Environment and Science)
- Kirstin Beasley, Ranger (Department of Environment and Science)
- Lucas Mackie, Project Officer (Southern Queensland Landscapes)
- Andrew McConnachie (NSW Department of Primary Industries)
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Iain Paterson (Rhodes University, South Africa)
- Dr Helmuth Zimmermann, consultant (South Africa)

Key publications

Jones, P.K., **Day, M.D.**, McConnachie, A.J., Holtkamp, R.H., **Conroy, J.**, **Pidgeon, G.**, Clark, E., Clark, P., Fletcher, A. & Savage, M. (2023). The successful biological control of *Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *mamillata* (A. Schott ex Engelm.) Backeb. (Cactaceae) (coral or boxing glove cactus) at two field sites in Queensland, Australia, *Biological Control*, 182. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2023.105235>

van Steenderen, C.J.M., Paterson, I.D., Edwards, S. & **Day, M.D.** (2021). Addressing the red flags in cochineal identification: the use of molecular techniques to identify cochineal insects that are used as biological control agents for invasive alien cacti. *Biological Control*, 152. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2020.104426>

9. Weed management in the Pacific

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2023

Project team

Jason Callander, David Comben and Zachary Shortland

Project summary

Biosecurity Queensland is working in collaboration with, and with funding from, Landcare Research New Zealand Limited Manaaki Whenua to tackle invasive weed species of significance to Pacific Island countries and the State of Queensland. This explores options for biological control against weeds that have either not previously been targeted in Australia, or are novel targets globally. African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*) and Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) are two such species targeted by this project, both viewed as serious weeds in many Pacific Island countries, and are restricted weeds in Queensland. *Spathodea campanulata* has been successfully nominated as a candidate for biological control in Australia, while an application to nominate *Sphagneticola trilobata* as a candidate for biological control is being reviewed by the Environment and Invasives Committee. Two biological control agents have been tested for host specificity, and field released against *S. campanulata* in the Cook Islands. One of these prospective agents, a galling mite species *Colomerus spathodeae* (Eriophyidae), has been prioritised and imported into quarantine at the Ecosciences Precinct for host specificity testing. A collaborator in Mexico is currently undertaking native range exploration to seek potential agents for *S. trilobata*. To date, half a dozen insects and pathogens have been shortlisted for further investigation.

Collaborators

- Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research NZ Ltd
- Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Department of Environment and Biosecurity, Niue
- Ministry for Natural Resources, Republic of Marshall Islands
- Department of Environment, Tonga
- Ministry of Agriculture, Tonga
- Department of Agriculture, Tuvalu
- Biól. Ricardo Segura Ponce de León, contractor (Mexico)

Key publications

Comben, D.F. & Callander, J. (2022). Nomination of a candidate weed for biological control; *Sphagneticola trilobata* L. (Pruski) (Asteraceae). Technical Report (submitted to Environment and Invasives Committee). State of Queensland, Brisbane.

Comben, D.F., Callander, J., Day, M.D. & Pople, T. (2022). *Nomination of a candidate weed for biological control; Spathodea campanulata P. Beauv. (Bignoniaceae)*. Technical Report (submitted to Environment and Invasives Committee). State of Queensland, Brisbane.

10. Biological control of lantana

Project dates

April 2021 – June 2023



Project team

Jason Callander and Zachary Shortland

Project summary

Complexities in lantana varieties have hampered biocontrol efforts to date, demonstrating a need for matching of biocontrol agents to specific lantana varieties. Biosecurity Queensland is collaborating on a project “Weed genomics to improve Lantana biocontrol” that is funded by the Australian Government and led by NSW Royal Botanic Gardens. The project revealed that invasive lantana consists of several diverged sub-lineages, with limited gene flow among them (Lu-Irving *et al.* 2022). These findings provide a framework to re-evaluate previous attempts to classify the invasive *L. camara* complex, with about half of the populations of lantana in Australia identified as being from two sub-lineages, corresponding broadly with the “common pink” and the “common pink-edged red” varieties. This project also sought to add to the biological control toolbox against lantana. Two prospective agents are being pursued. The rust pathogen *Puccinia lantanae*, has been tested by CABI under contract from Biosecurity Queensland and an import release application has been prepared and submitted to Australian regulators. The second agent, the lantana gall fly *Eutreta xanthochaeta*, has been imported into quarantine and host specificity testing has commenced.

Collaborators

- CABI-UK
- Plant Protection Research Institute, South Africa
- Tracy Johnson (USDA, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Hawaii)
- NSW Royal Botanic Gardens
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Local governments in coastal and subcoastal Qld
- Seqwater
- University of Queensland

Key publications

Lu-Irving, P., Encinas-Viso, F., **Callander, J.**, **Day, M.D.** & Le Roux, J. (2022). *New insights from population genomics into the invasive Lantana camara L species complex*. Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide. pp. 45-47.

Lu-Irving, P., Encinas-Viso, F., **Callander, J.**, **Day, M.D.** & Le Roux, J. (2023). *Population genomics of invasive lantana: implications for improved biocontrol*, 4th International Congress on Biological Invasions, New Zealand, Christchurch, 3 May.

Thomas, S.E., Evans, H.C., Cortat, G., Koutsidou, C., **Day, M.D.** & Ellison, C.A. (2021). Assessment of the microcyclic rust *Puccinia lantanae* as a classical biological control agent

of the pantropical weed *Lantana camara*. *Biological control: theory and applications in pest management* 160:104688

11. Biological control of parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*)

Project dates

January 2007 - June 2024

Project team

K. Dhileepan and Boyang Shi

Project summary

Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.), a noxious weed of grazing areas in Queensland, is a Weed of National Significance in Australia. Parthenium also causes severe human and animal health problems. Eleven biological control agents (nine insects and two rust pathogens) have been released against parthenium in Australia. Most of these agents have become established and have proven effective against the weed in central Queensland (CQ). Parthenium is spreading into south Queensland (SQ) and southeast Queensland (SEQ), where many of the widespread and effective biological control agents in CQ are not present. Hence, the seed-feeding weevil (*Smicronyx lutulentus*), the stem-boring weevil (*Listronotus setosipennis*), the root-boring moth (*Carmenta ithacae*), the summer rust (*Puccinia xanthii* var. *parthenii-hysterophorae*) and the winter rust (*Puccinia abrupta* var. *parthenicola*) have been redistributed from CQ into SQ and SEQ. Monitoring the establishment and spread of parthenium biological control agents is continuing.

Collaborators

- Chris Hoffmann and Steven Moore (Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Gatton)
- Lachlan Grundon (Balonne Shire Council, St George)
- Melinda Clarke (Burnett Catchment Care Association, Monto)
- Prof Steve Adkins (University of Queensland, Gatton)
- Dr Asad Shabbir (NSW Department of Primary Industries)
- Ken Woodall (RAPID Workforce, Mitchell)
- Tom Garrett and Holly Hosie (Southern Queensland NRM)
- Ross Bigwood and Bruce Lord (Healthy Land and Water)
- Pat Ryan (Junction View Pest Management Group)
- Glen Proctor, Jenny Voigt, Neale Jensen and John Pieters (North Burnett Regional Council)



- Eric Dyke (Bundaberg Regional Council)

Key publications

Dhileepan, K. (2009). Managing *Parthenium hysterophorus* across landscapes: limitations and prospects, pp. 227-260. In: *Management of Invasive Weeds* (ed. Inderjit, S.), Invading Nature – Springer Series in Invasion Ecology Vol. 5, Springer Science.

Dhileepan, K. & Strathie, L. (2009). 20. *Parthenium hysterophorus*. pp. 272-316. In: *Weed Biological Control with Arthropods in the Tropics: Towards Sustainability* (eds. Muniappan, R., Reddy, D.V.P. & Raman, A), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Dhileepan, K. & McFadyen, R.E. (2012). *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. – *parthenium*, pp. 448-462. In: *Biological control of weeds in Australia: 1960 to 2010* (Eds. M. Julien, R.E. McFadyen & J. Cullen), CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

Dhileepan K., Callander J., Shi, B. & Osunkoya, O.O. (2018). Biological control of parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*): the Australian experience. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* 28(10):970–988.

12. Biological control of cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

Project dates

January 2007 - June 2024

Project team

K. Dhileepan, Di Taylor, Boyang Shi and Md Mahbubur Rahman

Project summary

Cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) is a Weed of National Significance in Australia. Biocontrol is considered the most desirable option to manage the weed. So far, a leaf-sucking tingid (*Carvalhotingis visenda*), a leaf-tying moth (*Hypocosmia pyrochroma*) and a leaf-mining beetle (*Hedwigiella jureceki*) have been released in the field. The tingid has become established widely and is causing visible damage in the field. Field establishment of the leaf-tying moth has been noticed only in a few of the release sites and it is spreading very slowly. The leaf-mining beetle has established well in all release sites and is spreading widely. Since cat's claw creeper is a perennial vine with abundant subterranean tuber reserves, additional agents are needed to complement the existing agents. Surveys in Brazil and Paraguay have identified three fungal pathogens as prospective biocontrol agents: a leaf-spot pathogen *Neoramulariopsis unguis-cati* (Speg.) Raghv. Singh & Kushwaha (syn: *Cercospora unguis-cati* Speg.), a galling rust (*Uropyxis rickiana*) and a leaf-rust (*Prospodium macfadyenae*). The *N. unguis-cati* leaf-spot is already present in South Africa where it is causing widespread defoliation of cat's claw creeper. Preliminary research into the biology and infection parameters of the leaf-spot pathogen and the galling rust has been completed. Based on the results, the leaf-spot pathogen was prioritized for detailed host-

range testing which has been completed by CABI (UK). Host-range testing of 35 non-target species showed that the leaf-spot pathogen exhibits a high level of host specificity, sporulating only on cat's claw creeper, its natural host. An application seeking approval for release of this agent will be submitted to the Australian regulatory authorities. Full host-specificity assessment of the galling rust will be pursued in the future.



Figure 12 Leaf-spot on cat's claw creeper at CABI in the UK

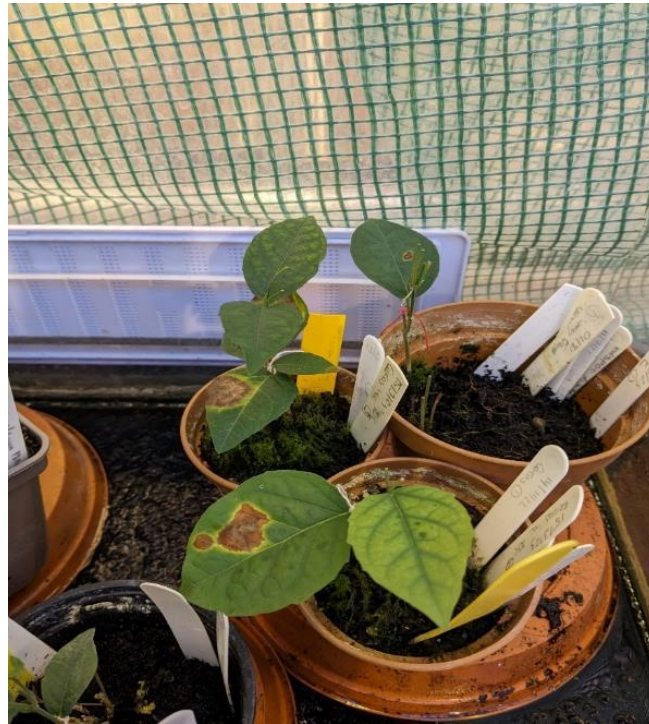


Figure 13 Leaf spot on cat's claw creeper at CABI in the UK



Figure 14 Leaf spot on cat's claw creeper plants ex-Paraguay



Collaborators

- Seqwater
- Marion Seier and Kate Pollard (CABI, UK)
- Anthony King (Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa)
- Robert Barreto (Universidade Federal de Viscosa, Brazil)
- Adans Colman (National University of Asunción, Paraguay)
- Anibal Carvalho (Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- Kevin Jackson (Gympie, Qld)
- Melinda Clarke (Burnett Catchment Care Association, Monto)
- NSW biocontrol taskforce

Key publications

Colmán, A.A., Pollard, K.M., Seier, M.K., & Barreto, R.W. (2020). *Cercospora unguis-cati*, the causal agent of the leaf spot of *Dolichandra unguis-cati*, reported from Paraguay. *New Disease Reports* 42(1), 18-18.

Dhileepan, K. (2012). *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (L.) A.H. Gentry - cat's claw creeper, pp. 351-359. In: *Biological control of weeds in Australia: 1960 to 2010* (Eds. M. Julien, R.E. McFadyen & J. Cullen), CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

Dhileepan, K., Taylor, D., Treviño, M. & Lockett, C. (2013). Cat's claw creeper leaf-mining beetle *Hylaeogena jureceki* Obenberger (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), a host specific biological control agent for *Dolichandra unguis-cati* (Bignoniaceae). *Australian Journal of Entomology* 52: 175-181.

Dhileepan, K., Snow, E., Shi, B., Gray, B., Jackson, K. & Senaratne, K.A.D.W. (2021). Establishment of the biological control agent *Hypocosmia pyrochroma* for *Dolichandra unguis-cati* (Bignoniaceae) is limited by microclimate. *Journal of Applied Entomology* 145(9):890-899.

13. Biological control of bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)

Project dates

January 2007 - June 2024

Project team

K. Dhileepan, Di Taylor and Md Mahbubur Rahman

Project summary

Bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*), a Weed of National Significance, is a serious weed of rangelands and riparian zones in northern Australia. Bellyache bush has been a target for biological control since 1997 with limited success to date. A leaf rust (*Phakopsora jatrophiicola*) from Trinidad, a leaf-miner (*Stomphastis thraustica*) from Peru and a gall midge (*Prodiplosis hirsutus*) from Paraguay have been identified as prospective biological control agents. Host specificity tests for the leaf rust and the leaf-miner have been completed. Approval to release the leaf-miner was received in October 2022, and field releases commenced in October 2022 in partnership with local governments and NRM groups. So far 31 field releases, totally more than 14,000 individuals, have been made across 22 sites covering central, north, and northwest Queensland.

A release application for the leaf rust is being prepared. Preliminary host specificity tests for the gall midge (*P. hirsutus*) confirmed that the midge has a restricted host range, limited to a few closely-related *Jatropha* species that are not present in Australia. There are no *Jatropha* species native to Australia. Future research will focus on either continuing the host specificity testing at FuEDEI (Fundación Para El Estudio De Especies Invasivas) in Buenos Aires, Argentina or importing the gall midge from Paraguay into the quarantine facility in Brisbane for detailed host specificity testing.



Figure 15 Di Taylor releasing *Stomphastis* with a local government pest officer

Collaborators

- Marion Seier and Kate Pollard (CABI, UK)
- Guillermo Cabrera Walsh, Marina Oleiro and Carolina Mengoni (Fundación Para El Estudio De Especies Invasivas, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Peter Kolesik (South Australian Museum, Adelaide)
- Kumaran Nagalingam (CSIRO, Brisbane)
- Jurate De Prins (Royal Museum of Central Africa, Belgium)
- Geoff Penton and Charles Curry (Southern Gulf NRM, Mt Isa)
- Jo Menneke (Charters Towers Regional Council)
- John Fisher (Barcaldine Regional Council)
- Susan Waters (Central Highlands Regional Council, Springsure).



- Melissa Hayes (Whitsunday Regional Council, Proserpine)
- Megan Davies (Burdekin Regional Council)
- Russell Jack (Department of Resources, Townsville)
- Geoff Swan (Biosecurity Queensland, Emerald)
- Bradley Drinkwater (Townsville City Council)
- Graham Wienert (Mareeba Regional Council)
- Loukas Elgey (Ethridge Regional Council)

Key publications

Dhileepan, K., Nesar, S. & De Prins, J. (2014). Biological control of bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*) in Australia: South America as a possible source of natural enemies, pp. 5–10. In: Impson F.A.C., Kleinjan, C.A. & Hoffmann, J.H. (eds), *Proceedings of the XIV International Symposium on Biological Control of Weed*, Kruger National Park, South Africa, 2-7 March 2014.

Heard, T.A., **Dhileepan, K.**, Bebawi, F., Bell, K. & Segura, R. (2012). *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. – bellyache bush, pp. 324–333. In: *Biological control of weeds in Australia: 1960 to 2010* (Eds. M. Julien, R.E. McFadyen & J. Cullen), CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

Kolesik, P., Kumaran, N., Oleiro, M., Gonalons, C.M., Brookes, D., Walsh, G.C. & **Dhileepan K.** (2022). *Prodiplosis hirsuta*, a new species of gall midge (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) feeding on shoot tips of *Jatropha* (Euphorbiaceae) in South America. *Austral Entomology* 61(1): 37–48.

14. Biological control of Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*)

Project dates

January 2007 - June 2024

Project team

K. Dhileepan, Di Taylor, Boyang Shi and Md Mahbubur Rahman

Project summary

Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) is an extremely aggressive perennial sedge affecting the beef and dairy industries in the Queensland wet tropics. The sedge is unpalatable, and can form dense stands, replacing palatable tropical pasture species. Current management options are mechanical and chemical, which are expensive and offer only short-term relief. Biocontrol is the most cost effective and long-term management option. Navua sedge has been approved as a target for biocontrol in Australia, and a list of test plants for host specificity testing was compiled. Surveys in Africa identified a smut fungus (*Cintractia kyllingae*) attacking flower heads and seeds in Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria, a rust fungus (*Uredo kyllingae-erectae*) attacking leaves and stems in Nigeria, Tanzania and Madagascar, and potentially an as yet undescribed new species attacking leaves and stems in Madagascar as promising biological control agents. These pathogens have been exported to



CABI-UK. Research on the biology and host specificity of the flower smut pathogen from Tanzania and the rust pathogen and the new species from Madagascar are in progress in quarantine in CABI-UK.

No native pathogens have been identified as prospective mycoherbicides in Australia. Evaluation of various herbicides for the management of *Navua* sedge in the glasshouse and field by the Federation University of Australia is in progress. Student research projects in collaboration with universities in Australia are in progress to fill research gaps in the biology, ecology, and management of *Navua* sedge.



Figure 16 Rust infection in Navua sedge in Madagascar



Figure 17 Navua sedge researchers in Madagascar

Collaborators

- Prof Roger Shivas (University of Southern Queensland)
- Dr Marion Seier and Dr Daisuke Kurose (CABI-UK)
- Prof Florentine Singarayer, Dr Aakansha Chadha and Bhagya Ranasinghe Hathamune Gamage (Federation University, Ballarat)
- Dr Yu Pei Tan (Queensland Plant Pathology Herbarium)
- Melissa Setter and Stephen Setter (CWTA, South Johnston)
- Dr Shane Campbell (University of Queensland, Gatton, Qld)
- Dr Mutuku Musili and Frederick Munyao Mutie (East African Herbarium, Kenya)
- Dr John Elia Ntandu (National Herbarium of Tanzania)
- Emmanuel. C. Chukwuma (Forest Research Institute, Ibadan, Nigeria)
- Ocholi T Edogbanya (Kogi State University, Anyigba, Nigeria).
- Dr Isabel Larridon (Kew gardens, UK)
- Dr Julia Kruse (Natural History Museum, Germany)
- Dr James Hereward (University of Queensland, St Lucia)
- Dr Emilie Fillols (Sugar Research Australia, Gordonvale)
- Rajaonera Tahina Ernest (University of Antananarivo, Madagascar)



- Bernie English (Agri-Science Queensland, Mareeba)
- Rob Pagano (Beef grazier, Tarazali)
- John McKenna (Beef grazier, Malanda)
- Lawrence Di Bella and Richard Hobs, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (Ingham)
- Lance Rodman (sugarcane farmer, Gordonvale)
- Sydes Travis (Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Cairns)
- Malanda Beef Plan Group (Malanda)
- Tablelands Regional Council (Atherton)
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Innisfail)
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council (Ingham)
- Darryn Higgins (Cook Shire Council)
- Michael Zitha (Biosecurity Queensland, Thursday Island)

Key publications

Chadha, A., Florentine, S.K., **Dhileepan, K.**, Turville, C. & Dowling, K. (2022). Efficacy of halosulfuron-methyl in the management of Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*): differential responses of plants with and without established rhizomes. *Weed Technology* 36(3):397–402.

Chadha, A., **Osunkoya, O.O.**, **Shi, B.**, Florentine, S.K. & **Dhileepan, K.** (2022). Soil seed bank dynamics of pastures invaded by Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) in tropical north Queensland. *Frontiers in Agronomy*, May 2022, doi:10.3389/fagro.2022.897417.

Dhileepan, K., Musili, P.M., Ntandu, J.E., Chukwuma, E., Kurose, D., Seier, M.K., Ellison, C.A. & Shivas, R.G. (2022). Fungal pathogens of Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) in equatorial Africa as prospective weed biological control agents. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* 32(1):114–120.

Shi, B., **Osunkoya, O.O.**, Chadha, A., Florentine, S.K. & **Dhileepan, K.** (2021). Biology, Ecology and Management of Invasive Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) – A Global Review. *Plants* 10(9), 1851, doi.org/10.3390/plants10091851.

15. Biological control of prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica* ssp. *indica*)

Project dates

January 2007 - June 2025

Project team

K. Dhileepan, Boyang Shi, Md Mahbubur Rahman and Di Taylor

Project summary

Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica* subsp. *indica*) is a Weed of National Significance and a target for biological control, albeit with limited success to date. Native range surveys for prospective biological control agents were conducted in Ethiopia and Senegal based on plant phenotype and climate matching. During the native range surveys, priority was given to gall-inducing agents, in view of their host specificity. Based on field host range, geographic range and damage potential, a gall thrips (*Acaciothrips ebneri*) inducing shoot-tip rosette galls, a gall mite (*Aceria* sp.) deforming leaflets, rachides, and shoot-tips in Ethiopia, and a gall fly (*Notomma mutilum*) inducing stem-galls in Senegal were prioritised for further studies. The gall thrips from Ethiopia and the gall fly from Senegal were imported into quarantine in Brisbane. Host specificity tests for gall thrips have been completed and an application seeking approval to release the gall thrips in Australia was submitted. The gall thrips was approved for field release in November 2022 and field releases commenced in January 2023 in partnership with NRM groups and local government agencies. To date, field releases have been made in 24 sites covering coastal, central highlands and western inland regions in Queensland. For the gall fly, in view of the potential non-target risk, no-choice and choice tests were discontinued. Host specificity testing of the gall mite has been delayed due to difficulties with importing the gall mite from Ethiopia. Host specificity testing of the gall mite will commence when it is safer to conduct field visits to Ethiopia to collect and import the gall mites.

Collaborators

- Anthony King, (Agricultural Research Council - Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa)
- Nathalie Diagne (Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research, Centre National de Recherches Agronomique, Bambey, Senegal)
- Mindaye Teshome (Forestry Research Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- James Hereward (School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia).
- Geoff Penton and Charles Curry (Southern Gulf NRM, Mt Isa)
- Susan Walters (Central Highlands Regional Council, Springsure)
- Melissa Hays (Whitsundays Regional Council, Proserpine)
- Brooke Payne (Burdekin Regional Council, Ayr)
- Simon Wiggins and Doug Allpass (Desert Channels Group)
- David Lawrence (Rockhampton Regional Council, Rockhampton)
- Andries van Jaarsveld (Isaac Regional Council, Moranbah)
- Geoffrey Swan (Biosecurity Queensland, Emerald)
- Winton Shire Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- McKinlay Shire Council
- Flinders Shire Council



Figure 18 Dr Boyang Shi releasing Acaciothrips onto prickly acacia



Figure 19 Dr Boyang Shi and Acaciothrips galls established on prickly acacia

Key publications

Dhileepan, K. (2009). 2. *Acacia nilotica* ssp. *indica*. pp. 17-37. In: *Weed Biological Control with Arthropods in the Tropics: Towards Sustainability* (eds. Muniappan, R., Reddy, D.V.P. & Raman, A.), Cambridge University Press, UK.

Dhileepan, K., Shi, B., Callander, J., Taylor, D., Teshome, M., Nesar, S., Diagne N. & King, A. (2019). Biological control of prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica* subsp. *indica*): New gall-inducing agents from Africa. In: H.I. Hinz et al. (eds.), *XV International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds*, Engelberg, Switzerland, pp. 13-19, 26-31 August 2018. <https://www.ibiocontrol.org/proceedings/>

16. Biological control and ecology of chinese apple (*Ziziphus mauritiana*)

Project dates

July 2021- June 2025

Project team

Olusegun Osunkoya, Kunjithapatham Dhileepan, Di Taylor, Boyang Shi and Christine Perrett

Project summary

Ziziphus mauritiana Lamarck (Rhamnaceae), commonly known as Indian jujube or Chinese apple is a major pasture and environmental weed in northern Australia, where its impenetrable thickets hinder stock and affect pasture production. Current management options are mechanical and chemical control which are expensive. Despite its long-term presence (since 1880) in Queensland, little information is available on the extent of its distribution or on economic loss and environmental impacts it causes. Prospects for its management using biological control are also lacking. This project addresses these knowledge gaps. The research focus is on (i) the assessment of the current/potential spread, (ii) economic loss, (iii) ecological changes (below and above ground) induced by the weed, (iv) genetic diversity and introduction history in Australia, as well as (v) developing computer simulation models to gauge efficacy of prospective biocontrol agents (using Climex) and spread potential including range shifts (using MaxEnt) of the weed in view of climate change. Currently surveys for insects and pathogens associated with *Z. mauritiana* are in progress in Pakistan, in collaboration with the University of Punjab, Lahore. So far, 23 phytophagous insects and five pathogens have been collected on *Z. mauritiana* in Pakistan. Many of the agents are yet to be identified. Further native range research will be pursued if adequate funding is sourced.

Collaborators

- Wayne Vogler and Kelli Pukallus (Tropical Weeds Research Centre, Charters Towers)



- Bradley Gray and Moya Calvert (Prevention & Preparedness, Biosecurity Queensland)
- Scott Hardy (Whitsundays Regional Council)
- NQ Dry Tropics NRM
- Roger Shivas (University of Southern Queensland)
- Shane Campbell (The University of Queensland, Gatton)
- Asad Shabbir (Department of Primary Industries, NSW, Orange)
- Mubarak Ali (University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan)
- Md Mahbubur Rahman (Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh)
- Peter Trotter (Aspect Imaging, Sunshine Coast, Qld)
- Nanjappa Aswath and Naina Islam (Institute for Future Farming Systems, Centre for Intelligent Systems, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton Qld)

Key publications

Bebawi F.F., Campbell S.D. & Mayer R.J. (2016). Seed bank persistence and germination of Chinese apple (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam.). *Rangeland Journal*, 38, 17–25.

Dhileepan, K. (2017). "Biological control of *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Rhamnaceae): feasibility, prospective agents and research gaps." *Annals of Applied Biology* 170(3): 287-300.

Grice A.C. (1996). Seed production, dispersal and germination in *Cryptostegia grandiflora* and *Ziziphus mauritiana*, two invasive shrubs in tropical woodlands of northern Australia. *Australian Journal of Ecology*, 21, 324–331.

Grice A.C. (2002). The Biology of Australian Weeds. 39. *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. *Plant Protection Quarterly*, 17, 2–11.

17. Impact and management of Navua sedge

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2025

Project team

Olusegun Osunkoya, Christine Perrett, Kunjithapatham Dhileepan and Boyang Shi

Project summary

There are few quantitative data on the ecology and economic cost of Navua sedge. In far north Queensland, numerous grazing and cropping (mainly sugar cane) sites that are infested with Navua sedge have been identified, and we have established research plots on many of them. Within these experimental plots, we continue to carry out surveys, identify high, medium and low infestation subplots, quantify pasture diversity, soil seed bank composition and soil chemistry. In 2022-2023 within the identified infestation plots, we

imposed various herbicide treatments, and are again surveying the plots to quantify changes in above-ground abundance of desirable pasture plants, pasture yield loss/gain, soil seed bank composition, and soil chemistry. Due to low stakeholder response rate in previous years, we again contacted cropping farmers and graziers to estimate their economic losses. These stakeholders ranged from coastal to inland and highland areas and spanned a wide range of environments from Townsville to Cape Tribulation. We are also trialling drone imagery and artificial intelligence to automate identification of *Navua* sedge and its growth stages, especially in grazing and sugar cane farms.



Figure 20 Drone surveying a Navua sedge infestation in a grazing land in Malanda, Far North Queensland undergoing herbicide trials.

Collaborators

- Prof. Florentine Singarayer (Federation University, Ballarat Victoria)
- Melissa Setter and Stephen Setter (Tropical Weeds Research Centre, South Johnstone)
- Shane Campbell, Steve Adkins and Abhishek Soni (The University of Queensland, Gatton)
- Mutuku Musili and Frederick Munyao Mutie (East African Herbarium, Kenya)
- Bernie English (Agri-Science Queensland, Mareeba)



- Sydes Travis (Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Cairns)
- Malanda Beef Plan Group (Malanda)
- Tablelands Regional Council (Atherton)
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Innisfail)
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council (Ingham)
- Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (Ingham)
- Marcus Bulstrode (Sustainable Farming Systems Agri-Science Queensland, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, South Johnstone Qld)

Key publications

Chadha, A., **Osunkoya, O.O.**, **Shi B.**, Florentine, S.K. & **Dhileepan, K.** (2022). Soil Seed Bank Dynamics of Pastures Invaded by Navua Sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) in Tropical North Queensland. *Frontiers in Agronomy*. 4:897417. doi: 10.3389/fagro.2022.897417

Shi, B., **Osunkoya, O.O.**, Chadha, A., Florentine, S.K. & **Dhileepan, K.** (2021). Biology, Ecology and Management of the Invasive Navua Sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*)—A Global Review. *Plants* 10, 1–16. doi: 10.3390/plants1009185

Shi, B., **Osunkoya, O.O.**, Soni, A., Campbell, S. & **Dhileepan, K.** (2023). Growth of the invasive Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) under competitive interaction with pasture species and simulated grazing conditions: Implication for management. *Ecological Research*, 38(2), 331-346. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1440-1703.12369>

Vitelli, J. S., Madigan, B.A. & van Haaren, P.E. (2010). Control techniques and management strategies for the problematic Navua sedge (*Cyperus aromaticus*) (2010). *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, v.3, p.315- 326

18. Risk assessment for new and emerging weeds

Project dates

July 2021 - June 2024

Project team

Olusegun Osunkoya and Christine Perrett

Project summary

Local government (LG) pest officers and other on-the-ground pest managers are often the best source of information on emerging and recently arrived invasive alien species, some of which may be undergoing significant changes in abundance and distribution in a given landscape. Hence it is important to interact with these groups and other stakeholders to capture information on local spread and changing abundance of many pest plants (both established pests and new incursions). Reporting and collating these data enables proactive management, especially of the new pests. Our aims in this project are to (i) assess the risk of

more than 200 emerging (horizon) weed species using the grey and published literature and field experience of LG pest officers and other land managers; (ii) evaluate the drivers of invasiveness for these horizon weeds, including the influences of biotic (e.g. species traits) and abiotic characteristics (e.g. invasion pathways [nursery, internet mail], climate change, global native vs invaded ranges, and propagule pressure [including trade]), and (iii) rank the emerging species for feasible management actions such as population suppression or even eradication given their stage of invasion. Since the inception of the project, more than 100 horizon weeds have been assessed, and this exercise is ongoing.

Collaborators

- Moya Calvert and Brad Gray (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Josh Dyke (Local Government Association of Queensland)
- Queensland Herbarium
- All Queensland local governments
- NRM groups
- Jens Froese and Sam Nicol (CSIRO Brisbane)
- DAF Biosecurity Officers
- Jamie Camac (Centre for Biosecurity Risk Analysis Group, University of Melbourne, Victoria)
- Farzin Shabani (Qatar University, Qatar)

Key publications

Osunkoya, O.O., Froese, J.G., Nicol, S., **Perrett, C.**, Moore, K., **Callander, J.** & Campbell S. (2019a). A risk-based inventory of invasive plant species of Queensland, Australia: Regional, ecological and floristic insights. *Austral Ecology* 44, 1123-38.

Osunkoya, O.O., Froese, J.G. & Nicol, S. (2019b). Management feasibility of established invasive plant species in Queensland, Australia: a stakeholders' perspective. *Journal of Environmental Management* 246, 484–495.

Osunkoya, O.O., Lock, C.B., **Dhileepan, K.** & Buru, J.C. (2021). Lag times and invasion dynamics of established and emerging weeds: insights from herbarium records of Queensland, Australia. *Biological Invasions*, 23 (11), 3383- 3408.

Osunkoya, O.O., **Perrett, C.**, **Calvert, M.** & **Csurhes, S.** (2022). Horizon scan for incoming weeds into Queensland, Australia. *Proceedings, 22nd conference of the Australasian Weeds Society*, Adelaide, South Australia, 9: 67-70.

19. Real-time, drone-based weed identification for improved pasture management

Project dates

July 2022 - June 2024

Project team

Olusegun Osunkoya, Kunjithapatham Dhileepan and Boyang Shi

Project summary

In any landscape, one key challenge prior to weed control is weed identification. Drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) have been used for object identification however real time object identification in managed and natural systems is limited to a handful of cases. This project will develop the hardware and software required to facilitate the real time detection of weeds, a first step in the real time spraying of weeds or delivery of biocontrol agents. This project focuses on researching and trialling real time object identification by working initially on autonomously identifying parthenium (a Weed of National Significance) using drones and artificial intelligence. Once perfected, the ultimate goal is to extend the technique, to other weeds of importance in Queensland. We have carried out trials on chinee apple and Navua sedge and had some successes with both weeds. Thus, our results will have broader application for real time identification of an object from a drone including identifying animal pests. Our work and results will also have economic benefits for the mapping and hence management of other high priority weeds (e.g. lantana, cat's claw creeper, Chilean needle grass, gorse, mesquite and gamba grass).

Collaborators

- Peter Trotter (Aspect Imaging, Sunshine Coast, Queensland)
- Felipe Gonzalez (Centre for Robotic Engineering, Queensland University of Technology)
- Biosecurity Officers
- Local government pest officers
- Nanjappa Aswath and Naina Islam (Institute for Future Farming Systems, Centre for Intelligent Systems, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton QLD)
- Marcus Bulstrode (Sustainable Farming Systems Agri-Science Queensland, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, South Johnstone Qld)

Key publications

Costello, B., **Osunkoya, O.O.**, Sandino, J., Marinic, W., Trotter P., **Shi B.**, Gonzalez F. & **Dhileepan, K.** (2022). Detection of parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.) and its growth stages using artificial intelligence. *Agriculture*, 12, 1838. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture12111838>

Islam, N., Rashid, M.M., Pasandideh, F., Ray, B., Moore. S. & Kadel, R. (2021). A review of applications and communication technologies for internet of things (IoT) and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) based sustainable smart farming. *Sustainability*, 13, 1821. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13041821>

Lambert, J.P.T., Hicks, H.L., Childs, D.Z. & Freckleton, R.P. (2018). Evaluating the potential of unmanned aerial systems for mapping weeds at field scales: a case study with *Alopecurus myosuroides*. *Weed Research* 58 35–45.



Figure 21 Drone surveying a chinee apple infestation (in the background) on a grazing property in Bowen, Central Queensland

20. Weed biological control agent rear and release

Project dates

July 2019 – July 2024

Project team

Kelli Pukallus and Mary Butler

Project summary

This project mass rears biological control agents for releases in northern Queensland for the control of tropical weeds. Sites where agents are released are monitored to determine establishment and spread.

Australia's first biological control agent for Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*), the stem-galling fly (*Cecidochares connexa*), was approved for release in late 2018. Mass-rearing and release commenced in late 2019 at the Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers. Adult flies or galled stems have been released within nine Queensland local government areas (LGAs) to date. Galls have been detected at and spreading from release sites in all LGAs, with significant impact on flowering in some regions this season. Biosecurity Queensland is also working with the Northern Territory Government to assist with their *C. connexa* release program. In addition to releases, pre- and post-establishment damage assessments have been conducted at various northern Queensland sites over a four-year period and fungal pathogens and insects associated with *Chromolaena odorata* within Australia are being catalogued.

The monitoring of establishment, spread and impact of previously released biological control agents is important to determine when releases can cease, the need for other agents or control methods and to evaluate the biological control program's benefit. Yearly and monthly surveys are conducted on a variety of weeds and collections of associated agents and other natural enemies (arthropods and pathogens) are compiled. Greater spread of previously released agents is also achieved through collection and redistribution of agents for invasive weed species such as parthenium and lantana to landholders and local governments.



Figure 22 Galls of *Cecidochares connexa* on *Chromolaena*



Figure 23 Mary Butler releasing insects onto Chromolaena odorata

Collaborators

- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Townsville City Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Douglas Shire Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Queensland Department of Environment and Science
- NQ Dry Tropics



- Bush Heritage Australia
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Queensland Department Resources
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Northern Territory Government - Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Defence Australia
- Ergon Energy
- Queensland Corrective Services, Townsville
- Burdekin Shire Council
- Central Highlands Regional Council
- Isaac Regional Council
- Cairns Regional Council
- NQ Plantations
- Mareeba Shire Council
- Plant Biosecurity Laboratories – Biosecurity Queensland

Key publications

Pukallus, K., Kronk, A. & Franklin, M. (2022). *First release and establishment of the biological control agent Cecidochares connexa for the management of Chromolaena odorata (L.) R.M. King & H. Rob (chromolaena) in Australia.* In: Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide, South Australia. pp. 238-241.

21. Biological control compendium

Project dates

July 2022 – July 2024

Project team

Kelli Pukallus

Project summary

The project is creating a readily available, easy-to-read record of biological control agents released in Queensland for the management of weeds. Each compendium record will include information about the agent's biology, agent locations and release procedure shared on open digital platforms. This information is important as once an agent release program is complete the Invasive Plants and Animals program does not maintain colonies of agents to supply the general public. The compendium will enable land managers, local government officers and the general public to collect and redistribute the agents they require to increase agent numbers and impact.



The compendium will be updated over time and will also include links to fact sheets on agents.

22. Biological control of parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) with *Eueupithecia vollonoides* (UU2)

Project dates

February 2020 – July 2023

Project team

Kelli Pukallus, Mary Butler and Kirsty Gough

Project summary

Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) is a woody invasive weed found throughout northern Australia. Previous biological control projects involved mass-rearing of UU (*Eueupithecia cisplatensis*) in large numbers at Tropical Weeds Research Centre to be released within Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

This project continued and expanded the mass-rearing and release of a second biological control agent for parkinsonia, UU2 (*Eueupithecia vollonoides*), throughout northern Australia. The project aimed to establish UU2 where it had not previously been released or established. At least 222,000 pupae were released at 75 sites within Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. The project also assisted with studies on monitoring and pheromone trapping of *Eueupithecia* species within several locations across northern Queensland.

This project was conducted with funding from MLA and CSIRO.

Collaborators

- CSIRO (Brisbane)
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Mount Isa City Council
- Central Highlands Regional Council
- Flinders Shire Council
- Richmond Shire Council
- Cloncurry Shire Council
- Isaac Regional Council
- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Barcoo Shire Council
- Livingstone Regional Council



- Longreach Regional Council
- Mount Isa Water Board
- Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
- Malak Malak Lands Trust
- Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association
- Biosecurity Officers
- Fitzroy Basin Association
- McKinlay Shire Council

Key publications

Murray, C., Walter, G. & Rafter, M. (2022). *Pheromone trapping for monitoring the establishment and spread of Eueupithecia cisplatensis and E. vollonoides, biological control agents for Parkinsonia aculeata*. In: Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide, South Australia, p237.

Rafter, M. A., Pukallus, K., Wenting, S., Walter, G. H. & White, A. (2022). *Parkinsonia biological control: Establishment, spread and impact of UU1 and UU2 across northern Australia*. In: Proceedings of the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference. Eds. Brodie, C., Emms, J., Feuerherdt, L., Ivory, S., Melland, R., Potter, S., Weed Management Society of South Australia Inc., Adelaide, South Australia, p236.

Rafter, M., McKay, F., Parisi, M., Sosa, A., Heard, T., White, A., Fichera, G., Brookes, D., Nagalingam, K., Kaye, L. & Sathyamurthy, R. (2022). Biology, host specificity and DNA barcoding of cryptic *Eueupithecia* species (Lepidoptera: Geometridae), and implications for biological control of *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Fabaceae) in Australia. *Austral Entomology*, 61(1):8.

23. Sicklepod ecology and control

Project dates

January 2016 – June 2027

Project team

Melissa Setter and Stephen Setter

Project summary

Sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*) is a serious weed of northern Queensland from Cape York to Mackay. It occurs in pastures, crops, and corridors such as road and powerline clearings and creek and riverbanks. This project aims to determine the longevity and production of sicklepod seed, including the seasonality of seed production. Seeds are persisting for at least 48 months after burial, with testing continuing.

The project is also investigating the use of pre-emergent herbicides to suppress seedlings in strategic areas and the potential for the use of low-volume, high-concentration herbicides. The efficacy of sixteen different herbicides for suppressing seedling emergence and establishment was tested in pots with herbicides containing picloram, including Conqueror[®], Grazon Extra[®], Stuka flexi[®], Tordon 75-D[®] and Tordon Regrowth Master[®] found to be effective.

The effective herbicides from the pot trial were tested in field conditions in the dry topics of north Queensland at the Morehead and West Normanby Rivers and Oaky Creek near Cooktown. The most effective and suitable herbicides were Conqueror[®], Grazon Extra[®], and Tordon 75-D[®], all of which contain picloram. A demonstration site has been established in conjunction with Cook Shire Council, to showcase the effectiveness of these herbicides.

Following the success of the pre-emergent herbicides in the dry areas of north Queensland, they are now being tested in wetter tropical areas, including Mossman, Innisfail, Ingham, and Mackay. The use of low-volume, high-concentration herbicide control options are yet to be tested.

Collaborators

- DAF Biosecurity Officers
- Local governments in northern Queensland (e.g. Cook Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Mackay Regional Council)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Landowners and pastoralists
- Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Inc.

Key publications

Dunlop, E. A. (2007). Mapping and modelling the invasion dynamics of *Senna obtusifolia* at different levels of scale in Australia. PhD thesis, Queensland University of Technology.

Mackey, A.P., Miller, E.N. & Palmer, W.A. (1997). Sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*) in Queensland, Pest Status Review Series – Land Protection, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Qld.

Neldner, V.J., Fensham, R.J., Clarkson, J.R. & Stanton, J.P. (1997). The natural grasslands of Cape York Peninsula. Description, distribution and conservation status. *Biological Conservation* 81: 121-136.

Setter, M.J., Setter, S.D., Higgins, D. & Vogler, W. (2019). Controlling weed recruitment in isolated areas of Cape York Peninsula, Proceedings of the 1st Queensland Pest Animal and Weed Symposium, Ed. T. Sydes, (Weed Society of Queensland Pty. Ltd.), Gold Coast, May 2019. (Oral Presentation)

24. Efficacy of foliar herbicides on Aleman grass (*Echinochloa polystachya*) and Nemo wetting agent for broad application in aquatic systems

Project dates

January 2020 – June 2023

Project team

Melissa Setter, Stephen Setter and Clare Warren

Project summary

Aleman grass is a deliberately introduced, promoted and planted ponded pasture species which has become weedy in unmanaged agricultural and environmental aquatic systems in Queensland. Field-based herbicide trials were conducted in the lower Herbert River basin with in-kind support from north Queensland local governments, Agri-science Queensland and canegrowers.

The first component of the trial was to investigate effective herbicides and wetter rates for the control of Aleman grass in land-based field situations. NEMO[®] wetter, several herbicides including Haloxypfop (Verdict[®]), Imazapyr (Poacher![®]), Glyphosate (Weedmaster Duo[®]) and application rates of each were identified as being effective. Success was quantified using both traditional ground-based manual methods and aerial imagery from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). A direct comparison of assessment methods resulted in confirmation of UAV image capture as a reliable tool for assessments in this situation.

The next component utilised UAVs to map, apply and assess the efficacy of the effective treatments identified in the initial land-based trial. Once again, the treatments and assessments mirrored the results from the land-based trial.

The results of the trials identified herbicides and application rates plus NEMO[®] that provide effective control of Aleman grass. These results will be used to seek a minor use permit for Aleman grass control from the Australia Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. In addition, the trial found UAVs to be a useful tool not only for herbicide application but also assessing efficacy of treatment.

Collaborators

- Biosecurity Officers
- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Terrain NRM
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Marcus Bulstrode, Senior Development Officer - Sustainable Farming Systems RD&E (Agri-Science Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)

Key publications

Abbott, B.N., Wallace, J., Nicholas, D.M., Karim, F. & Waltham, N.J. (2020). Bund removal to re-establish tidal flow, remove aquatic weeds and restore coastal wetland services — North Queensland, Australia, *PLoS ONE* 15(1): e0217531.

Hannan-Jones, M. & Weber, J. (2008) (updated 2016). Pest plant risk assessment: Aleman grass (*Echinochloa polystachya*). Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland.

Lemcke, B. & Cameron, A. (2019). Department of Primary Industry and Resources Agnote No: E63 Aleman Grass - A high value grazing species grown in flooded or ponded areas.

25. Aquatic weeds of northern Australia—ecology and control

Project dates

January 2015 – June 2026

Project team

Melissa Setter and Stephen Setter

Project summary

Aquatic weeds are a burgeoning problem with the increasing commercial trade in aquatic plants, particularly via the internet. Several escaped aquarium plants are particularly problematic in the Wet Tropics, but with potential distributions across large parts of northern Australia. These include hygrophila (*Hygrophila costata*), bog moss (*Myacca fluviatilis*) and Amazon frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*). Escaped ponded pasture species such as Aleman grass (*Echinochloa polystachya*) are also problematic, and under investigation. This project proposes to answer specific ecological questions to improve management of current infestations and predict further infestations. Control options will also be investigated for selected species.

Specific research includes:

Bog moss - Glasshouse research on herbicide control has recently concluded, with several successful treatments identified, notably ProcettaCOR® and Reglone®.

Hygrophila – We have assessed seed and vegetative reproduction abilities in regional populations. We found negligible viable seed production, and conclude vegetative reproduction is the main dispersal mode in north Queensland. Stem sections can float and survive for 3 weeks in fresh or brackish water and 2 weeks in salt water.

Amazon frogbit - Seed viability and longevity has been assessed in regional populations. Seed was produced in north Queensland during October – December. Each fruit averaged 70 seeds, with approximately 80-90% germination success.

Aleman grass - Seed viability and longevity has also been assessed in regional populations. No viability has been detected in local populations. This is consistent with the literature which suggests low viability.

Collaborators

- DAF Biosecurity Officers



- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
- Terrain NRM
- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Key publications

Setter, S.D. & Setter, M.J. (2019). *Adapting autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) for aquatic weed control*. Proceedings of the Queensland Pest Animal and Weeds (PAWS) Symposium, Gold Coast, Queensland.

26. *Harrisia martinii* biological control and integrated management

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2023

Project team

Tamara Taylor, Lauren Kelk and Kelli Murree

Project summary

Native to Argentina, *Harrisia martinii* is a spiny cactus species that can form dense infestations, choking out pasture species and native vegetation. Infestations can cause injuries to livestock and wildlife and inhibit their movement. A biological control agent, *Hypogeococcus pungens* (Harrisia mealybug), was released in the 1970s and provided early control of *H. martinii* at release locations in central Queensland. However, due to environmental conditions limiting development and dispersal, the mealy bug is not providing adequate control in south Queensland. Infestations also appear to be increasing again in central Queensland. Field and laboratory studies by University of Queensland PhD candidate, Angela Ezeh, are examining the thermal tolerance of the mealybug and the impact of the biocontrol agent under different environmental conditions.

Additional field trials include an investigation of the impact of sheep grazing on *Harrisia* density at a property in Goondiwindi. As part of this study, since January 2023 seven sheep have been collared for GPS tracking to determine whether using sheep as a management tool is limited by geographic features within the landscape. Glasshouse experiments comparing the number and viability of *H. martinii* seed in the soil from locations with different *Harrisia* control history have been completed and an analysis of the number of viable seeds in different animal scats collected from infested areas has commenced.

After extensive searches for a previously released biological control agent (a stem-boring beetle, *Nealcidion cereicola*) in central Queensland, we now agree with previous reports that this beetle has died out. A re-importation of the beetle from Argentina is due to arrive by December 2023. Additionally, a collaborator in Argentina is studying a potential new biological control agent, a stem-feeding fly (*Dasiops bourquini*), to determine if laboratory rearing methods can be established for host testing in Australia.



Figure 24 Using radio telemetry to track sheep at Goondiwindi during trials on *Harrisia* cactus control

Collaborators

- Michael Day (Brisbane)
- John Conroy, Biosecurity Officer (Goondiwindi)
- Angela Ezech (University of Queensland)
- CONICET – CECOAL – Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (UNNE), Argentina
- Goondiwindi Regional Council
- *Harrisia* Cactus Working Group
- Northern Slopes Landcare Association
- Macintyre Ag Alliance
- NSW Department of Primary Industries



- Horizon Ecological Consulting



Figure 25 Sheep wearing GPS tracking collars as part of trials on controlling *Harissia cactus*

Key publications

McFadyen, R. (2012). *Harrisia (Eriocereus) martinii* (Labour.) Britton – *Harrisia cactus* in (eds). Julien, M.H., McFadyen, R.E., Cullen, J., Biological control of weeds in Australia, pp.274-281, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic.

Novoa, A., Brundu, G., Day, M., Deltoro, V., Essl, F., Foxcroft, L., Fried, G., Kaplan, H., Kumschick, S., Lloyd, S., Marchante, E., Marchante, H., Paterson, I., Pyšek, P., Richardson, D., Witt, A., Zimmermann, H. & Wilson, J. (2019). Global Actions for Managing Cactus Invasions, *Plants*, 8(10), p421.

Tomley, A. (2001). A report on the status of a biological control program for *Harrisia cactus* in Queensland, Queensland Government, Natural Resources and Mines, Alan Fletcher Research Station, Sherwood.

27. Biological control of pasture weeds in Vanuatu and Queensland

Project dates

October 2018 – June 2023

Project team

Tamara Taylor and Lauren Kelk

Project summary

Biosecurity Queensland is collaborating with Landcare Research NZ on a 5-year weed biological control project based in Vanuatu, funded by the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Three pasture weeds targeted under this project are *Senna tora* (one of three sicklepods which are restricted weeds in Queensland), *Solanum torvum* (a weed declared by some local governments in Queensland) and *Urena lobata* (a widespread environmental weed in Queensland). Potential biological control candidates for *S. tora* will be brought into the quarantine at the Ecosciences Precinct in Brisbane for host testing, while those for *S. torvum* and *U. lobata* are being studied in New Zealand. Landcare Research NZ has recently applied for approval to release an agent for *S. torvum* in Vanuatu. However, it is unlikely that importation and testing in Australia will occur, due to potential impacts on a broader range of hosts present in this country. Molecular analysis of sicklepod (*S. tora* and *S. obtusifolia*) provenances collected from Australia, Vanuatu, Tonga, Malaysia, China, Brazil, French Guiana, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Guadeloupe and Nicaragua has been completed by Landcare Research NZ.

Sicklepod in Vanuatu and Australia has been determined to be more closely related to populations in central America and the Caribbean, rather than Malaysian populations as previously proposed. In December 2022 a trip to the Dominican Republic was conducted to survey for potential biological control agents for *S. obtusifolia*. A moth (*Anabasis ochrodesma*) with stem feeding larvae was observed to be damaging to sicklepod, but not to other species of *Senna* nearby. Arrangements are underway to obtain permits to import *A. ochrodesma* into quarantine in Brisbane for host specificity testing. Additionally, a stem-galling weevil (*Conotrachelus* sp.) from Mexico will be imported for host testing in late 2023. This weevil was originally proposed as a biological control agent and exported from Mexico into quarantine in October 1998 and August 1999. Host specificity testing commenced after the 1999 import. Data from preliminary tests indicate that five species of *Senna* were unable to support *Conotrachelus* sp. development, while successful development occurred on *S. obtusifolia*. However, the laboratory culture died out within a few months. The project ended at this time, with no further imports of the insect. We consider that this agent is worth pursuing for re-importation and continued host testing.

Collaborators

- Michael Day (Brisbane)
- Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research NZ
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NZ
- Biosecurity Vanuatu
- Department of Environment, Vanuatu
- Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Ricardo Segura (Mexico)



Figure 26 Biocontrol researcher, Chris McGrannachan from Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research NZ, sweeping for insects in a paddock of Senna obtusifolia in the Dominican Republic.



Figure 27 Staff from the Botanical Garden of Santiago, Dominican Republic assisting with the search for potential biological control agents for Senna obtusifolia.



Key publications

Cock, M.J.W. & Evans, H.C. (1984). Possibilities for biological control of *Cassia tora* and *C. obtusifolia*. *Tropical Pest Management*, 30: 339-350.

Palmer, W.A. & Pullen, K.R. (2001). The phytophagous arthropods associated with *Senna obtusifolia* (Caesalpinaceae) in Mexico and Honduras and their prospects for utilization for biological control. *Biological Control* 20: 76–83.

Palmer, W.A., Heard, T.A. & Sheppard, A.W. (2010), A review of Australian classical biological control of weeds programs and research activities over the past 12 years. *Biological Control*, Volume 52 (3): 271-287.

28. Giant rat's tail grass classic biological control

Project dates

July 2022 – June 2024

Project team

Tamara Taylor, Lauren Kelk, David Comben and Wayne Vogler

Project summary

Giant rat's tail grass (GRT) is the common name of two species, *Sporobolus pyramidalis* and *S. natalensis*, native to Africa. Current control efforts for these weedy *Sporobolus* grasses in Australia rely on the use of chemicals, mechanical control, plant competition and pasture management. However, conventional control can be difficult and expensive and GRT continues to rapidly spread into new areas. Biosecurity Queensland subcontracted Rhodes University in South Africa from 2016 to 2022 to survey for potential biological control agents for GRT in their native range and conduct preliminary host specificity testing. This research was funded by the Australian Government's Rural R&D for Profit Program through AgriFutures Australia. Rhodes University found two species of wasps with stem feeding larvae from the *Tetramesa* genus that were damaging to GRT. Host testing concluded that neither wasp species was able to complete development on any of the 24 grass species tested other than on GRT. Both wasp species appear to be suitable for further host testing of native Australian grasses.

Two importations of *Tetramesa* sp. A and B have been received in Ecosciences Precinct quarantine facility in Brisbane. The first import of 800 field-collected GRT stems arrived in September 2022. These were hand delivered by the Rhodes University researcher who conducted the study in South Africa, and also provided Biosecurity Queensland staff with valuable training to rear the wasps. A total of 25 *Tetramesa* sp. B (11 female and 14 male) and 6 *Tetramesa* sp. A (4 female and 2 male) emerged from the imported stems. A total of 21 parasitic wasps also emerged. Asynchronous emergence of the wasps limited the potential for mating once they were introduced to plants for rearing, given that adults only live for 4 – 7 days. Only one next generation wasp was produced from this import, which is not enough to establish a culture. A further import transported by a visiting researcher from South Africa to Sydney was collected by Biosecurity Queensland staff from Sydney. One hundred and forty-nine GRT stems were imported, from which 5 *Tetramesa* sp. A (2 female

and 3 male) and 3 *Tetramesa* sp. B (all male) emerged. This import also failed to produce a laboratory culture of the wasps. Rhodes University have committed to provide Biosecurity Queensland with a further supply of GRT stems from new laboratory cultures of *Tetramesa* produced without parasitism, an additional problem with earlier imports. Arrangements have been made for these to be collected in November 2023.



Figure 28 Imported giant rat's tail grass stems containing *Tetramesa* sp. awaiting emergence in quarantine.

Collaborators

- Rhodes University, South Africa
- AgriFutures Australia
- Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Key publications

Sutton, G.F, Canavan, K., **Day, M.D.**, den Breeyen, A., Goolsby, J.A., Cristofaro, M., McConnachie, A. & Paterson, I.D. (2019). Grasses as suitable targets for classical weed biological control, *BioControl*, 64: 605–622.

Sutton, G.F. (2021). Prioritising biological control agents for release against *Sporobolus pyramidalis* and *Sporobolus natalensis* (Poaceae) in Australia. Doctoral dissertation, Rhodes University.

Sutton, G.F., Canavan, K., Day, M.D. & Paterson, I.D. (2021). Field-based ecological studies to assess prospective biological control agents for invasive alien plants: an example from giant rat's tail grass, *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 58(5): 1043-1054.

29. Chemical registration - providing tools for weed control

Project dates

July 2012 – June 2024

Project team

Joe Vitelli and David Holdom

Project summary

Biosecurity Queensland holds permits for the use of pesticides to control invasive plants and animals. The need for permits has increased as pesticide registrants focus primarily on more profitable crop protection rather than environmental protection, resulting in reduced availability for controlling invasive species outside of crops.

Eighteen weed and pest animal (see project 39 below) permits were issued to Biosecurity Queensland during 2022–23 by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Fifteen permits related to weeds — parthenium, cacti, pimelea, bellyache bush, alligator weed, water primrose, Amazon frogbit and salvinia. One permit was for insecticide control.

Control recommendations are provided in pest fact sheets (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/fact-sheets>) that are regularly updated.

Collaborators

- Local governments
- Seqwater
- Sumitomo Chemical
- Nufarm Australia
- Macspred
- Corteva
- Department of Environment and Science, Ecosciences Precinct
- Sonia Jordan, Steve Csurhes, Craig Hunter, Michael Graham, Lyn Willsher and Michelle Smith (Biosecurity Queensland)

Key publications

APVMA (2022) PER10892: Permit to allow minor use of glyphosate and Nemo aquatic surfactant for use in aquatic areas to control salvinia. Issued 17 August 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER92459: Permit to allow minor use of amitrole, ammonium thiocyanate, aminopyralid, triclopyr and other products for the control of Cactaceae in various situations. Issued 31 August 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER14361 Permit to allow minor use and supply of an unregistered agvet chemical product (ethylene) for control of red witchweed in infected premises. Issued 02 September 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER13707: Permit to allow minor use of metsulfuron-methyl for the control of bellyache bush in native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas. Issued 7 September 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER91744 Permit to allow minor use of a flumioxazin and glyphosate with Bonus or Nemo surfactants for control of Amazon frogbit in non-potable and offline potable waterways associated with Wappa dam. Issued 29 September 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER13549: Permit to allow minor use of glyphosate and 2,4-DB for the control of pimelea in fallow and pastures. Issued 3 November 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER13812: Permit to allow minor use of triclopyr and picloram for the control of coral cactus in pastures, rights of way, commercial and industrial areas. Issued 3 November 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER92465: Permit to allow minor use of picloram, triclopyr, metsulfuron-methyl and imazapyr for the control of Cactaceae in various situations. Issued 7 November 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER92475: Permit to allow minor use of aminopyralid, picloram, triclopyr, metsulfuron-methyl and glyphosate for the control of Cactaceae in various situations. Issued 8 November 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER93074: Permit to allow minor use of various products (Roundup, Vigilant II) for control of water primrose in North Pine Reservoir Reserve. Issued 1 December 2022.

APVMA (2022) PER10221: Permit to allow minor use of metsulfuron-methyl in non-potable waterways for control of alligator weed. Issued 30 December 2022.

APVMA (2023) PER13706: Permit to allow minor use of imidacloprid insecticide to control the lantana stemsucking leafhopper on fiddlewood trees. Issued 9 March 2023.

APVMA (2023) PER89268: Permit to allow minor use of Nemo aquatic surfactant for use in specified aquatic and riparian situations. Issued 16 June 2023.

APVMA (2023) PER81236: Permit to allow minor use of Nufarm Bonus adjuvant/surfactant for use in aquatic, riparian or adjacent areas. Issued 20 June 2023.

APVMA (2023) PER10367: Permit to allow minor use of metsulfuron-methyl in pastures and non-crop situations for control of parthenium weed by aerial application in inaccessible areas. Issued 26 June 2023.



30. Treatments and strategies for red witchweed eradication

Project dates

July 2014 - June 2025

Project team

Joseph Vitelli, Bahar Farahani, Melissa Brien and Anna Williams

Project summary

In a sugarcane-growing area near Mackay, we have been investigating how best to deplete the red witchweed (RWW) seed bank and prevent further seed production over a ten-year period. A large trial showed that after five annual applications of either ethylene gas, dazomet, ethephon, sorghum, corn or soybean, the RWW soil seedbank viability was reduced to 0%, irrespective of seed burial depth.

Properties infested with RWW are being treated and progress towards eradication is being determined by monitoring the RWW soil seedbank on infested properties. Sachets of RWW seeds have been buried at depths of 100, 300 and 500 mm across 25 sites on infested properties covering the active eradication management zone for RWW. The 25 sites vary in soil type and topography.

After four years, the viability of retrieved seeds had declined dramatically, irrespective of treatment combination used. However, the decline in viability of seeds varies across sites, burial depth and time. Sachets of seeds are removed at regular intervals and seed viability determined to allow paddocks to be released from quarantine. A seed trial is continuing at the Ecosciences Precinct to fine tune treatments to accelerate depletion of the RWW seed bank. The trial assesses the use of soybean as a false host and fumigation by injecting ethylene gas or applying the granular fumigant dazomet.

Collaborators

- Local governments
- Michelle Smith, Matt Birch and Tom Bowditch (Biosecurity Queensland)
- University of Queensland

Key publications

Epée, M., Paul, T. (2018). Comparative analysis on the management of the parasitic weed *Striga* in the USA, Australia and Kenya. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3231805> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3231805>

Eplee, R.E. (1992). Witchweed (*Striga asiatica*): An overview of management strategies in the USA. *Crop Protection* 11, 3-7. doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0261-2194\(92\)90071-C](https://doi.org/10.1016/0261-2194(92)90071-C).

Williams, A.M., Riding, N. & Vitelli, J.S. (2022). Monitoring *Striga asiatica* (Orobanchaceae) seedbank for eradication success, 22nd Australian Weeds Conference, Adelaide, pp158-161.



31. Native and introduced pathogens of giant rat's tail grass

Project dates

February 2019– June 2023

Project team

Joseph Vitelli, David Holdom, Tess James, Dipika Roy and Bahar Farahani

Project summary

This project has been assessing the suitability of endemic and naturalised fungal pathogens to control giant rat's tail grass. It was supported by funding from the Australian Government, AgriFutures Australia, and cash and in-kind from several collaborators.

Seventy endemic pathogens were isolated from giant rat's tail grass (GRT) throughout its Australian invasive range. A series of experiments prioritised candidates, with eight isolates killing 50-100% of GRT seedlings. Three fungi showed promise by infecting GRT but were not target host specific, infecting one native grass species, African lovegrass and Callide Rhodes grass. Testing will continue to determine the extent of non-target damage and the suitability of the other five isolates. Suitable fungal pathogens could be developed as a mycoherbicide or simply as augmentative biological control for the management of GRT. A naturalised leaf smut pathogen, *Ustilago sporoboli-indici*, damaging to GRT, was discovered in the field surveys. The smut has minor impacts on some native *Sporobolus* and other weedy *Sporobolus* species in the laboratory. A PhD program will continue to investigate its suitability as a control agent for GRT.

Collaborators

- Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- AgriFutures Australia
- New South Wales Environmental Trust
- NSW Biocontrol Taskforce
- Bundaberg Regional Council (including Eric Dyke and James Anderson)
- Gympie Regional Council
- HQ Plantations Pty Ltd
- AgForce Queensland
- Brooke Johnstone, Shane Campbell (The University of Queensland, School of Agriculture & Food Sciences)
- Tracey Steinrucken (CSIRO)
- Roger Shivas (University of Southern Queensland)
- Kaylene Bransgrove, Yu Pei Tan (DAF Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity)
- David Officer (NSW Department of Primary Industries)



Key publications

Steinrucken, T.V. & Vitelli, J.S. (2023). Biocontrol of weedy *Sporobolus* grasses in Australia using fungal pathogens. *BioControl*, 68 (4): 341-361 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10526-023-10195-5>

32. Management of giant rat's tail grass using wick wipers

Project dates

February 2017– June 2023

Project team

Joseph Vitelli, David Holdom, Tess James, Dipika Roy and Bahar Farahani

Project summary

Giant rat's tail grass (GRT) and the other introduced weedy *Sporobolus* grasses are unpalatable, perennial, tussock-forming grasses of serious concern to the grazing industry across eastern Australia. GRT reduces carrying capacity and productivity of more than 450,000 ha of pastoral land in eastern Queensland, New South Wales and areas of Victoria and is a high-risk fodder contaminant.

There is an increase in the use of wick wipers among landholders but a limited understanding on how to use both glyphosate and flupropanate herbicides in the presence of endemic and naturalised pathogens to effectively manage GRT. This project aims to optimise the use of two herbicides (glyphosate and flupropanate) to control and suppress seed production of GRT plants growing in pastures and along roadsides using weed wipers.

Slashing removes rank and dead growth from the previous season, crash grazing provides the height difference between the desirable pasture and GRT in readiness for herbicide (glyphosate or flupropanate or both) application. Wick wiping then targets individual GRT tussocks on a broad-acre scale. At one trial site, the GRT leaf smut is rendering GRT flower-heads sterile. An integrated control approach has reduced populations of GRT by almost 40% in three years at a trial site at Conondale. With additional treatment, this decline in GRT could be greater.

An integrated trial will test the combination of four fertiliser (0, 50, 100 and 200 kg N ha⁻¹) and two herbicide applications using a wick wiper under grazed conditions. A pot trial will refine herbicide rates.

Collaborators

- Tom Cowan and Shane Campbell (University of Queensland)
- Peter Thompson (property manager, Elgin, Conondale)



Figure 29 Wick wiper application



Figure 30 Giant rat's tail grass following wick wiper treatment



33. Management of sticky florestina

Project dates

July 2022 – June 2025

Project team

Wayne Vogler and Clare Warren

Project summary

Sticky florestina (*Florestina tripteris*) is an annual plant from semi-arid North America that was introduced to central-western Queensland anecdotally in the 1960s and reported as a pest in the late 1980s. Local governments are reporting a current profusion of the weed along roadsides. There is considerable scope for further spread of the weed as seeds are readily spread by livestock, wildlife, machinery and along waterways. Much of central, western and southern Queensland is highly suitable for sticky florestina and improved management options are needed to reduce future potential negative impacts to pasture production and the environment. The project aims to improve the control and management options for sticky florestina in central west Queensland by improving knowledge about the ecology and biology of sticky florestina and improving herbicide and integrated management options for sticky florestina along roadsides, pasture and environmental areas in central west Queensland.

Laboratory work has focused on developing an effective repeatable seed germination protocol. This has largely been achieved although it continues to be refined. Seeds have been buried in a trial established at Longreach to determine the length of time seed remains viable. A more rapid Controlled Ageing test is assessing seed longevity in the laboratory in Charters Towers. An indication of the dispersal distance of sticky florestina in water is being determined by a seed floatation study in both still and agitated water.

Glasshouse investigations of time to reproductive maturity, effect of herbicide application on seed viability, and time to reproductive maturity following cutting are being developed and will commence in late 2023. This will provide the information to develop and test effective control regimes on roadsides and around infrastructure. The effect of dry heat on seed viability will also be determined to give an indication whether heat from planned burning can kill seed.

Collaborators

- Longreach Regional Council, Central West Regional Pest Management Group



Figure 31 Field trial determining seed longevity in sticky florestina at Longreach

Key publications

McKenzie, J., Brazier, D., Campbell, S., Vitelli, J, Anderson, A & Mayer, R. (2014). Foliar herbicide control of sticky florestina (*Florestina tripteris* DC.), *The Rangeland Journal*, 36: 259-265.

Soto-Trejo, F., Schilling, E.E., Oyama, K, Lira, R. & Davila, P. (2016). A taxonomic revision of the genus *Florestina* (Asteraceae, Bahieae), *Phytotaxa*, 268 (2): 91-109.

34. Strategic invasive grass control to reduce risk of further invasion in northern Queensland

Project dates

July 2022 – June 2025

Project team

Wayne Vogler and Clare Warren

Project summary

Gamba grass, grader grass and giant rat's tail grass are serious invasive weeds in northern Australia resulting in large scale environmental damage and economic loss to graziers. These high priority grasses are in northern and eastern areas of Queensland and are spreading from small early invasion infestations. The particular hotspots being targeted are in Cape York, Atherton Tablelands, Yeppoon, Mackay, Whitsunday and Burdekin regions. The project is engaging a range of land managers through their local governments to identify and control or eradicate strategic outlier infestations of these grass species on both private and publicly owned land. The project is providing a hands-on demonstration of the latest control strategies, safe herbicide application techniques, how to monitor management progress and improving the capacity of land managers to effectively manage incursions of these grasses.

Strategic infestations have been identified within the boundaries of the six local government collaborators. On ground activities have been defined for each grass species relevant to their situation and have commenced in five local government areas. Control activities will commence in the final local government area in the second half of 2023. Case studies will be developed for each control activity and grass species and published at the end of the project.

Collaborators

- Burdekin, Cook, Livingstone, Mackay, Tablelands and Whitsunday Regional Councils.



Figure 32 Immature gamba grass in the Cook shire



Figure 33 Grader grass in the Burdekin region



Figure 34 Treated gamba grass



Figure 35 Wayne Vogler discussing grader grass identification at the Woolooga grass masterclass



Figure 36 Wayne Vogler discussing management of giant rat's tail grass at the Gatton grass masterclass



Part 2: Pest animal management

35. Refining management of feral deer in Queensland

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2024

Project team

Matt Amos, Michael Brennan and Tony Pople

Project summary

Wild deer are widely distributed and increasing in eastern Australia. The expansion of the deer population increases the risk of negative impacts to both rural and urban communities, agriculture and the environment. Control and monitoring tools are limited and the best tools are situation-dependent, varying with factors such as landform, vegetation, human habitation, and target deer species. Both need thorough evaluation to support the development of best practice management guidelines for land managers planning control operations in Queensland.

This project is assessing the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of deer control and monitoring methods at five study sites: Brisbane, North Pine Dam, Sunshine Coast, Yeppoon and Wild Duck Island. Faecal pellet counts in southwestern Brisbane suggest a reduction in the deer population from 2018 to 2021 where ground control by both shooting and trapping is undertaken. Camera grid density estimates of rusa deer at North Pine Dam and Wild Duck Island have been undertaken annually since 2019, whilst rusa deer at Yeppoon were monitored in 2019 and 2020. The deer numbers have fluctuated at North Pine Dam where deer are being removed by ground shooting. The Wild Duck Island deer population has been greatly reduced from aerial culling operations. Results from thermal vehicle surveys at the Sunshine Coast suggest that deer numbers have been reduced to low levels by ground shooting.

Two workshops on best practice management of wild deer were held in 2022-23 for local governments and other land managers – one in central Queensland (Yeppoon) and one in north Queensland (Ingham). A range of topics were covered, including control options, monitoring techniques, deer identification and community engagement. Local government pest managers also presented results and recommendations of deer management programs from various locations in Queensland including Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

Collaborators

- Dave Forsyth, Sebastien Comte and Andrew Bengsen (New South Wales Department of Primary Industries)
- Steve Burke (Marine Parks, Department of Environment and Science)
- Mark Kimber, Tony Cathcart and Jesse Wojtala (Sunshine Coast Regional Council)
- Jess Doman and Perry Ward (Seqwater)



- Bill Manners, Dan Franks and Robyn Jones (Brisbane City Council)
- Darren Sheil (Moreton Bay Regional Council)
- Leise Childs, Dave Mitchell and John Wyland (Livingstone Shire Council)

Key publications

Amos, M., Brennan, M., Pople, T., Cathcart, T., Kimber, M., Wojtala, J., Doman, J., Manners, B., Franks, D., Jones, R., Childs, L., Mitchell, D. & Wyland, J. (2021). Broadscale monitoring of feral deer population trends and control effort in Queensland peri-urban environs, 18th *Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference*, Virtual, 25-27 May.

Amos, M., Pople, T., Brennan, M., Sheil, D., Kimber, M. & Cathcart, A. (2022). Home ranges of rusa deer (*Cervus timorensis*) in a subtropical peri-urban environment in South East Queensland, *Australian Mammalogy*, In Press.

Forsyth, D., **Pople, T.,** Page, B., Moriarty, A., Ramsey, D., Parkes, J., Wiebkin, A. & Lane, C. (eds) (2017). 2016 National Wild Deer Management Workshop Proceedings, Adelaide, 17-18 November 2016, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra, Australia.

36. Evaluating breeding success of wild rabbits in various harbour types

Project dates

July 2021 – June 2024

Project team

Peter Elsworth

Project summary

The European rabbit is a significant pest to agriculture and the environment. As a result of biocontrol activity (RHDV1, K5, RHDV2 and myxomatosis) and concerted harbour removal projects in south-east Queensland, rabbit numbers in the state are the lowest they have been for decades. The harbour removal efforts have focused on “key breeding” locations, primarily large warren systems and long-standing log piles. Removing the key breeding sites is considered a good strategy for rabbit control, based on the belief that control in other areas is unnecessary given these contribute little to population size or recovery. As stakeholders look to maximise benefit for lowest cost, this method is gaining momentum. However, it is necessary to determine if “lower importance” breeding sites are sufficiently productive to allow rabbit populations to be self-sustaining or recover following control of key breeding sites.

Motion-sensitive cameras were deployed on lower importance breeding sites to monitor the output and survival of young, along with interactions with predators. Across two breeding seasons, rabbit populations remained static or declined despite high numbers of kittens

being born. Natural mortality was very high with predators and weather conditions preventing young rabbits reaching breeding age to allow population recovery.

Collaborators

- Nathan Ring (Darling Downs and Moreton Rabbit Board)
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Highfields Pioneer Village

Key publications

Berman, D., Brennan, M. & Elsworth, P. (2011). How can warren destruction by ripping control European wild rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) on large properties in the Australian arid zone? *Wildlife Research*, 38: 77-88.

Cox, T.E., Ramsey, D.S.L., Sawyers, E., Campbell, S., Matthews, J. & Elsworth, P. (2019). The impact of RHDV-K5 on rabbit populations in Australia: an evaluation of citizen science surveys to monitor rabbit abundance. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 1–11.

Elsworth, P. (2019). *Reorganising the rabbit control toolbox: Do we need to reach for virus first?* Proceedings of the 1st Queensland pest animal and weed symposium, Gold Coast.

37. Testing management strategies for feral pigs

Project dates

June 2021 – June 2024

Project team

Matthew Gentle, Lana Harriott, Cameron Wilson, Peter Elsworth, James Speed, Catherine Kelly and Tony Pople

Project summary

This project is monitoring feral pig population size on two sites (Westmar in southern Queensland, and Collinsville in northern Queensland) in response to pig control. Data from aerial shooting (offtake, costs, effort) is being collated from collaborators, and being used in conjunction with density estimates from aerial and camera surveys to calculate the proportion of the population removed. Movements and mortality of GPS-collared feral pigs are being monitored to also assess control effectiveness, and to determine whether such control influences pig movements. These data are being compared to mapped habitat preferences for feral pigs that will help to validate the application of these spatial layers to guide aerial shooting programs. Collectively, this study aims to enhance the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of control at different feral pig densities, to improve future management strategies.

Aerial (helicopter) surveys to estimate feral pig abundance were flown at Westmar during June and October 2022, and March 2023. Thermal surveys were also flown in June 2022.

Additionally, a grid of 60 cameras has been active on this site since April 2022. Camera images from Westmar are being uploaded into new online software (Wildlife Insights) to facilitate image classification and statistical analysis. Collaborators Southern Queensland Landscapes NRM captured 13 feral pigs that were fitted with GPS tracking collars at Westmar. Additional animals (n=38) have been ear-tagged for identification using the camera grid. An aerial survey was also conducted at Collinsville in October 2022 to estimate feral pig abundance prior to control.

Collaborators

- Southern Queensland Landscapes (regional Natural Resource Management organisation)
- Western Downs Regional Council
- Whitsunday Regional Council
- Landholders
- Australian Government's Established pest Animals and Weeds Management Pipeline Program

38. Feral pig movements, habitat suitability, control practices and population monitoring

Project dates

June 2021 – June 2024

Project team

Matthew Gentle, James Speed and Tony Pople

Project summary

Efficient feral pig management and monitoring ideally requires an understanding of movement and habitat use. This project describes and quantifies key characteristics of landscape use by feral pigs in several localities in north-eastern Australia. This is being completed through analysis of GPS tracking data from collared feral pigs undertaken as part of the project "African Swine Fever (ASF) Prevention and Preparedness (2021-24)" funded by the Queensland Government.

Analysis of GPS tracking data has quantified feral pig hourly and daily distances travelled, and home range and core home range sizes across four eastern Australian study sites. Strongly preferred sites were in close proximity to watercourses, waterbodies, cultivation, open herbaceous vegetation and medium woody vegetation. This information is being used to identify pig control and monitoring strategies for field testing. Pig movements are also being assessed to determine whether aerial shooting influences feral pig behaviour.

This project has also assisted CSIRO collaborators to model feral pig habitat suitability and potential densities across Queensland. This has produced spatial layers of suitable breeding habitats and potential densities (i.e. carrying capacity) under 12 different seasonal scenarios, and identified at-risk areas for feral and domestic pig interactions across Queensland. These are invaluable support for models of the dynamics and spread of disease in feral pig populations.

Collaborators

- Cameron Wilson (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Darren Marshall (Southern Queensland Landscapes)
- Jens Froese, Justine Murray and Matt Rees (CSIRO)
- Peter Adams and Stuart Dawson (Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Rural Development)
- Tarnya Cox (New South Wales Department of Primary Industries)

Key publications

Gentle, M., Wilson, C., & Cuskelly, J. (2022). Feral pig management in Australia: implications for disease control, *Australian Veterinary Journal*, 100(10): 492-495. [doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/avj.13198](https://doi.org/10.1111/avj.13198)

Wilson, C., Gentle, M. & Marshall, D. (2023a). Factors influencing the activity ranges of feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) across four sites in eastern Australia. *Wildlife Research*. [doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1071/WR22095](https://doi.org/10.1071/WR22095)

Wilson, C., Gentle, M. & Marshall, D. (2023b). Feral pig activity and landscape feature revisitation across four sites in eastern Australia. *Australian Mammalogy*. [doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1071/AM22034](https://doi.org/10.1071/AM22034)

39. Pest animal control – toxin permit support

Project dates

July 2022 – June 2024

Project team

Matthew Gentle and Peter Elsworth

Project summary

Toxins used for pest animal control in Queensland require ongoing assessments for potential suitability, supply or alternatives under minor-use permits or national registration through the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). This project consults with stakeholders and collates, reviews, and evaluates data to ensure the optimal and safe use of (suitable) toxins for vertebrate pests in Queensland.



This project successfully obtained an extension to a minor use permit to enable the aerial distribution of wild dog baits up to maximum of 40 baits/linear km within the Southern Downs Regional Council jurisdiction until 2026. This supports best-practice, efficacious wild dog control in rugged areas within this region, matching the technique successfully used in adjacent areas of eastern New South Wales.

A minor use application for the use of strychnine on wild dog and fox traps was also submitted and approved. This allows authorised practitioners to continue to use strychnine for this purpose until June 2024 when the recently-registered para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) alternative should be commercially-available.

The project also provided technical input on the viability of alternative baiting techniques, risk assessment processes and labelling to the APVMA to support feral cat control (Felixer, and proposed registration of Eradecat 1080 bait). An extension to a current minor use permit to allow ground and aerial baiting using Eradecat 1080 bait to control feral cats within and adjacent to Taunton National Park was also submitted and approved.

Collaborators

- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships
- New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

Key publications

APVMA (2023) PER9166v2: Permit to allow a minor use of a registered AGVET chemical product containing 1080 at a rate high that that specified by the label instructions for aerial baiting of wild dogs. Issued 12 February 2023.

APVMA (2023) PER14004v5: Permit to allow a minor use of a registered AGVET chemical product for the control of wild dogs and foxes. Issued 23 February 2023.

APVMA (2023) PER186263v2: Permit to allow a minor use of a registered AGVET chemical product - Product for feral cat control within Taunton National Park and adjacent areas. Issued 21 June 2023.

40. Improving detection and response to red-eared slider turtles

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2024

Project team

Lana Harriott and Catherine Kelly

Project summary

The red-eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*; REST) is the most traded reptile in the world and has had environmental impacts where they have established outside of their native range. In south-east Queensland, an established population of REST originating from the illegal pet trade, has been the focus of several eradication attempts. However, this work is extremely challenging due to the cryptic and evasive nature of this species. This project aims to increase the effectiveness of REST management and improve confidence of detection and eradication of REST.

Through the provision of artificial pontoons mounted with camera traps, we have been able to identify and sex individual REST in the eradication area and describe their basking behaviour. This has monitored progress towards eradication, where Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) staff have reduced the number of REST from seven to one known individual. However, the pontoons have only detected adult REST, with reports suggesting juvenile REST may prefer to aquatically bask in warm shallow water. The detection of juvenile REST is important to indicate the presence of breeding populations, which could then be prioritised for management.

Research and BQ operations staff designed a semi-submerged pontoon for detecting juvenile REST, and then tested the pontoon at a known breeding site in NSW with NSW DPI and local government collaborators. This successful pilot trial detected sub-adult REST and accurately determined carapace size from an overhead camera. This project will continue to refine surveillance tools for juvenile REST, increase our understanding of REST ecology, and monitor the effectiveness of eradication efforts.



Figure 37 Pontoons for detecting juvenile REST assembled and ready for field testing



Collaborators

- Stacy Harris, Matt Ryan and Duncan Swan (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Dianne Gleeson and Jack Rojahn (University of Canberra)
- Lisa Wellman (New South Wales Department of Primary Industries)
- Eddie Ferry (Fairfield City Council, New South Wales)
- Andrew O'Brien (Sydney Feral and Commercial Pest Control Pty Ltd)

Key publications

García-Díaz, P., Ramsey, D.S., Woolnough, A.P., Franch, M., Llorente, G.A., Montori, A., Buenetxea, X., Larrinaga, A.R., Lasceve, M., Álvarez, A. & Traverso, J.M. (2017). Challenges in confirming eradication success of invasive red-eared sliders. *Biological Invasions*, 19(9): 2739-2750.

Harriott, L., Amos, M., Brennan, M., Elsworth, P., Gentle, M., Kennedy, M., Pople, T., Scanlan, J., Speed, J. & Osunkoya, O.O. (2022). State-wide prioritisation of vertebrate pest animals in Queensland, Australia, *Ecological Management and Restoration*, 23(23): 209-218.

Savage, J.C. (2022). The murky turtle pool: A first population genetic analysis of the invasive red eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) within Australia, Honours Thesis, School of Life and Environmental Science, The University of Sydney.

41. Development of surveillance tools for the Asian black-spined toad (*Duttaphyrnus melanostictus*)

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2024

Project team

Lana Harriott and Catherine Kelly

Project summary

The Asian black-spined toad (*Duttaphyrnus melanostictus*; ABST) is a commonly detected stowaway species that arrives in Australia via cargo and baggage, making it a species of major biosecurity concern. Established populations of ABST outside of their native range are known to cause substantial economic and environmental impacts. Many regions of Australia, but particularly northern and coastal regions of Queensland, are highly suitable environments for ABST establishment. To better manage the risk of an ABST population establishing in Queensland there is a need for a targeted, robust surveillance network with a high probability of incursion detection. However, the best tools and methods to establish a surveillance network require investigation. This project has tested a range of tools developed for cane toad control and monitoring to determine their suitability for ABST. These include the collection of eDNA samples from water bodies in Indonesia to validate an eDNA assay,

compilation and analysis of calls in a call library, developing a range of audio lures, testing audio lures in both Indonesia (native range) and Madagascar (invaded range), testing of traps in field and enclosed environments, and telemetry of movements and spawning sites across both wet and dry seasons to understand how toads move and select possible shelter sites.

Traps used for cane toads need modification, by reducing the mesh size to approximately a quarter of the original size to be suitable for ABST. While playback experiments of calls at ponds (without traps) have shown that call lures attract ABST, enclosed (arena with known toad population) and field trials using call lures have yielded poor trapping success, suggesting ABST may be more trap-shy than cane toads. This project continues to provide critical knowledge on ABST ecology and surveillance methods to develop surveillance techniques for ABST in Queensland.

Collaborators

- Lin Schwarzkopf (James Cook University)
- Ben Muller (Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group)
- Mirzura Kusriani (IPB University, Indonesia)
- Dianne Gleeson (University of Canberra)
- Peter Caley (CSIRO)
- Susan Campbell (Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development)
- David Ramsey (Arthur Rylah Institute, Victoria)
- Phil Cassey (University of Adelaide)

Key publications

Kelly, C. L., Schwarzkopf, L., Christy, T. M. & **Kennedy, M. S.** (2023). The toad less travelled: comparing life histories, ecological niches, and potential habitat of Asian black-spined toads and cane toads. *Wildlife Research*, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1071/WR22111>

Licata, F., Ficetola, G.F., Falaschi, M., Muller, B.J., Andreone, F., Harison, R.H., Freeman, K., Monteiro, A.T., Rosa, S. & Crottini, A. (2023). Spatial ecology of the invasive Asian common toad in Madagascar and its implications for invasion dynamics, *Scientific Reports*, 13: 3526

42. Wild dog management and predation on cattle and wild herbivores in the Queensland dry tropics

Project dates

July 2020 – June 2024



Project team

Lana Harriott, Peter Elsworth, James Speed and Catherine Kelly

Project summary

Wild dogs (all wild living dogs, including dingoes, feral dogs, and their hybrids: *Canis familiaris*) can have significant impacts on livestock enterprises. While wild dogs and small stock are incompatible, the impacts of wild dogs on cattle production enterprises can be variable. Wild dogs can cause calf losses of up to 30%, but in other contexts calf loss can be low. Further, under some conditions, wild dogs may benefit cattle producers through the suppression of native and introduced herbivores. This project seeks to better understand the movement, predation and feeding behaviour of wild dogs on Queensland cattle properties. This will ultimately help determine the impact of wild dogs on cattle and wild herbivores.

This project will conduct a pilot trial of video-GPS collars with accelerometers to determine if these tools can record wild dog predation events and other activities. To date, two wild dogs have been fitted with video-GPS collars. These have been used to determine activity periods of wild dogs to help program collars to most efficiently capture predation events. Future trials with video-GPS collared individuals are planned to assess encounters with control and monitoring tools (canid pest ejectors and cameras) and determine the success of control programs. Trapping (424 trap nights) was undertaken in spring 2021 at Eidsvold but did not capture sufficient suitable wild dogs to collar. Subsequent field work in Autumn 2022 has been repeatedly rescheduled due to the wet weather.

Additionally, a domestic dog will be trained to detect 1080 and PAPP (if possible) and then used to determine if toxins can be detected in baits and so provide a possible mechanism for aversive responses to baiting by wild dogs following a sub-lethal dose or due to neophobia. Finally, fauna monitoring will continue within and outside cluster fences in south-west Queensland. This will provide a longer-term assessment of reduced wild dog abundance on wildlife.

Collaborators

- Phillip Hayward (Biosecurity Queensland)
- Megan Brady (The Turner Family Foundation)
- Benjamin Allen and Geoff Castle (The University of Southern Queensland)
- Tracey Kreplins (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA)
- Craig Murray (Detection Dog School)

Key publications

Allen, L.R. (2014). Wild dog control impacts on calf wastage in extensive beef cattle enterprises. *Animal Production Science*, 54(2), pp.214-220.

Campbell, G., Coffey, A., Miller, H., Read, J.L., Brook, A., Fleming, P.J., Bird, P., Eldridge, S. & Allen, B.L. (2019). Dingo baiting did not reduce fetal/calf loss in beef cattle in northern South Australia, *Animal Production Science*, 59(2), pp.319-330.

Castle, G., Smith, D., Allen, L.R., Carter, J., **Elsworth, P.** & Allen, B.L. (2022). Top-predator removal does not cause trophic cascades in Australian rangeland ecosystems, *Food Webs*, 31: e00229

43. Ecology and management of chital deer in north Queensland

Project dates

July 2014 - June 2024

Project team

Tony Pople, Mike Brennan and Matt Amos

Project summary

Chital deer (*Axis axis*) are long established in the north Queensland dry tropics and at high densities are considered pests by cattle graziers. Control has been limited to recreational and some commercial ground shooting and trapping. With an expansion of their range and local high densities, information on their impacts, control methods and capacity for increase and spread is needed to develop long-term management strategies.

Aerial and ground monitoring of populations on properties in the region have described a remarkably patchy local and regional distribution that is influenced by concentrations of soil phosphorous, and sodium and zinc in grasses. Drought has been a major influence on chital deer abundance resulting in an 80% decline over 10 months. Recovery to pre-drought levels was recorded in six years; a rate equivalent to their maximum rate of increase of ~34%.

Current work will firstly continue monitoring survival of over 50 adult females and their fawns and ranging behaviour using satellite telemetry and remote cameras. Secondly, deer distribution from telemetry and population surveys will be related to environmental data to hopefully explain the highly clumped local distribution. Genetic analyses are being used to gain a fuller understanding of chital deer diet and their pattern of spread in the district.

The project has seen two PhDs conferred and a third is in progress. The university collaborations have extended the project to more than just ecology of chital deer in the region. Habitat and climate modelling has been undertaken to better predict the potential distributions of all six species of deer in the wild in Australia. Machine learning is being used to identify individual chital deer in remote camera images from their unique spot patterns. This should enable precise estimation of population size, survival and reproductive output.

Collaborators

- Keith Staines and Glen Harry (Sporting Shooters Association of Australia)
- Kurt Watter (UQ)
- Dave Forsyth, Andrew Bengsen and Sebastien Comte (NSW DPI)
- Carlo Pacioni and Luke Woodford (Arthur Rylah Institute, Victoria)
- Jordan Hampton (Ecotone Wildlife Veterinary Services)
- Landholders in the Charters Towers region



- Ashley Blokland (Charters Towers Regional Council, now Biosecurity Queensland)
- Heather Jonsson (Dalrymple Landcare Committee)
- Thijs Krugers and Rachel Payne (NQ Dry Tropics)
- Catherine Kelly, Matt Quin, Jodie Nordine, Mohit Deolankar, Ben Hirsch, Lin Schwarzkopf, Jan Strugnell and Iain Gordon (JCU)
- Centre for Invasive Species Solutions

Key publications

Kelly, C.L., Schwarzkopf, L., Gordon, I.J., **Pople, A.**, Kelly, D.L. & Hirsch, B.T. (2022). Dancing to a different tune: Changing reproductive seasonality in an introduced chital deer population. *Oecologia* **200**, 285-294. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00442-022-05232-6>.

Kelly, C.L., Gordon, I.J., Schwarzkopf, L., Pintor, A., **Pople, A.** & Hirsch, B.T. (2023). Invasive wild deer exhibit environmental niche shifts in Australia: Where to from here? *Ecology and Evolution* **13**, e10251. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.10251>.

Pople, A., **Amos, M.** & **Brennan, M.** (in press). Population dynamics of chital deer (*Axis axis*) in northern Queensland: Effects of drought and culling. *Wildlife Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WR22130>.

Watter, K., Baxter, G.S., **Pople, T.** & Murray, P.J. (2019). Effects of wet season mineral nutrition on chital deer distribution in northern Queensland. *Wildlife Research* **46**, 499-508.

44. Coordinated management of feral deer in Queensland

Project dates

May 2022 - June 2025

Project team

Tony Pople, Mike Brennan, Matt Amos and Cameron Wilson

Project summary

This project is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and aims to:

1. In collaboration with stakeholders, identify priority feral deer populations in Queensland for management and establish demonstration sites for on-ground management and research
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of control programs and control tools at demonstration sites
3. Disseminate best practice deer management through workshops with local governments and land managers

Helicopter-based culling of a large chital deer population has been monitored by aerial survey in north Queensland with a follow-up cull planned for September 2023. Project work will be concentrated during 2023-25 when most funds are provided and a dedicated project officer available.

Additional demonstration sites have been proposed in north Queensland where chital deer populations will be controlled from the air and ground. Thermal imagery can assist culling of pest animals in cool environments but its cost effectiveness in tropical regions is unknown and so these sites provide an opportunity for its assessment. Additional sites have been proposed in southern and central Queensland on management of populations of red and rusa deer which are sufficiently small and isolated to be candidates for local eradication. Larger, established populations may still be selected for control if they can be reduced below a density that landholders can then keep the population below.

Workshops run in northern, central and southern Queensland (described within project 35) were used to refine maps of regional deer populations. These maps and further discussions will help identify priority populations for control as part of regional control strategies.

Collaborators

- Annelise Wiebkin (National Deer Management Coordinator)
- Troy Crittle (NSW Department of Primary Industries)
- Jesse Wojtala and Mark Kimber (Sunshine Coast Regional Council)
- Dan Franks (Brisbane City Council)
- Bren Fuller (Whitsunday Shire Council)
- Queensland local governments
- Ted Vinson and Geoff Swan (Biosecurity Queensland)

Key publications

Bengsen, A.J., Forsyth, D.M., **Pople, A.R., Brennan, M., Amos, M.**, Leeson, M., Cox T.E., Gray, B., Orgill, O., Hampton, J.O., Crittle, T. & Haebich, K. (2022). Effectiveness and costs of helicopter-based shooting of deer. *Wildlife Research*, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1071/WR21156>

Forsyth, D., **Pople, T.**, Page, B., Moriarty, A., Ramsey, D., Parkes, J., Wiebkin, A. & Lane, C. (eds) (2017), 2016 National Wild Deer Management Workshop Proceedings, Adelaide, 17-18 November 2016, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra, Australia.

National Feral Deer Action Plan. (<https://feraldeerplan.org.au/>).

Queensland Feral Deer Management Strategy 2022-27. (https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1644218/Feral-Deer-Management-Strategy.pdf)



External funding

Research and development contracts

Project/research area	Funding body	Funds spent (\$)
Integrated management of cabomba	CSIRO	106
Weed management in the Pacific	Landcare Research New Zealand	173,463
Biocontrol of pasture weeds, Vanuatu	Landcare Research New Zealand	118,184
Biocontrol of parkinsonia	CSIRO	24,792
Biocontrol of <i>Miconia crenata</i>	AgriFutures Australia	91,455
Biocontrol of prickly acacia	AgriFutures Australia	105,612
Biocontrol of Navua sedge	AgriFutures Australia	50,624
Endemic pathogens of giant rat's tail grass	AgriFutures Australia, HQPlantations, Bundaberg Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and New South Wales Biocontrol Task Force	335,050
Biocontrol of invasive cacti	Australian Government	119,314
Giant rat's tail grass management in central Queensland	Gladstone Regional Council	16,366
Managing established pests—giant rat's tail grass	Australian Government	1,933
Aquatic weed management tools	Australian Government	342,992
Navua sedge management	Australian Government	216,106
Strategic invasive grass control	Australian Government	63,165
Coordinated management of feral deer	Australian Government	46,069
Siam weed management in northern Australia	Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security	32,582
Four tropical weeds eradication	National cost share	70,295
Red witchweed response program	National cost share	34,000
Wild dog and deer management	Centre for Invasive Species Solutions	19,767
Cluster fencing evaluation	Centre for Invasive Species Solutions	57,917
Feral pig management	Australian Government	321,276
Total		2,241,068

Land Protection Fund

Project/research area	Funds spent (\$)
Pesticide permits	29,849
Biocontrol of prickly acacia	127,118
Biocontrol of bellyache bush	131,165
Biocontrol of cat's claw creeper	51,175
Biocontrol of parthenium	21,231
Biocontrol of opuntoid cactus	81,156
Biocontrol of Harrisia cactus	89,385
Biocontrol of Navua sedge	108,919
Biocontrol of African tulip tree	18,705
Biocontrol of <i>Miconia crenata</i> (Koster's curse)	38,957
Biocontrol of giant rat's tail grass	69,891
Biocontrol of chinee apple	74,895
Biocontrol of lantana	24,542
Rearing and release of biocontrol agents	148,597
Biocontrol agent compendium	29,009
Quarantine management	96,648
Water weed ecology and management	53,999
Integrated management of cabomba	70,712
Aquatic weed management tools	67,203
Weed seed dynamics	68,184
Siam weed management in northern Australia	30,862
Giant rat's tail grass wick wiper	18,399
Navua sedge ecology and management	91,799
Drone-based weed identification	22,549
Weed risk assessment	63,491
Red-eared slider eradication	17,126
Asian black-spined toad surveillance	17,655
Rabbit best practice research	27,791
Feral deer best practice research	85,510
Coordinated management of feral deer	101,243
Refining management of feral deer	101,500
Wild dog exclusion fencing	95,757
Management of peri-urban wild dogs	14,863
Feral pig management	82,373
Pest animal toxin support	29,124
Total	2,201,382

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Olusegun Osunkoya	Principal scientist (ecology)
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Tobias Bickel	Senior scientist (aquatic weeds)
Jason Callander	Scientist
Lana Harriott	Scientist
David Holdom	Scientist
Md Mahbubur Rahman	Scientist
Boyang Shi	Scientist
Di Taylor	Scientist
Tamara Taylor	Scientist
Michael Brennan	Principal science technician
David Comben	Science technician
Bahar Farahani	Science technician
Tess James	Science technician
Eloise Martin	Science technician casual
Christine Perrett	Science technician
Melissa Brien	Science technician
Dipika Roy	Science technician
Liz Snow	Principal science technician
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Anna Williams	Science technician
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Cameron Wilson	Scientist
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Kelli Pukallus	Senior science technician
Clare Warren	Science technician

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Name	Position
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Stephen Setter	Senior science technician

Publications and presentations

Journal articles

- Amos, M., Pople, A. R., Brennan, M.,** Sheil, D., Kimber, M. & Cathcart, A. (2022). Home ranges of rusa deer (*Cervus timorensis*) in a subtropical peri-urban environment in South East Queensland. *Australian Mammalogy*, 45(1), 116-120.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1071/AM21052>
- Bengsen, A. J., Forsyth, D. M., **Pople, A. R., Brennan, M., Amos, M.,** Leeson, M., Cox T. E., Gray, B., Orgill, O., Hampton, J.O., Crittle, T. & Haebich, K. (2022). Effectiveness and costs of helicopter-based shooting of deer. *Wildlife Research*, -.
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1071/WR21156>
- Chadha, A., Florentine, S. K., **Dhileepan, K.** & Turville, C. (2022). Assessing Seed Longevity of the Invasive Weed *Navua Sedge* (*Cyperus aromaticus*), by Artificial Ageing. *Plants*, 11(24), 3469. doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11243469>
- Chadha, A., Florentine, S. K., **Dhileepan, K.** & Turville, C. (2022). Effect of Rhizome Fragment Length and Burial Depth on the Emergence of a Tropical Invasive Weed *Cyperus aromaticus* (*Navua Sedge*). *Plants*, 11(23), 3331. doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11233331>
- Chadha, A., Florentine, S. K., **Dhileepan, K.,** Turville, C. & Dowling, K. (2022). Evaluation of Floryprauxifenbenzyl for the control of *Cyperus aromaticus* (*Navua sedge*). *Advances in Weed Science*, 40, e0202200048.
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043 296

Longreach Regional Council
PO Box 144
ILFRACOMBE QLD 4727

Department of
**Regional Development,
Manufacturing and Water**

Advice - Notice to extend watertight requirement under section 35 of the GABORA Water Plan

Dear Longreach Regional Council

I am writing to advise you of a recent change to the deadline for the completion of watertight delivery systems across the Great Artesian Basin.

An assessment of the 2027 watertight timeframe under the Great Artesian Basin and other Regional Aquifers Water Plan 2017 (GABORA Water Plan) has been completed. The assessment found the current watertight deadline of 2 September 2027 cannot be met and a new date of 2 September 2032 has been set. Stock and domestic water licence holders with the relevant condition on their licence now have until **2 September 2032** to ensure they have watertight delivery systems.

The assessment considered matters including drought and natural disasters over the past decade, funding demand, the availability of class three drillers, and rising costs. A notice has been published on the Business Queensland website. For further information, please visit www.business.qld.gov.au and search for 'GABORA'.

Since 1989 significant investment has been made towards watertight delivery systems in the Great Artesian Basin. Almost 770 bores have been rehabilitated and 15,000 kilometres of open drains decommissioned and replaced with 440 piping systems. This has saved more than 226,000 Megalitres of water with investment of over \$239 million from the Australian and Queensland Governments.

If you require any further information, please visit www.business.qld.gov.au and search for 'Great Artesian Basin rehabilitation program' or email GABPMO@rdmw.qld.gov.au or telephone (07) 4529 1355.

Yours sincerely

Hamish Butler
**Executive Director – South Region
Water Resource Management
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water**

275 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2247 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.rdmw.qld.gov.au
ABN 51 242 471 577

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

The Board held three meetings in this third quarter of 2023, two virtual, and one face-to-face in Boulia in late August. Directors' attendances and apologies for the meetings are in the table on the right.

The CEO, David Arnold was an apology for the 4 August meeting and A/CEO, Morgan Gronold stood in for him.

Meetings were also attended by council CEOs and various council member representatives. Guests and speakers at the August meetings included:

- Honourable Member Ann Leahy, Member for Warrego
- Amy Rosanowski, Patrick Scanlan and Nicole Bright - **Queensland Revenue Office**
- Candace Vea Vea and Chris Filby - **Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning**
- Josh Dyke and Rudi Pretzler - **LGAQ**
- Emma Murphy - **NBN**
- Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma and Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond - **Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water**
- Gerry Roberts and Rachel Webster - consultants to RAPAD undertaking the **Regional Drought Resilience Planning**
- Max Wise and Lauren McFarlane - **Department of Child Safety, Seniors, and Disability Services**
- Janine Waldock and Peter Donaghy - **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)** along with Charles Burke (private consultant to DAF)
- Debra McKeen - **AP Consulting**
- Rebecca Doble and Michele Akeroyd - **CSIRO**.

	7 Jul	4 Aug	22, 23 Aug
Cr Rayner	B. Walsh proxy	Yes	Yes
Cr Martin	Yes	Yes	Cr Scobie proxy
Cr Britton	Yes	Yes	L. Moore proxy
Cr O'Neil	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cr Dillon	No	No	Cr Rayner proxy
Cr Baskett	No	Cr Elliot proxy	Yes
Cr Dare	No	Yes	Yes

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:

- to support, facilitate, promote and encourage the community, environmental and economic development of the region,
- 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),
- 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
- 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



www.rapad.com.au

BOARD MEETINGS CONT:



The Boulia 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**.

CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL
PEST MANAGEMENT GROUP



The Board expressed their gratitude to Boulia CEO, Lynne Moore, and her staff for hosting the meeting, where members and guests were treated to great food provided by a range of local businesses and volunteer groups.



As a part of governance and business across all meetings, the Board received 22-23 YTD operating financial statements, noting there were no extraordinary operational or strategic budget matters to report. The Board also:

- **Received the CEOs update** on the progress status of the 22-23 FY audit, along with risk, contracts register and staff wage policy updates,
- **Endorsed two FRRR contracts**, as well as endorsing gifts provided to a visiting trade delegation and to an outgoing senior public servant from the region,
- **Endorsed a sponsorship request** from 'Leading in the Central West' leadership program, and
- **Received an update from the CEO** regarding professional development he undertook through the Regional Australia Institute.

ITEMS ACROSS THE THREE RAPAD MEETINGS INCLUDED:



The July meeting was attended by the **Qld Revenue Office (QRO)** who provided an update on their proactive debt management model designed to collect overdue debts for local government to provide greater revenue back to councils.



The Board endorsed a position regarding the **Qld Governments Lake Eyre Basin Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement** and as a result provided a submission to the consultation process.



The Board received a final report on the second phase of the **FarOut! Campaign**. That final report can be found here: www.rapad.com.au/projects/far-out-campaign



The CEO updated the Board on the **FRRR project** specifically the offer from the **Australian Rural Leadership Foundation** to offer programs in the region. This is funded by the Future Drought Fund. Further to this LRC and BTRC have taken up the offer and will progress finalisation of details with the CEO and ARLF for dates in 2024.



The Board welcomed Gerry Roberts and Rachel Webster who were undertaking consultation as a part of the **Regional Drought Resilience Planning program**.



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

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. The Board hopes to release the report by the end of 2023.

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





Rural Financial Counselling Service
North Queensland

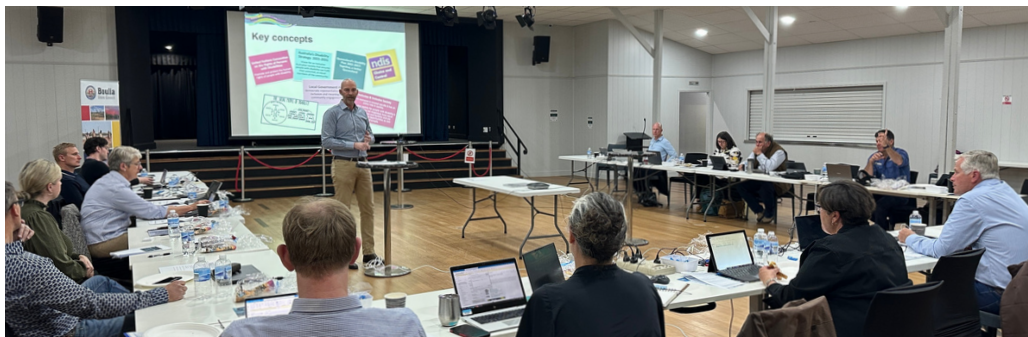
The Board received a state-wide report regarding the progress of the **Grazing Futures Livestock Business Resilience Planning** which RAPAD is contracted to deliver in conjunction with other partners, in the North Queensland region through the RAPAD business Rural Financial Counselling Service North Queensland (RFCSNQ - www.rfcsnq.com.au).

RAPAD through RFCSNQ have recently released several FBRP case study testimonials which can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVgruqhpE7Z8lQzvJUt3_-L2e6evZOKTO



The Board took advice from the CEO that the State funded **Small Business Financial Counselling Program**, delivered through Rural Financial Counselling Service North Queensland (RFCSNQ) will end on 31 December 2023.

The CEO advised he was working through the transition and wind up of the program.



The Board received the report from the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services titled **'RAPAD Care Service Analysis'**.

Max Wise and Lauren McFarlane attended the Boulia meeting to talk to the report the department had commissioned earlier in the year and from here RAPAD will continue to work with the department as well as other industry stakeholders and member local governments to implement the report.

RAPAD service demand data

Aged care

- 40 approved Home Care Packages (31 Dec. 2021) – 1 per every 50 people aged 65+ (Qld 1:24)

Disability

- 149 NDIS participants
- Approx. \$4.7M each year in unspent NDIS funds (44% utilisation; 76% in Qld)
- ABS 'Core Activity Need' & DSP data suggests more people may be eligible for NDIS, particularly in Blackall-Tambo

Carers

- Approx. 200 people receiving Carers Allowance
- Likely taking on informal support roles to fill gaps in NDIS and aged care availability



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**.

As reported in past Board communiqués this is currently affecting two of RAPAD’s member councils, Boulia and Barcoo, but ultimately it will affect all member councils. As reported previously, **if not resolved it will have a significant impact on the financial capacity of councils**. To reiterate past detail the following is the impact on the Boulia Shire Council using a case study approach.

	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

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.



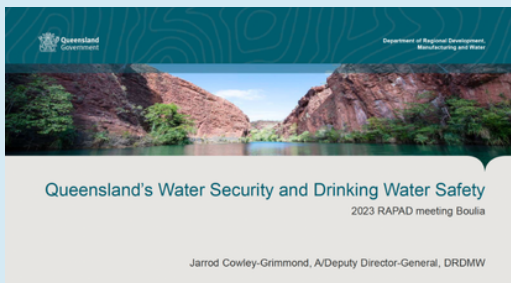
The Board received a **final draft report from AEC** regarding the **'Water for Economic Development in Western Queensland'**.

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.

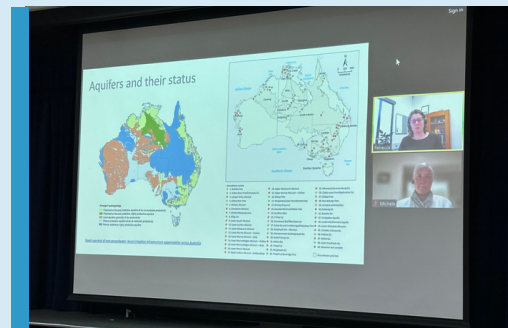
The Board acknowledges the State Governments Remote Area Board (RAB) funding which supports this 'Water for Economic Development' project.



Ingrid Fomiatti Minnesma and Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond from the **Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water**, attended and presented on and discussed with the Board, issues relating to urban water supply and its safety.



Rebecca Doble and Michele Akeroyd, **CSIRO Environment and Water** provided a presentation titled 'regional and remote water security challenges', from which the CEO will make introductions to various stakeholders who may have interests across the range of subjects presented.



The Board heard from the CEO regarding the final planning for the September **Western Qld Alliance of Councils (WQAC) Assembly** to be held in Winton in late September. The CEO is chairing the assembly planning committee.

A brief overview of **WQAC activities** was provided:

- A submission to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster,
- A submission is being prepared into the Consultation Paper, 'Review of Categories and Remuneration Levels'.



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



The Board welcomed Charles Burke who undertook consultation regarding **Local Drought Committees**.

By way of background, in 2018, the Queensland Government commissioned an external review of existing drought programs and assistance. This included developing recommendations for a future long-term approach to managing drought response in Queensland, focussed on drought preparedness. Two of the recommendations of the report related to Local Disaster Committee (LDC) frameworks, drought declaration processes and inclusion of more science-based indicators.

The relevant recommendations were:

Recommendation 1: The existing LDC Framework and the drought declaration process, including Individually Droughted Properties (IDPs), be maintained in the immediate future. The areas of responsibility and processes and procedures of the LDCs should be immediately clarified and made publicly available to avoid confusion and misinformation.

Recommendation 2: The current LDC system and declaration process be reviewed and restructured into a new system for declarations that will be based on the transition to a more objective, science-based, multi-layered framework, utilising publicly accessible indicators, and maintaining appropriate local input.



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)** who spoke to their department's programs and in particular the **RAB funding** which RAPAD will progress.

The CEO provided an update on the **QRA funded flood gauge training for council staff** with 15 staff from six RAPAD councils taking up the training offer.

The training supported council staff to undertake basic maintenance and this training results in significant cost-savings for operating and maintaining the assets locally, compared to utilising external specialists.

The local workforce can now operate and maintain flood warning assets within the Central West Region.



Above: QRA provided an update at the RAPAD Board meeting back in February 2021, setting out to develop a training course so local staff can operate and maintain the flood warning equipment themselves.



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.

Below is Prue's update:

GROWQ INNOVATION EXPO, LONGREACH SHOWGROUNDS

Our first event of the quarter was the GroWQ Innovation Expo on 13 July. It was our second expo held and we were thrilled with the success of the event. The expo attracted 180 attendees, 24 speakers, 6 panellists and 30 trade displays and it live-streamed throughout the day.

The Expo was broken into 4 sessions:-

- 1. Cows, Cattle & Change
- 2. Land & Climate
- 3. Shaking up Sheep and Goats
- 4. People & Gadgets

There were two producers who spoke which was a highlight of the day. Ian McCamley spoke of his cattle operation and Ben Banks spoke of his sheep business near Blackall. They shared the innovations they have both used in their businesses and what has helped them achieve their targets.

Other speakers ranged from soil carbon, to innovation with farmer first aid, to sheep yard design to breathalysing cattle for pregnancy! The speakers were of a very high calibre and attendees left feeling inspired and positive about the ag industry.

We concluded the day by holding a networking evening at the The Branch with 80 attendees. It was a great evening to follow up on new topics and connections.



REGENERATIVE RANGELANDS, LONGREACH

The Hub was thrilled to support Regenerative Rangelands 2023, a producer-led event, focussing on health soils, pastures, and people, and offering a platform to discuss policies, legislation and the development of environmental markets that may impact on biodiversity, drought resilience and ecological health in the rangelands.

An incredible line-up of talent was welcomed to Latrobe Station, Longreach, including Alejandro Carrillo, internationally renowned regenerative rancher from Las Damas Ranch, situated in the Chihuahan desert in Mexico, amongst others. Alejandro speaks the language of producers and shared his knowledge to all eighty enthusiastic producers, around how he can carry 3+ times more cattle than neighbouring ranches on a per-acre basis, while lowering his inputs substantially. Well done to Jody Brown and her initiative of creating this event.

WESTECH FIELD DAYS AND WESTECH STEER CHALLENGE, BARCALDINE | 5 & 6 SEPTEMBER

The Hub was pleased to support the Westech Field Days in Barcaldine. Alejandro Carrillo (who also presented at the Regenerative Rangelands event in Longreach) talked about his pasture and stock management practices and then joined a chaired panel of western graziers, exploring regional options and issues around bringing back grasslands in tough conditions for beef productivity and its many benefits. Between 40-60 spectators at the presentations and panel discussions each day.

We also supported The Westech Steer Challenge trial. This commenced on in January 2023 and culminated in a presentation luncheon at the Westech Field Days this week. The trials proved the well-known value of western Queensland's beef growing country and was a testament to producers across the wider region.

Teams of 10 strictly HGP free vendor bred steers, 0-2 teeth, 330-400kg full on farm at entry were run under uniform conditions for 14 weeks at Clover Hills, Barcaldine and then sold over the scales at the Barcaldine Saleyards to Condabri Feedlot for a 100-day feeding program prior to slaughter.

All aspects of performance were monitored and provided to participants, including pasture weight gain, feedlot performance and carcass feedback. The results were shared on the day and winners named. Congratulations to all involved.

SILAGE WORKSHOP | LONGREACH, 12 SEPTEMBER

In the middle of September there was a Maxheath Silage workshop held at 'Weewondilla', 80km from Longreach and hosted by Graziers, Boyd & Katie Webb. An informative day (attended by 29 producers) - useful for producers to consider alternative options for drought-proofing.

- Boyd & Katie started planting cropping 2 years ago. They planted oats (baled and sold it) and then sorghum
- Alan Balfour from Maxheath Silage and Nathan Lister from Lallemand Animal Nutrition share their knowledge
- 1000 tonnes has been stored on the property until it is needed. Plans to store it to help feed sheep through future droughts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday 12th October – Soil Carbon Workshop
- Friday 27th October – Goat Gains – A panel of supply chain experts to discuss the future of the domestic market.



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





RAPAD plays a leading role in facilitating groups that unite our seven councils, as well as agencies and industry, to work together on common, critical areas including Pest and Weed Management, Roads and Transport, Water and Sewerage, HR and now... introducing the **RAPAD IT Alliance**.

The IT Alliance held its initial meeting in September bringing together council representatives to discuss common challenges: from cyber security and phishing, to IT platforms and upgrades, as well as look for opportunities and to share successes.

The first meeting really highlighted to us the skills and enthusiasm that we have right here in our region, reinforcing why we continue to identify and support a regional 'Alliance' platform approach that can provide relevant opportunities to share information, solve issues in-region and tackle challenges together - particularly in increasingly important areas like IT. While a few may be a tad shy in the Zoom camera stakes, it was fantastic to listen to the range of topics and we're looking forward to the next one!



The Board's upcoming meetings for quarter four are planned for:

- October 6,
- November 3 and,
- November 27-29 in Brisbane, which will also be the Annual General Meeting along with the annual Friends of RAPAD event.

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

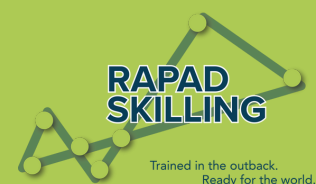
RAPAD Skilling – www.rapadskilling.com.au

CENTRAL WEST QUEENSLAND'S OWN REGISTERED TRAINING PROVIDER

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

RAPAD Skilling is a **Skills Assure** supplier approved to deliver subsidised qualifications funded under the Qld Government's VET Investment Plan and User Choice Scheme.

Give them a call on 4652 5600 or visit rapadskilling.com.au



Having support can help if you're caring for your loved ones

Do you take care of someone close to you?

As part of your family, you might care for someone who **lives with disability, has an ongoing illness, is elderly.**

But, we don't always see ourselves as carers. We're just looking after someone close to us, like a child or parent, our partner, relative or friend. It's what we do. We do it out of love for our family and friends.

What makes someone a carer?

There are more than **2.65 million unpaid carers** in Australia. That's 1 in 9 people.

Every caring situation is different and a carer:

- can be young or old
- might look after someone living with disability, a medical condition, mental illness, or someone who is frail due to age
- can care for anyone – a parent, spouse, partner, child, sibling, friend or neighbour, or any other loved one
- may help their loved one with shopping, housework, cooking, transport, or provide emotional support.

It's OK to ask for help

Looking after someone else can be challenging. It's OK to ask for support.

Having support helps when you are caring for someone.

Unpaid carers often don't ask for help because they:

- don't think it's acceptable to ask for support
- don't think of themselves as a carer
- don't think they need support or services
- don't know about the in-language or culturally appropriate services that are available.

It's never too early or too late to get support. You can always make changes that will improve your health and wellbeing.

Carer Gateway

Carer Gateway can help you understand what support is available and right for you. You can access Carer Gateway in person, online or over the phone.

Carer Gateway is a free Australia-wide service that provides a range of support and local services. This includes culturally sensitive and some in-language services to improve carer wellbeing, skills and knowledge.

Services and support through Carer Gateway

Some of the services that you can access are:

Tailored support packages

Support and services are tailored to your unique situation and needs. This might include support to continue your education or training, planned respite and transport.

Planned and emergency respite

Respite care looks after the person you care for so you can have a break. You could use respite to take time for other activities, or when you get sick or hurt.

Counselling

Our trained counsellors can talk you through your situation, listen and help you, in person or over the phone.

Connect with other carers

We can help you get in contact with other carers. You can share stories, knowledge, and experiences and support each other, either in person or online.

Call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737 or go to CarerGateway.gov.au to find out what we can do for you.

If you speak a language other than English, you can use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS). TIS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call on 131 450.



North and West Remote Health
Carer Gateway



Carer Gateway Dinner



**Do you provide unpaid care to a friend or family member?
There is free, local support for you too.**

NWRH is initiating the free services for Carers in Longreach and the surrounding communities.

Join us to understand more about the support available to Carers for all ages.
RSVP by 23rd Nov. Kindly provide dietary requirements if any.



Event details

Date: 29th Nov, Wednesday

Time: 04:30 PM - 07:00 PM

Location: Main Auditorium,
Longreach Council

RSVP: 0474 776 110 (M)
julie.sanderson@nwrh.com.au (E)

To find out more about Carer Gateway call **1800 422 737**
or visit carergateway.gov.au



Carer Gateway is a national service funded by the Australian Government. In Queensland, North and West Remote Health delivers Carer Gateway services as part of a consortium led by Wellways.

2024–2025 Regional Community Forums – Expressions of interest now open

The Queensland Government is seeking **expressions of interest for regional community members** to participate in the 2024–2025 Regional Community Forum program

We are pleased to advise that expressions of interest are now open for membership of the **2024–2025 Regional Community Forums**.

We are looking for 20 community leaders aged 18 and over across the seven Queensland regions. Meetings are held four times a year, where members will discuss local priorities and seek opportunities to strengthen regional voices, economies and services.

Are you passionate about your community's needs and priorities? Are you keen to make a difference? Then follow this link and apply now! Or share with your community and contacts to ensure that your region and Local government Area (LGA) is represented. [Western Queensland | About Queensland and its government | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/regions/western-queensland/about-queensland-and-its-government)

The Western Queensland region encompasses Seven LGA's of: Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Boulia Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Longreach Regional Council and Winton Shire Council

Regional Community Forums occur quarterly across the seven Queensland regions, and comprise of 20 appointed community members, senior Queensland Government officers and members of the Queensland Parliament.

This is your chance to get involved and have your say, support your community and discuss opportunities and priorities in your area.

Applications close midnight Friday 1 December.

More details can be found here: [Regional Community Forums | About Queensland and its government | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Cheers
Sonya



Sonya Cullen
Principal Stakeholder Relationship Officer
Office for Rural and Regional Queensland
Governance and Engagement
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

M: 0448 954 063 E: sonya.cullen@premiers.qld.gov.au or wq@premiers.qld.gov.au
10357 Landsborough Highway, Longreach
C/- DAF, PO Box 519, Longreach QLD 4730

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Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

9 November 2023

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Longreach Regional Council
PO Box 144
ILFRACOMBE QLD 4727

Dear Brett

Advice of LGAQ's Intention to Request the Issue of a New Local Government Workcare Bank Guarantee

This advice is provided to Longreach Regional Council as a member of the Queensland Local Government Workers Compensation Self Insurance Scheme (LGW).

It is a condition of LGW's workers compensation self-insurance licence that the scheme provide a bank guarantee in favour of WorkCover Queensland to the Workers' Compensation Regulator. Such guarantees have been provided annually by LGW since commencement of the scheme in 1998. The guarantee amount equals 150% of the scheme's projected outstanding liability position at the end of the current financial year. Each LGW member provides an indemnity to Queensland Treasury Corporation, which issues the guarantee on behalf of members, for part of the total guarantee amount.

In 2009, LGW members and the LGAQ formally agreed to establish a new process for updating the bank guarantee provided on behalf of LGW by QTC. Rather than the previous practice of separate indemnities being signed each year by each LGW member, it was agreed by members that a standing indemnity arrangement be established with QTC. This allows the LGAQ to formally request QTC to alter the guarantee amount, and therefore each member's proportionate indemnity towards that amount, after providing notice to LGW members of the intention to make that request.

In accordance with that agreed process I hereby advise of the LGAQ's intention, on behalf of LGW members, to request QTC to issue an updated bank guarantee.

The request will be forwarded to QTC no earlier than **Wednesday 22 November 2023**. In accordance with the standing indemnity process, members have the opportunity to raise any questions or issues relating to the proposed guarantee request prior to that date.

The existing guarantee was issued by QTC on 28 November 2022 and is for a total guarantee amount of \$57,320,000. The current indemnity (maximum liability) of Longreach Regional Council to QTC towards that guarantee is \$328,574.72. QTC will be requested to cancel the existing guarantee and issue a new guarantee in its place. In accordance with the standing indemnity arrangement with QTC, the issue of a new guarantee will change the amount of the indemnity (maximum liability) of Longreach Regional Council towards the total guarantee amount.

Details of the new guarantee the LGAQ will request QTC to issue are as follows:

New total guarantee amount - \$66,081,000

New indemnity (maximum liability) of Longreach Regional Council
towards the new total guarantee amount - **\$366,709.31**

P 07 3000 2222
F 07 3252 4473
W www.lgaq.asn.au

Local Government House
25 Evelyn Street
Newstead Qld 4006

PO Box 2230
Fortitude Valley BC
Qld 4006

Local Government Association Of Queensland Ltd.
ABN 11 010 883 293 **ACN** 142 783 917



The Actuarial Report determines the Bank Guarantee assessment of estimated workers compensation claims liabilities for the scheme. This year has seen a further increase in the Bank Guarantee amount due to expected claim costs and payments made over the year being higher than expected. The increase of \$8.8 million in the Bank Guarantee is predominantly due to the actuarial assumptions of estimated liabilities and includes increased claims and costs, which is likely to continue and will impact scheme performance during the 2023-24 year. In addition to this there have also been inflationary pressures, increasing re-insurance and regulator costs, and of course increased claim duration costs which have been ongoing and associated with the impact of Covid-19.

Some further key drivers for the increase in estimated liabilities from the actuary include higher than expected payments and incurred costs over the last 12 months. There has also been an increase in the claims experience which is predominantly attributable to statutory lump sum payments, higher than anticipated common law lodgements and average common law settlement figures. This year there has also been a strengthening in projection assumptions for future common law settlements which has resulted in the need for an increase in provisioning for common law claim costs.

The amount of the new guarantee LGAQ will request QTC to issue does not exceed the limit of \$80,000,000 included in the approval dated 15 February 2013 provided to LGW members under sections 34(1) and 60A of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* to enter into financial arrangements with QTC. The change to the total guarantee amount reflects the reduction in LGW's estimated outstanding liability resulting from consistent scheme performance and legislative changes impacting on common law liability. Despite the overall reduction in the guarantee amount, indemnity amounts for some members may have increased due to changes in their payroll level or contribution rate relative to other members.

In relation to the indemnity provided by LGW members, as advised in each of the previous years the total guarantee amount has needed to be updated, the guarantee and therefore each member's indemnity can only be called on if LGW ceased to operate and then only to the extent that LGW did not have sufficient funds to meet its outstanding liabilities.

LGW establishes a reserve to fully cover its outstanding liabilities from each year of operation. This reserve is calculated on a conservative basis and includes a prudential margin. Actuarial reviews are conducted on a regular basis to ensure the reserve is adequate to fund all outstanding liabilities. In addition to the liability reserve, LGW has developed significant levels of accumulated member funds providing even further financial security. The most recent Queensland Audit Office audited financial statements are for 2021/22 and showed net accumulated LGW member funds of \$14,973,146.

In summary, this letter is to advise that the LGAQ will be arranging for the LGW Bank Guarantee on behalf of Council and confirms the apportioned guaranteed amount for the 2023/24 period, which may require disclosure in your financial statements. No further action is required by Council in relation to this letter, however if members have any queries pertaining to the LGAQ arranging the bank guarantee please advise prior to 22 November 2023.

All costs associated with establishment of the guarantee are met on behalf of members by LGW.

Should you require any additional information in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact Ms Rachael Lindsay at Rachael.Lindsay@lgaq.asn.au or on 3000 2262.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Whitelaw', is written in a cursive style.

Tracy Whitelaw
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

November 2023			
2 Thursday 9.00am- 12.00pm	Land & Pest Management Meeting	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Land & Pest Committee
3 - 5 November Daily Event	Leading in the Central West	Ilfracombe Rec Centre	Public Event
11 Saturday	Ilfracombe Races	Ilfracombe Race Course	Public Event
11 Saturday 10:40am	Remembrance Day Service	Edkins Park	Public event
15 Wednesday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
16 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Isisford	Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
17 Friday 8:30am- 10:30am	Plant Committee Meeting	North Meeting Room Longreach Council Office	Plant Committee
23 Thursday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
27-30 Monday - Thursday	RAPAD Board Meeting	Brisbane	Mayor & CEO
25 Saturday 6.00pm	Di Scott Memorial Christmas Tree	Ilfracombe Memorial Park	Public Event
30 Thursday	A not-so-silent Night Community Concert	Edkins Park	Public Event
December 2023			

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

7 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Strategic Round Table	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
8 Friday 5pm to late	Lions Christmas Street Party	Eagle St, Longreach	Public Event
9 Saturday	Yaraka Christmas Tree	Yaraka Town Hall	Public Event
13 Wednesday 9.00am- 10.30am	Audit & Risk Committee Meeting	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Audit & Risk Committee
13 Wednesday 10.30am- 4.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
14 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Longreach	Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
24 Sunday	Isisford Christmas Eve	Isisford Park	Public Event
January 2024			
24 Wednesday 9.00am- 4.00pm	Council Briefing	Fairmount Room, Longreach Civic Centre	Councillors Executive Leadership Team
25 Thursday 9.00am- 3.00pm	Ordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Longreach	Councillors Executive Leadership Team Open to the public
26 Friday	Australia Day Awards	TBC	Public Event

Recommendation:

That Council receives the report, as presented

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.3 - Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee Minutes and Recommendations - 2 November 2023

11.3 Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee Minutes and Recommendations - 2 November 2023

Consideration of the minutes and recommendations of the Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee (LPMAC) meeting held on 2 November 2023.

Council Action

Partner
Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Biosecurity Act 2014

Policy Considerations

Advisory Committee Policy No 02.31
Pest Animal Bounty Policy No 05.03
Pest Animal Control Policy No 05.04

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
1.3	The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.
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 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-2023-01-021)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Bignell

That Council adopts the amended Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, as presented and amended.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.3 - Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee Minutes and Recommendations - 2 November 2023

(Res-2023-03-074)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Bignell

That Council in accordance with section 265 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, appoints the following committee members to the Longreach Regional Council Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee with the term expiring on 31 March 2025:

- Adrian Brown
- Andrew Pegler
- David Morton
- Duncan Emmott
- Harry Glasson
- Mathew Brown
- Paul McClymont
- Peter Spence
- Rob Pearce

(Res-2023-04-094)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Smith

That Council, in accordance with section 265 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, appoints the following additional committee members to the Longreach Regional Council Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee with the term expiring on 31 March 2025:

- Keith Gordon
- Matt Carr

Officer Comment

Responsible Officers: Elizabeth Neal, Executive Assistant to the CEO, Mayor & Councillors

Background:

The LPMAC met on 2 November 2023 and set out below is a summary of the recommendations from the meeting for Council consideration:

Standing Item – UHF Repeater Tower Update

The Committee notes the status of the UHF Repeater Towers.

Standing Item – LPMAC Actions Update

The LPMAC reviewed and discussed the presented "Action List" of the committee. Follow up actions were sent to the appropriate officers and completed actions moved from the active list.

Standing Item – Local Laws Report

The Committee noted the Local Laws/Rural Lands Report as presented.

Standing Item – Infrastructure Forecast Report

That the Committee notes that there was no Works Forecast Report to be presented.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.3 - Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee Minutes and Recommendations - 2 November 2023

That the Committee request updates specifically on Grids, Roads and the Gravel Pits be presented in a report at the next meeting and ongoing with a representative of the Works team present.

New Item – Baiting Program

That the Committee thanks Council for the latest round of baiting, and strongly recommends that Council maintains an ongoing commitment into the future to continue the baiting program in its current format.

New Item – Grid Replacement

That the Committee recommends that in the next budget, Council lifts their grid replacement programme from \$150,000 to \$350,000 as the present programme is falling behind acceptable maintenance.

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: Insignificant
Rating: Low (3)

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council receives the recommendations of the Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.4 - Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan

11.4 Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan

Consideration of the reviewed Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan, for adoption.

Council Action

Partner
Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012
Disaster Management Act 2003
Emergency Management Assurance Framework

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.
1.3	The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.
OUR SERVICES	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
3.1	A secure water supply that is resilient against climate factors.
3.2	Sustainable infrastructure and services that represent value for money, are environmentally responsible, and are responsive to community needs.
OUR LEADERSHIP	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices
5.4	Council is resilient to climatic risk factors

Budget Considerations

Nil

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.4 - Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2022-10-255)

Moved Cr Martin seconded Cr Nunn

That pursuant to section 80(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Longreach Regional Council Disaster Management Plan and Local Supply Assessment Guideline, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: Craig Neuendorf, Regional Recovery and Resilience Coordinator

Background:

A review of the Disaster Management Plan and various Sub-plans is conducted annually in preparation for the assessment by the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) by 30 September. The plan is referenced against the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland and is reviewed to ensure it meets best practice standards such that formatting and content are consistent with those standards.

The Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan was endorsed by the Longreach Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) at its meeting held on 22 March 2023.

Issue:

A copy of the Sub-plan is attached for Council consideration and will be included on the Longreach Regional Council website for public access once adopted.

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 (3)
Consequence:	Moderate (3)
Rating:	Medium (9/25)

Risk has been calculated based on proceeding as recommended.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. Longreach Evacuation Sub-Plan v. 2.0 March 2023.pdf [↓](#)

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.4 - Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan

Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to section 80(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act 2003, adopts the Longreach Local Disaster Management Group Evacuation Sub-plan as presented.



Longreach Regional Council

Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

Evacuation Sub-Plan

Version 2.0 March 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Evacuation is a process to relocate people in an area at risk from an incident or disaster event to a place of safety until they can return or go about their business.

There are several emergency-disaster situations that might require an evacuation of all or part of the population. Small-scale, localised evacuations might be needed as a result of flash flooding, hazardous materials accident or major fire, while the evacuation of larger areas may be required as a result of events such as major flooding, earthquake or terrorist threat.

Evacuating hazardous areas is the most effective action for protecting people in many disaster or disaster-threat situations. Evacuation may be required pre-impact, as a protective measure, or post-impact, as a result of a loss of services.

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is responsible for the development and maintenance of this sub-plan. As outlined in the State Disaster Management Plan, the Queensland Police Service is responsible for the management of the evacuation process.

PART 1 – Administration

1.1 Authority

This document is a sub-plan to the Longreach Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) and is developed under the authority of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

1.2 Endorsement

The sub-plan was endorsed by the Longreach Local Disaster Management Group on 22 March 2023 and adopted by the Longreach Regional Council on2023.

1.3 Document Control

This sub-plan has been developed and endorsed by the Longreach Local Disaster Management Group to support the implementation of the Longreach Local Disaster Management Plan in response to a disaster event.

Chair

Longreach LDMG

Date

Local Disaster Coordinator

Longreach Regional Council

Date

1.4 Amendments

Proposed amendments to this sub-plan are to be forwarded in writing to:

Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC)
Longreach Regional Council
PO Box 144
Ilfracombe Q 4727

A register of amendments can be found at Appendix 1.

1.5 Distribution

This sub-plan is a controlled document and is not publicly available. The sub-plan is distributed to those agencies who are either a member of the Local Disaster Management Group or who have an identified role and responsibility in evacuation management.

1.6 Review

This sub-plan is to be reviewed in accordance with *s. 59 of the Disaster Management Act 2003*, with relevant amendments made and distributed. The review process is to occur annually by one of the following means:

- Desktop review by the Local Disaster Management Group
- After activation by those agencies involved
- After an Exercise to test the sub-plan or part thereof

PART 2 – Governance

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Evacuation sub-plan is to provide support to local government when planning and implementing an evacuation of exposed persons within the Longreach Regional Council LDMG area of responsibility or in support of other LDMG's upon request. This sub-plan forms part of the Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP).

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of this Evacuation sub-plan within the Longreach Regional Council area are to:

1. Identify local hazards and risks and exposed populations
2. Prescribe the decision making and evacuation process to assist exposed populations
3. Determine the communication process to support exposed populations in the evacuation process
4. Coordinate the organised movement of exposed populations to a safer location and their eventual return

2.3 Planning Assumptions

It is assumed the public will receive and understand official information related to evacuation. Most of the public will act in its own interest and evacuate dangerous areas when advised to do so by authorities. Some individuals, however, may refuse to evacuate. Those individuals will be left until all who are willing to leave have been provided for. Time permitting, further efforts may be made to persuade those who remain in situ to evacuate.

Some events are slow-moving and provide ample reaction time. The worst-case assumption is that there will be little or no warning of the need to evacuate and it may be necessary day or night. There may not be time to obtain support from outside resources and local resources could be severely stretched.

Temporary accommodation facilities and food will need to be provided for evacuees although many may seek shelter with relatives and friends rather than use designated evacuation centre facilities. Most evacuees will use private transportation means, however, transportation may need to be provided for some evacuees.

Spontaneous voluntary evacuation will occur when there is sufficient warning of the threat. Past events suggest that between 5 and 20 per cent of the people at risk will evacuate before being directed to do so.

Some people will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat.

2.4 References

This sub-plan has been developed with reference to the following documents:

- Longreach Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP)
- Queensland Disaster Management Guidelines – www.disaster.qld.gov.au
- Evacuation Planning Handbook – www.aidr.gov.au

PART 3 – Evacuation Strategy

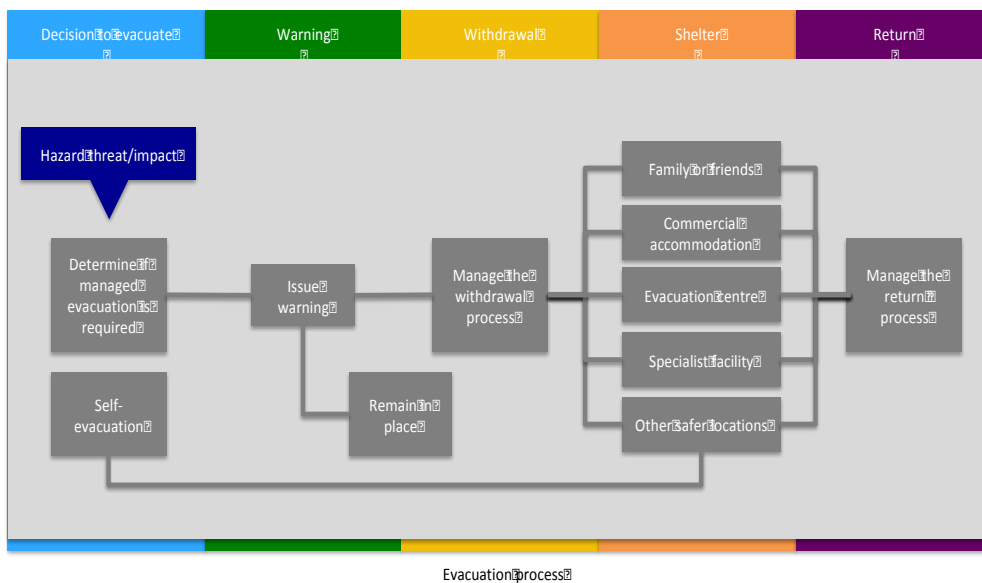
3.1 Evacuation Planning

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that may be used to mitigate the effects of a disaster or emergency situation on a community or part of a community. It is a five stage process commencing with:

- 1) Making a decision to evacuate
- 2) Disseminating warning messages to the affected community
- 3) The timely and coordinated withdrawal of people from a dangerous situation
- 4) Sheltering evacuees in a safer location and finally
- 5) The return of people (when safe to do so).

Evacuation becomes necessary when the benefits of leaving significantly outweigh the risk of ‘sheltering-in-place’. For an evacuation to be effective, it must be appropriately planned, executed and managed.

The following illustration diagrammatically illustrates the evacuation process and is based on the Australian Institute for *Disaster Resilience (AIDR) National Evacuation Planning Handbook* and has been adopted by all State and Territory governments.



3.2 Queensland Legislation

The *Disaster Management Act 2003* (the Act) specifies that Council is primarily responsible for managing disasters in its local government area. As a consequence, the Longreach Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is best placed to plan for and conduct evacuation prior to the onset of an event or following the impact of an event through their local knowledge, experience, community understanding and existing community relationships. However, it

must be emphasized that neither the LDMG nor local government has the legislative authority to order or direct an evacuation.

This is the responsibility of the Longreach District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and can only be authorised under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*

3.3 Authority to Evacuate

There are three types of evacuation under the Act, each with specific triggers and characteristics that either require or do not require authorisation. These are:

Self-Evacuation	
Authority	Description
No authority necessary	<p>This is the self-initiated movement of people to safer places prior to, or in the absence of, official advice or warnings to evacuate. Some people may choose to leave early even in the absence of a hazard but based on a forecast.</p> <p>Safer places may include sheltering in their own home, or with family or friends who may live in a safer building or location. Self-evacuees manage their own withdrawal, including transportation arrangements. People are encouraged to evacuate early if they intend to evacuate.</p> <p>It is recommended that self-evacuation be recognised in the planning process, particularly in the shelter and return stage. Depending on whether the disaster event is rapid or a slow onset, self- evacuation may be encouraged as the first option for residents. It is advisable that this message is included in community preparedness education, awareness and engagement such as early media releases and public information.</p>
Voluntary evacuation	
No authority necessary	<p>An individual can choose to self-evacuate prior to an announcement of either a LDMG coordinated voluntary evacuation or District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) directed evacuation. Exposed persons who may be impacted by an impending hazard are encouraged to commence evacuation voluntarily.</p> <p>Voluntary evacuation of exposed persons may also be coordinated and implemented by the LDMG in close consultation with the DDC. It is recommended that evacuation sub-plans consider documenting the management strategies and operational arrangements for a voluntary evacuation.</p>

Directed evacuation	
Authority	Description
Declaration of a disaster situation under s. 64 of the Act.	<p>A directed evacuation under the Act requires the declaration of a disaster situation. A DDC may declare a disaster situation if satisfied that the requirements of Section 64 of the Act have been met. The declaration of a disaster situation requires the approval of the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and must be made in accordance with Section 65 of the Act.</p> <p>During a disaster situation, the DDC and Declared Disaster Officers are provided with additional powers under Sections 77 & 78 of the Act. These powers may be required to give effect to a directed evacuation.</p> <p><i>A Local Disaster Coordinator (LDC), as part of the LDMG, will make a recommendation to a DDC that a directed evacuation is required, based on their situational awareness in preparation for a disaster or imminent disaster.</i></p> <p><i>The Chairperson of the LDMG, the LDMG, LDC or local government has no legislative power to affect a directed evacuation. The responsibility for authorising a directed evacuation always remains with the DDC.</i></p>

3.4 Refusal to Evacuate

Although it is an offence for people to disobey a lawful direction to evacuate, there is discretion to remove a person refusing to leave or to take punitive action for failure to comply with the direction.

Factors that may be taken into account when considering whether to forcibly remove a person failing to comply with a direction to evacuate include:

- 1) The available resources that may need to be diverted from responding to the event in order to enforce the evacuation
- 2) The safety of personnel

Refer to Queensland Police Service for further information.

3.5 Community Preparedness

Community preparedness provides a significant level of situational awareness for the community in understanding the risks that they are exposed to and what the process will be if and when they are required to take a specific course of action (i.e. evacuation). This phase is critical to ensuring an effective and timely evacuation process is achieved and forms a significant component of Council's annual public awareness program.

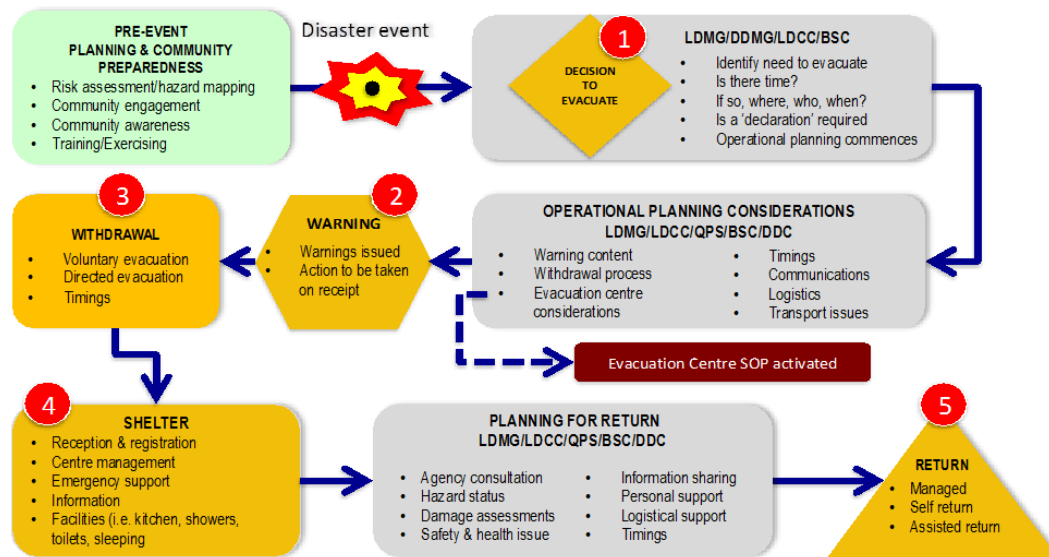
3.6 Preparedness Activities

Activities should be targeted to the needs of each community and may include:

- Community education and awareness programs
 - The dissemination of regular disaster management information through newsletters, Council service centres and rates notices
 - The use of digital media platforms such as Council website, social media
 - Community surveys on the level of understanding of individuals
 - Community pre-season awareness programs
 - Availability of local disaster management plans via Council website and local libraries.
- Public meetings and presentations to community groups

3.7 Activation

Notification and activation flow chart:



3.8 Making the decision to evacuate

Evacuation of people from a particular area causes financial, physical, psychological and social disruption. However, with this in mind, an evacuation is necessary when a hazard, be it natural or human-caused, threatens and puts at risk the safety of those within the area, or following the impact of a hazard which has subsequently rendered the area uninhabitable. Evacuation becomes necessary when the benefits of leaving significantly outweigh the risk of 'sheltering-in-place'.

Sometimes, it is a relatively easy decision to make as it becomes obvious that evacuation is the only way of protecting a community or part of a community. In other instances, the decision is less obvious, but if delayed could cause substantial problems.

The decision to evacuate should be based on a risk assessment and intelligence from the field. The following questions should be considered when deciding whether to evacuate or not.

- Is evacuation the only option available?
- If not, what are the other alternatives?
- Is it possible to evacuate?
- Has a risk assessment been undertaken to support the decision to evacuate?
- Will it be a phased evacuation?
- Have any special arrangements for vulnerable people or people with disabilities been considered?
- Is there a need for a voluntary or directed evacuation?

3.9 Activation of plan

The activation of this sub-plan is vested in the Chairperson of the LDMG. The decision to activate this plan will be made where a threat to a community requires the coordinated movement of ‘at risk’ people from a place of danger to a safer location. Where time permits, the decision should be made in collaboration with all members of the LDMG.

3.10 Local Hazards

Naturally occurring	
Hazard	Description
Flood	The Longreach Regional Council area has an extended history of flood events with potential to cause mild disruption to serious damage to property, infrastructure, the environment and economy.
Drought	Drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use and requirements. Droughts historically last for many years and have previously had a substantial impact upon the local economy, the agricultural industry, local business and the physical and mental health of the population.
Rural fires	Fires generally occur as a result of lightning strikes associated with dry storms in the spring and summer. These could affect built infrastructure and grazing areas in the Longreach Regional Council area.
Severe weather	The Longreach Regional Council area is subject to seasonal severe weather events such as damaging storms as well as high velocity windstorms. Both of these hazards can cause considerable damage to community infrastructure and business continuity.
Heatwave	Queensland Health defines a heatwave as “three (3) days or more of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location.” A heatwave may result in increased deaths and illness in vulnerable groups such as persons >65 years, pregnancy, babies and young children and those with chronic illness. In severe cases, it may impact infrastructure.

Human-caused	
Hazard	Description
Transport incidents (motor vehicle)	Motor vehicle incidents occur regularly in the Longreach Regional Council area. These have included incidents with other vehicles, animals and property assets and have resulted in the loss of human and animal life.
Transport incidents (heavy vehicle)	Heavy vehicle incidents have included hazmat incidents and have resulted in the loss of lives. There are particular concerns regarding the potential for these incidents in the residential areas near the highways or involving tourist coaches.
Transport incidents (air)	Regular scheduled domestic flights, charter and private aircraft use the Longreach airport. The Isisford and Yaraka airstrips are used for private charter and RFDS and are all weather strips. A dirt airstrip is located at Ilfracombe.
Vector outbreaks	Diseases of animals affecting production, safety for consumption or livestock. There have been historical events of animal disease outbreaks affecting both domestic and wild animals.
Water supply contamination	All domestic water services in Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka are subject to potential contamination by natural, incidental or malicious events.
Pandemics	A pandemic occurs when a strain of a virus appears that causes readily transmissible human illness for which most of the population lacks immunity. The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing throughout the country with vaccines available. Influenza pandemics, typically the most common, occur with little warning and hit wide geographic areas in multiple waves, lasting two to three months at a time. Most at risk are the elderly, children under 5 years, the indigenous community and people with existing lung conditions.

PART 4 – Stages of Evacuation

4.1 Stage 1: Decision to Evacuate

Evacuation of a community is a complex task normally undertaken in highly stressful circumstances with little time to develop arrangements. The evacuation process must be achieved in a timely and efficient manner that allows for a safe and coordinated approach to keeping the community safe.

The decision phase is determined by the period when intelligence from the field and other sources, such as official warnings, are considered (e.g. Bureau of Meteorology, QFES) and a choice is made whether to order an evacuation or advise people to 'shelter-in-place'.

The decision must be given careful consideration. With insufficient information, it is possible that the person making the decision could be faced with the dilemma of whether to evacuate or not. If the decision is made too early and the hazard recedes, the evacuated community will have been exposed to unnecessary risk, inconvenience and cost. If the decision is made too late, the affected community will be forced to either evacuate under high-risk conditions or to remain in place and accept the full effects of the hazard impact. While the nature of the hazard impact will be a primary consideration in the decision making process, an effective evacuation plan supported by an effective community education program will enhance that process.

Decision-making considerations

- What is the nature of the threat?
- Who is responsible for making the decision?
- Is evacuation necessary?
- What is the legislation governing evacuation?
- Who authorises evacuation?
- Will there be a risk to the evacuees during movement?
- What is the expected impact area and number of affected people?
- Is there time available to organise and carry out the evacuation?
- What evacuation routes are required?
- Are there risks to emergency responders?
- How much time exists for decision-making?
- Is there a current, practiced evacuation plan?
- What is the accuracy/currency of information?
- Are there any special needs buildings or people?
- How is the public to be informed of the need to evacuate?
- What is the state of readiness or preparedness in the community?

4.1.2 Evacuation Planning Group

The LDMG will be responsible for evacuation within the Longreach Regional Council area. They may deem it necessary to appoint a specific working group to undertake planning for the evacuation of people, however this will be decided just prior to the event or immediately after the impact of the event and will be determined by the circumstances that arise at the time.

Assistance from the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) to effectively conduct evacuation to a safer location or evacuation facility may be identified during evacuation

planning. It is recommended that continuous communication with all relevant stakeholders and support agencies occurs to increase consistency, ensure resource continuity, enhance community partnerships and minimise the potential for confusion and time delays during an event requiring evacuation¹.

4.2 Stage 2: Warning

The warning message is where the community is notified of the event (either impending or occurred) and advised of the appropriate actions they should take. Warnings can be undertaken by a range of mechanisms from door knocking, through media outlets (e.g. radio, television), social media and/or SMS messaging. The warning enables individuals & communities to respond appropriately to a threat in order to reduce the risk of death, injury, property loss and damage. The effectiveness of the evacuation will largely depend on the quality of the warning process.

It should be noted that each hazard produces different risks to the community and as such, the warning message will contain different actions that need to be taken (E.g. A chemical spill warning may invoke a ‘shelter-in-place’ action but flood warning which may invoke an evacuation action).

Warning message considerations:

Should be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear (simple language), unambiguous and provide an action element • Timely and structured • Issued by a credible authority (e.g. QPS, QFES) and provide a confirmation contact point
Should contain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of issuing authority • Date & time of issue • An accurate description of threat (what has happened or likely to happen) • Details of the area affected by the hazard or threatened to be affected • Action advice to those receiving the warning • What, if anything, is being done to control the hazard • Time next warning will be issued • Information relating to ‘special needs’ individuals or groups
‘Special needs’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentally & physically handicapped • Aged care facilities • Hospitals/medical centres • Elderly in the community • Non-English speaking • Tourists • Itinerants (including long-haul transport companies) • Education facilities (i.e. schools, kindergartens)
Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jargon • Abbreviations • Ambiguity

¹ Evacuation: Responsibilities, Arrangements and Management Manual

4.2.1 Provision of advanced warning to Special Needs Facilities

The Evacuation Planning Group will need to identify Special Needs Facilities within the Longreach Regional Council area. This group will need to plan how best to communicate with these groups to provide warning messages that are appropriate and can be understood by each group of people who have special needs.

4.3 Stage 3: Withdrawal

The withdrawal phase relates to the movement of people away from the area of immediate danger. Issues of particular concern during this phase are the evacuation routes, safety of evacuees, and access to and security of the evacuation zone. The key to a successful withdrawal process is dissemination of the warning message in a timely manner so that evacuees are not rushed during this phase.

Withdrawal considerations

- Regardless whether the evacuation is recommended or directed, the decision and follow on action must be timely. Sufficient warning time must be given to allow the movement of people given the weather conditions, access and egress route conditions as well as distances from the danger area to a safer location
- It is essential for all agencies involved in the 'withdrawal' process to have a clear understanding of their roles & responsibilities
- The agency that has the authority to order an evacuation may not necessarily carry out the physical evacuation. As a consequence, it is essential that during the pre-event planning phase, all participating agencies are fully aware and conditioned to their roles as well as understanding the roles of others
- Lead time will affect the prioritising and allocation of resources
- The degree of urgency or time constraints within which the evacuation must be completed must be factored into the plan if possible
- Limited resources may necessitate greater reliance upon **voluntary** or **self-evacuation** and use of personal transport
- If assembly points are used, prior to moving evacuees to evacuation centres or alternative accommodation, it will be necessary to provide basic welfare facilities whilst evacuees are being processed
- Where practicable, consideration should be given to securing evacuated areas for safety reasons as well as the possibility of illegal activity in relation to unattended properties.

4.3.1 Traffic management strategy

Although not a critical issue in the Longreach Regional Council area due to the small numbers and available resources, the Risk Assessment process should identify those road and bridge networks that will be susceptible to the hazard. This will have a great bearing on the timing of the decision as well as the warning message and withdrawal process.

4.4 Stage 4: Shelter

The shelter phase primarily relates to the reception, registration, provision of temporary accommodation and basic needs to evacuees in a safer location. As the length of the evacuation increases, the support requirements will also increase.

Shelter considerations:

- Who is responsible for the establishment and management of evacuation centres²?
- Will it be staffed 24 hours?
- When will the request to provide shelter be made?
- What are the capacities of selected facilities?
- Adequate parking?
- Are they ventilated and free from elements?
- Are they available for extended periods?
- Does the public know where the venue is?
- Pet/companion animals
- Toilets, showers, kitchen?
- Power, water?
- Access and facilities for the disabled?
- Communications?
- Sleeping?
- Basic services (e.g. welfare support)

4.4.1 Shelter in place

On some occasions, it may be assessed that people would be safer to stay and shelter in place rather than evacuate. Shelter in place should be considered as an alternative where the risk associated with evacuation is seen as greater than that of sheltering in place.

4.4.2 Evacuation Centre locations

Where an evacuation centre has been established, authorities must take all reasonable steps to ensure evacuees are properly received and supported via welfare agencies and/or Council and community groups.

For further information on Evacuation Centres including locations and contact details refer to the *Evacuation Centre Management Plan*.

² In some local government areas, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Council and Australian Red Cross for the establishment and management of Evacuation Centres, however this is not a uniform agreement State-wide.

4.4.3 Registration of Evacuees

The effective management of information in relation to evacuations is important from a community awareness perspective. Relatives and friends of evacuees will endeavour to make contact to ensure their safety. To aid in this, the national *Register.Find.Unite* service will be implemented at all Evacuation Centres and to register all those members of the community within the individual evacuation centres. In circumstances where implementation of this service is impracticable, a register of people within a facility should be maintained.

Registration is the responsibility of Queensland Police Service with support from Australian Red Cross. However, in isolated locations such as the Longreach Regional Council area, where such resources are of a minimum, Council may have to assist in this process until external resources are available.

4.4.4 Personal support services

Support

- Personal Support - diffusing
- Child Care Facilities
- Recreational Facilities

Information and advice

- Relief Measures
- Availability of Grants
- Insurance

4.4.5 Pets/companion animals

Whilst it is the responsibility for pet owners to make arrangements for their animals during a disaster, it is reasonable to assume that some evacuees will arrive at Centres with their pets.

In this instance, arrangements should be considered to house manageable animals/pets close to evacuation centre facilities that are accessible to owners.

4.4.6 Stock

Longreach has a designated dog pound. Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka have stock holding facilities for horses.

4.4.7 Evacuation Centre security

Consideration should be given to ensuring that all evacuation centres are a safe place for evacuees during their time at the centres. In many cases, evacuation centres can be a highly stressful place due to the circumstances of the event and centre management should be aware of any issues as they arise. Members of the Queensland Police Service should be requested to assist with security at Evacuation Centres.

4.5 Stage 5 – Return

The return phase covers the period from issuing an 'all-clear' message informing evacuees that it is safe to go home and their arrival back into the evacuated area.

This phase may potentially be drawn out, as groups of evacuees may have to return in stages, as the area is declared safe. The timely return of evacuees is crucial as the sooner they return home, the sooner they will find themselves actively engaged in the recovery process; and this increases long-term psychological recovery.

4.5.1 Return strategy

The decision for the return of evacuees to their properties and the development of a return strategy will be undertaken by the Evacuation Planning Group (if appointed) or in their absence, the LDMG. This group should be made up of necessary organisation/agency representatives to ensure that all services essential to that community are functioning adequately. The following list is indicative to most communities.

- Local Disaster Management Group members
- Local LDMG Recovery team
- District Disaster Coordinator
- Queensland Police Service
- District/Regional government agencies
- Ergon Energy
- Telstra
- Longreach Regional Council
- QFES
- Other entities as required (e.g. Bureau of Meteorology)

4.5.2 Damage/Safety Assessments

Authorities will need to ensure an appropriate assessment has been carried out to confirm the area is safe and it is possible to return, and to identify any special conditions that may need to be applied. If there are insufficient resources available to undertake this, a request to the DDMG will provide the required assistance.

Factors to consider include:

- The hazard itself (or any consequential hazards)
- The conditions to which evacuees would be returning such as access to food, water, sanitation and health care
- A consideration of the physical and emotional wellbeing of evacuees
- Economic factors relating to short and long term viability of the evacuated area
- Available support services for those returning
- The continuing need for public information, particularly with regard to essential services
- Whether or not the area is a protected forensic area or a restricted access area

PART 5 – Public Awareness and Information Strategy

5.1 Awareness Programs

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience defines ‘awareness’ as “the attaining of initial knowledge of the existence of an actual or potential emergency situation or incident...”³.

Section 30 of the Act details the functions of the LDMG and includes:

(e)...Ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

Longreach LDMG recognises the importance of creating an a community that is aware of ways to mitigate the adverse effects of an event and to prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster by undertaking the following:

- The dissemination of regular disaster management information as part of the regular media articles appearing in the Longreach Leader and local radio interviews from the LDMG Chair (Mayor) to residents
- The use of digital media platforms such as broadcast radio, text messaging (SMS), community email lists and social media announcements
- Signage of known risks (where appropriate) to ensure greater community awareness and safety
- Specific disaster management news, information, tools or resources through council service centres, rates notices and other community resources
- Community surveys and feedback forms
- Community pre-season awareness programs
- Public availability of the Longreach Local Disaster Management Plan via Council website and local libraries.

The Longreach Regional Council is committed to an ongoing campaign to encourage the public to “Get Ready” by:

- Preparing information sheets for public distribution on hazards
- Notifying residents of preparedness for extreme hazards via various media tools
- The distribution of the ‘Be Ready Central West’ flipbook which was posted to all residents and businesses within the Longreach Regional Council area and is available at Council offices and on the Council website

Preparing procedures and guidelines for the public on communication methods to be adopted before, during and post disasters.

³ Australian Institute for Disaster resilience, Knowledge Hub

5.2 Public Information

The development of a public information strategy for a specific disaster or emergency situation, including determination of the most appropriate methods is a critical component of any evacuation.

Authorities may consider the following message content when an evacuation is recommended or directed:

- What is known/not known about the event
- Information about the action being taken to combat the hazard
- What the community is being asked to do
- Any recommendation or direction to evacuate
- The expected duration of the evacuation as far as can be predicted
- What evacuees should take with them (e.g. important documents, identification, medication)
- What they should not bring (e.g. pets or livestock to mainstream evacuation centres)
- Advice on how to secure premises and personal effects as they leave (ideally leaving gates to properties unlocked to allow access for emergency services if needed)
- The recommended evacuation routes(s)
- Advice on how to obtain updates
- Details of the nominated evacuation centres including details of whether the centre can accommodate pets
- Available assistance to transport and health services
- Information about any registration systems that have been activated such as the Red Cross *Register.Find.Reunite*;
- Information on any systems for flagging evacuated properties
- A reminder that those who choose to remain behind cannot be expected to be rescued if the situation worsens, or be provided with assistance to protect property and livestock

5.3 Public warning sources

During times of a disaster event, one of the most critical components is disseminating information to the public in a timely and effective manner. The following table details responsibilities for dissemination of information and warnings.

Organisation/agency	Description
Longreach Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issuing of warnings and public information as well as community education/awareness programs should form part of the local disaster management arrangements. These arrangements and strategies should be scrutinized following events or exercises to ensure continuous improvements⁴. Dissemination of warnings, alerts and information through web site, telecommunications systems (e.g. telephone, SMS), social media platforms, public information outlets
Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When operational, ensure all stakeholders are in receipt of warnings and alerts Continuation of electronic platforms as above
District Disaster Coordination Centre (DDCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that warnings and alerts have been received by local governments, LDMG's and LDCC's from SDCC
State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue of warnings and alerts to key stakeholders by various methods (e.g. Emergency Alert) Each entity is responsible for further disseminating these warnings and alerts through their own networks
Bureau of Meteorology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire Weather Warnings Flood Warnings
QFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Operational Update Regional Operations Command Bushfire
Single agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency identified as being primarily responsible for a specific hazard needs to include provision for communicating with the public in its planning; although this agency may not be responsible for issuing any alerts and warnings. This is primarily done through local governments
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of warnings and alerts through all available channels and systems

5.4 Shelter in Place Warnings

If shelter in place is recommended or directed, authorities may consider additional message content that could include:

- Advice to maximise personal safety
- Guidance to support self-sufficiency for the duration of the hazard, particularly if the duration can be estimated with some level of confidence
- Any specific protective actions in relation to the hazard (e.g. levees, sandbagging)
- Information regarding supply/re-supply of food, water, fuel or other essential services
- How to assess the suitability of shelter based on location or type, which can be a building or open space

⁴ Reproduced in part from the Queensland Planning Guidelines, Part 5 - Response

- Consideration of mental (psychological) and physical health and fitness to remain in situ

5.5 Local Warning Dissemination

The Chair of the LDMG, or delegate, is the official source of public and media information and is the chief media spokesperson.

5.6 Coordination of information

During an event, the release of public information on aspects such as road closures, traffic routes, advice on evacuation procedures and centres will be coordinated through the LDCC. Such information and warnings will be provided to the community via a number of communications sources including:

- Landline and Mobile telephone including SMS messaging
- UHF Repeater network
- Electronic media (Council's website and email distribution list)
- Social media (Twitter and Facebook)
- Broadcast media (Radio) such as ABC 540AM
- Television
- Media websites/Facebook
- Email
- Door knocking
- Public Announcement systems (PA's)

Other alerts or warnings such as those delivered through the use of SEWS (Standard Emergency Warning System) or the national Emergency Alert (EA) telephone and SMS messaging system will be used to support and reinforce the warning messages provided through broadcast media.

Ongoing information will also be disseminated through council offices and libraries, evacuation centres as well as other community meeting places.

PART 6 – Operational review and evaluation

6.1 Introduction

The review of operational activities undertaken during a disaster is a key component of developing greater capacity and the improvement of council’s disaster management arrangements.

At the completion of any evacuation process a review process should be undertaken.

After-action reviews (also known as Operational Debriefs) are conducted to:

- Assess operational performance undertaken prior to and during the evacuation including decisions made, actions taken and processes used
- Document the issues/actions that worked well and identify a course of action to ensure they are captured and updated in relevant plans for use during subsequent events
- Assess capability and consider where additional planning, training and/or exercises may enhance capability

6.2 Types of debriefs

‘Hot’ debrief

A discussion undertaken immediately after the operation (evacuation) has ended; giving authorities the opportunity to share learnings while the experience is still very fresh in their minds.

‘Post-event’ debrief

At the conclusion of all operations (usually within a couple of weeks), a formal review and evaluation process should be undertaken of the entire operation. The most effective way of undertaking this overall review is through a series of debriefs of participating organisations upon or immediately following *Stand Down*. Such debriefs should be conducted as close to the conclusion of operations as possible.

Usually, debriefs are conducted from the bottom up meaning that subordinate entities debrief first and their findings are included in debrief of the next higher group. On this basis, evacuation-related debriefs should, where possible, be conducted in the following priority order:



It should be noted that in some instances, there would be no need to follow the above diagram to the letter (e.g. There may well be no Evacuation Planning Committee). Steps 1-3 may well be run concurrently with lessons identified being brought to the LDMG.

Following the completion of all debriefs, an 'After-Action Report' (AAR) report is compiled to provide a record of the lessons identified following an event and importantly recommendations for improving the recovery process for future events.

6.3 After-activation Report (AAR)

An After Action Report (AAR) is a retrospective analysis on critical actions previously undertaken. Its purpose is to evaluate performance, identify and document effectiveness and efficiencies, analyse critical procedure and policies and recommend improvements.

Executive summary

The report should include an executive summary at the beginning of the document briefly outlining the event and the subsequent debriefing process followed by a summary of recommendations.

Section 1: Context

- Description of the local government area/region – including population bases, industry, transportation hubs
- Anything that would allow the reader to understand the 'context' of the event including photos, maps etc.

Section 2: The event

- The history of the event – date, time, location(s), conditions
- Severity & scale of impact
- Evacuation objectives
- Conduct of operations
- Information management including media management
- Intel and planning processes
- Logistics
- Administration
- Political issues

Section 3: Event management

- Leadership/command structure
- Event management analysis
- Anything else that would enable the reader to understand the event management process.
- Governance framework
- Community impact assessments
- Evacuation plans including tasks undertaken, outcomes, participating agencies etc.
- Review and evaluation (Including debrief frameworks, strategies etc.)
- Resolutions, responsible agencies, timeframes

Appendix 1 - Version control

Date	Reference	Author	Amendment	Version
30.9.2017	Evacuation Sub Plan		Implemented	V 1
March 2023	Evacuation Sub Plan developed	Craig Neuendorf Phil Kuhne Matt Burrows	Complete rewrite	V 2.0

Appendix 2 – Distribution List

Organisation / Agency	Officer (copies)
Longreach Regional Council-LDMG	Mayor, Chair LDMG (1) Local Disaster Coordinator LDMG (1) Disaster Management Coordinator (1)
Longreach SES	SES Local Controller (1)
QFES	Emergency Management Coordinator – Longreach (1) Inspector, Fire & Rescue Service – Longreach Longreach Fire & Rescue Captain
Queensland Police	Officer in Charge, Longreach (1) Officer in Charge, Ilfracombe (1) Officer in Charge, Isisford (1) Officer in Charge, Yaraka (1) DDC – Longreach (1)
Queensland Ambulance Service	Officer in Charge, Longreach (1)

Please Note: Unless requested, all copies will be distributed electronically.

Appendix 3 – Glossary

Term	Meaning
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan

APPENDIX 4 – References

Legislation

- *Disaster Management Act 2003*
- *Disaster Management Regulations 2014*

Plans

- Longreach Local Disaster Management Plan

Other Doctrine

- Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework www.dmlms.qfes.qld.gov.au

Guidelines

- Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery Disaster Management Guideline <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/Pages/DM-Guideline.aspx>
- LDMG Responsibilities Manual <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmg/st/Documents/M1030-LDMG-Responsibilities-Manual.pdf>

Key links

- www.disaster.qld.gov.au

End of Document

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.5 - Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029

11.5 Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029

Consideration of the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029, which is presented for Council endorsement.

Council Action

Partner

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Biosecurity Act 2014

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
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
5.4	Council is resilient to climatic risk factors

Budget Considerations

As per adopted 2023-24 Budget.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2015-02-015)

Moved Cr Avery seconded Cr Morton

That pursuant to section 265 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council resolve as follows:

- 1. That Council adopt the Central West Biosecurity plan version 5 (3 February 2015)*
- 2. And further, that the Central West Regional Pest Management Group be advised of these decisions.*

CARRIED

Responsible Officer/s:

Brett Walsh – Chief Executive Officer

Jeffrey Newton – Manager of Regulatory Services

Simon Kuttner – Manager of Governance and Economy

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.5 - Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029

Background:

The Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) is the Regional Organisation of Councils for the seven shires of Central West Queensland (CWQ). Representatives from these councils form the Central West Regional Pest Management Group (CWRPMG), coordinated by RAPAD, which works together for regional pest management.

This Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029 was developed in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The strategy has been designed to contribute to a consistent, modern, risk-based, and less prescriptive approach to the region's biosecurity.

It provides opportunities for more effective strategic control of pest animals and invasive plants through setting regionally agreed priorities, providing effective coordination and lobbying for resources.

The strategy established the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) as the regional action group. It is made up of Rural Lands Officers from partner Councils, technical support from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ), as well as partners AgForce and Lake Eyre Basin Rangers.

Issue:

The Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029 is attached, and presented for endorsement prior to the next meeting of the Central West Regional Pest Management Group.

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 assessed based on proceeding as recommended.

Environmental Management Factors:

The strategy forms one of the region's key environmental management documents, in adherence to the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. CWRBP 2024-2029.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. *Endorses the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029; and,*
2. *Advises the Central West Regional Pest Management Group of this decision.*



Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029

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Foreword

I am pleased to present the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029.

This plan is a vital community tool, as it provides a strategic regional approach to improving the coordination and delivery of on ground, nil tenure pest animal management activities for terrestrial vertebrate and freshwater aquatic pest species, and invasive pest weeds in Western Queensland.

The Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029 supported by the RAPAD Group of Councils is an excellent example how we can think regionally and act locally to achieve positive outcomes through combining resources. It supports local communities with the tools so they can work together to protect the environment, community and economy from the negative impacts of pest animals and weeds, and to support positive outcomes for our landscapes and ensure we maintain a bio-secure environment.

The Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029 represents the importance of using our valuable resource and its relevant economic, environment and community benefit for each region. The Central West Regional Pest Management Group delivers a collaborative approach to setting regional priorities and is integral to the ongoing effective delivery of pest animal and weed management outcomes in the region.

This strategy is a product of extensive collaboration and engagement across numerous stakeholders involved in pest animal and weed management. It will continue to grow and evolve with the changing environment and is an excellent framework to contribute to the delivery of improved coordinated pest species management in Western Queensland.

We are justifiably proud of our ability for several very different councils to be able to work collaboratively together in the interests of protecting our unique environment for future generations.



Mr Eric (Rick) Britton
Mayor
Boulia Shire Council.

Executive Summary

- The Central West Queensland (CWQ) Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) is the Regional Organisation of Councils for the seven shires of CWQ. They form the Central West Regional Pest Management Group (CWRPMG) and work together for regional pest management.
- RAPAD as the regional group of seven council areas, has this Key Priority in its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan – *RAPAD will enhance environmental outcomes and regional biosecurity through supporting innovation and leading the collaboration with federal, state and local governments, key stakeholder groups and landowners.*
- The CWRPMG established the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) as the regional action group. The operational arm of CWQ local governments is the Shire Rural Lands Officers Group (SRLOG).
- This Central West Regional Biosecurity (CWRB) Strategy (2024-2029) was developed in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act). By doing so the Strategy contributes to a consistent, modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to the region's biosecurity.
- The goal of the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy (CWRBS) is to involve and ensure all community members are aware of and are responsibly managing their biosecurity obligations. This Strategy encourages the community to act in accordance with the Act.
- Achieving the goal of the CWRB Strategy involves using the seven (7) principles of weed management in Australia to guide planning, investment and actions (Page 7).
- The General Biosecurity Obligations (Page 8) and the CWRB Strategy recognise biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and all in the community can take a role to ensure we minimise biosecurity risks.
- Individuals must recognise and minimise biosecurity risks within their industry, home, or places they are visiting. As well, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk.
- The Act provides steps as the means to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks (Page 8).
- Table 1 shows the potential and often experienced impacts of invasive plants and animal on key environments in the Central West (Page 9).
- Risk-based decision-making for invasive species focuses on managing agreed outcomes, shared responsibility and keeping the number of prescribed requirements to a minimum. The benefit is flexibility in the application of the legislation and supports proportionate and rapid responses when required.
- Table 2 shows the management goals for each stage. They align to the management stages of the Generalised Invasion Curve. As well as highlighting the management goals, Table 2 also shows the challenges for success in each stage (Page 11).
- The successful application of the CWRB Strategy requires Local Government Officers who are trained for their roles.
- The Strategy will commence from the time that the Strategy is adopted by CWRPMG and endorsed by member councils. A 2026 review will ensure that the CWRPMG is aware of any changes in the nature of biosecurity risks.

Introduction

The Central West Queensland (CWQ) Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) is the Regional Organisation of Councils for the seven shires of CWQ. Member councils, agreed in late 2010 to work together for regional pest management in partnership with other regional stakeholders and formed the Central West Regional Pest Management Group (CWRPMG).

The CWRPMG:

- Provides opportunities for more effective strategic control of pest animals and invasive plants through setting regionally agreed priorities, providing effective coordination and lobbying for resources.
- Established the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) as the regional action group. It is made up of Rural Lands Officers (RLOs) from partner Councils, technical support from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ) as well as partners AgForce and Lake Eyre Basin Rangers.

Regional Profile

The CWQ Region:

- Includes the seven local government areas of Barcaldine, Blackall-Tambo and Longreach Regional Councils and the Winton, Barcoo, Boulia and Diamantina Shire Councils. Total area is 396,609 km² which is 22.9% of the land area of Queensland.
- Has diverse landscapes
 - Open woodlands, spinifexes and escarpments of the Desert Uplands along the Great Dividing Range
 - Mitchell Grass Downs
 - Channel Country floodplains
 - Simpson-Strzelecki Dunefields – the driest part of Queensland
 - Mulga and Brigalow lands.
- Contains wetlands of international significance and national importance.
- Lies mostly within the Lake Eyre Basin catchment with smaller areas to the south-east in the Murray Darling catchment and to the east in the Burdekin and Fitzroy catchments.

The Strategy

The first Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy (Plan) was for the years 2015-2022.

This Central West Regional Biosecurity (CWRB) Strategy (2024-2029) was developed in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act). The Act provides comprehensive biosecurity measures to safeguard the economy, agricultural and tourism industries, environment and way of life. The Act sets out how the Act is implemented and applied. Developed in accordance with The Act, the Strategy for CWQ contributes to a consistent, modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to the region's biosecurity.

Stakeholders involved in the CWRB Strategy (2024-2027) preparation included:

- Commonwealth Government
- Regional NRM Groups – Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ), Southern Queensland Landscapes (SQL), NQ Dry Tropics, Desert Uplands Committee and Lake Eyre Basin Rangers (LEBR),

- Queensland State Government agencies with responsibilities in pest and land management – Biosecurity Queensland and the Department of Resources (DoR).
- Other partners are State agencies active in weed and pest control – the Department of National Parks, Recreation Sport and Racing (DNPRSR), Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and Queensland Rail (QR).
- Additional partners are AgForce, the peak body representing many Queensland beef, sheep and wool, sugarcane and grains primary producers, as well as the region’s Landcare and local pest management groups.

The operational arm of local governments is their respective Rural Lands Officers which are responsible for local government-controlled lands and pest management in their regions.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of each local government is responsible for delivery of the outcomes in the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy specific to their local government area. This is achieved by each local government developing individual biosecurity plans, as is required in the Act.

RAPAD as the regional group of seven council areas, has the following as a Key Priority in its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan:

- RAPAD will enhance environmental outcomes and regional biosecurity through supporting innovation and leading the collaboration with federal, state and local governments, key stakeholder groups and landowners.
- Link to RAPAD strategic documents: RAPAD Strategic Plan
<https://rapad.com.au/publications/strategic-plan/>

Scope

The Strategy considers biosecurity matters under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld), as well as identified region-specific threats within the following local government areas:

- Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC)
- Barcoo Shire Council (BaSC)
- Blackall-Tambo Regional Council (BTRC)
- Boulia Shire Council (BSC)
- Diamantina Shire Council (DSC)
- Longreach Regional Council (LRC)
- Winton Shire Council (WSC).

Goal of Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy

The Strategy recognises the uniqueness of the regional landscape and the need to protect its ecosystems from plant and animal pests.

The goal of the Strategy is to involve all community members, ensuring they are aware of and responsibly managing their biosecurity obligations, having special regard for the region’s biodiversity, its agricultural and economic base, and cultural values.

This Strategy encourages the community to act in accordance with the Act through measures such as:

- Targeted communication and education activities

- Timely provision of information and advice
- Encourage voluntary compliance, cooperative assistance and collaboration
- Raising awareness of the benefits of complying with the Act, and the potential consequences of non-compliance

Achieving the goal of the Strategy involves the application of key pest control activities, most effective when partners within the biosecurity system utilise similar principles to guide planning and investment. The *Queensland Invasive Plants and Animal Strategy 2019-2024* “embodies seven fundamental principles that underpin effective management of invasive plants and animals. The principles provide a common basis for all of Queensland, and should be incorporated into strategies, plans and actions across all management levels”.

The guiding principles are:

1. Integration, collaboration and coordination

Managing invasive species is an integral part of managing natural resources, biodiversity in our environment, and agricultural systems. It is best when integrated at every level by land managers, the community, industry and government. To achieve a collaborative and coordinated approach to management, we need to establish long-term consultation and partnership arrangements, including the consistent reporting and sharing of agreed datasets between land managers, local communities, industry groups, NRM groups, and federal, state and local governments.

2. Strategic risk-based planning

Planning for management of invasive species is most effective when guided by the latest research and best practice, and when focused on risk-based decisions and greatest return on investment. This will ensure that resources target the priorities identified at local, regional, state and national levels.

3. Shared responsibility and commitment

To effectively manage invasive species, we need shared responsibility and long-term commitment by everyone in the biosecurity network, including land managers, the community, industry groups and government. Everybody should play their part to minimise the impacts of invasive species on the economy, the environment, health and social amenity. Those who create biosecurity risks and those who benefit from management activities will be called upon to contribute to the costs.

4. Capability building through education and awareness

Public education and awareness campaigns on invasive species will increase the community’s capability and willingness to participate in management and control. For long-term best practice management, we need ongoing, targeted capability and capacity building within industry, NRM groups, and local, state and federal governments.

5. Prevention and early intervention

Risk-based prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective approach for managing invasive species. This approach can be assisted by:

- developing and implementing early detection, diagnostics and monitoring systems
- preventing spread, especially human-assisted spread.

6. Best practice and research

Management is most effective when following evidence-based practices that protect the environment and the productive capacity of natural resources while minimising impacts on the

community. Ongoing research and extension programs will inform the development of best practice management and policies.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

We need regular monitoring and evaluation of control activities, including establishment of baselines and reporting on agreed shared datasets against baselines, to make evidence-based decisions and improve management practices.

Source: [Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024](#)

General Biosecurity Obligations

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* provides advice on how an individual's obligations can be met. In doing so it provides steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks¹.

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and all in the community can take a role to ensure we minimise biosecurity risks to protect Queensland's lifestyle, industries and environment from pests and diseases.

All Queenslanders have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014* to ensure you do not spread a pest, disease or a contaminant.

This means everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are under their control and to do so to the best of their ability. Individuals must recognise and minimise biosecurity risks within their industry, home, or places they are visiting.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- Take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk.
- Minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event' and limit the consequences if such an event is caused.
- Prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

Steps to Prevent or Minimise a Biosecurity Risk

The Act provides these steps as the means to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks:

- **Come clean, go clean** - before entering and leaving agricultural properties, parks or forests, ensure your shoes, clothing, vehicles or equipment are free from weed seeds, dirt, soil or debris.
- **Check for and follow biosecurity zones and other movement restrictions** - before moving certain plant material, animals, food products, soil and related equipment, ensure you are aware of and comply with any requirements in your area.
- **Spot and report anything unusual** - if this is the first time you have noticed a pest or disease, and you think it may have an impact on human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- **Know the property**—Before entering someone's property, make sure you are aware of what their biosecurity management plan requires, if there is one in place.
- **Take reasonable steps to be informed about pests and diseases** visit your local government websites for more information on specific risks to your area.

¹ The State of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 2010–2022.

Impacts and Risks

Table 1 shows the potential and often experienced impacts of invasive plants and animal on key environments in the Central West.

	Terrestrial biodiversity and conservation environments	Agricultural production areas	Community and residential areas
Invasive plant impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smother and transform ecosystems • Outcompete native species • Reduce the ecological values of natural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce productivity by outcompeting desirable pasture species • Increase costs of production • Contribute to loss of production/ income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce access to, amenity and scenic values of natural areas • Cause health issues • Reduce function and values of open space areas
Invasive animal impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displace and prey on native species • Degrade natural bushlands and ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcompete livestock • Contribute to loss of production • Prey on and threaten livestock • Carry diseases and parasites that can impact on livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destroy infrastructure • Cause traffic hazards • Prey on native and domestic animal species

Table 1 - Potential impacts of invasive plants and animals on key environments (Adapted from North Burnett Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2019-2024)

Risk Assessment

Risk-based decision-making for invasive species now focuses on managing agreed outcomes, shared responsibility and keeping the number of prescribed requirements to a minimum. The benefit is flexibility in the application of the legislation and supports proportionate and rapid responses when required.

A risk-based approach to the management of invasive plants and animals is now being trialled in the RAPAD group of Councils to achieve its goals to manage any invasive species. The risk-based approach means a reasonable and practical response is matched to the degree of risk posed by the invasive species. What is considered reasonable and practical will depend on the seriousness of the risk, what the consequences could be and how likely they are to occur.

All Councils within the RAPAD footprint will develop individual Biosecurity Plans. They will however utilise a standard approach to analyse risk and determine management outcomes for their area.

The standard approach is the use of the Invasive Species Assessment Framework (ISAF) and involves the 4 steps shown in the Figure 1.

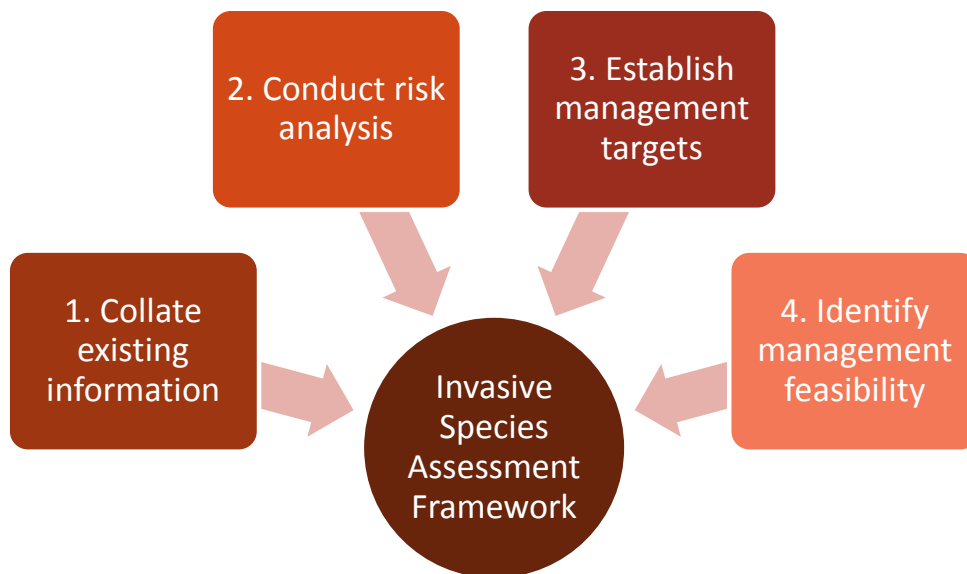


Figure 1 - Invasive Species Assessment Framework (Drawn from the North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) Biosecurity Plan 2019-2024)

Locally Significant Pests and Management Actions

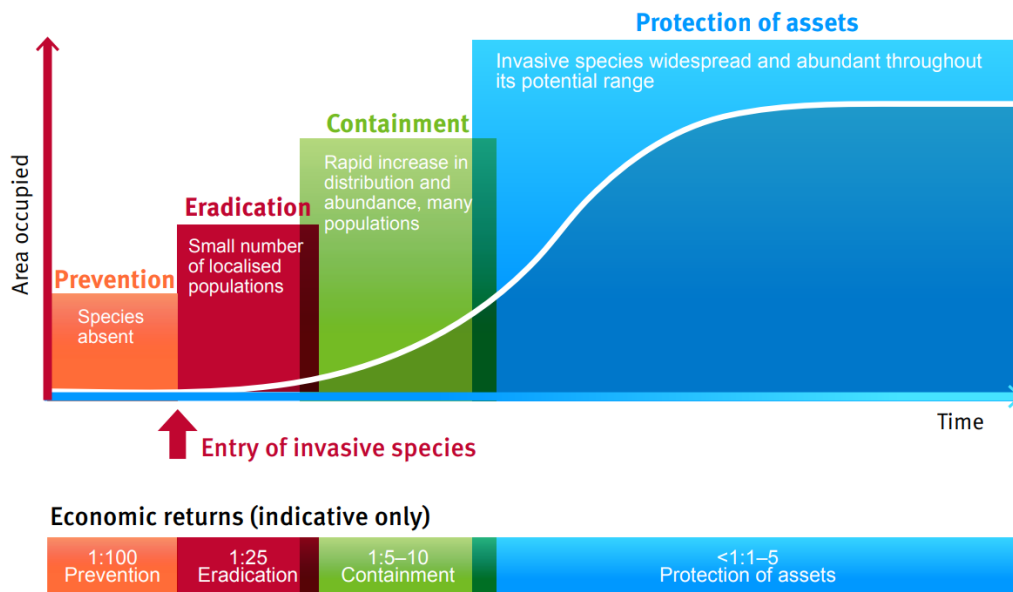
The Generalised Invasion Curve in Figure 2 demonstrates the invasion continuum and the associated gradient in return on investment at any point along the continuum and is based on the stages of invasion of a high-risk species.

The role of government, the responsibilities of industries/communities and the scale of industry/community benefits that accrue from government investment also vary depending on the stage of 'invasion'².

The invasion curve highlights the most appropriate approach to the management of invasive species, based on the area occupied as well as the indicative economic returns for each management option. The approach needed to prevent the entry of, or to eradicate an invasive species is very different to that of containment or asset protection.

There are Weeds of National Significance (WONS) in CWQ and these are shown in Appendix 2. National management strategies have been published for all WoNS species. As well, national management groups have been established to oversee the implementation of the respective national strategic plans.

² (National framework for the management of established pests and diseases of national significance – National Biosecurity Committee 2016)



Generalised invasion curve showing actions appropriate to each stage

Source: Biosecurity strategy for Victoria (2009)

Figure 2 - Generalised Invasion Curve

Table 2 shows the management goals for each stage. They align to the management stages of the Generalised Invasion Curve. As well as highlighting the management goals, Table 2 also shows the challenges for success in each stage, and how achievement will be measured.

<p>Management Goal 1 Stage: Prevention</p>	<p>Prevent the establishment of new invasive species in the Central West The challenge is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify high risk invasive species early in their appearance and before they establish. • speedily assess potential invasiveness. • speedily implement effective barriers to prevent their entry. <p>How will we know if we have achieved this goal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new invasive species are found in the region. <p>How will achievement be measured?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of new invasive species identified as having potential impact on the Central West is stable.
<p>Management Goal 2 Stage: Eradication</p>	<p>Eliminate new establishments of invasive species in the Central West The challenge in this stage is to develop and deploy effective and efficient ways to eradicate a new infestation of an introduced invasive species before it spreads.</p> <p>How will we know if when have achieved this goal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New invasive species are effectively managed to prevent establishment in the region through the application of efficient control responses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established invasive species that have potential to be eradicated due to isolation are effectively removed, with future monitoring identifying no further establishments. <p>How will achievement be measured?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of new invasive species that are prevented from establishment in the Central West due to effective management is stable since previous assessment. ▪ The number of invasive species that have moved from the eradication stage to another stage (prevention, containment, asset protection). ▪ The number of invasive species eradication activities undertaken, with increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders.
<p>Management Goal 3 Stage: Containment</p>	<p>Contain the spread of existing invasive species to known areas The challenge is to identify areas free of invasive species and develop and deploy approaches to contain the invasive species to a known area.</p> <p>How will we know if when have achieved this goal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing invasive species infestations are contained to the known area and prevented from becoming widespread throughout the Central West. <p>How will achievement be measured?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of invasive species that have moved from the containment stage to another stage (prevention, eradication, asset protection). ▪ Distribution and density of existing invasive species infestations in known areas is decreasing. ▪ The number of invasive species containment areas or known locations changes (increases or decreases). ▪ The number of invasive species containment activities undertaken, with increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders.
<p>Management Goal 4 Stage: Asset Protection</p>	<p>Reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species in the Central West The challenge is to manage or control these invasive species to reduce their impact where the benefits of control are the greatest.</p> <p>How will we know if when have achieved this goal?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management and control investments will be directed based on the greatest benefit. <p>How will achievement be measured?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The benefits of control of the invasive species is proven to outweigh the investment required. ▪ The impact of invasive species on economic, agricultural, social, and conservation/biodiversity factors changes (increases or decreases). ▪ The number of invasive species that have moved from the asset protection stage to another stage (prevention, eradication, containment). ▪ The number of invasive species containment activities undertaken, with increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders.

Table 2 - Invasive Species Management Goals and Challenges (Adapted from NBRC Biosecurity Plan)

Biosecurity Program and Local Government

Management of invasive plants or animals across the RAPAD region in Central West Queensland will be done by each local government in line with the purpose of collaborating to achieve the optimum outcome for each local government areas.

It requires Local Government Officers who:

- Can conduct regular and situation-targeted surveillance programs to identify new and emerging pest weed and animal incursions.
- Can monitor and report management actions for existing pest incursions.
- Are trained to address the threats, collection of data and preparation of status reports, as well as in the ways to generate community awareness and action.
- Can conduct prevention and control programs through knowledge of best industry practice and can undertake stakeholder/community engagement for appropriate responses.

For locally declared pest weeds and animals, triggers will be discussed and set by each of the seven local governments. For example, *Leucaena* (*Leucaena spp.*), Sticky Florestina (*Florestina tripteris*), deer (all species) and birds such as Common or Indian Myna (*Acridotheres spp.*) have been identified as emerging or potential threats in our region based on evidence from other regions within Queensland. Localised concerns may be brought from Councils through the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) to the CWRPMG as the decision-making body for pest management for consideration as a regional issue, and group members will inform their respective Councils of outcomes of local significance.

Where imminent threats are identified they can be escalated to a regional focus with support from the CWRPPG and the CWRPMG. Regional priorities will be identified during this process, with co-investment opportunities investigated.

Community Engagement

Community engagement was undertaken in the period between the February and May 2023 meetings of the CWRPMG. The Draft Strategy was provided to stakeholders and community for their review and comment.

Outcomes

Membership of the CWRPMG, the decision-making body for the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy (CWRB Strategy), provides representation of each RAPAD Council and is essential to achieving the outcomes of the Strategy.

Outcomes will come from working with the CWRPMG and will be achieved through active engagement of stakeholders, landholders and community in the process of pest management control.

For the CWRPMG their focus will be to generate awareness, education and collaborative action. For each local government Council their focus will shift to awareness, education, compliance and enforcement. The shift embeds the principle of shared responsibility for managing biosecurity risks among government, community and rural industries where it includes invasive weed and animal pests. As well the shift demonstrates that biosecurity management applies equally to all land in the state, regardless of whether it is publicly or privately owned.

Individual RAPAD Councils will:

- Encourage landholders to complete and maintain Property Pest Management Plans (PPMP) to enable the identification and monitoring of pest weeds and animals and the control actions they've taken. This data can be used in funding applications, biosecurity planning activities and, if needed, implementing containment zones and the like.
- Collate all data (e.g. known pest quantities and densities) collected in their council areas to a central database. This data will be used for monitoring, research, individual council and RAPAD funding applications, as well as planned containment and eradication activities.
- Identify potential local risk areas such as:
 - Existing and emerging pest infestations
 - Potential high-risk areas and the actions to be taken
 - Potential vector pathways such as roadways, rivers, rail corridor etc.

Review and Reporting

The Strategy will commence from the time that the Strategy is adopted by CWRPMG and endorsed by member councils. It will be in force for 5 years, 2024-2029. A 2026 review will ensure that the RAPAD group of Councils is well placed to respond to any changes in the nature of biosecurity risks in the region. Specific details of the review process will be those agreed to by the CWRPMG.

Review and reporting to CWRPMG will be done annually. Annual reviews will cover:

- Known infestations in map format,
- Emerging threats, and
- Activities undertaken and planned e.g. community engagement, coordinated projects, funding outcomes (acquittals) and media.

A major review of the Central West Biosecurity Strategy (2024-2029) will commence in 2028 for completion in 2029.

Council may amend, replace or approve minor revisions of the Strategy at any time, if required in accordance with relevant requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* or any other statutory requirements as they arise.

References, Resources and Further Information

Individual Council Biosecurity Plans will be referenced here as they become available from each of the seven Councils.

[Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027](#)

[Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027](#)

[Biosecurity Act 2014](#)

[Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2019-2024](#)

[Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023](#)

[Department Biodiversity conservation strategy](#)

Acronym Glossary

BQ Biosecurity Qld Department Agriculture Fisheries

CWRBS Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy

CWRPMG Central West Regional Pest Management Group

CWRPPG Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group

CWQ Central Western Queensland

DAF Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

DCQ Desert Channels Qld

DNPRSR Department of National Parks, Recreation Sport and Racing

DoR Department of Resources

DTMR Department of Transport and Main Roads

DUC Desert Uplands Committee

GBO General Biosecurity Obligation

ISAF Invasive Species Assessment Framework

LEBR Lake Eyre Basin Rangers

LG Local Government

NQDT North Queensland Dry Tropics

QR Queensland Rail

RAPAD Remote Area Planning and Development Board

SQL Southern Queensland Landscapes

Appendix 1 – CWRPMG

The purpose and role of the CWRPMG is written in its constitutional document as:

- Take a leadership and advocacy role in the effective regional planning and management of animal and plant pests in the Central West RAPAD group of Councils
- Provide the regional governance for the activities and projects of the On- ground and Research Services Component of the Fund
- Enhance local/regional ownership of projects and activities funded.

The objectives of the CWRPMG are to:

- Provide leadership, coordination and priority setting, with regards to advocacy to and funding from Federal and State sources, for:
 - Pest management activities in the region generally and
 - Pest management on stock routes and other State land.

Specifically, the CWRPMG is to:

- Identify priorities for Owner Reimbursement Cost (ORC) investment that are based on regional pest management priorities identified in Local Government Biosecurity Plans, risk assessment of emerging species or issues and relevant State pest management plans.
- Review currently funded ORC activities against regional priorities for continuation or transition to new investments.
- Consider interactions with other funded programs in the region, such as, but not limited to, Land and Sea Ranger programs.
- Reach consensus on priorities and projects in a collaborative manner.
- Engage with stakeholders to identify other projects and priorities that leverage additional resources for enhanced outcomes.
- Develop ORC project Expressions of Interest including approximate resource requirements for coordination and alignment by the Statewide Oversight Group.
- Engage and coordinate with other Regional Pest Management Sub-Committees on potential ORC projects/activities.
- Undertake six monthly ORC project implementation reviews and provide regional views to the Statewide Oversight Group about Statewide projects.

Appendix 2 – Weeds of National Significance

WONS – Weeds of National Significance

Under the [National Weeds Strategy](#), 32 introduced plants were identified as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). This list of 32 WONS was developed based on the following key criteria:

- invasive tendencies
- impacts
- potential for spread
- socioeconomic and environmental values.

National management strategies and manuals have been published for all of these species. National management groups have been established for each of these species to oversee the implementation of the respective national strategic plans.

Cat. → R/I = Restricted Invasive

Weed – Common Name	Cat.	RAPAD?
African Boxthorn	R/I 3	
Alligator Weed	R/I 3	
Athel Pine	R/I 3	●
Asparagus Ferns (7 species)	R/I 3	
Bellyache Bush	R/I 3	●
Bitou Bush	R/I 2,3,4,5	
Blackberry	R/I 3	
Bridal Creeper	R/I 2,3,4,5	
Brooms		
Cabomba	R/I 3	
Cat’s Claw Creeper	R/I 3	?
Chilean Needle Grass	R/I 3	
Fireweed	R/I 3	
Gamba Grass	R/I 3	
Gorse		
Hymenachne	R/I 3	
Lantana	R/I 3	
Mesquite	P/R/I 3	●
Madeira Vine	R/I 3	
Mimosa Pigra	R/I 2,3,4,5	
Opuntoid Cacti		●
Parkinsonia	R/I 3	●
Parthenium Weed	R/I 3	●
Pond Apple	R/I 3	
Prickly Acacia	R/I 3	●
Rubber Vine	R/I 3	●
Sagittaria	R/I 3	
Salvinia	P/R/I 3	
Serrated Tussock	P/I 2,3,4,5	
Silverleaf Nightshade	R/I 3	
Water Hyacinth	R/I 3	
Willows	R/I 3	

Opuntoid Cacti	
Prohibited & Restricted Invasive cacti	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron’s beard cactus (<i>Opuntia leucotricha</i>) • Blind cactus (<i>Opuntia rufida</i>) • <i>Opuntia puberula</i> (no common name) • Sulphur cactus (<i>Opuntia sulfurea</i>) • Violet prickly pear (<i>Opuntia gosseliniana</i>) • Wheel cactus (<i>Opuntia robusta</i>) 	
Restricted invasive cacti	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunny ears cactus (<i>Opuntia microdasys</i>) R/I 2,3,4,5 • Cane cactus (<i>Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica</i>) • Common pest pear, spiny pest pear (<i>Opuntia stricta</i>) R/I 3 • Coral cactus (<i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i>) R/I 3 • Devil’s rope pear (<i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i>) R/I 3 • Drooping tree pear (<i>Opuntia monacantha</i>) R/I 3 • Eve’s pin cactus (<i>Austrocylindropuntia subulata</i>) R/I 3 • Hudson pear (<i>Cylindropuntia pallida</i> & <i>Cylindro. tunicata</i>) R/I 2,3,4,5 • Jumping cholla (<i>Cylindropuntia prolifera</i>) R/I 2,3,4,5 • Riverina pear (<i>Opuntia elata</i>) R/I 3 • Snake cactus (<i>Cylindropuntia spinosior</i>) R/I 3 • Tiger pear (<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i>) • Velvety tree pear (<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i>) R/I 3 • Westwood pear (<i>Opuntia streptacantha</i>) 	

Category 2	The invasive plant must be reported within 24 hours Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
Category 3	The invasive plant must not be distributed either by sale or gift, or released into the environment.
Category 4	The invasive plant must not be moved.
Category 5	The invasive plant must not be kept.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.6 - Complaints Involving the Chief Executive Officer Policy - Biennial Review

11.6 Complaints Involving the Chief Executive Officer Policy - Biennial Review

Consideration of amendments to the Complaints Involving the Chief Executive Officer Policy No. 2.2, which is due for its biennial review.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR LEADERSHIP	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
5.1	Council will have a values driven culture.
5.2	Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices

Budget Considerations

Nil

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2021-03-044)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Nunn

That Council adopts the Complaints of Corrupt Conduct by Chief Executive Officer Policy No. 2.2 as presented.

CARRIED

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s:

Simon Kuttner – Manager of Governance and Economy

Background:

All Council policies are scheduled for review on a rolling two-year cycle. Policies require review due to either legislative change, changes to the policy itself, or because of otherwise changed circumstances.

The Complaints of Corrupt Conduct by Chief Executive Officer Policy was established to detail how Longreach Regional Council will deal with a complaint of corrupt conduct by the CEO.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.6 - Complaints Involving the Chief Executive Officer Policy - Biennial Review

The policy is developed with consideration to a template provided by the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) to all Queensland Councils. Once in-effect, a copy of the policy is provided to the CCC for their records.

Issue:

The Complaints of Corrupt Conduct by Chief Executive Officer Policy has been reviewed and is presented for adoption.

The main amendment is the identification of the Chief Financial Officer as a nominated person under the policy. This is in place of the Director of Corporate Services, a role which was withdrawn during recent amendments to the organisational structure.

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 assessed based on proceeding as recommended.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:


Nil

Appendices

1. 02-02 Complaints of Corrupt Conduct Involving the CEO Policy - Review 2023.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Complaints of Corrupt Conduct by Chief Executive Officer Policy No. 2.2, as presented.

Complaints of Corrupt Conduct Involving the Chief Executive Officer		 <p>Longreach Regional Council Hiracambe Isisford Longreach Yarakka</p>
Policy Number:	2.2	
Policy Category:	Statutory	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:		

OBJECTIVE

The Chief Executive Officer is the public official of the Longreach Regional Council. The objective of this policy is to set out how the Longreach Regional Council will deal with a complaint (also information or matter) that involves or may involve corrupt conduct of its Chief Executive Officer as defined in **Section 48A of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001** (CC Act).

SCOPE

This policy applies:

- if there are grounds to suspect that a complaint may involve corrupt conduct of the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Longreach Regional Council (Council); and**
- to all persons who hold an appointment in, or are employees of Council.

POLICY RATIONALE

The policy is designed to assist the Longreach Regional Council to:

1. Comply with section 48A of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*;
2. Promote public confidence in the way suspected corrupt conduct of the Chief Executive Officer for the Longreach Regional Council is dealt with (section 34(c) CC Act);
3. Promote accountability, integrity and transparency in the way the Longreach Regional Council deals with a complaint that is suspected to involve, or may involve, corrupt conduct of the Chief Executive Officer.

LEGISLATION

Crime and Corruption Act 2001

DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this policy have the following meanings:

Act or CC Act - *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Complaint - Includes information or matter. See definition provided by section 48A(4) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Contact Details -

Mayor

Phone: 07 4658 4103, Email: mayor@longreach.qld.gov.au, Post: PO Box 472,
Longreach QLD 4730

Chief Financial Officer

Phone: 07 4658 4114, Email: cfo@longreach.qld.gov.au, Post: PO Box 472, Longreach
QLD 4730

Corruption - See Schedule 2 (Dictionary) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Corrupt Conduct - See section 15 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Corruption in Focus - <https://www.ccc.qld.gov.au/publications/corruption-focus> (see chapter 2, page 2.6).

Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) - The Commission continued in existence under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Deal With - See Schedule 2 (Dictionary) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Nominated Person - Refer to Nominated Person section of this policy.

Police Misconduct - See Schedule 2 (Dictionary) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Public Official/CEO - See Schedule 2 (Dictionary) and also section 48A of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Unit of Public Administration (UPA) - See section 20 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

NOMINATED PERSON

Having regard to section 48A (2) and (3) of the CC Act, this policy nominates:

- The Chief Financial Officer and Mayor as the nominated persons to notify the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) of the complaint and to deal with the complaint under the Act.
- The nominated person will, with or without consulting the CCC, decide who will be the nominated person for a particular complaint.
- Where a nominated person decides to notify the CCC about a complaint, the nominated person for that particular complaint will inform the CCC that they are the nominated person for the particular complaint.

The CC Act applies as if a reference about notifying or dealing with the complaint to the Chief Executive Officer is a reference to the nominated persons.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If a complaint may involve an allegation of corrupt conduct of the Chief Executive Officer of the Longreach Regional Council, the complaint may be reported to:

1. One or both of the nominated persons; or
2. A person to whom there is an obligation to report under an Act.

If there is uncertainty about whether or not a complaint should be reported, it is best to report it to one or both of the nominated persons. If the nominated persons reasonably suspect the complaint may involve corrupt conduct of the Chief Executive Officer, they are to:

1. Notify the CCC of the complaint, and
2. Deal with the complaint, subject to the CCC's monitoring role, when:
 - directions issued under s40 of the CC Act, apply to the complaint; or
 - pursuant to s46 of the CC Act, the CCC refers the complaint to the nominated person to deal with.

If the Chief Executive Officer reasonably suspects that the complaint may involve corrupt conduct on their part, the Chief Executive Officer must:

1. Report the complaint to one or both of the nominated persons as soon as practicable and may also notify the CCC; and
2. Take no further action to deal with the complaint unless requested to do so by the nominated persons.

Where directions issued under s40 of the CC Act apply to the complaint:

1. The nominated person is to deal with the complaint; and
2. The Chief Executive Officer is to take no further action to deal with the complaint unless requested to do so by the nominated person.

RESOURCING THE NOMINATED PERSON

If pursuant to s40 or 46 of the CC Act, the **Chief Financial Officer** and/or Mayor has responsibility to deal with the complaint:

- (i) The Longreach Regional Council will ensure that sufficient resources are available to the nominated persons to enable them to deal with the complaint appropriately; and
- (ii) The nominated persons are to ensure that consultations, for the purpose of securing resources sufficient to deal with the complaint appropriately are confidential and are not disclosed, other than to the CCC, without:
 - authorisation under a law of the Commonwealth or the State; or
 - the consent of the nominated persons responsible for dealing with the complaint.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023

11.7 Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023

Consideration of the 2023-24 Annual Operational Plan review for the period ending 30 September 2023.

Council Action

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

(Res-2023-07-182)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Bignell

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.

CARRIED 7/0

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s:

Brett Walsh – Chief Executive Officer

Simon Kuttner – Manager of Governance and Economy

Background:

The Annual Operational Plan is adopted by Council annually in conjunction with setting its financial budget. The plan outlines the key activities and targets which Council have agreed to meet for the twelve-month period, which are derived from Council's 5-year Corporate Plan.

Issue:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 174 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Chief Executive Officer must present a written assessment of the local government's

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023

progress towards implementing the annual operational plan to a meeting at regular intervals of three months.

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 assessed based on proceeding as recommended.

Environmental Management Factors:

The Annual Operational Plan has provisions for Environmental Management in alignment with Outcome 1.3 of the *Longreach Regional Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028*: The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.

Other Comments:

A copy of the reviewed Annual Operational Plan 2023-24, including written assessment information for the period ending 30 September 2023, is attached.

Appendices

1. AOP 23-24 Q1 Quarterly Report.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to section 174(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, receives the Chief Executive Officer's evaluation of the implementation of the 2023-24 Annual Operational Plan for the period ended 30 September 2023.



Longreach Regional Council ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023-24

Quarterly Report – Q1
 (for the period to 30 September 2023)

About this report

Every three months, the Chief Executive Officer compiles a 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 outcomes outlined in our Corporate Plan, by examining progress made in executing the strategies and initiatives detailed in our Annual Operational Plan.

Progress is indicated using a simple colour coded system as demonstrated opposite. As each quarter is updated, this will cumulatively illustrate progress on each initiative.

This report should be referenced in conjunction with the published Longreach Regional Council Annual Operational Plan 2023-24, which is available from Council's website or at any Council office.

Status Key

- **Completed/target met**
 This item has been completed. If it is a target, such as monthly reporting or compliance, that target has been met.
- **Commenced/in-progress**
 Work has commenced and is in progress on this item.
- **Scheduled/not yet commenced**
 Work has been scheduled to commence in a subsequent quarter.
- **Deferred**
 This item has been deferred to a subsequent financial year. A brief explanation will accompany this status.
- **Target not met**
 This item has not been completed by the end of the financial year or has otherwise not met a target. A brief explanation will accompany this status.



11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



OUR COMMUNITY								
Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.1.1 Implementation of Housing strategy	Progress actions from the Housing Strategy	Year-one actions completed	Office of the CEO	●				Scheduled.
1.1.2 Development, adoption and implementation of Facilities Master Plans	Adoption of Facilities Master Plans	Two Facilities Master Plans adopted	Communities	●				Cemeteries Plan adopted by Council in August 2023. Work continues on refining a second facility plan for council adoption.
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	●				Four community forums held in September 2023, and a number of community events run and supported, such as those targeting health and wellbeing.

Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR COMMUNITY Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	●				Applications are being invited for potential youth councillors, and other awareness activities such as presentations to high school students.
1.2.3 Review and improvement of draft Reconciliation Action Plan	Commence stakeholder and community engagement	Approved project management plan	Communities	●				Scheduled.
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	●				Scheduled.



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR ECONOMY Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	●				Consultation with Councillors and government stakeholders commenced in Q1.
2.2.3 Development, adoption and implementation of a Destination Strategy	Development of a draft Destination Strategy	Draft Destination Strategy considered by Council	Office of the CEO	●				Scheduled. Internal working group developing project plan.

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR SERVICES Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	●				Draft Probable Estimates of Construction Costs in progress. Environmental Impact Assessment in progress. Aquatic Ecology Assessment in progress. Draft Weir Construction disturbance areas in progress.
	Repair Ilfracombe elevated water storage	Solution to repairing Ilfracombe water storage developed and implemented	Works	●				Procurement to undertake structural assessment of the tank and stand is in progress. Repair outcome will be dependent on assessment findings and budget.

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR SERVICES	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	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	●				In progress. Asset Management Systems being implemented.
	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	●				Scheduled.
	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	●				Scheduled.

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR FINANCES Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
4.1.1 Achieve efficiency through technology and smarter work processes	Implementation of the ICT Strategic Plan	Year-one actions are completed	Finance	●				In progress. Cyber security, governance and records projects near completion.
	Timely, insightful and accurate management reporting	Monthly management reports are published within three business days of month end	Finance	●				In progress. Averaging 5 days.
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	●				In progress. Undergoing final consultation.
	Service level plans are updated and maintained	Service level plans are updated for all key services and costs broken down by activity	Finance	●				In progress. Service level plans are being developed.



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR FINANCES	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	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	●				In progress. Pipeline is being updated from asset management plans.
		Procurement requirements are viewed on a consolidated basis	Forward looking procurement schedule developed based on OPEX and CAPEX programs	Finance	●				In progress. Procurement process reviews are underway.
		Council remains responsive to opportunities and threats	Forecasts are updated and reviewed monthly	Finance	●				Forecasts are updated and reported on monthly.
	4.1.4 External funding opportunities are maximised	New grant opportunities are identified, pursued, and existing grant milestones are met	Grant budget achieved	Finance	●				Grant budgets being met in first quarter. New applications are being pursued.

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



OUR LEADERSHIP								
Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met								
Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	●				The drafting of a 5 year strategy has been commenced during Q1, with the finalisation of a base draft for staff consultation to be completed by Q2.
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	●				The training needs analysis template has been developed during Q1, with initial data population based on current position descriptions underway.
5.2.1 The risk management framework is integrated into all	Council maintains an effective risk management and audit program	Audit and Risk Committee meetings are held quarterly	Finance	●				Committee meeting held in July 2023.

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met

OUR LEADERSHIP	Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	council decisions and activities	Documentation of Council's critical safety risks	Developed and adopted audit of hazards program	Office of the CEO	●				In Q1 a number of Critical Risk areas were identified and grouped into categories which will inform Council internal audit/inspection programs. The list of Critical Risks will be taken to the safety committee meeting in Q2 for endorsement.
	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	●				Scheduled.

11.7 - Annual Operational Plan Review 2023-24 - Review for Period Ending 30 September 2023
 --Appendix 1



OUR LEADERSHIP								
Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	●				Scheduled.
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	●				Scheduled.
	Commence review of Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan	Review of Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan completed	Works	●				Review has not yet commenced. Requires additional resourcing and budget to undertake works.
	Engage with tertiary sector on climate resilient strategies	Stakeholder meeting	Office of the CEO	●				Scheduled.

Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met





OUR LEADERSHIP								
Corporate Plan Strategy	Operational Plan Initiative	Performance Milestone	Lead Directorate	Progress				Comments
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	●				Development of the technical brief and scope of works has commenced. Project has been extended to June 2026.
	In partnership with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority develop a Local Resilience Action Plan	Adoption of a Local Resilience Action Plan	Communities	●				Scheduled. Internal working group developing project plan.

Key: ● = Completed/target met ● = Commenced/in-progress ● = Scheduled/not yet commenced ● = Deferred ● = Target not met



11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.8 - Longreach Regional Council Annual Report 2022 - 2023

11.8 Longreach Regional Council Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Consideration of the Longreach Regional Council's Annual Report 2022-2023.

Council Action

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/s: *Brett Walsh, Chief Executive Officer*

Background:

Section 182 of the Local Government Regulation requires Council to prepare an annual report for each financial year.

The Annual Report provides the community with a snapshot of Council's activities during the year as well as the audited financial statements for that year. It reports on Council's progress in relation to the strategies addressed in the Corporate Plan and Annual Operational Plan, and also provides details on its outcomes against the annual budget.

Sections 183 – 190 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 specifies the particular matters for inclusion to be included in the annual report.

Issue:

The Annual Report must be completed and adopted by Council within 1 month after the day the Auditor-General provides its Audit Report of the local government's financial statements for the financial year.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.8 - Longreach Regional Council Annual Report 2022 - 2023

The QAO endorsed the Annual Financial Statements on 24 October 2023 which are included in the Annual Report which is attached for Council 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: Possible

Consequence: Minor

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

Appendices

1. 2023 Longreach Regional Council - Financial Statements [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council, pursuant to section 182 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, adopts the Longreach Regional Council Annual Report 2023 (including the audited Annual Financial Statements).

Longreach Regional Council

General Purpose Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023



Longreach Regional Council
Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

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Longreach Regional Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income			
Revenue			
Recurrent revenue			
Rates, levies and charges	3a	11,662	11,360
Fees and charges	3b	2,183	2,042
Rental income		181	175
Interest received	3c	776	228
Sales revenue	3d	7,901	8,732
Other income		803	799
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4a	<u>29,170</u>	<u>22,496</u>
Total recurrent revenue		<u>52,676</u>	<u>45,832</u>
Capital revenue			
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	4b	6,323	6,144
Other capital income	5	<u>913</u>	<u>1,095</u> *
Total capital revenue		<u>7,236</u>	<u>7,239</u>
Total Income		<u>59,912</u>	<u>53,071</u>
Expenses			
Recurrent expenses			
Employee benefits	6	(15,361)	(14,934)
Materials and services	7	(26,411)	(22,863)
Finance costs	8	(864)	(956) *
Depreciation and amortisation	14	<u>(8,745)</u>	<u>(8,197)</u>
Total recurrent expenses		<u>(51,381)</u>	<u>(46,950)</u>
Capital expenses			
	9	(172)	(1,157) *
Total Expenses		<u>(51,553)</u>	<u>(48,107)</u>
Net Result		<u>8,359</u>	<u>4,964</u>
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Increase/(Decrease) in asset revaluation surplus	19	<u>22,597</u>	<u>21,358</u> *
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>30,956</u>	<u>26,322</u>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and significant accounting policies.

*Comparative figures have been restated. Refer to Note 29 for details.

Longreach Regional Council
Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	35,079	34,074
Receivables	11	1,979	2,204
Inventories	12	598	630
Land held for resale	13	494	788
Contract Assets	18	4,259	3,480
Total current assets		42,409	41,176
Non-current assets			
Receivables	11	11,075	11,689
Property plant and equipment	14	364,999	339,791 *
Total non-current assets		376,074	351,480
Total assets		418,483	392,656
Current liabilities			
Payables	15	(2,177)	(2,293)
Borrowings	16	(1,292)	(1,241)
Provisions	17	(3,174)	(3,027)
Contract Liabilities	18	(3,782)	(6,028)
Total current liabilities		(10,424)	(12,589)
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	16	(13,765)	(16,744)
Provisions	17	(2,316)	(2,300) *
Total non-current liabilities		(16,080)	(19,044)
Total liabilities		(26,504)	(31,633)
Net community assets		391,979	361,023
Community equity			
Asset revaluation surplus	19	(172,692)	(150,095) *
Retained surplus		(219,287)	(210,928) *
Total community equity		(391,979)	(361,023)

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and significant accounting policies.

*Comparative figures have been restated. Refer to Note 29 for details.

**Longreach Regional Council
Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Asset revaluation surplus \$'000	Retained surplus \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2022		150,095	210,928	361,023
Net result for the year		-	8,359	8,359
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	19	22,597	-	22,597
Total comprehensive income for the year		22,597	8,359	30,956
Balance as at 30 June 2023		172,692	219,287	391,979
Balance as at 1 July 2021		128,737	203,582	332,319
Effect of correction of error 1 July 2021			2,382	2,382
Restated balances		128,737	205,964	334,701
Net result for the year		-	4,359	4,359
Effect of correction of error for 30 June 2022		-	605	605
Increase in asset revaluation surplus	19	21,358	-	21,358
Total comprehensive income for the year		21,358	4,964	26,322
Balance as at 30 June 2022		150,095	210,928	361,023

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and significant accounting policies.

Longreach Regional Council

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from Customers		22,715	21,939
Payments to suppliers and employees		(41,973)	(39,029)
Interest Received		776	228
Rental Income		181	174
Non capital grants and contributions		26,575	21,962
Borrowing costs		(568)	(795)
Net Cash Inflow (outflow) from Operating Activities	24	<u>7,706</u>	<u>4,479</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for property plant and equipment	14	(11,610)	(9,552)
Proceeds from sale of property plant and equipment	5,9	1,325	1,329
Receipt of Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fencing Scheme receivable		614	539
Grants subsidies contributions and donations		5,899	5,800
Net Cash Inflow (outflow) from Investing Activities		<u>(3,772)</u>	<u>(1,884)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of Borrowings		(2,929)	(1,155)
Net Cash Inflow (outflow) from Financing Activities		<u>(2,929)</u>	<u>(1,155)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Held		1,005	1,440
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Financial Year		34,074	32,634
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Financial Year	10	<u>35,079</u>	<u>34,074</u>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes and significant accounting policies.

Longreach Regional Council Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

1. Information about these financial statements

(1.A) Basis of preparation

Longreach Regional Council (Council) is constituted under the *Queensland Local Government Act 2009* and is domiciled in Australia.

These general purpose financial statements are for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and have been prepared in compliance with the *Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Council is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes and these financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as applicable to not-for-profit entities.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for certain classes of property, plant and equipment which are measured at fair value.

Recurrent/Capital Classification

Revenue and expenditure are presented as "recurrent" or "capital" in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on the following basis:

Capital Revenue includes grants and subsidies received which are tied to specific projects for the replacement or upgrade of existing non-current assets and/or investment in new assets.

The following transactions are classified as either "Capital Income" or "Capital Expenses" depending on whether they result in accounting gains or losses:

- Disposal of non-current assets
- Revaluations of property, plant and equipment

All other revenue and expenses have been classified as "recurrent".

(1.B) Estimates and judgements

Council makes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions in preparing these financial statements. These are based on the best information available to Council at the time, however due to the passage of time, these assumptions may change and therefore the recorded balances may not reflect the final outcomes. The significant judgements, estimates and assumptions relate to the following items and specific information is provided in the relevant note:

- Valuation and depreciation of Property, Plant & Equipment - Note 14
- Provisions - Note 17
- Contingent Liabilities - Note 21
- Financial Instruments and Financial Risk Management - Note 25

(1.C) Taxation

Council is exempt from income tax, however Council is subject to Fringe Benefits Tax, Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and payroll tax on certain activities. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO or payable to the ATO is shown as an asset or liability respectively.

(1.D) Standards issued by the AASB not yet effective

The AASB has issued Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are not effective at 30 June 2023, these standards have not been adopted by Council and will be included in the financial statements on their effective date. These standards are not expected to have a significant impact.

(1.E) Adoption of new and revised Accounting Standards

In the current year, Council adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period. The adoption of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations has not resulted in any material changes to Council's accounting policies.

(1.F) Rounding and comparatives

The financial statements are in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest \$1,000 or, where that amount is \$500 or less, to zero, unless otherwise stated.

Comparative information is prepared on the same basis as prior year.

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

2. Analysis of results by function

(2.A.) Components of council functions

GOVERNANCE

Council's Governance team provide leadership and sound governance across all of Council. This function includes support services for Councillors and the CEO, disaster management, human resources, economic development and tourism.

CORPORATE AND OTHER SERVICES

The Corporate Services team provides information technology, financial services, records management, procurement and other commercial activities.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Community and Cultural Services provides infrastructure and services to improve liveability within the region including parks and gardens, sporting and recreational facilities, libraries, community housing, public health. Cemeteries and child care.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Infrastructure Services provides infrastructure and services to ensure that essential services are maintained including roads, water, sewerage, waste management and maintaining Council's vehicle fleet.

**Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2023

(2.B.) Income and expenses defined between recurring and capital are attributed to the following functions

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Functions	Gross program income				Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total income	Gross program expenses		Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total expenses	Net result from recurring operations	Net Result	Assets
	Recurring		Capital				Recurring	Capital					
	Grants	Other	Grants	Other									
							\$'000	\$'000					
Governance	210	381	489	-	1,081	(4,888)	-	-	(4,888)	(4,296)	\$'000	\$'000	5,993
Corporate and Other Services	15,088	6,549	257	43	21,937	(5,668)	(5)	-	(5,673)	15,969	16,264	52,842	52,842
Community and Cultural Services	938	2,053	1,292	403	4,686	(9,541)	(163)	-	(9,704)	(6,550)	(5,018)	64,025	64,025
Infrastructure Services	12,934	14,523	4,285	466	32,208	(31,284)	(4)	-	(31,288)	(3,828)	920	295,623	295,623
Total Council	29,170	23,506	6,323	913	59,912	(51,381)	(172)	-	(51,553)	1,295	8,359	418,483	418,483

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Functions	Gross program income				Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total income	Gross program expenses		Elimination of inter-function transactions	Total expenses	Net result from recurring operations	Net Result	Assets
	Recurring		Capital				Recurring	Capital					
	Grants	Other	Grants	Other									
							\$'000	\$'000					
Governance	130	167	(32)	-	265	(3,341)	-	-	(3,341)	(3,044)	(3,076)	5,662	5,662
Corporate and Other Services	11,201	6,423	2,866	-	20,490	(7,180)	-	-	(7,180)	10,444	13,310	70,510	70,510
Community and Cultural Services	850	1,942	299	-	3,091	(8,898)	(843)	-	(9,741)	(6,106)	(6,650)	33,513	33,513
Infrastructure Services	10,315	14,804	3,011	659	28,789	(27,483)	(631)	-	(28,014)	(2,364)	775	281,698	281,698
Total Council	22,496	23,336	6,144	659	52,635	(46,902)	(1,374)	-	(48,276)	(1,070)	4,358	391,383	391,383

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

3. Revenue

3.a. Rates, levies and charges

Rates, levies and charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
General rates	5,951	5,751
Separate rates	592	570
Water	2,977	2,858
Water consumption, rental and sundries	405	533
Sewerage	1,784	1,709
Garbage charges	1,065	984
Total rates and utility charge revenue	<u>12,774</u>	<u>12,405</u>
Less: Discounts	(981)	(933)
Less: Pensioner remissions	(131)	(112)
	<u>11,662</u>	<u>11,360</u>

3.b. Fees and charges

Revenue arising from fees and charges are recognised at the point in time when the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the service or in some cases, the customer is required to pay on provision of the service. There is no material obligation for council in relation to refunds or returns.

Licences granted by council are all either short-term or low value and all revenue from licences is recognised at the time that the licence is granted rather than the term of the licence.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Building and development fees	64	71
Cemetery and Funeral Fees	159	180
Child Care Centre Fees	1,603	1,414
Licence Fees	16	13
Other fees and charges	341	363
	<u>2,183</u>	<u>2,042</u>

3.c. Interest received

Interest received from bank and term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest received from financial institutions	719	170
Interest from overdue rates and utility charges	57	58
	<u>776</u>	<u>228</u>

3.d. Sales revenue

Revenue from contracts and recoverable works generally comprises a recoupment of material costs together with an hourly charge for use of equipment and employees. This revenue and the associated costs are recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity based on costs incurred at the reporting date. Where consideration is received for the service in advance it is included in other liabilities and is recognised as revenue in the period when the service is performed.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Contract and recoverable works	7,901	8,732
	<u>7,901</u>	<u>8,732</u>

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

4. Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

Grant income under AASB 15

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue is recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied. Performance obligations vary in each agreement but include the completion of project milestones, repairing flood damaged infrastructure or providing services to the community. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for other.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control and within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract.

Where control is transferred over time, revenue is recognised using either costs or time incurred.

Grant income under AASB 1058

Where Council receives an asset for significantly below fair value, the asset is recognised at fair value, related liability (or equity items) are recorded and income then is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

Capital grants

Where Council receives funding under an enforceable contract to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment which will be under Council's control on completion, revenue is recognised as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred.

Donations and contributions

Where assets are donated or purchased for significantly below fair value, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council. Donations and contributions are generally recognised on receipt of the asset since there are no enforceable performance obligations.

4.a. Operating grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
General purpose grants	15,086	11,218
Government subsidies and grants	13,921	11,132
Other operating contributions	163	147
	<u>29,170</u>	<u>22,496</u>

4.b. Capital grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Government capital subsidies and grants	6,157	3,598
Other capital contributions	166	2,545
	<u>6,323</u>	<u>6,144</u>
Total grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	<u>35,493</u>	<u>28,641</u>

4.c. Timing of revenue recognition for grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue recognised at a point in time	15,908	12,057
Revenue recognised over time	19,585	16,584
	<u>35,493</u>	<u>28,641</u>

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

5. Capital - Other

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Provision for landfill rehabilitation		
Discount rate adjustment to rehabilitation provision	17	436
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from the disposal of property, plant and equipment	1,012	1,329
Less: Carrying value of disposed property, plant and equipment	(514)	(670)
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	497	659
Asset revaluation increments		
Asset revaluation increments recognised as capital income	403	-
Total capital income	913	1,095

6. Employee benefits

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

Councillor remuneration represents salary, and other allowances paid in respect of carrying out their duties.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Total staff wages and salaries	12,327	11,825
Councillors' remuneration	412	401
Annual, sick and long service leave entitlements	1,978	2,045
Superannuation	22	1,385
	16,150	15,656
Other employee related expenses	35	52
	16,185	15,708
Less: Capitalised employee expenses	(824)	(774)
	15,361	14,934
Total Council employees at the reporting date:	2023	2022
Elected members	7	7
Administration staff	74	69
Depot and outdoors staff	91	83
Total full time equivalent employees	172	159

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

7. Materials and services

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as Council receives the goods or services.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Advertising, marketing and promotion	61	34
Administration supplies and consumables	1,175	941
Audit of annual financial statements by the Auditor-General of Queensland*	81	75
Communications and IT	980	388
Consultants and contractors	928	1,196
Donations paid	136	160
Electricity	677	630
Insurance	777	802
Repairs and maintenance	15,574	13,469
Cost of sales - contract and recoverable works	5,885	5,054
Subscriptions and registrations	79	78
Travel and conferences	57	36
	<u>26,411</u>	<u>22,863</u>

*Total audit fees quoted by the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2022-23 financial statements are \$80,500 (2022: \$75,000).

8. Finance Costs

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Finance costs charged by Queensland Treasury Corporation	764	974
Unwinding of discount on provisions	17	48
(Reversal of impairment)/impairment of receivables	51	(66)
	<u>864</u>	<u>956</u>

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

9. Capital expenses

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from the disposal of property, plant and equipment	313	-
Less: Carrying value of disposed property, plant and equipment	(481)	-
Loss on Disposal	<u>(168)</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase in provision for landfill rehabilitation	17	(314)
Asset revaluation decrements recognised as a capital expense	-	(843)
Total capital expenses	<u>(172)</u>	<u>(1,157)</u>

10. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, all cash and cheques received but not banked at the year end, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	25,079	34,074
Cash at bank - term deposit	10,000	-
Balance as per Statement of Financial Position	<u>35,079</u>	<u>34,074</u>

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	35,079	34,074
Less: Externally imposed restrictions on cash	(3,782)	(5,076)
Unrestricted cash	<u>31,297</u>	<u>28,998</u>

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to a number of external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. These include:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
RADF	27	-
DRFA 2022 Event	2,919	-
Building Our Regions 4	546	-
Minor Infrastructure Project milestone payment	165	-
Works 4 Queensland	125	-
NDRRA 2021 Event	-	3,445
Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme Cash Fund	-	1,631
Total unspent restricted cash	<u>3,782</u>	<u>5,076</u>

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

11. Receivables

Receivables, loans and advances are amounts owed to council at year end. They are recognised at the amount due at the time of sale or service delivery or advance. Settlement of receivables is required within 30 days after the invoice is issued. Terms for loans and advances are usually a maximum of five years with interest charged at non-commercial rates. Security is not normally obtained.

Debts are regularly assessed for collectability and allowance is made, where appropriate, for impairment. All known bad debts were written-off at 30 June. If an amount is recovered in a subsequent period it is recognised as revenue.

Under the *Local Government Act 2009* Council has the power to sell an owner's property to recover outstanding rates debts. Rates receivables are not impaired unless the expected recovery value is less than the outstanding arrears.

Interest is charged on outstanding rates and utilities at 8.0% per annum from 1 July 2022. No interest is charged on other debtors. There is no concentration of credit risk for rates and utility, fees and other debtor receivables.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Rateable revenue and utility charges	998	1,641
LWDEFS current	635	414
Other debtors	398	380
	<u>2,031</u>	<u>2,435</u>
Less loss allowance	(52)	(230)
Total current receivables	<u>1,979</u>	<u>2,204</u>
Non-current		
LWDEFS	11,075	11,689
Total non-current receivables	<u>11,075</u>	<u>11,689</u>

Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme (LWDEFS)

A Current and Non-Current Receivable exists for the Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme (LWDEFS) approved by Council. Under the scheme, a special charge will be levied on certain rural properties to fund the provision of wild dog exclusion fencing. The receivables balance represents the total cost of providing the fencing under the scheme. Over the term of the scheme, special charges will be levied to cover the repayment of the total cost of providing the fencing and a notional interest on outstanding amounts for the remaining term. The scheme commenced in 2016 and will be fully completed in 2038. This special charge is attached to the land on which the fencing was provided and so an expected credit loss is not calculated for these receivables.

Movement in accumulated impairment losses is as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance at 1 July	230	299
Less debts written off during the year	(281)	-
Additional impairments recognised	103	-
Less impairments reversed	-	(69)
Closing Balance at 30 June	<u>52</u>	<u>230</u>

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

12. Inventories

Stores and raw materials are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned on the basis of weighted average cost.

Inventories held for distribution are:

- goods to be supplied at no or nominal, charge, and
- goods to be used for the provision of services at no or nominal, charge.

These goods are valued at cost, adjusted, when applicable, for any loss of service potential.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Inventories held for sale		
Miscellaneous saleable items	25	8
	<u>25</u>	<u>8</u>
Inventories held for distribution		
Plant & equipment stores, quarry and road materials	573	622
	<u>573</u>	<u>622</u>
Total inventories	<u>598</u>	<u>630</u>

13. Land held for sale

Assets are classified as held for sale when the carrying amount of these assets will be recovered principally through a sales transaction rather than continuing use. Assets classified as held for sale are available for immediate sale in their present condition and management believe the sale is highly probable within 12 months. Assets held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less cost to sell and are not depreciated.

Council has a number of undeveloped land parcels available for sale to the public on normal commercial terms.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Vacant land held for sale	408	788
Ilfracombe Post Office	86	-
	<u>494</u>	<u>788</u>

**Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements**
For the year ended 30 June 2023

14. Property, plant and equipment

	Land	Buildings		Plant and Equipment		Other plant and equipment		Road Infrastructure		Water and Sewerage		Other Space and Recreation Assets		Work in progress		Total
		Fair Value	Levels 2 & 3	Cost	Cost	Cost	Fair Value	Level 3	Fair Value	Level 3	Fair Value	Level 3	Fair Value	Level 3	Cost	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Basis of measurement	4,966	62,942	23,328	1,276	239,034	117,022	20,326	7,694	11,600	337	7,894	11,600	337	7,894	11,600	476,589
Fair value category	(28)	(202)	(1,417)	-	1,291	104	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(26)	(1,673)
Opening gross value as at 1 July 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	(63)	(46)	-	-	(1,926)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(109)
Disposals	339	526	-	-	17,037	5,952	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,854
Change in asset classification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets classified as available for sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation adjustment to other comprehensive income(asset revaluation surplus)	-	(183)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(183)	-
Impairment adjustment to asset revaluation reserve surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation adjustment to capital income	-	1,152	-	239	622	1,332	442	758	442	3,787	758	442	3,787	758	442	758
Work in Progress Transfers	5,214	64,189	23,885	1,515	256,058	124,410	23,789	11,775	11,775	11,775	11,775	11,775	11,775	11,775	11,775	510,836
Closing gross value as at 30 June 2023																

Accumulated depreciation and impairment

Opening balance as at 1 July 2022	15,248	10,794	663	69,405	34,063	6,625	-	136,798
Depreciation expense	1,596	1,442	126	3,634	1,251	696	-	8,745
Depreciation on disposals	(7)	(1,131)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,138)
Change in asset classification	-	-	-	(193)	-	193	-	-
Impairment adjustment to asset revaluation reserve surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation adjustment to asset revaluation surplus	167	(350)	-	(350)	1,257	-	-	1,074
Revaluation adjustment to capital income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	358
Accumulated Depreciation as at 30 June 2023	17,004	11,105	789	72,496	36,571	7,872	-	145,837

Total written down value as at 30 June 2023

Other Information	5,214	47,186	12,780	726	183,562	87,839	15,917	11,775	364,999
Range of estimated useful life in years	Not depreciated	15-75	3-50	5-50	10-100	5-100	10-100	Not depreciated	

Additions comprise:

Renewals	-	-	1,974	-	1,076	30	337	5,311	8,730
Other additions	-	-	-	-	213	74	-	2,583	2,870
Total additions	-	-	1,974	-	1,291	104	337	7,894	11,600

**Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements**
For the year ended 30 June 2023

14. Property, plant and equipment (cont'd)

	Land	Buildings		Plant and Equipment		Other plant and equipment		Road Infrastructure		Water and Sewerage		Other Space and Recreation Assets		Work in progress		Total
		Fair Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Cost \$'000	Cost \$'000	Cost \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Cost \$'000	Cost \$'000			
Basis of measurement																
Opening gross value as at 1 July 2021	5,046	61,706	23,854	1,276	229,072	111,326	21,387	2,035	455,703							
Additions	-	119	2,078	-	714	273	354	6,014	9,552							
Disposals	-	(54)	(2,604)	-	(32)	-	-	-	(2,690)							
Assets classified as available for sale																
Revaluation adjustment to other comprehensive income (asset revaluation surplus)	(80)	1,171	-	-	7,170	5,359	-	-	13,620							
Revaluation adjustment to capital income	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,415)	-	(1,415)							
Asset additions from prior year error	-	-	-	-	1,819	-	-	-	1,819							
Work in Progress Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	259	-	-	259					(355)		
Closing gross value as at 30 June 2022	4,966	62,942	23,328	1,276	239,034	117,022	20,326	7,694	476,589							
Accumulated depreciation and impairment																
Opening balance as at 1 July 2021	-	13,885	11,594	557	75,635	30,342	6,428	-	138,441							
Depreciation expense	-	1,214	1,228	106	3,555	1,325	769	-	8,197							
Depreciation on disposals	-	(54)	(2,028)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,082)							
Asset additions from prior year error	-	-	-	-	546	-	-	-	546							
Revaluation adjustment to asset revaluation surplus	-	203	-	-	(10,300)	2,396	-	-	(7,731)							
Revaluation adjustment to capital income	-	-	-	-	-	-	(572)	-	(572)							
Accumulated Depreciation as at 30 June 2022	-	15,248	10,794	663	69,405	34,063	6,625	-	136,798							
Total written down value as at 30 June 2022	4,966	47,695	12,534	613	169,629	82,959	13,701	7,694	339,791							
Range of estimated useful life in years	Not depreciated	15-75	3-50	5-50	10-100	5-100	10-100	Not depreciated								
Additions comprise:																
Renewals	-	119	2,078	-	714	273	354	2,070	5,608							
Other additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,944	3,944							
Total additions	-	119	2,078	-	714	273	354	6,014	9,552							

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

14. Property, plant and equipment (cont'd)

14.a. Recognition

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised as assets unless they are below the asset recognition threshold or maintenance expenditure.

Land under the roads and reserve land which falls under the *Land Act 1994* or the *Land Title Act 1994* is controlled by the Queensland Government and not recognised in these financial statements.

14.b. Measurement

Property plant and equipment assets are initially recorded at cost. Subsequently, each class of property, plant and equipment is stated at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment loss.

Cost is determined as the fair value of consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition. Direct labour, materials and an appropriate portion of overheads incurred in the acquisition or construction of assets are also included as capital costs.

Property, plant and equipment received in the form of contributions, for significantly less than fair value or as offsets to infrastructure charges are recognised as assets and revenue at fair value.

14.c. Depreciation

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or when an asset is ready for use.

Land, work in progress, road formations and formation work associated with the construction of weirs are not depreciated as they have an unlimited useful life.

Depreciation, where applicable, is calculated on a straight-line basis such that the cost of the asset less its residual value is recognised progressively over its estimated useful life to Council. Management believe that the straight-line basis appropriately reflects the pattern of consumption of all Council assets.

Where assets have separately identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned useful lives distinct from the asset to which they relate.

Depreciation methods, estimated useful lives and residual values are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted where necessary to reflect any changes in the pattern of consumption, physical wear and tear, technical or commercial obsolescence or management intentions.

14.d. Impairment

Property, plant and equipment held at cost is assessed for the indicators of impairment annually. If an indicator of possible impairment exists, Council determines the asset's recoverable amount. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

14.e. Valuation

(i) Valuation processes

Council considers the carrying amount of its property, plant and equipment on an annual basis compared to fair value and makes adjustment where these are materially different. Every five years, Council performs a full comprehensive revaluation by engaging an external professionally qualified valuer.

In the intervening years, Council undertakes a desktop valuation which involves management providing updated information to the valuer regarding additions, deletions and changes in assumptions such as useful life, residual value and condition rating. The valuer then determines suitable indices which are applied to each of these asset classes.

Revaluation increases are recognised in the asset revaluation surplus unless they are reversing a previous decrease which was taken through the income statement, in that case the increase is taken to the income statement to the extent of the previous decrease.

Revaluation decreases are recognised in the asset revaluation surplus, where there is sufficient amount available in the asset revaluation surplus relating to that asset class. Where there isn't sufficient amount available in the surplus, the decrease is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Where the class of asset has previously decreased in value and this reduction was recognised as an expense, an increase in the value of the class is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in the carrying amount of the asset and any change in the estimate of remaining useful life.

Fair values are classified into three levels as follows:

- Level 1 - fair value based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 - fair value based on inputs that are directly or indirectly observable, such as prices for similar assets, for the asset or liability.
- Level 3 - fair value based on unobservable inputs for the asset and liability.

There were no transfers between levels during the year.

14.e. Valuation (cont'd)

(i) Valuation techniques used to derive fair values

Asset class and fair value hierarchy	Valuation approach	Last comprehensive valuation date	Valuer engaged	Key assumptions and estimates	Index applied	Other interim revaluation adjustment
Land (Level 2)	Market value	30-Jun-21	AssetVal	Direct comparison to sales approach taking into consideration characteristics of the land such as zoning, topography and configuration.	16.0%	Nil
Buildings (Level 2) 2023: \$1,751k 2022: \$1,555k	Market value	30-Jun-21	AssetVal	Direct comparison to sales and adjusting for differences in key attributes such as property size. Other key factors in determining fair value are the estimated remaining life of assets and their condition.	6.2%	Nil
Buildings (Level 3) 2023: \$47,366k 2022: \$46,140k	Current replacement cost	30-Jun-21	AssetVal	Gross replacement cost indexed for subsequent changes in construction costs, derived from reference to construction data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Other key factors in determining fair value are the estimated remaining life of assets and their condition.	6.2%	Nil
Road, drainage and bridge network (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	30-Jun-23	AssetVal	A sample of road assets were inspected to determine asset conditions and compositions. The gross replacement cost was determined by applying unit rates to each individual asset. The unit rates applied include all materials, labour and overheads. These unit rates are estimated using information collated from similar recent project costs, direct quotations from suppliers, unit rate databases, indices and industry standard sources such as Rawlinsons' Construction Handbook.	Not applicable	Nil
Water and sewerage (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	30-Jun-20	AssetVal	Gross replacement cost indexed for subsequent changes in construction costs, derived from reference to construction data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Other key factors in determining fair value are the estimated remaining life of assets and their condition.	Mechanical index 3.5% Civil index 10.6% Electrical index 3.3%	Nil
Other space and recreation assets (Level 3)	Current replacement cost	30-Jun-21	AssetVal	Gross replacement cost indexed for subsequent changes in construction costs, derived from reference to construction data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Other key factors in determining fair value are the estimated remaining life of assets and their condition.	Mechanical index 3.5% Civil index 10.6% Electrical index 3.3%	Nil

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

15. Payables

Creditors are recognised when goods or services are received, at the amount owed. Amounts owing are unsecured and are generally settled within 7 days of invoice date (2022: 30 days).

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Creditors and accruals	2,177	2,293
	<u>2,177</u>	<u>2,293</u>

16. Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Thereafter, they are measured at amortised cost. Principal and interest repayments are made quarterly in arrears.

All borrowings are in \$A denominated amounts and interest is expensed as it accrues. No interest has been capitalised during the current or comparative reporting period. Expected final repayment dates vary from 15 September 2026 to 15 June 2038. There have been no defaults or breaches of the loan agreement during the period.

Council adopts an annual debt policy that sets out council's planned borrowings for the next nine years. Council's current policy is to only borrow for capital projects and for a term no longer than the expected life of the asset. Council also aims to comply with the Queensland Treasury Corporation's borrowing guidelines and ensure that sustainability indicators remain within acceptable levels at all times.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Current Loans - Queensland Treasury Corporation	1,292	1,241
Non-current		
Non-current Loans - Queensland Treasury Corporation	13,765	16,744
Total loans	<u>15,057</u>	<u>17,985</u>

The QTC loan market value at the reporting date was \$14,467,167 (FY22: \$17,685,719). This represents the value of the debt if Council repaid it at that date.

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

17. Provisions

Employee entitlements

Liabilities are recognised for employee benefits such as annual and long service leave in respect of services provided by the employees up to reporting date. Short-term benefits which are expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are calculated on wage and salary levels which are expected to be paid and includes related employee on-costs. Amounts not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are calculated on projected future wage and salary levels and related employee on-costs, and are discounted to present values.

Long Service Leave

The provision for long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. The liability is calculated using current pay rates and projected future increases in those rates and includes related employee on-costs. The estimates are adjusted for the probability of the employee remaining in the Council's employment or other associated employment which would result in the Council being required to meet the liability. Adjustments are then made to allow for the proportion of the benefit earned to date, and the result is discounted to present value. The interest rates attaching to Commonwealth Government guaranteed securities at the reporting date are used to discount the estimated future cash outflows to their present value.

Where employees have met the prerequisite length of service and council does not have an unconditional right to defer this liability beyond 12 months long service leave is classified as a current liability. Otherwise it is classified as non-current.

Landfill rehabilitation

A provision is made for the cost of restoring the region's landfills where it is probable the Council will be liable, or required, to do this when the use of the facilities is complete.

The provision for landfill rehabilitation is calculated as the present value of anticipated future costs associated with the closure of the dump sites, decontamination and monitoring of historical residues and leaching on these sites. The calculation of this provision requires assumptions such as application of environmental legislation, site closure dates, available technologies and engineering cost estimates. These uncertainties may result in future actual expenditure differing from amounts currently provided. Because of the long-term nature of the liability, the most significant uncertainty in estimating the provision is the costs that will be incurred. The provision recognised for dump sites is reviewed at least annually and updated based on the facts and circumstances available at the time. Management estimates that the sites will not close in the foreseeable future and that the restoration will occur progressively as part of operations.

As landfills are on state reserves which the Council does not control, the provision for restoration is treated as an expense in the year the provision is first recognised. Changes in the provision are treated as an expense or income.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
Annual leave	1,344	1,307
Personal leave	310	271
Long service leave	1,520	1,449
	<u>3,174</u>	<u>3,027</u>
Non-current		
Landfill Rehabilitation	2,062	2,023
Long service leave - non-current	254	277
	<u>2,316</u>	<u>2,300</u>
Details of movements in landfill rehabilitation provision:		
Balance at beginning of year	2,023	3,737
Prior year correction to 1 July 2021 balance	-	(1,640)
Adjusted opening balance	2,023	2,097
Additional provisions	4	314
Increase/(decrease) due to unwinding of discount	48	48
Increase/(decrease) due to change in discount rate	(13)	(436)
Balance at end of year	<u>2,062</u>	<u>2,023</u>

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

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18. Contract Balances

Contract assets represents the excess of costs incurred in relation to a contract with the customer or construction of an asset over the amounts that council has invoiced the customer or the grantor. Where council has invoiced the customer or the grantor amounts in excess of what it has incurred in relation to a contract or in constructing as asset, this gives rise to a contract liability.

During the 2023 financial year, \$6.0 million of the prior year's contract liabilities was recognised as revenue as performance obligations were met. Council expects that all of the contract liabilities recognised in 2023 will be recognised as revenue in the next financial year.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Contract assets	<u>4,259</u>	<u>3,480</u>
Contract liabilities		
Funds received upfront to construct Council controlled assets	836	2,165
Non-capital performance obligations	<u>2,946</u>	<u>3,863</u>
	<u>3,782</u>	<u>6,028</u>

19. Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus comprises adjustments relating to changes in value of property, plant and equipment that do not result from the use of those assets. Net incremental changes in the carrying value of classes of non-current assets since their initial recognition are accumulated in the asset revaluation surplus. Increases and decreases on revaluation are offset within a class of assets.

Where a class of assets is decreased on revaluation, that decrease is offset first against the amount remaining in the asset revaluation surplus in respect of that class. Any excess is treated as an expense.

When an asset is disposed of, the amount reported in surplus in respect of that asset is retained in the asset revaluation surplus and not transferred to retained surplus.

Movements in the asset revaluation surplus were as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of financial year	150,095	128,737
Land	339	(80)
Buildings	176	968
Road infrastructure	17,387	17,507
Water and Sewerage	4,695	2,963
Balance at end of financial year	<u>172,692</u>	<u>150,095</u>

Asset revaluation surplus analysis

The closing balance of the asset revaluation surplus comprises

Land	3,305	2,966
Buildings	42,829	42,653
Road infrastructure	93,554	76,167
Water and Sewerage	<u>33,004</u>	<u>28,309</u>
	<u>172,692</u>	<u>150,095</u>

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

20. Commitments for expenditure

Capital commitments

Commitments for the construction of the following assets contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,714	2,614
	<u>2,714</u>	<u>2,614</u>

These expenditures are payable as follows:

Within one year	2,714	2,017
One to five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
	<u>2,714</u>	<u>2,017</u>

21. Contingent liabilities

Details and estimates of maximum amounts of contingent liabilities are as follows:

Local Government Mutual

The Council is a member of the local government mutual liability self-insurance pool, LGM Queensland. In the event of the pool being wound up or it is unable to meet its debts as they fall due, the trust deed and rules provide that any accumulated deficit will be met by the individual pool members in the same proportion as their contribution is to the total pool contributions in respect to any year that a deficit arises.

As at 30 June 2023 the financial statements reported an accumulated surplus and it is not anticipated any liability will arise.

Local Government Workcare

The Council is a member of the Queensland local government worker's compensation self-insurance scheme, Local Government Workcare. Under this scheme the Council has provided an indemnity towards a bank guarantee to cover bad debts which may remain should the self insurance licence be cancelled and there was insufficient funds available to cover outstanding liabilities.

Only the Queensland Government's workers compensation authority may call on any part of the guarantee should the above circumstances arise. The Council's maximum exposure to the bank guarantee is \$328,574 (2022: \$335,060).

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

22. Superannuation - Regional Defined Benefit Fund

Council contributes to the LGIAsuper Regional Defined Benefits Fund (the scheme), at the rate of 12% for each permanent employee who is a defined benefit member. This rate is set in accordance with the LGIAsuper trust deed and may be varied on the advice of an actuary. The Regional Defined Benefits Fund is a complying superannuation scheme for the purpose of the Commonwealth Superannuation Industry (Supervision) legislation and is also governed by the Local Government Act 2009. This scheme is managed by the LGIAsuper trustee as trustee for LGIAsuper trading as Brighter Super.

The scheme is a pooled benefit plan, and is not in accordance with the deed to allocate obligations, plan assets and costs at the council level.

Any amount by which the scheme is over or under funded may affect future benefits and result in a change to the contribution rate, but has not been recognised as an asset or liability of the Council.

Technically Longreach Regional Council can be liable to the scheme for a portion of another local governments' obligations should that local government be unable to meet them. However the risk of this occurring is extremely low and in accordance with the LGIAsuper trust deed changes to council's obligations will only be made on the advice of an actuary.

The last completed actuarial assessment of the scheme was undertaken as at 1 July 2021. The actuary indicated that "At the valuation date of 1 July 2021, the net assets of the scheme exceeded the vested benefits and the scheme was in a satisfactory financial position as at the valuation date." The Council is not aware of anything that has happened since that time that indicates the assets of the scheme are not sufficient to meet the vested benefits, as at the reporting date.

No changes have been made to prescribed employer contributions which remain at 12% of employee assets and there are no known requirements to change the rate of contributions

The next triennial review is not due until 1 July 2024.

The most significant risks that may result in LGIAsuper increasing the contribution rate, on the advice of the actuary, are

Investment risk - The risk that the scheme's investment returns will be lower than assumed and additional contributions are needed to fund the shortfall.

Salary growth risk - The risk that wages or salaries will rise more rapidly than assumed, increasing vested benefits to be funded.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Superannuation contributions made the Regional Benefits Fund	50	56
Other Superannuation Contributions for Employees	1,433	1,329
Total superannuation paid by the council for employees	<u>1,483</u>	<u>1,385</u>

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

23. Trust Funds

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a separate trust bank account and separate trust accounting records are maintained for funds held in trust on behalf of third parties. Council performs only a custodian role in respect of these monies and because these monies cannot be used for council purposes, they are not considered revenue nor brought to account in the financial statements since council has no control over the assets.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Security Deposits	150	150
	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>

24. Reconciliation of net result for the year to net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Net result	8,359	4,964
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	8,745	8,197
Impairment of receivables	51	(66)
Change in future rehabilitation and restoration costs	39	(74)
	<u>8,836</u>	<u>8,056</u>
Investing and development activities:		
Net (profit)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(328)	(659)
Asset revaluations recognised as capital (revenue)/expenses	(403)	843
Capital grants and contributions	(6,323)	(6,144)
	<u>(7,054)</u>	<u>(5,960)</u>
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/ decrease in receivables	225	(995)
(Increase)/ decrease in contract assets	(779)	757
(Increase)/decrease in inventory	32	20
(Increase)/decrease in land held for sale	294	-
Increase/(decrease) in payables and accruals	(117)	(1,064)
Increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	(2,246)	(1,291)
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	157	(8)
	<u>(2,434)</u>	<u>(2,581)</u>
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>7,706</u>	<u>4,479</u>

25. Financial instruments and financial risk management

Liquidity Risk

Longreach Regional Council has exposure to the following risks arising from financial instruments:

- credit risk
- liquidity risk
- market risk

Risk management framework

Longreach Regional Council is responsible for the establishment and oversight of the risk management framework, together with developing and monitoring risk management policies.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee approves policies for overall risk management, as well as specifically for managing credit, liquidity and market risk.

The Council's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced, to set appropriate limits and controls and to monitor these risks and adherence against limits. The Council aims to manage volatility to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

The Council's Audit and Risk Committee oversees how management monitors compliance with the Council's risk management policies and procedures, and reviews the adequacy of the risk managements framework in relation to the risks faced by the Council. The Council Audit and Risk Committee is assisted in its oversight role by internal audit. Internal audit undertakes both regular and ad hoc reviews of risk management controls and procedures, the results of which are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss if a counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. These obligations arise principally from the Council's investments and receivables from customers.

Exposure to credit risk is managed through regular analysis of credit counterparty ability to meet payment obligations. The carrying amount of financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure.

Investments in financial instruments are required to be made with Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) or similar state/ commonwealth bodies or financial institutions in Australia, in line with the requirements of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*. No collateral is held as security relating to the financial assets of Council.

Council has assessed its exposure to credit risk at the reporting date. In the case of rates receivables, Council has the power to sell the property to recover defaulted amounts. Given the majority of Council's credit risk relates to general rates and utility charges receivables and other receivables due the Queensland and Commonwealth governments, Council's exposure to credit risk is not material at reporting date.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset.

Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they are due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Council's reputation.

Council manages its exposure to liquidity risk by maintaining sufficient cash deposits to cater for unexpected volatility in cash flows.

The following table sets out the liquidity risk in relation to financial liabilities held by Council. It represents the remaining contractual cashflows of financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period, excluding the impact of netting agreements.

	0 to 1 year	1 to 5 years	Over 5 years	Total contractual cash flows	Carrying amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2023					
Trade and other payables	2,177	-	-	2,177	2,177
Loans - QTC	1,901	7,180	9,744	18,825	15,057
	4,078	7,180	9,744	21,002	17,234
2022					
Trade and other payables	2,293			2,293	2,293
Loans - QTC	1,968	8,018	12,983	22,969	17,985
	4,261	8,018	12,983	25,262	20,278

Longreach Regional Council
Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market indices, such as interest rates, will affect the Council's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments.

Interest rate risk

Council is exposed to interest rate risk through its investments and borrowings with QTC and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). Council has access to a mix of variable and fixed rate funding options so that interest rate risk exposure can be minimised.

Sensitivity

The following interest rate sensitivity analysis depicts what effect a reasonably possible change in interest rates (assumed to be 1%) would have on the profit and equity, based on the carrying values at the end of the reporting period. The calculation assumes that the change in interest rates would be held constant over the period.

	Net carrying amount \$'000	Effect on Net Result		Effect on Equity	
		1% increase \$'000	1% decrease \$'000	1% increase \$'000	1% decrease \$'000
2023					
Cash at bank	25,079	251	(251)	251	(251)
Term deposit	10,000	-	-	-	-
Loans - QTC*	15,057	-	-	-	-
	<u>50,136</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>(251)</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>(251)</u>
2022					
Cash at bank	34,074	341	(341)	341	(341)
Term deposit	-	-	-	-	-
Loans - QTC*	17,985	-	-	-	-
	<u>52,059</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>(341)</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>(341)</u>

*QTC loans are financial instruments with fixed interest rates which are carried at amortised cost and not subject to interest rate sensitivity.

26. National Competition Policy

Business activities to which the code of competitive conduct is applied

Longreach Regional Council applies the competitive code of conduct to the following activities:

Roads

Water and sewerage

Waste management

Fleet operations

This requires the application of full cost pricing, identifying the cost of community service obligations (CSO) and eliminating the advantages and disadvantages of public ownership within that activity.

The CSO value is determined by Council, and represents an activities cost(s) which would not be incurred if the primary objective of the activities was to make a profit. The Council provides funding from general revenue to the business activity to cover the cost of providing non-commercial community services or costs deemed to be CSO's by the Council.

The following activity statements are for activities subject to the competitive code of conduct:

	Roads	Water and sewerage	Waste management	Fleet operations
	2023 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Revenue for services provided to the Council	-	-	-	6,074
Revenue for services provided to external clients	7,901	5,127	1,102	332
Community service obligations		49		
	<u>7,901</u>	<u>5,176</u>	<u>1,102</u>	<u>6,406</u>
Less : Expenditure	(7,310)	(3,446)	(858)	(4,933)
Surplus/(deficit)	<u>591</u>	<u>1,730</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>1,473</u>

Description of CSO's provided to business activities:

Activities	CSO description
Water and sewerage	For providing free services to public areas is \$48,783

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

27. Transactions with related parties

(a) Transactions with other related parties

Related parties include the close family members of KMP and any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP or their close family member. Close family members include spouse, child and dependent of a KMP or their spouse.

Details of transaction between council and other related parties are disclosed below:

			2023	2022
			\$'000	\$'000
KMP	Transaction			
Chief Executive Officer	Internal audit and taxation	i	11	-
Councillor Hatch	Catering and bus hire	ii	6	4
Councillor Rayner	BP Air	iii	7	9
Councillor Nunn	Participant of LWDEFS	iv	109	115
Councillor Martin	Property lease	v	1	9
Councillor Patterson	Participant of LWDEFS	vi	396	-
			530	137

i) The Chief Executive Officer is a close family member of a person who controls Walsh Accounting, a business that provides internal audit and taxation services to Council.

ii) Councillor Hatch is a part owner in the Wellshot Hotel, a business that provides catering and bus hire to Council on commercial terms.

iii) Councillor Rayner is a close family member of the person who controls BP Air, a business that provides Avgas to perform Councils wild dog baiting programs.

iv) Councillor Nunn is the part owner of a property that is a participant of the Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme and has a debt recognised under that scheme.

v) Councillor Martin was the Chief Executive Officer of the Qantas Foundation Memorial, which leases property from Council on commercial terms and provides some catering for Council Functions. Cr Martin resigned on 25 November 2022.

vi) Councillor Patterson is the part owner of a property that is a participant of the Longreach Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme and has a debt recognised under that scheme.

(b) Transactions with key management personnel (KMP)

KMP include the Mayor, Councillors, Council's Chief Executive Officer and Directors. The compensation paid to KMP comprises:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,299	1,305
Post-employment benefits	131	131
Long-term benefits	19	57
Termination benefits	14	-
	1,463	1,493

(c) Outstanding balances for related parties at the end of the reporting period

There were no outstanding balances for related parties at the end of the reporting period apart from those noted in Note 27(a)(iv) and (vi).

(d) Commitments to/from other related parties

There were no outstanding commitments for related parties at the end of the reporting period.

(e) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

We do not disclose ordinary citizen transactions.

Longreach Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

28. Events after reporting period

Council is unaware of any material or significant "non adjusting events" that should be disclosed.

29. Correction of error

During the preparation of the 2023 financial statements, Council discovered an error in the way it calculated the present value of its Provision for Landfill Rehabilitation. In previous years, the discount rate was not applied until the expected commencement of the rehabilitation of the landfill sites, resulting in an overstatement of the provision amount. Prior year adjustments have been made to correct this error.

As a result of the comprehensive revaluation conducted on Council's roads and stormwater assets, Council identified a number of assets that were not identified on the register totalling \$1.27 million. Prior year adjustments have been made to correct this error.

	Original balance as presented at 30 June 2022 \$'000	Correction 1 July 2021 \$'000	Correction 2022 \$'000	Restated balance at 30 June 2022 \$'000
Statement of Comprehensive Income				
Capital income	659	-	436	1,095
Finance expenses	(908)	-	(48)	(956)
Capital expenses	(1,374)	-	(314)	(1,688)
Total comprehensive income	25,717	-	74	25,791
Statement of Financial Position				
Property, plant and equipment	338,518	1,273	-	339,791
Non-current provisions	(4,014)	1,640	74	(2,300)
Retained surplus	(207,941)	(2,913)	(74)	(210,928)

Longreach Regional Council

Financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Management Certificate
For the year ended 30 June 2023**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared pursuant to sections 176 and 177 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) and other prescribed requirements.

In accordance with section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that:

- (i) the prescribed requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012* for the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- (ii) the general purpose financial statements, as set out on pages 1 to 31, present a true and fair view, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, of the Council's transactions for the financial year and financial position at the end of the year.



**Mayor
Tony Rayner**

Date: 13 / 10 / 2023



**Chief Executive Officer
Brett Walsh**

Date: 13 / 10 / 2023



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the councillors of Longreach Regional Council

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Longreach Regional Council.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the council's financial position as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended
- b) complies with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including material accounting policy information, and the certificate given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of my report.

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information (other than the audited financial report) in an entity's annual report.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in Longreach Regional Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 was the current year financial sustainability statement and long-term financial sustainability statement.

The councillors are responsible for the other information.



My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report and my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the councillors for the financial report

The councillors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The councillors are also responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is intended to abolish the council or to otherwise cease operations of the council.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control.



- Evaluate the appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

In accordance with s. 40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, for the year ended 30 June 2023:

- a) I received all the information and explanations I required
- b) I consider that, the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts were complied with in all material respects.

Prescribed requirements scope

The prescribed requirements for the establishment and keeping of accounts are contained in the *Local Government Act 2009*, and the Local Government Regulation 2012. The applicable requirements include those for keeping financial records that correctly record and explain the council's transactions and account balances to enable the preparation of a true and fair financial report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Claydon".

Michael Claydon
as delegate of the Auditor-General

24 October 2023

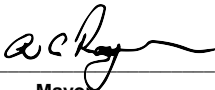

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

Longreach Regional Council			
Current-year Financial Sustainability Statement			
For the year ended 30 June 2023			
Measures of Financial Sustainability	How the measure is calculated	Actual - Council	Target
Council's performance at 30 June 2023 against key financial ratios and targets:			
Operating surplus ratio	Net result (excluding capital items) divided by total operating revenue (excluding capital items)	2.5%	Between 0% and 10%
Asset sustainability ratio	Capital expenditure on the replacement of assets (renewals) divided by depreciation expense.	94.1%	greater than 90%
Net financial liabilities ratio	Total liabilities less current assets divided by total operating revenue (excluding capital items)	-30.2%	not greater than 60%
Note 1 - Basis of Preparation			
The current year financial sustainability statement is a special purpose statement prepared in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Regulation 2012</i> and the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2013. The amounts used to calculate the three reported measures are prepared on an accrual basis and are drawn from the Council's audited general purpose financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.			

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2023

This current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current-year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.

 _____ Mayor Tony Rayner	 _____ Chief Executive Officer Brett Walsh
Date: <u>13 / 10 / 2023</u>	Date: <u>13 / 10 / 2023</u>



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the councillors of Longreach Regional Council

Report on the Current-Year Financial Sustainability Statement

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying current year financial sustainability statement of Longreach Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2023, comprising the statement, explanatory notes, and the certificate of accuracy given by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with s.212 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, in my opinion, in all material respects, the current year financial sustainability statement of Longreach Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been accurately calculated.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement* section of my report.

I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the statement in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 which describes the basis of accounting. The current year financial sustainability statement has been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2013 for the purpose of fulfilling the council's reporting responsibilities under the Local Government Regulation 2012. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information (other than the audited financial report) in an entity's annual report.

At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in [name of council]'s annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 was the general purpose financial report and long-term financial sustainability statement.

The councillors are responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the current year financial sustainability statement does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. However, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012, I have formed a separate opinion on the general purpose financial report.



In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report and my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the councillors for the current year financial sustainability statement

The councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the current year financial sustainability statement in accordance with the Local Government Regulation 2012. The councillors responsibility also includes such internal control as the councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement that is accurately calculated and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the current year financial sustainability statement

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the current year financial sustainability statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this statement.

My responsibility does not extend to forming an opinion on the appropriateness or relevance of the reported ratios, nor on the council's future sustainability.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the council.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the statement, including the disclosures, and whether the statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



I communicate with the council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Claydon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

24 October 2023

Michael Claydon
as delegate of the Auditor-General

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

**Longreach Regional Council
Long-Term Financial Sustainability Statement**

Prepared as at 30 June 2023

**Unaudited
Measures of Financial
Sustainability**

Projected for the years ended

Actuals at 30 June 2023 June 2024 June 2025 June 2026 June 2027 June 2028 June 2029 June 2030 June 2031 June 2032

Council

Measure	Target	Actuals at 30 June 2023	June 2024	June 2025	June 2026	June 2027	June 2028	June 2029	June 2030	June 2031	June 2032
Operating surplus ratio	Between 0% and 10%	2.5%	-13.0%	-9.6%	-9.8%	-8.5%	-9.1%	-8.3%	-7.5%	-6.9%	-7.4%
Asset sustainability ratio	greater than 90%	94.1%	149.0%	100.0%	100.0%	101.0%	101.0%	102.0%	102.0%	119.0%	135.0%
Net financial liabilities ratio	not greater than 60%	-30.2%	0.4%	-2.5%	-5.0%	-8.3%	-11.4%	-14.6%	-18.6%	-21.6%	-24.6%

Certificate of Accuracy

For the long-term financial sustainability statement prepared as at 30 June 2023

This long-term financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the regulation).

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this long-term financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.



Mayor
Tony Rayner



Chief Executive Officer
Brett Walsh

Date: 13/10/2023

Date: 13/10/2023

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.9 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - October 2023

11.9 Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - October 2023

This report provides a summary of Council's health and safety performance as at 31 October 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, Manager of Human Resources, Safety and Wellness

Background:

Workplace Health and Safety provides a monthly update report of Council's health and safety performance.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.9 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - October 2023

Workplace Health and Safety Reporting – Period Ending 31 October 2023

- There were four personal injury incidents reported in October:
 - One incident required onsite first aid, for minor cuts/abrasions.
 - Once incident required further medical treatment, due to an allergic reaction causing a medical episode, resulting in a lost time injury.
 - The remaining two incidents were a report only, will no first aid or medical treatment required. The incidents were the result of slip, trips and fall hazards which were rectified.
- A total of four incidents were reported, which resulted in property damage to Council plant. The four incidents, involved an operational deviation that resulted in minor to moderate panel damage. The Safety Team will work closely with teams to identify factors that contributed to the errors, to implement any required corrective actions.
- There was a single incident considered notifiable under Queensland Workplace Health and Safety requirements. The incident related to an uncontrolled fire, which occurred at work site.

The below graphs depicts the Incident to Injury Ratio and Location of injuries for all incidents reported YTD.



WHS Updates/Consultation

- Throughout the first quarter of the 23/24 financial year the Safety Team looked at organisational safety critical risks, that are considered the most significant within the workplace that have the potential to create a risk to the health and safety of workers, visitors or the public. There were 19 areas identified, which have a number of sub-categories related to operational risk. These critical risks will help inform Council's internal audit, reviews and inspections programs.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.9 - Workplace Health & Safety Update Report - October 2023

- Council's annual *Big Day In* took place on 20 October 2023, with Robyn Neilson a Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Advocate, presenting on the topic of the importance of preparedness for workplace emergency response and management, particular in remote and isolated locations.

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
11.10 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

11.10 Information Report - Planning & Development Report

This report provides an update on Development Services that has occurred during the month of October 2023.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Nil

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.
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 Officer/s: *Emily O'Hanlon, Business Support Officer*

Authorised by: *Brett Walsh, Chief Executive Officer*

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

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.

Issue:

1. Development Assessment

No new applications have been received by Council since the last monthly 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
17/10/23	Landowner	<p><u>Request</u> Council held a meeting with a landowner looking to construct Short-term accommodation and a Multiple dwelling on land in the Medium density residential zone.</p> <p>The proposal was generally in accordance with the provisions in the planning scheme. The landowner will be required to submit a planning application.</p>	Closed
25/10/23	Real estate agent	<p><u>Request</u> Council received a request regarding the rating category for a site.</p> <p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is in the Centre zone • The most relevant rating category is considered to be Commercial. 	Closed
26/10/23	Landowner	<p><u>Request</u> Council received a query about the construction of a shed and whether town planning approval would be required.</p> <p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is in the Centre zone 	Closed

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

Planning Enquiries			
Date received	Customer Details	Details of Enquiry	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site contains an existing dwelling house A shed with an area of 90m² or less and an eaves height less than 3m would not require town planning approval The shed would still require building approval. 	
2/11/23	State Government	<u>Request</u> Council received a request from a state government agency about land tenure. <u>Advice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is in the Rural zone The land is subject to a Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease The applicant is seeking to change the land to a Freehold title Council did not have any comments regarding the change of tenure. 	
Planning And Development Certificates			
Date Received	Customer Details	Type	Status
Nil			
Exemption Certificates			
Nil			

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report

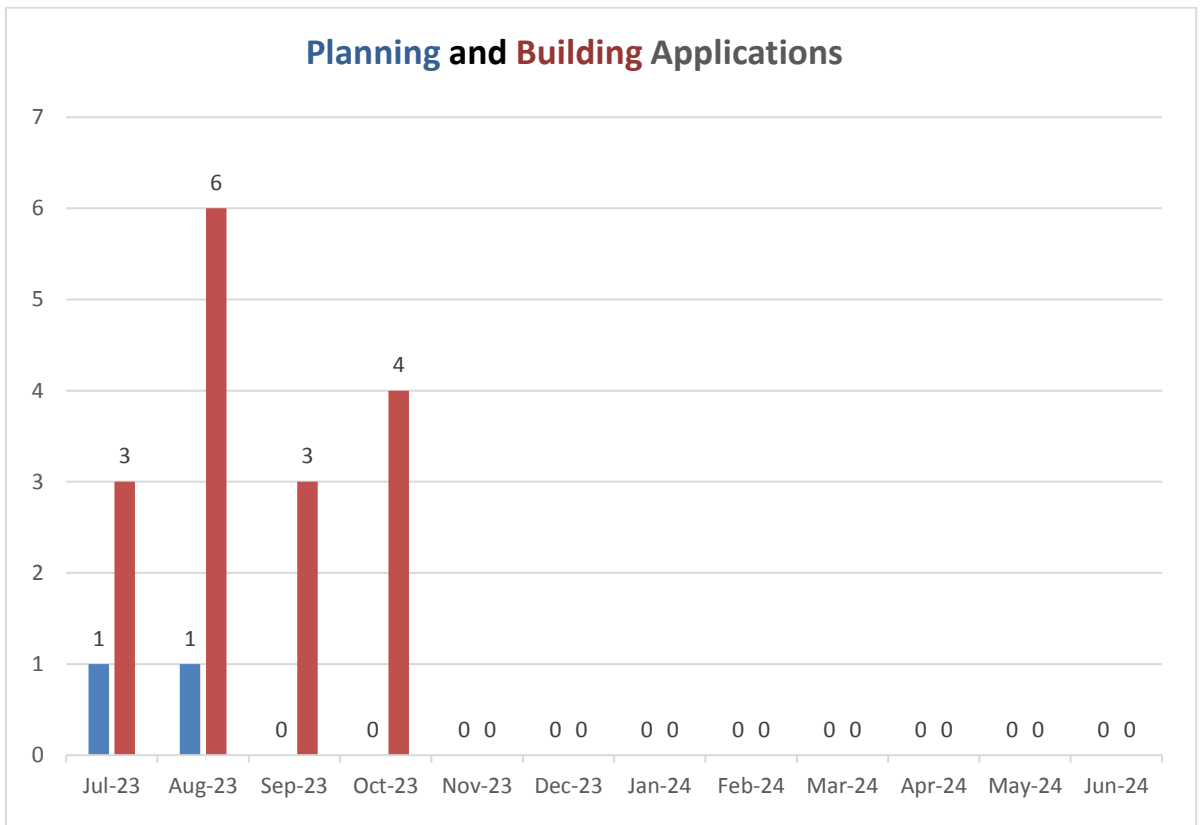
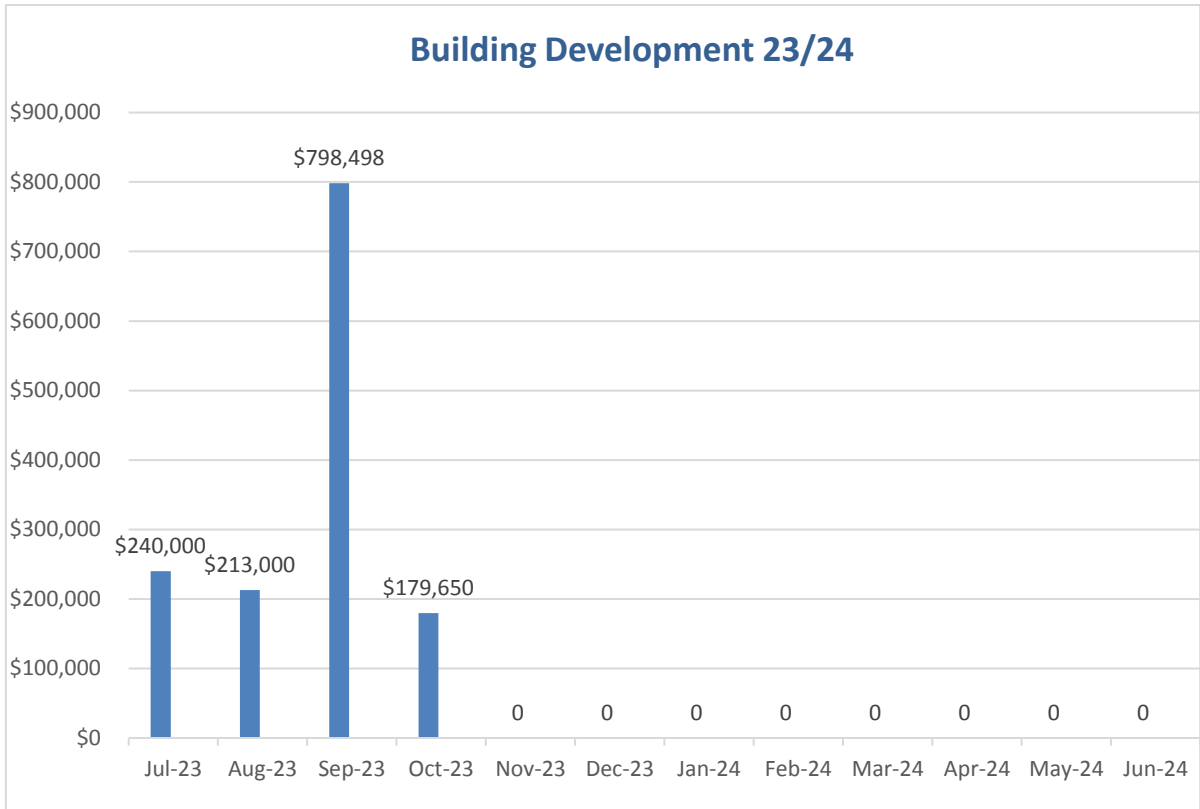
Development Applications Received

Application Type	October	YTD
Building (Council Certifier)	3	10
Building (Private Certifier)	1	5
Certificate of Classification	0	0
Change of Classification	0	0
Endorsement of Survey Plan	0	0
Exemption Certificate	0	1
Material Change of Use	0	0
Minor Change (MCU)	0	0
Minor Change (Op Works)	0	0
Building Work (Assessable)	0	0
Operational Works	0	0
Plumbing & Drainage	0	5
Reconfiguration of a Lot	0	1
Siting Variation	0	2
Building Record Searches/ Planning Certificates	2	6
Total	6	30

Project Value of Building Applications

Date	Development Type	Development Details	Value of Work	Location
C.fwd			\$1,189,640	
12/10/2023	Building	Carport	\$10,000	Longreach
11/10/2023	Building	Dwelling Alterations	\$85,000	Longreach
13/10/2023	Building	Demolition of House and Shed	\$20,000	Longreach
13/10/2023	Building	Shed	\$64,650	Longreach
October			\$179,650	
Total		Total Development for Year	\$1,369,290	

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - Information Report - Planning & Development Report



11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.10 - 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*.

On 26 October 2023, Council resolved to submit a notice to the Planning Minister to seek approval to adopt the proposed major amendment.

Reel Planning is currently preparing the notice and required attachments, which will be submitted to the Planning Minister in the coming weeks. Once submitted, Reel Planning will regularly liaise with the Department of State Development, Local Government, Infrastructure and Planning to facilitate a timely outcome.

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.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

11.11 Information Report - Governance

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 9 November 2023:

Strategic Leadership

- Attend monthly RAPAD meeting
- Attend monthly CEOs of the West (COWS) meeting via zoom
- Host Governor-General and entourage visit to Longreach
- Attend Longreach Airport Security Committee meeting
- Attend District Disaster Management Group meeting

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.11 - Information Report - Governance

Operational Management

- Housing Infrastructure Fund business case lodged
- Meet with Department of Transport and Main Roads officers re road and rail access to proposed industrial land
- Executive house completion
- Resolve water issues to Sandalwood Estate
- Introduce Level 2 Water Restrictions from 1 November on recommendation of Drought Management Response Team
- Meet with Department of Resources re various land issues

Financial Management

- Meet with Internal Auditor re audit outcomes
- Participate in procurement workshop

Workforce Capability

- Organise further leadership training across the organisation

Stakeholder Engagement

- Attend Selectability open day
- Attend 80 years celebration of Charleville RFDS base
- Meet with local business owner re Council's procurement process
- Meet with officers from the Department of Local Government
- Attend So You Want To Be A Councillor information session

Risk Management

- Launch of Disaster management calendar
- Monitor bushfire hazards

Economic/Consumer Spending Data (Spendmapp)

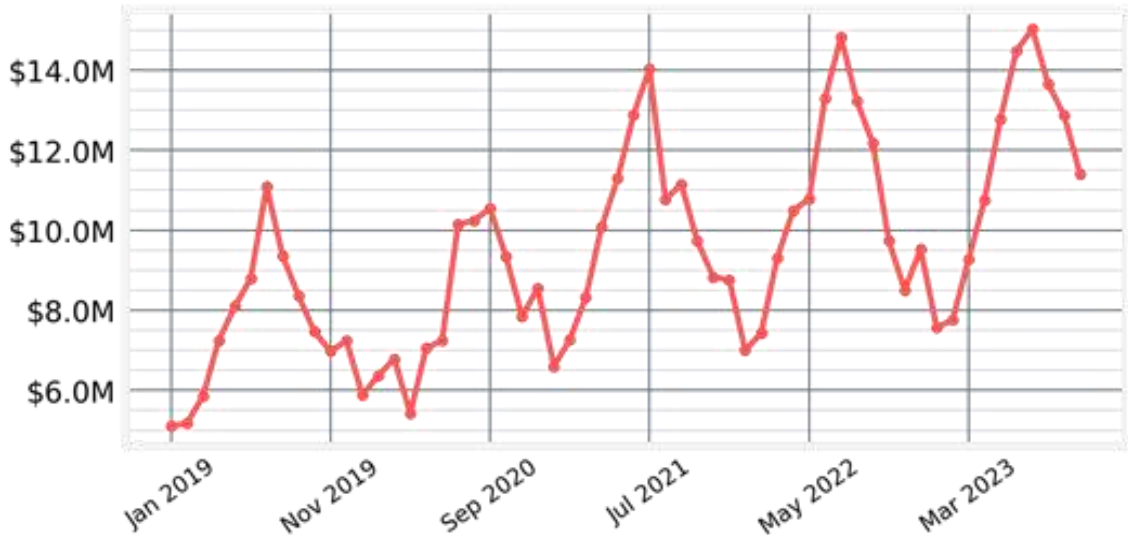
November data has not yet been released. For the month of October 2023:

Total Local Spend was \$11.4M. This is a 17.05% increase from the same time last year.
Resident Local Spend was \$7.3M. This is a 30.32% increase from the same time last year.
Visitor Local Spend was \$4.1M. This is a -1.06% decrease from the same time last year.
Resident Online Spend was \$4.1M. This is a -4.86% decrease from the time last year.

Total Local Spend

The total amount spent with merchants within the Longreach Regional Council LGA.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance



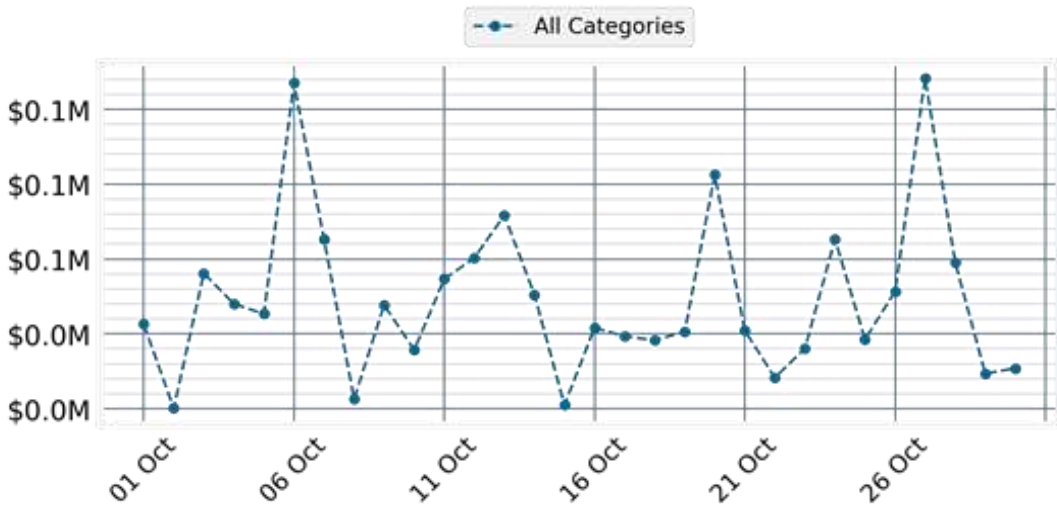
The Top 3 Suburbs by Resident Escape Spend for October 2023

Resident Escape Spend by destination Suburbs (i.e. where the spending goes to).

- Emerald: \$320k
- West Rockhampton: \$220k
- Toowoomba City: \$180k

Night Time Economy for October 2023

The biggest spending night of the month of October 2023 was Friday 27 October.



11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

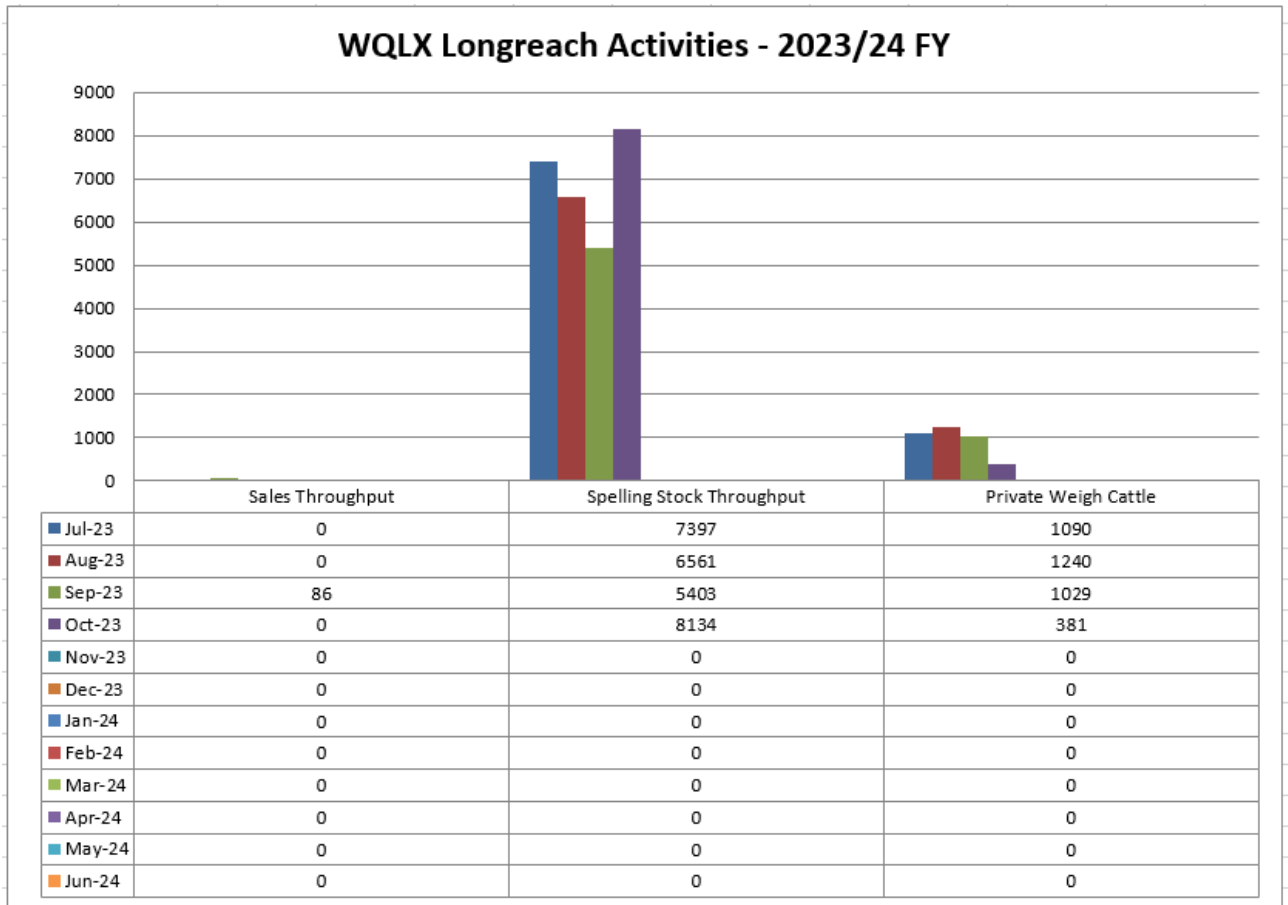
Human Resources

Staffing Levels 31 October 2023

ALL Employees FTE	Operational	Admin/ Supervisors	Contract	Total	Last Month	30/06/2022
Full Time Permanent Part Time	84.0	54.0	13.0	151.0	150.0	145.0
Contracted Staff (Consultants)	1.9	4.1	0.8	6.8	6.9	7.7
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent Employees	85.9	58.1	13.8	157.8	156.9	152.7
Temporary Full Time		2.0		2.0	3.0	5.0
Temporary Part Time	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apprentices - Trades	3.0	-	-	3.0	3.0	3.0
Traineeships	-	-	-	-	-	-
Casual Staff	2.7	2.0	-	4.7	4.1	4.1
Total Temporary Employees	5.7	4.0	-	9.7	10.1	12.1
Total Current Employees FTE	91.6	62.1	13.8	167.5	167.0	164.8
Current Vacant Positions	6.0	1.0	-	7.0	7.0	13.0
Complement FTE				174.5	174.0	177.8

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

Saleyards – Throughput Figures



Regulatory Services – Compliance (Local Laws)

Throughout October, Regulatory Services Compliance Officers continued with routine tasks, including town patrols, monitoring illegal water use, overgrown vegetation, feral animal control, abandoned vehicles, pest weed spraying and various animal related non-compliances. All Longreach Regional Council townships were on Level 1 Water Restrictions during October, allowing sprinkler use between 6:00am-9:00am and 5:00pm-8:00pm daily. Water restrictions changed from 1 November for Longreach town area only, moving to Level 2.

The main points of interest for October were:

1. The total number of animals impounded during October was 8, being 3 cats and 5 dogs. This was a particularly quiet month, with the increasingly warm weather a possible deterrent for wandering, with pets choosing to stay in the comfort and cool at home instead. Of the impounded animals, all were impounded for wandering at large, with the cats being trapped on private residences. We continued to hold one dog on behalf of DAF, and one dog remaining unclaimed following a dangerous dog declaration.
2. Officers prepared for the commencement of the Approved Inspection Program (AIP) for Animal Management, which involved follow-up calls to dog owners who had not renewed registration for this registration period, as well as determining

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

microchip numbers not kept on file. We received 4 applications to keep a third dog, with subsequent inspections being conducted. Registrations have increased since the notification of the upcoming AIP.

3. With weather warming up and Level 2 water restrictions due to be introduced for Longreach on 1 November, Officers are closely monitoring excessive watering and watering outside of approved hours. Officers have handed out multiple flyers regarding watering times during the month, and have noted that for many illegal watering occasions, timers had been turned on to maximum time and left on while the resident was not at home. Watering times will be included with an information pack currently in development for new tenants/property owners for distribution via real estate and housing agencies.
4. Compliance Officers assisted the Rural Lands team with the week-long October coordinated baiting program. See the Rural Lands report for more information.
5. To end October, the following statistics were determined:
 - Registration renewal rate: ~68.24% (previous registration period ended 15/08/2023, dogs which have been updated as deceased/transferred out/cancelled have been removed for this renewal rate calculation)
 - Total dogs registered across Region for 2023/2024 rego period: 582 dogs
 - Dogs with registration expired 2023/2022/2021/2020, not renewed or updated (excluding cancelled/deceased/transferred registrations): 300
 - New registrations for dogs within current rego period (since 15/08/2023): 67 dogs
 - Microchipping rate across Region (details on LRC file, active registrations only): ~77.74%
 - Total animals impounded YTD 2023: 157

Regulatory Services Tasks Completed – October 2023			
Animals	62	Water	43
Dogs Impounded	5	Watering / Sprinkler Patrols	25
Domestic Cats Impounded	3	Illegal Water Usage – Residential	7
Pound Releases	5	Illegal Water Usage – Business/Public	1
Animals Euthanised – unclaimed*	3	Water Leaks Reported/Observed	1
Animals Euthanised – surrendered	0	Water Exemption Applications/Permits	1
Animals Rehomed	0	Notices / Fines Issued	8
Feral Cats Trapped and Euthanised	2	Property	101
Dog Attacks / Investigations	1	Town Common Patrols	12
Dogs Involved in Attacks	1	Common Gates Open / Damaged	3
Dog Traps Issued	0	Town Patrols - Longreach	25

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

Cat Traps Issued	15	Town Patrols - Ilfracombe	22
Wandering Dogs (not impounded)	6	Town Patrols - Isisford	2
Wandering Animals Reported / Impounded (other than dogs)	1	Town Patrols - Yaraka	1
Wandering Animal Posts on FB – not reported to Council (minimum)	4	Camping / Apex Park / River Patrols	5
Barking Dogs Reported	2	Overgrown / Unsightly Reports (initial + follow up) (private + LRC-controlled)	26
Animal Inspections – Extra dogs/cats, adequate housing, insecure enclosure, compliance checks	4	Overgrown / Unsightly Notices Issued (unattended, falling within follow-up timeframes)	3
Assist with Animal Welfare	1	Notices / Fines Issued	0
Notices / Fines Issued	9	Other	75
Vehicles	1	Customer Service Requests	33
Abandoned Vehicles “Tagged Out”	1	Equipment Maintenance	6
Vehicles Impounded / Processed	0	After Hours Call Out	3
Impounded Vehicle Release	0	Impound Facility Maintenance	27
Environmental Health	1	Illegal Dumping / Littering	1
Complaints/Queries Received	1	Pest Weed Spraying by LLO	5
Total			283

Regulatory Services – Environmental Health

As part of Council’s recent re-structure, Environmental Health has been added to the Regulatory Services department’s responsibilities. Officers require training in this area. This function involves tasks such as food business licencing, kerbside collection, vector management, outdoor dining, stall permits, and more.

Regulatory Services – Rural Lands

Town Commons

Agistment – All four (4) town Commons are being used for Agistment – horses only on Longreach Common, cattle and horses on Ilfracombe Common, cattle only on Isisford and Yaraka Commons

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 –

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

11.11 - Information Report - Governance

- 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

One travelling stock permit was granted throughout the month.

Permit to Occupy (PTO)

There were no PTOs submitted to Council this month.

Water Facilities (WF)

17 water facility inspections were completed.

Capital Works projects

Brixham – completed (see photos below)

12 Mile – Formwork done, foundations to be completed

Cleeve – Formwork done, foundations to be completed

Evesham – Formwork done, foundations to be completed

Nogo – Fencing completed



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

Rubber Vine – Two Officers conducted follow-up inspection on an isolated area along Thomson River to check success rate of spraying from 2 months earlier. Spraying activity was predominantly determined to be a success, with only minimal plants remaining that

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

were previously inaccessible. Future inspections will be conducted to ensure all Rubber Vine and Parkinsonia is eradicated from the island.



Pest Animals

Wild Dog / Feral Cat Bounties – Year to Date

Division	Scalp Bounty - Dog 23/24 YTD	Contract Dog Trapper 23/24 YTD	Scalp Bounty - Cat 23/24 YTD
1	0	0	0
2	0	2	0
3	33	0	0
4	0	0	0
Total	33	2	0

Coordinated Baiting Campaign – October

Over 12 tonnes of meat substrate was distributed via aerial and hand methods.

Total participating properties: 77

Total Cost October 2023 Program \$102,067.89

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.
- Pest weed spraying as required
- Conducted October pest animal baiting program

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

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
11.11 - Information Report - Governance

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Governance information report, as presented.



BE READY CENTRAL WEST

PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

2024
CALENDAR





JANUARY

BUSHFIRES

Bushfires occur when both managed and unmanaged areas of vegetation ignite and burn and are most likely to occur when the weather is very hot and dry.

They can start from human activity either accidentally or deliberately, or can start by natural causes such as lightning strikes.

- Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutter;
- Purchase and test the effectiveness of gutter plugs;
- Enclose open areas under decks and floors;
- Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weepholes;
- Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house;
- Check pumps, generators and water systems;
- Reduce vegetation loads and mow your grass regularly.

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4 <small>Last Quarter</small>	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <small>New Moon</small>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 <small>First Quarter</small>	19	20
21	22 <small>QLD School Term commences</small>	23	24	25	26 <small>Full Moon Australia Day</small>	27
28	29	30	31			

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
 ERGON ENERGY: 13 16 70
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





FEBRUARY

JOBS AROUND THE HOME TO KEEP YOU SAFE

- Check the roof;
- Clean gutters and down pipes;
- Cut back trees and branches that are close to your home;
- Make sure windows are sealed correctly;
- Check with your insurer to make sure your home and belongings are correctly insured for dangerous weather.

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
						Last Quarter
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						New Moon
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
						First Quarter
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						Full Moon
25	26	27	28	29		

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
 ERGON ENERGY: 13 16 70
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40



MARCH

FOR ALL LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES CALL 000

Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26

Police Link 13 14 44

State Emergency Service 13 25 00

February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Easter Sunday					1	2
3	4 Last Quarter	5	6	7	8	9
10 New Moon	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 First Quarter	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Full Moon	25	26	27	28 QLD School Term ends	29 Good Friday	30 Easter Saturday

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
 ERGON ENERGY: 13 16 70
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40



APRIL

THREE STEPS TO GET READY:

- 1 Understand your risk
- 2 Make a household emergency plan
- 3 Pack an emergency kit

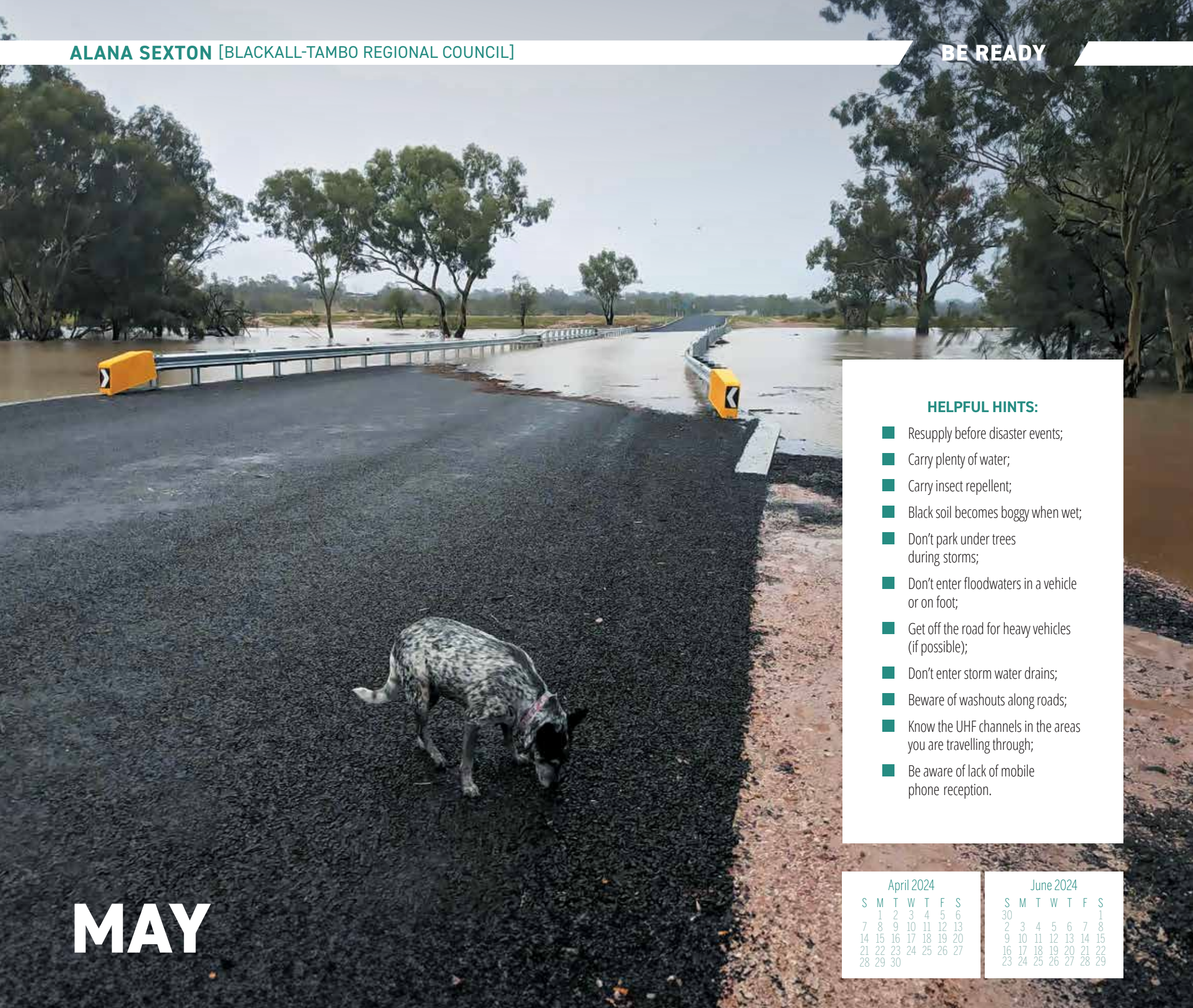
March 2024							May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <small>Easter Monday</small>	2 <small>Last Quarter</small>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 <small>New Moon</small>	10	11	12	13
14	15 <small>QLD School Term commences</small>	16 <small>First Quarter</small>	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <small>Full Moon</small>	25 <small>Anzac Day</small>	26	27
28	29	30				

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





MAY

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Resupply before disaster events;
- Carry plenty of water;
- Carry insect repellent;
- Black soil becomes boggy when wet;
- Don't park under trees during storms;
- Don't enter floodwaters in a vehicle or on foot;
- Get off the road for heavy vehicles (if possible);
- Don't enter storm water drains;
- Beware of washouts along roads;
- Know the UHF channels in the areas you are travelling through;
- Be aware of lack of mobile phone reception.

April 2024							June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	30						1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					23	24	25	26	27	28	29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Last Quarter	2	3	4
5	6 Labour Day (QLD)	7	8 New Moon	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 First Quarter	16	17	18
19 Mother's Day	20	21	22	23 Full Moon	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Last Quarter	

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
 ERGON ENERGY: 13 16 70
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40



JUNE

PLAN

- Check your insurance policies are current (car, home and contents).
- Identify the strongest room in your house to take shelter during a storm.
- Know where and how to turn off your mains supply of power, water and gas.
- Have water storage containers and cooking equipment available.

May 2024							July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30						1
2	3	4	5	6 New Moon	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 First Quarter	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 QLD School Term ends	22 Full Moon
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Last Quarter

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





JULY

PACK AN EMERGENCY KIT

- Torch
- Toiletries
- Sturdy gloves
- Portable radio
- Spare batteries
- Face masks
- Essential medications
- Baby formula and nappies
- Three days' worth of non-perishable food
- Can opener
- First aid kit
- Fresh water
- Waterproof bags
- Cash
- Important documents saved to a USB or in sealed bag.

June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

August 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						New Moon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	QLD School Term commences					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
First Quarter						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Full Moon						
28	29	30	31			
Last Quarter						

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





AUGUST

LISTEN TO REGULAR UPDATES ON ABC RADIO (AM 540), 4LG (AM 1098) AND WEST FM.

Check the BOM website bom.gov.au for updates in relation to current and future weather information.

Check council websites for up-to-date information on road closures and evacuation centres:

barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au | barcoo.qld.gov.au
btrc.qld.gov.au | longreach.qld.gov.au

Listen for the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS). The SEWS is a wailing siren sound that has been adopted by all States and Territories to alert the community to the broadcast of an urgent safety message relating to an emergency/disaster.

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

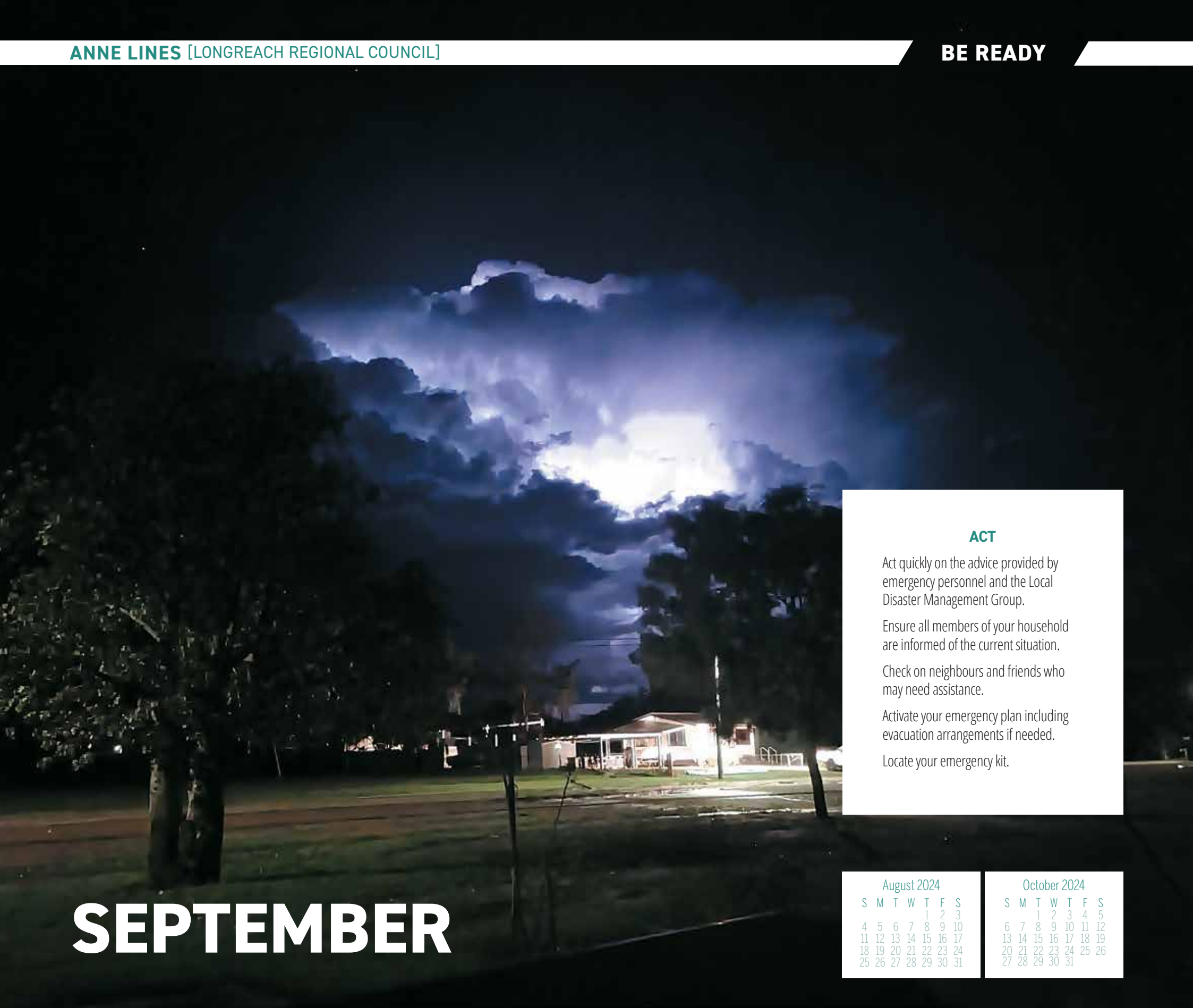
September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
New Moon						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		First Quarter				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Full Moon				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Last Quarter				Pupil free day	

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





SEPTEMBER

ACT

Act quickly on the advice provided by emergency personnel and the Local Disaster Management Group.

Ensure all members of your household are informed of the current situation.

Check on neighbours and friends who may need assistance.

Activate your emergency plan including evacuation arrangements if needed.

Locate your emergency kit.

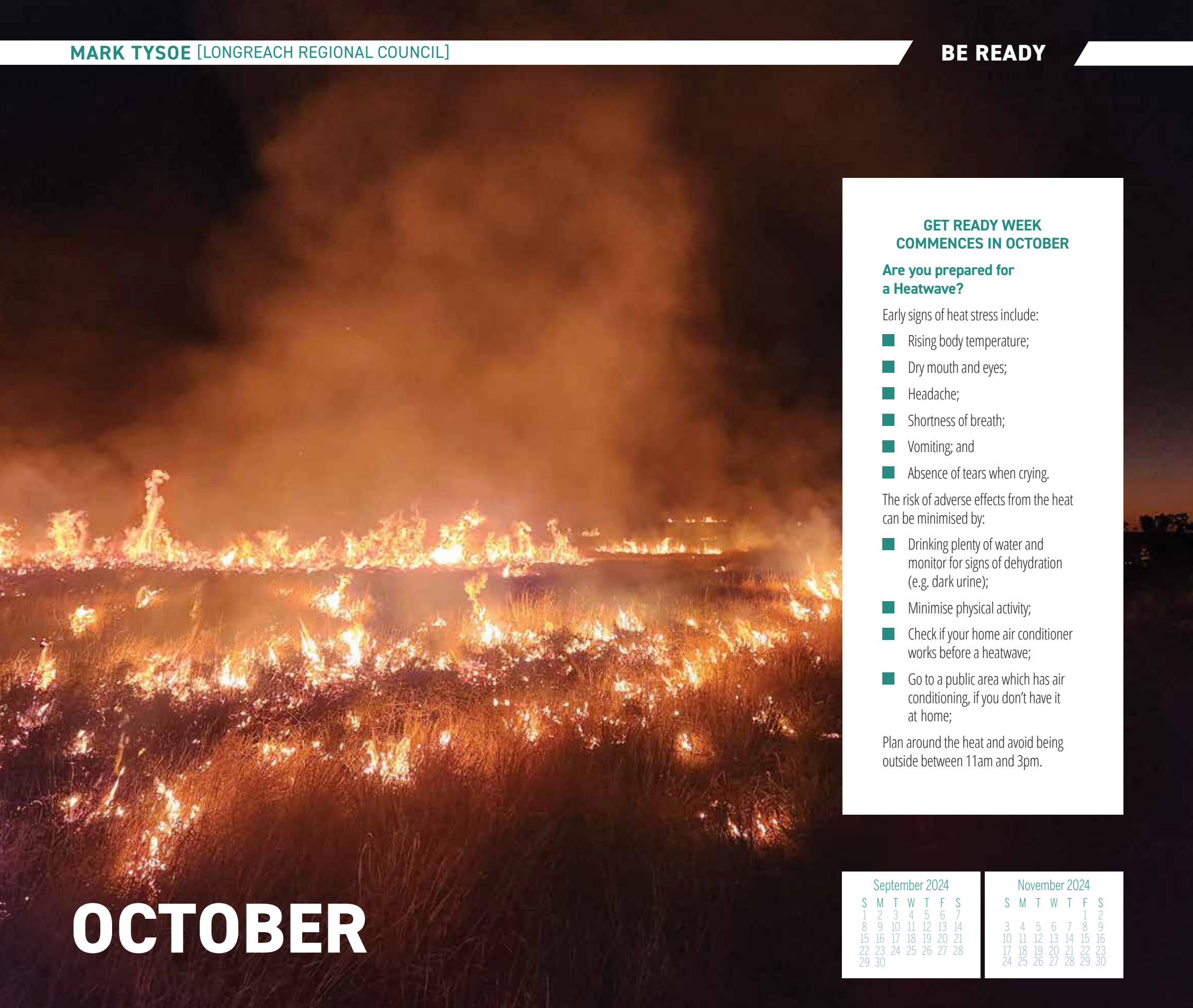
August 2024							October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Father's Day		New Moon				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			First Quarter		QLD School Term ends	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Full Moon			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Last Quarter			
29	30					
	QLD School Term commences					

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

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OCTOBER

GET READY WEEK COMMENCES IN OCTOBER

Are you prepared for a Heatwave?

Early signs of heat stress include:

- Rising body temperature;
- Dry mouth and eyes;
- Headache;
- Shortness of breath;
- Vomiting; and
- Absence of tears when crying.

The risk of adverse effects from the heat can be minimised by:

- Drinking plenty of water and monitor for signs of dehydration (e.g. dark urine);
- Minimise physical activity;
- Check if your home air conditioner works before a heatwave;
- Go to a public area which has air conditioning, if you don't have it at home;

Plan around the heat and avoid being outside between 11am and 3pm.

September 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November 2024

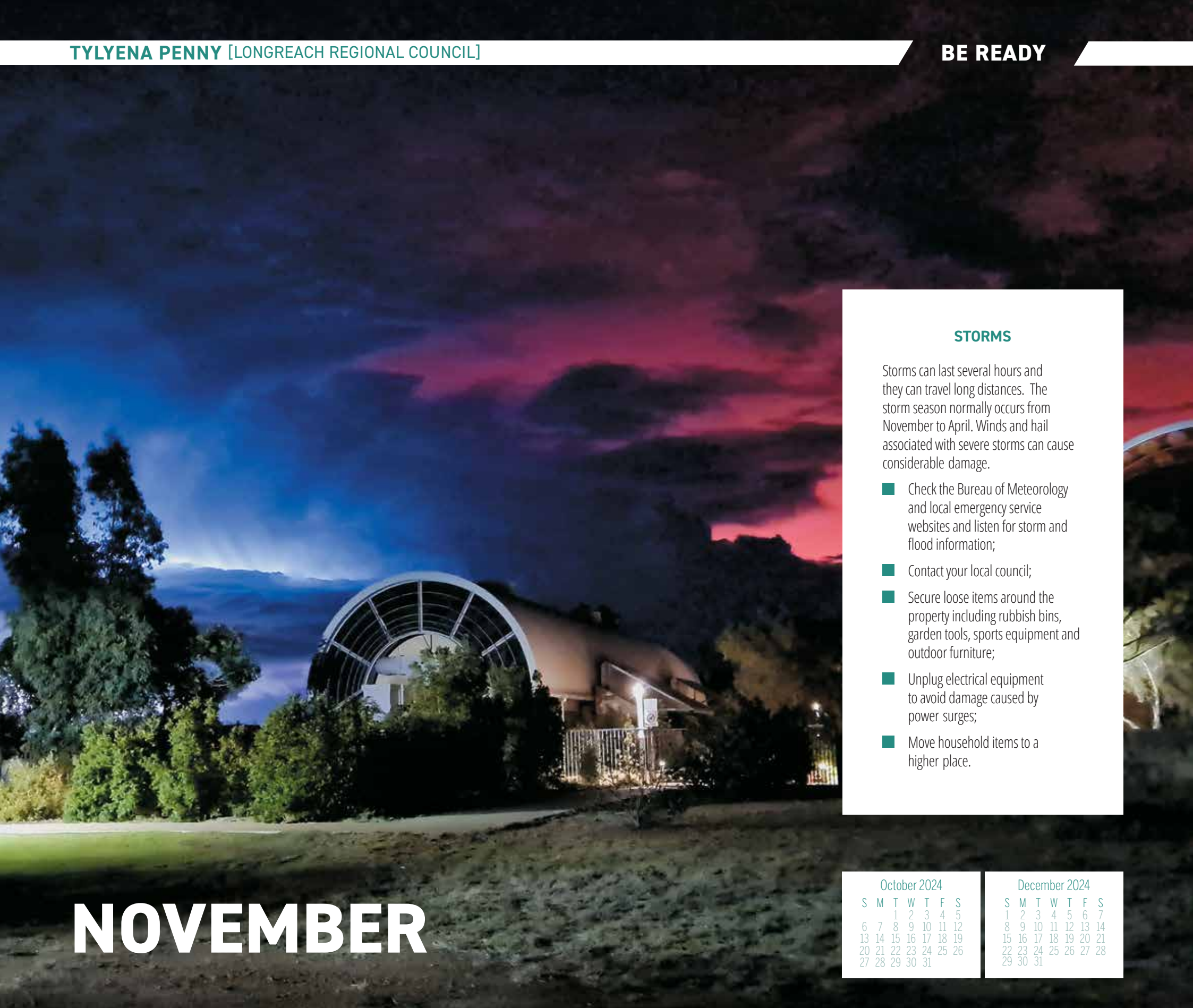
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				New Moon		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	King's Birthday (QLD)				First Quarter	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Full Moon		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Last Quarter		
27	28	29	30	31		

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





NOVEMBER

STORMS

Storms can last several hours and they can travel long distances. The storm season normally occurs from November to April. Winds and hail associated with severe storms can cause considerable damage.

- Check the Bureau of Meteorology and local emergency service websites and listen for storm and flood information;
- Contact your local council;
- Secure loose items around the property including rubbish bins, garden tools, sports equipment and outdoor furniture;
- Unplug electrical equipment to avoid damage caused by power surges;
- Move household items to a higher place.

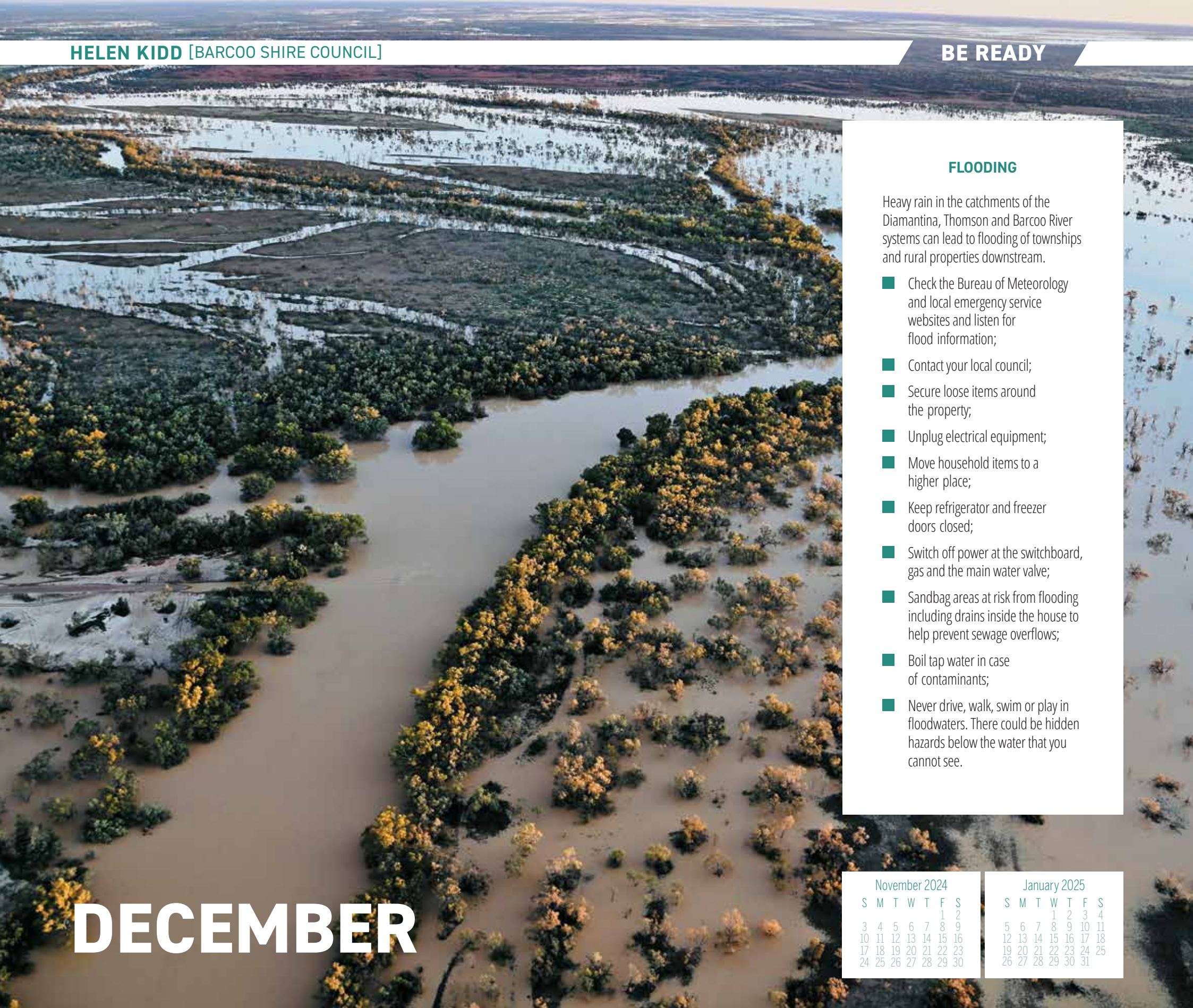
October 2024							December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Moon	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 First Quarter
10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14	15	16 Full Moon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Last Quarter
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
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FLOODING

Heavy rain in the catchments of the Diamantina, Thomson and Barcoo River systems can lead to flooding of townships and rural properties downstream.

- Check the Bureau of Meteorology and local emergency service websites and listen for flood information;
- Contact your local council;
- Secure loose items around the property;
- Unplug electrical equipment;
- Move household items to a higher place;
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed;
- Switch off power at the switchboard, gas and the main water valve;
- Sandbag areas at risk from flooding including drains inside the house to help prevent sewage overflows;
- Boil tap water in case of contaminants;
- Never drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters. There could be hidden hazards below the water that you cannot see.

DECEMBER

November 2024							January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Moon						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	First Quarter				QLD School Term ends	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Full Moon						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Last Quarter	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Boxing Day		
29	30	31				
		New Moon New Year's Eve				

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
 ERGON ENERGY: 13 16 70
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40





JANUARY 2025

December 2024							February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6 First Quarter	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Full Moon	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Last Quarter	22	23	24	25
26 Australia Day	27 Australia Day public holiday	28 QLD School Term commences	29 New Moon	30	31	

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
 SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
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 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40



HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACE:

INSURANCE DETAILS:

OUR EMERGENCY KIT IS LOCATED:

ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS:

WHERE WE WILL GO IF LEAVING: (Family, friends, neighbours)

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Address:	

NEIGHBOURS:

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____

HOW WE WILL GET THERE:

DOCTORS:

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____

PETS:

Name:	Breed:
_____	_____
Name:	Breed:
_____	_____
Name:	Breed:
_____	_____

SCHOOL / CHILDCARE:

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____

HAZARD ZONES: (Storms, floods, bushfires)

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____

WORKPLACE:

Name:	Phone:
_____	_____
Name:	Phone:
_____	_____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE: 000
SES (STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE): 132 500
ERGON ENERGY: 13 16 70
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS: 13 19 40

Please note: All care has been taken in obtaining the dates listed, however at the time of going to press some dates could not be confirmed or may be subject to change. Please contact the relevant authority itself should you require verification. Please also contact your school to verify student-free days.

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 – Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023

A report on the matters reviewed at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 October 2023.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 211 – the chief executive officer must present a report about the matters reviewed at the audit committee meeting and the committee's recommendations to the next meeting of the local government.

Policy Considerations

Internal Audit Policy No. 1.10

Enterprise Risk Management Policy No. 1.11

Advisory Committee Policy No. 2.31

Audit and Risk Committee Policy No. 2.32

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR FINANCES	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
4.1	Improved financial performance and strategic financial management.
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-2023-08-213)

Moved Cr Hatch seconded Cr Nunn

That Council receives the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 19 July 2023.

CARRIED 7/0

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.1 - Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023

Background:

The Audit and Risk Committee met on 13 October 2023. The Chief Executive Officer must deliver a report to Council on the matters reviewed at the meeting and the Committee's recommendation.

Issue:

The minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 October 2023 is attached for Council's information.

Risk Management Factors:

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

Nil risk, for information purposes only.

Environmental Management Factors:

Not applicable

Other Comments:

Not applicable

Appendices

1. Minutes Audit and Risk Committee Meeting October 2023 [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 13 October 2023.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL



Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Friday 13 October 2023

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

12.1 - Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023 -- Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Friday 13 October 2023 at the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9:02am

2. Present

Committee Members

Mr Bill Ringrose	Chair, External Independent Member
Cr Leonie Nunn	Councillor (via zoom)
Cr Dale Bignell	Councillor

Council Representatives

Mr Brett Walsh	Chief Executive Officer
Mr David Wilson	Chief Financial Officer
Mrs Nicole Moulds	Financial Controller
Mr Sarmad Habib	Senior Management Accountant
Ms Sharon Calligaro	Business Support Officer

Audit Officers

Mr Tony Walsh	Internal Auditor
Mr Tim Cronin	External Auditor
Mr Michael Claydon	External Auditor
Ms Lizelle Van Loggerenberg	External Auditor

3. Apologies

Committee Members

NIL

Council Representatives

Mr Tony Rayner	Mayor
----------------	-------

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee - Wednesday 19 July 2023

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee held on Wednesday 19 July 2023, be received.

ENDORSED

5. Business Arising from Minutes

Management Directive – will be completed before Christmas

Int.____

UNCONFIRMED

2

12.1 - Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023 -- Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Friday 13 October 2023 at the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach

6. General Business

6.1 External Audit Report

Queensland Audit Office's Closing Report for the 2023 financial statements is attached for consideration by the Committee.

Also attached is the Queensland Audit Office's Audit and Risk Committee Briefing Paper for the Committee's information.

(Res)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Nunn

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the 2023 Closing Report and Audit and Risk Committee briefing paper from The Queensland Audit Office.

Information provided by QAO:

Audit is mostly complete and will recommend an unqualified audit opinion.

Financial Sustainability Ratio – this is the last year using this ratio, a new regime to come in next year.

Landfill provision has an error in model (however it has been since the inception but had previously been missed).

Revaluation with Roads – and adjustments with assets to bring into account.

\$6M understatement in other asset revaluations (within materiality limits), depreciation will be understated by \$140K next year and \$300K understatement for creditors using the current threshold of >\$25K

Current year depreciation not much of an impact however some consideration needs to be given to next year with the understatements.

Sale of PO Ilfracombe written down

Briefing paper was presented by QAO.

CARRIED

6.2 Quarterly Focus - Review of Financial Statements and Recommendation to sign management letter

The 2023 Financial Statements and accompanying Management Letter is attached for review and endorsement by the Committee.

Also attached is Management's report on the prior year errors recognised in the 2023 Financial Statements.

(Res)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Bignell

That the Committee endorses the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign:

a) The declarations contained in the 2023 Financial Statements,

Int.____

UNCONFIRMED

3

12.1 - Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023 -- Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Friday 13 October 2023 at the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach

b) *The Management Letter to the Queensland Audit Office.*

*Council achieved a good result for the 22-23FY.
Council remains in good financial position*

CARRIED

6.3 Internal Audit Report and Review of Internal Audit Plan

A verbal report will be presented at the meeting.

Recommendation:

That the report from the Internal Auditor be received.

*Nothing formal to report (no internal audit held since the last meeting).
Next internal audit to be held in the week starting 30 October. (Rates to be the focus)
A report will then be presented at the next Audit meeting (to be held approx. December).*

NOTED

6.4 Report on implementation of audit issues

The schedule of audit issues has been updated and attached to this report.

(Res)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Nunn

That the updated schedule of audit issues be received as presented.

Audit on fuel – readers on the main fuel bowsers. New fleet management system (still in the procurement stage) which will also include fuel management.

Mead Perry completed a review on our charge out rates. Sarmad to go through our fleet module to check overall data integrity.

Rates – no issues this round. A follow up email to be sent out to any rate payers that have not yet paid as well as dealing with Legal for the long-term outstanding payees.

CARRIED

6.5 Risk Management

Attached is management's review of strategic risks for the quarter that includes changes to risk profiles and emerging risk.

The Committee may wish to review and comment on the interpretation of Council's risk appetite against the risk matrices in the attached heat maps.

Also attached is a Phish Report from the Queensland Government Security Unit and a Caretaker

Int.____

UNCONFIRMED

4

**12.1 - Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023 --
Appendix 1**

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
held on Friday 13 October 2023 at the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach**

Fact Sheet from DSDILGP

(Res)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Bignell

That the Risk Management report be received as presented.

The committee discussed emerging risks identified by management.

CARRIED

6.6 Policy Reviews

No policies are to be presented to the Committee.

Recommendation:

Nil

6.7 General Business

No other general business is being tabled for the meeting.

Recommendation:

Nil

6.8 Confirm Committee Schedule

Next meeting:

Date: Wednesday 13 December 2023

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Location: Council Chambers, Longreach Civic Centre

Meeting schedule	Quarterly key focus item	Presenter
October	Review of financial statements and recommendation to sign management letter.	CFO
December	Review of Committee performance.	Chairperson
April	Review of insurance policies and preparation of questionnaires.	CFO
July	Review of accounting position papers and preparation of financial statements.	CFO

2024 schedule

Noting that council elections will be held in March 2024 and the Independent External Member's term expires in April 2024, the following schedule has been established for the beginning of the

Int.____

UNCONFIRMED

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**12.1 - Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes and Recommendations - 13 October 2023 --
Appendix 1**

**Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
held on Friday 13 October 2023 at the Council Boardroom, 96a Eagle Street, Longreach**

2024 calendar year:

19 February 2024	Request for Quote (RFQ) issued for Independent External Member of the Audit and Risk Committee
22 March 2024	RFQ closes and responses assessed
19 April 2024	Council appoints the new Independent External Member and elected committee members
16 May 2024	First Audit and Risk Committee meeting for 2024

Recommendation:

That the committee notes the next scheduled meeting date.

Receipt of the Internal Audit and Risk Review to be discussed at the final meeting.

Clarify the specifications of the new Chair (if there are any limits to how many terms the Chair can undertake) – provide a breakdown of the requirements for the new Chair and Committee.

NOTED

7. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:00am

Int.____

UNCONFIRMED

6

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.2 - Ilfracombe Post Office Options

12.2 Ilfracombe Post Office Options

Council Officers present a number of options for the delivery of services to the Ilfracombe community for Council to consider and decide on which action to take.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Not applicable

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR SERVICES	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
2.1	Sustainable infrastructure and services that represent value for money, are environmentally responsible, and are responsive to community needs.
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

Budget considerations are noted against each option presented. A final budget will be created for Council to consider and approve, depending on which course of action Council approves.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2022-06-1503)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Martin

That Council:

- 1. In accordance with section 227 and 228 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, invite expressions of interest before considering whether to invite written tenders for the sale of the land and infrastructure located at Lot 2 Main Avenue Ilfracombe, being Lot 2 on SP159868 with the desired outcome of,
 - i. Maintaining the current level of Council and Postal service to the Ilfracombe community*
 - ii. Testing market interest in the Ilfracombe Post Office business. building. and land as a going concern*
 - iii. Inviting development proposals from the market for the business, building and land*
 - iv. Updating the Ilfracombe community on proposed developments prior to any further decision being made; and**

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.2 - Ilfracombe Post Office Options

2. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009, power to do all things necessary to
- i. finalise and advertise appropriate Expression of Interest documents that achieve the desired outcome described in paragraph (1) of this resolution
 - ii. establish a panel to evaluate expressions of interest;
 - iii. generally conduct the process described in paragraph (1) of this resolution, on the basis that the evaluation panel will consider expressions of interest received and make a recommendation to a subsequent Council meeting.

Statement of reasons for not adopting the recommendation: Following additional discussion and taking into consideration further information, Councillors determined to test the market prior to advancing any sale process. A key motivation was to understand the nature of any proposed development or investment by the private-sector, and its impacts on the community, prior to making any further decision.

Attendance: Councillor Hatch returned to the meeting at 11:30am

(Res-2022-10-274)

Moved Cr Smith seconded Cr Nunn

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 227 and 228(7)(a) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, invite the shortlisted respondents to tender for the sale of the land and infrastructure located at Lot 2 Main Avenue Ilfracombe, being Lot 2 on SP159868 with the inclusion of special conditions within the Contract of Sale that the Australia Post licence be included in the transaction, and, to the extent applicable, including the business assets used in the conduct of the postal operations from that premises; and,
2. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009, power to do all things necessary to
 - i. finalise and advertise appropriate Request for Tender documents that include a contract of sale for the transaction described in paragraph (1) of this resolution;
 - ii. establish a panel to evaluate tenders;
 - iii. generally conduct the procurement process for the transaction described in paragraph (1) of this resolution, on the basis that the evaluation panel will consider tenders received and make a recommendation to a subsequent Council meeting.

Attendance: Councillor Hatch returned to the Meeting at 12:03 pm

(Res-2023-02-033)

Moved Cr Bignell seconded Cr Emslie

That Council:

1. receives the tender evaluation report, as presented
2. in accordance with section 227 and 228(10) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, awards Jason Booth Plumbing Pty Ltd as the successful tenderer in the sale of the Ilfracombe Post Office, it being the most advantageous tender having regard to the sound contracting principles, subject to the negotiation and execution of a conditional sale contract in keeping with the tender specifications and,
3. delegates to the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009, power to do all things necessary to
 - i. negotiate and execute a binding contract of sale with the successful tenderer in keeping with the tender specifications and

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.2 - Ilfracombe Post Office Options

ii. make the necessary arrangements to support the delivery of library and public internet services to the Ilfracombe community post-sale.

Attendance: Councillor Hatch returned to the meeting at 9:50am.

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer/s: *David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer*

Background:

In 2022, Council considered its options regarding the Ilfracombe Post Office. It was recognised that selling the post office would create a greater benefit to the community if it was owned and operated by an entrepreneur who could realise the full economic potential of the site. Selling the business would also reduce Council’s operating costs while maintaining the post office service to the community.

After resolutions made in June 2022, Council conducted an EOI and Tender process to sell the Ilfracombe Post Office, comprising the property and the post office licence. After a successful tender, a conditional contract was entered into to sell the post office. In October 2023, the contract was terminated as the conditions could not be met.

Issue:

The potential economic benefits to the community from selling the post office property remains. There are also service levels expected in operating the council offices in Ilfracombe. Council officers have assessed a number of options to:

- 1) realise the economic development potential by selling the post office property,
- 2) maintain expected services to the Ilfracombe community, and
- 3) controlling operating costs.

Continue to provide services in Ilfracombe from both the post office property and the council offices		
Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no set up costs required • post office and council services maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high ongoing costs to maintain and staff two locations • will require more FTEs to fully maintain services from both locations • opportunity cost to the community of not realising the economic development potential of the post office property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher operating costs reduces ongoing financial sustainability • lower quality of service delivery if staff in one location are ill or on leave

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.2 - Ilfracombe Post Office Options

Sell the post office property including the Australia Post licence – move other council services to the council office		
Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> realises the economic development potential of the post office property post office and council services maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> including the assignment of the post office licence may result in a lower sale price to Council creates a conditional contract which delays settlement and development set up costs will be incurred to establish the other community services to the council offices Requiring the buyer to operate the post office business may not provide the community with the best economic outcome from the sale of the property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Post refuses consent to assign the post office licence to the buyer, causing contract termination Buyer does not provide the level of service with the post office expected from the community

Sell the post office property excluding the Australia Post licence – move the Australia Post Office business and other council services to the council office		
Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> realises the economic development potential of the post office property potentially achieves a greater sale price on property unencumbered by the post office licence post office and council services enhanced the revenue generated from the post office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set up costs will be incurred to establish the post office and other community services to the council offices this would be the lengthier option as the sale process would not commence until services are moved from the post office to the council building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> change in economic conditions during the transition of the council services from the post office property to the council offices, impacting the sale of the property

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.2 - Ilfracombe Post Office Options

<p>operation will offset the costs to operate services from the council offices, making this the best option for longer term sustainability</p>		
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Council officers recommend moving the post office and other council services to the council offices in Ilfracombe and selling the post office property unconditionally. This option is most likely to achieve the best outcome in terms of:

- 1) **Service levels** delivered to the community including the post office, library, information centre and other administrative services. The vision is to create a single community service centre, partially funded with the revenue stream from the Australia Post business.
- 2) **Financial sustainability** by providing all council services from one facility in Ilfracombe instead of two. This will better utilise the council offices with meaningful services to the community and minimise the requirement to create new positions.
- 3) **Economic development** outcomes as a developer will be able to create commercial solutions on the post office property unencumbered by contractual terms.
- 4) Potentially a better **commercial outcome** for Council from the sale of the post office property with an unconditional contract that does not include the Australia Post licence.

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: Medium

Each option has its own risks as described in the options tables.

Environmental Management Factors:

Not applicable for this decision

Other Comments:

Not applicable

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.2 - Ilfracombe Post Office Options

Recommendation:

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

- 1) move Council services, including the Australia Post Office business from the Ilfracombe Post Office Property to the Ilfracombe Council Offices located in Devon Street, Ilfracombe;*
- 2) approve a budget of \$100,000 to fit out the Ilfracombe Council Offices to satisfy Australia Post requirements;*
- 3) pursuant to s227 of the Local Government Regulations 2012, do everything necessary to sell the Ilfracombe Post Office property located at Lot 2 Main Avenue, Ilfracombe, after Council services, including the Australia Post Office business, have been relocated.*

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.3 – Council Employee Housing Project

12.3 Council Employee Housing Project

Council has applied for funding for the Council Employee Housing Project. This paper provides a high level overview of the project and requests Council’s **approval** to proceed to tender and construction **subject to funding approval**. Note that due to confidentiality agreements, the identity of the funder cannot to be made public unless the funding application has been approved.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Not applicable

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

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 COMMUNITY	
Corporate Plan Outcome	
1.1	Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity

- Operational Plan Initiative – Progress actions from the Housing Strategy
- Queensland Housing Strategy 2021-2025 Longreach Regional Council Local Housing Action Plan

Budget Considerations

The project is expected to generate sufficient revenue to offset initial build costs and whole of life costs.

Component	Grant/rental income	Costs	Net budget impact
Construction	\$4.03 million	\$4.03 million	Nil (council to contribute land valued at \$120k)
Ongoing operations (over 20 years)	\$1.01 million	\$0.98 million	\$0.03 million surplus (nominal)

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.3 - Council Employee Housing Project

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: *David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer*

Background:

In March 2023, Longreach Regional Council (Council) endorsed the Queensland Housing Strategy 2021-2025 Longreach Regional Council Local Housing Action Plan (Plan). The Plan set out a number of actions that Council committed to undertake to deliver on the Plan, with the support of the Queensland Government.

Some of the issues identified in the Plan that this project seeks to address are:

- Difficulties in increasing housing stock numbers attributed to substantial costs of construction due to material supply and logistics. Costs to construct new houses often exceed the market value of similar properties.
- A low vacancy rate (0.01%) for rental properties in Longreach. As the demand for rentals remains high due to transient employees and permanent staff on fixed short-term contracts, local community members have difficulty competing.
- These factors also impact the ability of Council to attract and retain qualified staff to the region.

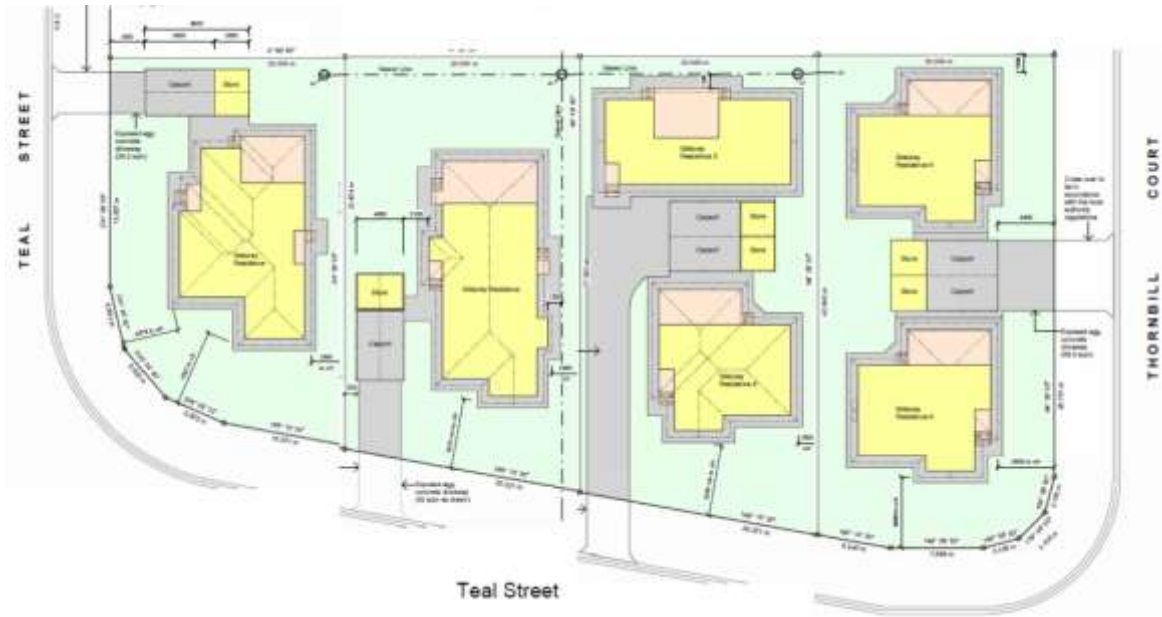
Issue:

Council officers have identified a potential funding source to construct affordable housing for Council staff, addressing some of the issues raised in the Plan. An Expression Of Interest (EOI) was submitted based on the Council Employee Housing Project. Council was successful at the EOI stage and was invited to submit a full application. The full application was lodged on 31 October and notification of whether or not the application is successful will occur by the end of the 2023 calendar year.

The application is to construct two 3-bedroom houses and four 2-bedroom units on four Council owned lots in Teal Street, illustrated below.

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.3 - Council Employee Housing Project



The basis of the application is that the housing will be constructed to provide affordable housing for Council employees, to assist Council in attracting and retain staff. The business model that is proposed in the application makes the entire project cost neutral to Council over its life.

Initial construction costs

The application for funding will cover the full construction costs for the project of \$4.03 million, including amounts for contingency and professional fees. Council's contribution will be limited to the value of the land that it is contributing to the project (\$120,000). Council will hold title over the properties on completion, but with a mortgage on the properties.

The construction costs have been estimated based on the assumption that the houses will be constructed by local builders and construction will not begin until the second half of the 2024 calendar year.

Affordable housing scheme

To be classed as affordable housing, the rent charged to tenants must be between 70% to 80% of the market rent for similar dwellings. To be eligible to rent the affordable housing, an employee's income must be below certain thresholds. A comparison of employee salaries to the thresholds shows that up to 90% of positions would be eligible for the affordable housing scheme, depending on the employee's family structure. These positions include childcare educators and plant operators, where the lack of affordable housing has been a barrier to recruitment.

Funding details

The total funding requested in the application is for \$4.03 million. There are no ongoing financial costs for the funding, but there are other compliance requirements to prove that the housing is being rented as affordable housing. These compliance costs are similar to other audit and reporting requirements that Council manages for other funding schemes. A condition of the funding agreement will be that Council commits to hold the properties as affordable housing for a period of 20 years.

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.3 - Council Employee Housing Project

Project advantages and disadvantages

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council gains \$4.03 million in assets, fully funded with no ongoing finance costs • Increases housing stock in the Longreach community • Potential for a \$4.03 million boost to the local economy, supporting local builders and businesses, subject to tender process • Creates an extra incentive to attract and retain staff, including childcare educators and plant operators • Ongoing operating costs covered by rent received from tenants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing compliance activities over term of the agreement • Properties must be held by Council as affordable housing for a term of 20 years

Risk Management Factors:

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

Risk	Consequence	Treatment	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating
Construction costs exceed funded amount	Need to use Council cash to complete project. Not likely to be significant. Reputational damage.	Project plans developed in consultation with builders. Quantity surveyor has provided estimates that include escalation costs. Contingency included in funding amount.	2	2	4 Low
Rental income does not cover ongoing costs due to vacancies.	Small decrease in operating cash flows.	Operating plan being developed with HR, facilities and local real estate to minimise vacancy rates.	2	2	4 Low

Environmental Management Factors:

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.3 - Council Employee Housing Project

Normal environmental factors incurred during the construction of residential properties, which will be dealt with in construction contracts.

Other Comments:

Nil

Recommendation:

That Council, subject to successfully obtaining funding for the Council Employee Housing Project, authorises the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2009 to:

- 1) Enter into any agreements with the funding provider necessary to secure the funding for the Council Employee Housing Project; and,*
- 2) Enter into any contracts necessary to build the dwellings and deliver on the Council Employee Housing Project.*

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements

12.4 Monthly Financial Statements

Consideration of the financial statements for the period ending 31 October 2023:

Financial overview

YTD summary

Net deficit YTD is \$783 thousand compared to the budgeted net deficit of \$3.3 million. The YTD net result is better than the same time last year.

Expenses in most programs remain within budget with a few exceptions noted in more detail later in the report.

Overall Council's financial performance, position and cash flows are satisfactory.

Financial performance

Statement of financial performance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Last YTD	Full year budget	Adjusted for FAG timing scenario
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total revenue	17,234	15,063	14,976	53,553	42,654
Total expenses	18,017	18,385	16,314	53,100	53,100
Net surplus or (deficit)	(783)	(3,322)	(1,338)	453	(10,447)

Council's financial performance to the end of October has been close to expectations in most respects with the main variances to budget caused by:

Item	Income	Expenditure	Net result
2022 NDRA Event	\$898k	(\$898k)	Nil
Contract works	\$478k	(\$645k)	(\$167k)
Other programs	\$795k	\$1,911k	\$2,706
Net	\$2,171k	\$368k	\$2,539k

(positive amounts = favourable variance, negative amounts = unfavourable variance)

Program performance

Overall programs have been operating within or under budget and the detailed program report is attached. The main over expenditure in programs has been in flood and contract works, caused by these programs being ahead of schedule. The over expenditure is offset by higher income in these programs.

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements

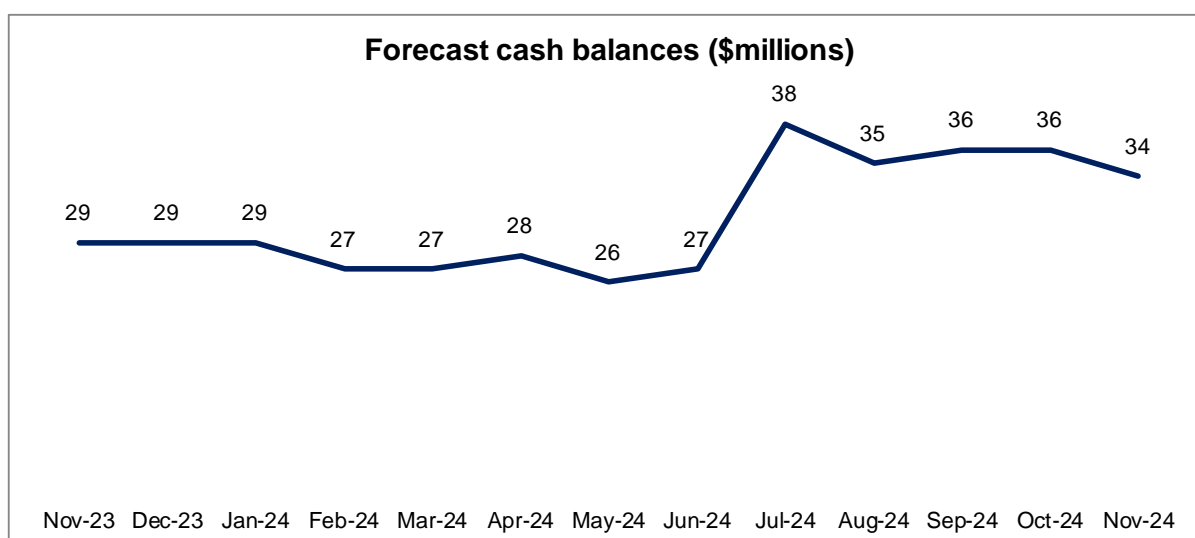
Program	Expenses	
	YTD	Budget YTD
Office of the CEO		
Economic development	(57)	(47) ●
Development services	(64)	(52) ●
2022 NDRA event	(4,565)	(3,667) ●
Contract works	(2,900)	(2,255) ●
Water	(1,345)	(1,190) ●
RADF	(46)	(38) ●

Cash

Statement of cash flows	YTD Actual	Full year budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(5,350)	2,751
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	(1,129)	(6,516)
Net cash outflows from financing activities	(371)	(1,295)
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	(6,850)	(5,060)
Opening cash balance	35,079	35,079
Closing cash balance	28,229	30,019

At the end of October, Council had a cash balance of \$28.23 million (unrestricted \$27.43 million). Council's unrestricted cash balance is sufficient to cover 7 months of cash expenses.

The 13-month rolling forecast indicates that Council will be able to maintain a cash balance of at between \$26 million and \$38 million in the short term and is likely to end the 2023/24 financial year with a cash balance of around \$27 million (\$24 million unrestricted), depending on the FAG timing.



Council has deployed cash in a number of term deposits to increase its return on investment, illustrated in the table below:

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements

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%

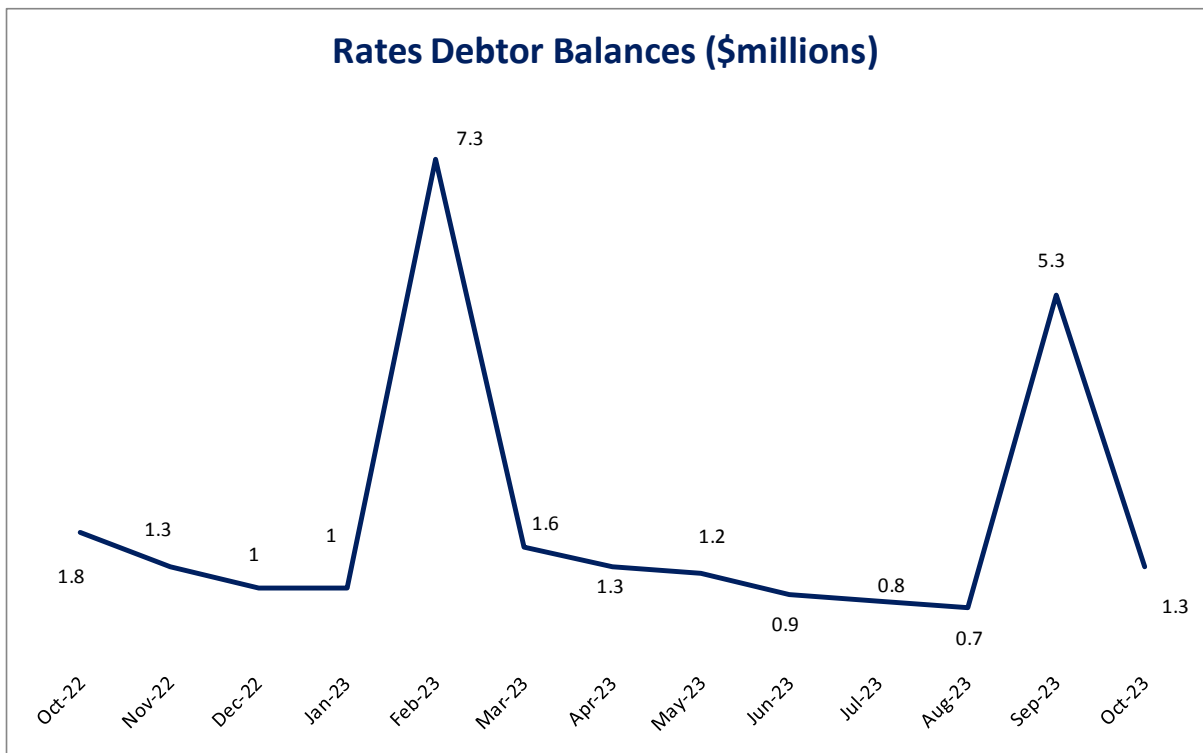
The \$5 million term deposit matured on 3 November and the funds were returned to the operating account.

Financial position

Statement of financial position	YTD Actual \$'000	Actual June 2023 \$'000	Full year budget \$'000	Adjusted for FAG timing scenario \$'000
Total assets	413,063	418,483	416,648	405,748
Total liabilities	21,867	26,504	21,669	21,668
Net community assets	391,195	391,979	394,980	384,080
Community equity				
Asset revaluation reserve	172,692	172,692	177,323	177,323
Retained surplus	218,503	219,287	217,657	206,757
Total community equity	391,195	391,979	394,980	384,080

Council maintains a sound financial position and good working capital with current assets exceeding current liabilities by 6.32 times.

The rates debtor balance is \$1.3 million of this \$330k are on payment arrangements.



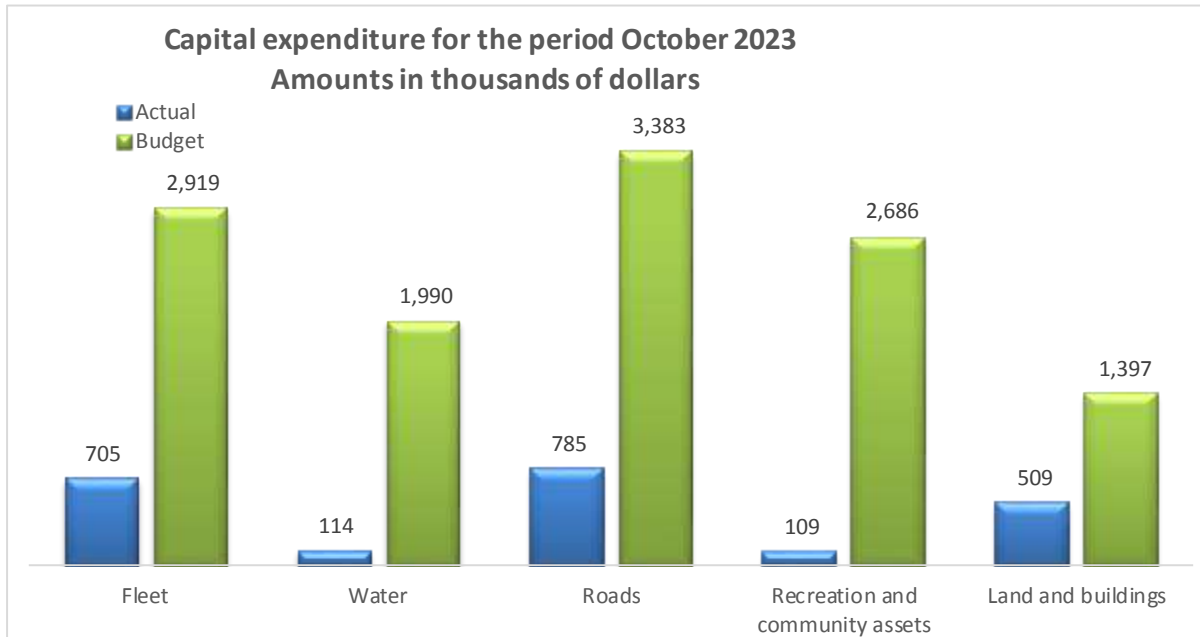
The aging of the outstanding rates is illustrated below. There is \$131k of unpaid rates that are over 1-year old (less than 1% of total rates revenue).

	Current	1 year	2 years	3 years
Outstanding rates	\$913,367.00	\$278,027	\$69,203	\$62,710
Number of assessments	135	111	29	15

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements

The property, plant and equipment capital works programmed has been planned and most procurement activities near completion. Some fleet assets may not be delivered in the current financial year due to supply chain delays.



Liabilities mainly comprise QTC loan balances as illustrated below.

Loan	Rate	Expiry date	Book value	Market value	Unrealised gain/(loss)
Saleyard land purchase	2.950%	15/12/2026	242	236	6
Water project 15/16	2.939%	15/06/2036	531	460	71
Sewer infrastructure	6.565%	15/09/2026	477	489	(12)
ACC land purchase	5.244%	15/03/2032	558	561	(3)
Water project	5.282%	15/06/2029	2,536	2,563	(27)
LWDEFS loan 1	3.693%	15/12/2036	10,446	9,395	1,051
Total borrowings			14,790	13,704	1,086

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements

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 FY24.	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 materialized in FY23. There remains material uncertainty over the FAG timing and amount for FY24, however council has sufficient funds on hand to adapt to any short-term shortfall.
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 FY24.	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

Appendices

1. [October Financials.pdf](#) ↓
2. [Directors Report Oct.pdf](#) ↓
3. [Capital 23.24.pdf](#) ↓
4. [Grants October](#) ↓

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements

Recommendation:

That Council receives the monthly financial statements for the period ending 31 October 2023, as presented.

12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 1

Statement of financial performance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Last YTD	Full year	Adjusted for
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	budget	FAG timing
				\$'000	scenario
					\$'000
Revenue					
Rates, levies and charges	5,966	5,952	5,975	12,151	12,151
Fees and charges	854	877	771	2,595	2,595
Recoverable works income	2,952	2,455	2,010	7,329	7,329
Other revenue	650	368	484	1,104	1,104
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	5,318	4,070	5,013	24,666	13,766
Capital grants, subsidies and income	1,493	1,341	515	5,069	5,069
Profit on sale of assets	-	-	208	640	640
Total revenue	17,234	15,063	14,976	53,553	42,654
Expenses					
Employee expenses	5,331	5,761	4,868	17,283	17,283
Materials and services	9,412	9,602	8,400	26,608	26,608
Finance expenses	267	217	323	650	650
Depreciation	3,006	2,804	2,724	8,559	8,559
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenses	18,017	18,385	16,314	53,100	53,100
Net surplus or (deficit)	(783)	(3,322)	(1,338)	453	(10,447)
Operating deficit					
Net surplus/(deficit)	(783)	(3,322)	(1,338)	453	(10,447)
less capital grants and income	(1,493)	(1,341)	(723)	(5,709)	(5,709)
Operating deficit	(2,276)	(4,663)	(2,061)	(5,255)	(16,156)

Statement of financial position	YTD Actual	Actual June	Full year	Adjusted for
	\$'000	2023	budget	FAG timing
		\$'000	\$'000	scenario
				\$'000
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	28,229	35,079	30,019	19,119
Current trade and other receivables	8,714	6,238	3,573	3,573
Inventories	1,206	1,092	593	593
Non-current assets				
Trade and other receivables	11,075	11,075	10,433	10,433
Property, plant and equipment	363,838	364,999	372,030	372,030
Other non-current assets	-	-	-	-
Total assets	413,063	418,483	416,648	405,748
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	1,440	5,958	2,066	2,066
Current borrowings	1,292	1,292	1,357	1,357
Current provisions	3,320	3,174	3,252	3,252
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings	13,499	13,764	12,411	12,411
Provisions	2,317	2,316	2,583	2,583
Total liabilities	21,867	26,504	21,669	21,668
Net community assets	391,195	391,979	394,980	384,080
Community equity				
Asset revaluation reserve	172,692	172,692	177,323	177,323
Retained surplus	218,503	219,287	217,657	206,757
Total community equity	391,195	391,979	394,980	384,080

12.4 - 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	7,946	23,272
Receipts from grants	2,384	25,903
Payments to employees	(5,185)	(17,283)
Payments to suppliers	(10,333)	(28,521)
Interest paid	(162)	(620)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	(5,350)	2,751
Cash flows from Investing activities		
Receipts from capital grants	1,093	5,479
Receipts from sale of assets	-	640
Payments for capital expenditure	(2,222)	(12,635)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities	(1,129)	(6,516)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Loan repayments	(371)	(1,295)
Net cash outflows from financing activities	(371)	(1,295)
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	(6,850)	(5,060)
Opening cash balance	35,079	35,079
Closing cash balance	28,229	30,019

Statement of changes in equity	YTD Actual	Full year budget
	\$'000	\$'000
Accumulated surplus		
Opening balance	219,287	204,297
Recognise land sold in prior years	-	-
Net profit or (loss)	(783)	408
Closing accumulated surplus	218,503	204,705
Asset revaluation reserve		
Opening balance	172,692	150,095
Other comprehensive income	-	2,955
Closing asset revaluation reserve	172,692	153,050
Total community equity	391,195	357,755

12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 2

Longreach Regional Council
 Program Report
 for the YTD October 2023

Program	Revenue		Expenses		Net result	
	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget full year
Office of the CEO						
Human resources	-	-	(446)	(473)	(446)	(473)
Governance	-	-	(312)	(319)	(312)	(319)
Elected member expenses	-	-	(181)	(223)	(181)	(223)
Disaster management and regional coordination	9	52	(37)	(57)	(28)	(5)
Economic development	-	-	(57)	(47)	(57)	(47)
Local laws	78	107	(325)	(453)	(247)	(346)
Health and environmental services	14	4	(18)	(26)	(4)	(21)
Development services	21	20	(64)	(52)	(43)	(32)
Total Office of the CEO	121	183	(1,438)	(1,651)	(1,317)	(1,468)
Infrastructure Services						
Infrastructure administration	-	-	(144)	(320)	(144)	(320)
Depot and airstrips	-	-	(157)	(159)	(157)	(159)
Roads, streets and stormwater	14	-	(1,912)	(2,338)	(1,898)	(2,338)
2020 NDRA Event	290	-	-	-	290	-
2021 NDRA Event	8	-	(1)	-	7	-
2022 NDRA event	4,565	3,667	(4,565)	(3,667)	-	-
Contract works	2,896	2,418	(2,900)	(2,255)	(4)	163
Fleet management	201	123	1,013	173	1,214	296
Sewerage	912	835	(263)	(268)	649	567
Waste management	542	486	(258)	(277)	284	209
Water	1,683	1,568	(1,345)	(1,190)	338	378
Total Infrastructure Services	11,112	9,096	(10,534)	(10,301)	578	(1,205)
Total	11,233	9,279	(11,872)	(11,952)	239	(2,673)

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12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 2

Program	Revenue		Expenses		Net result	
	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget full year
Community Services						
Child Care	892	797	(906)	(906)	(14)	(329)
Community development and events	-	-	(118)	(120)	(118)	(361)
Donations and sponsorship	-	-	(55)	(54)	(55)	(162)
RADF	1	-	(46)	(38)	(45)	(10)
Community administration	-	-	(304)	(275)	(304)	(824)
Libraries	13	-	(63)	(64)	(50)	(189)
Community centres and halls	7	12	(102)	(118)	(95)	(319)
Public conveniences	4	3	(64)	(81)	(59)	(236)
Council housing	20	25	(77)	(77)	(57)	(157)
Showgrounds and sporting facilities	24	20	(262)	(250)	(239)	(659)
Cemeteries	59	43	(97)	(119)	(38)	(228)
Parks and gardens	27	-	(649)	(855)	(622)	(2,485)
Swimming pools	5	3	(426)	(395)	(422)	(1,178)
Tourism, museums and VIC	97	70	(344)	(314)	(247)	(801)
Total Community Services	1,150	972	(3,514)	(3,665)	(2,364)	(7,936)
Financial Services						
Insurance	-	-	(715)	(691)	(715)	(691)
Finance	513	387	(540)	(500)	(27)	10,582
Asset management	-	-	(55)	(116)	(55)	(348)
Rates	2,614	2,820	(49)	(47)	2,565	2,759
LWDEFS	241	237	(134)	(133)	106	77
Internal recharges	7	-	(34)	-	(27)	-
Corporate administration	(3)	-	(292)	(274)	(295)	(821)
IT	18	-	(560)	(727)	(542)	(2,468)
Land, leased out assets and commercial businesses	48	26	(152)	(281)	(103)	(265)
Total Financial Services	3,438	3,471	(2,531)	(2,767)	907	8,825
Total Council Operating Result	15,821	13,722	(18,017)	(18,385)	(2,196)	(4,678)

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Notes to the program report

- 1 - Disaster Management income will come in throughout the year, Regional Coordination subscription paid for full year.
- 2- Economic yearly subscription paid.
- 3- Development Services high due to town planning expenses.
- 4- Flood Damage and Contract works ahead of schedule.
- 5- Water projects ahead of schedule.
- 6- RADF carry over projects from the previous year expended.
- 7- Some wage variations due to the timing of the restructure.
- 8- Some expense variations due to the timing of the restructure.

12.4 - Monthly Financial Statements --Appendix 3

Infrastructure	.Current Budget	.Actual Cost YTD	
23/24 Raising Thomson River Weirs- Initial Construction	400,000	-	
23/24 Bailey Street Gravel	96,000	-	
23/24 Chlidcare Footpath	105,000	-	
23/24 Concrete Slab For Wtp Generator / Chlorine Area	35,000	-	
23/24 Corella Lane Pave And Seal	125,000	-	
23/24 Electrical Swtichboards Upgrade At Murray Mcmillan Dam	25,000	151	
23/24 Exclusion Fencing Of Town Raw Water Storage (Dams)	30,000	-	
23/24 Isisford- Bimerah Road Gravel Re-Sheet	225,000	18,501	
23/24 Local Laws Buggy	30,000	-	
23/24 Pave And Seal Turn Around At Ior Fuel Pod (Lrci4)	148,000	-	
23/24 Replacment Of Elevated Reservoir & Stand At Wtp	500,000	-	
23/24 River Reading Arno Crossing	18,000	-	
23/24 Rural Property Signs Upgrade Stage 1 (Lrci4)	100,000	-	
23/24 Rural Road Signs Upgrade (LRCI4)	150,000	67,952	
23/24 Stip Funded Project	270,000	1,440	
23/24 Tids Drainage Upgrade Bustard/Crow Land, Bustard Cassowary	50,000	58,822	
23/24 Tids Isisford Rehhab & New Kerb St Mary'S Street	200,000	187,473	
Dsdilgp Grant 21-22 Isisford Weir Replacement	-	51,847	
FLEET MANAGEMENT- Capital Works Plant & Equipment	2,880,692	694,674	
LGGSP Longreach Sewer Relining	300,000	-	
Lggsp Longreach Water Mains Replacement	700,000	23,324	
Ptiip 23/24 Ilfracombe (East) Bus Stop	33,800	140	
Ptiip 23/24 Ilfracombe (West) Bus Stop	41,400	950	
Ptiip 23/24 Longreach Bus Stop	41,100	1,401	
R2R 23/24 All Areas Grid Renewal	225,000	606	
R2R 23/24 Bogewong Alroy Road (Replace Concrete Floodway)	75,000	-	
R2R 23/24 Bude Road Gravel Re-Sheet	75,000	819	
R2R 23/24 Crossmoor Road Gravel Re-Sheet	359,688	282,223	
R2R 23/24 Rehabilitate Road To Weed Washdown Facility	95,000	-	
R2R 23/24 Town Street Reseal	450,000	5,950	
Race Horse Training Pool	15,000	-	
Stonehenge River Road- Prep & Reseal 4 Mile Creek	85,000	41,917	
Tids 23/24 Silsoe Road Reseal	100,000	52,545	
Tids 23/24 Stonhenge River Road Reseal	100,000	67,969	
W4Q 21-24 Water Mains Replacement Stage 2 Isisford	-	39,245	
W4Q Covid Ilfracombe Wtp Automation	-	320	
W4Q Covid Isisford Wtp Upgrade	140,000	830	
Grand Total	8,223,680	1,600,171	19%

Communities and Project Management	Current Budget.	Actual Cost YTD.	
22.23 New Executive Housing.	650,000	474,343	
23/24 Apex Park - Instal 2 New Shade Structures Over Existing Chairs	30,000	-	
23/24 Apex Park - New Bar Bench On Water Side Off Main Shed	30,000	-	
23/24 Beersheba Park Shade Structure Lrci4	55,000	-	
23/24 Build New Multipurpose Court (Lrci4)	500,000	2,083	
23/24 Civic Centre Shade Structure	200,000	9,300	
23/24 Construct New Kitchen And Dining Area At Wave Structure	700,000	-	
23/24 Longreach Swimming Pool Mower	8,000	-	
23/24 Pool Pump Isisford	10,000	41,165	
23/24 Refit Back Of Library Into Disaster Management Centre	820,000	-	
23/24 Repair Obic Wall (Lrci4)	100,000	664	
23/24 Restump House Jarley Street Yaraka	50,000	-	
23/24 Ses Support Grant - Longreach Ses Flood Boat Shed	96,836	49,682	
23/24 Squash Courts Upgrade Longreach (sport & rec)	370,000	-	
Longreach Administration Building Air Conditioning Replacement	350,000	7,151	
LRCI P4 Eagle Street Improve Swan Street 23/24	200,000	554	
Grand Total	4,169,836	584,943	14%

\$ 2,185,113.77

Grant/s Information

(current as of Friday, 03 November 2023)

Completed Grants

The below table outlines those Grants that were active as at, or since 01 July 2023, and have now been finalised.

Grant #	Name	Title	Total
GC2020096	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA NDRRA 2019/20 - LRC0017:1920E.REC	
GC2023192	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	ECEC - Kindy Uplift Program 2023	
GC2023232	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES - QFES Annual Subsidy 2023/2024	
GC2023236	STATE LIBRARY OF QLD	SLQ - Service Development Subsidy 2023-2024	
GC2023237	STATE LIBRARY OF QLD	SLQ - First 5 Forever Subsidy 2023-2024	
		Total	

Grant Subsidy Amount	Income Received to Date	Income Yet to Receive
\$ 11,880,408.69	\$ 11,880,408.69	\$ -
\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
\$ 19,646.00	\$ 19,646.00	\$ -
\$ 8,775.00	\$ 8,775.00	\$ -
\$ 4,607.00	\$ 4,607.00	\$ -
\$ 11,916,436.69	\$ 11,916,436.69	\$ -

Grant Start Date	Grant End Date
19/11/2020	21/08/2023
01/01/2022	30/06/2024
15/09/2023	30/06/2024
29/09/2023	30/06/2024
29/09/2023	30/06/2024

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	Total
GC2023204	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	Professional Development & Paid Practicum Subsidy - FY24	
GC2023208	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	Growing Regions Program - FY24	
GC2023229	DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET OFFICE FOR RURAL & REGIONAL QLD (ORRO)	GO_Queensland Remembers FY25	
GC2023199	DEPT OF PREMIER AND CABINET OFFICER FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL QLD	Queensland Day Sponsorship Program 2024	
GC2023180	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	STIP - Longreach State High School - Parking & Drop-off Area	
GC2023194	QUEENSLAND TREASURY	HIF - Teal Street Development 2023	
		Total	

Grant Subsidy Amount	Income Received to Date	Income Yet to Receive
\$ 13,679.64	\$ -	\$ 13,679.64
\$ 4,511,344.00	\$ -	\$ 4,511,344.00
\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ 450,000.00
\$ 3,943,970.00	\$ -	\$ 3,943,970.00
\$ 8,983,993.64	\$ -	\$ 8,983,993.64

Grant Start Date	Grant End Date
01/07/2023	30/06/2024
05/07/2023	01/08/2023
23/08/2023	03/10/2023
01/01/2024	30/06/2024
12/09/2022	30/06/2024
01/09/2023	30/10/2025

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
GC2021119	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	CCCC Round 3 2021/2024 - Sustainability Support - 4-G9703A3/4-G8QDY06/4-G8XYQBB	\$ 870,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
GC2023184	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	GKFS_Longreach Kindergarten Service.01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	\$ 32,325.50	\$ 29,099.76	\$ 3,225.74	01/01/2023	31/12/2023
GC2023185	DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & PUBLIC WORKS	MIP1 - Longreach Squash Courts Upgrade	\$ 328,692.00	\$ -	\$ 328,692.00	28/06/2023	31/12/2024
GC2019011	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	Roads 2 Recovery 2019/24	\$ 7,177,052.00	\$ 5,186,316.64	\$ 2,040,735.36	30/06/2019	30/06/2024
GC2021142	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 1 LRCH Childcare Playground Replacement	\$ 162,000.00	\$ 141,785.60	\$ 20,214.40	01/01/2021	30/06/2024
GC2022146	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 2 Yaraka Tree Line	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 9,627.42	\$ 1,372.58	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022147	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 3 Isisford MPC Kiosk Repair	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 17,066.79	\$ 2,433.21	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022148	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 4 Isisford Park Renovations	\$ 44,500.00	\$ 38,947.28	\$ 5,552.72	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022149	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 6 ILF Rec Centre Maintenance	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 43,760.99	\$ 6,239.01	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022150	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 8 LRCH Showgrounds landscaping	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 61,265.38	\$ 8,734.62	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022151	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 9 LRCH Showground Audio Upgrade	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 43,760.99	\$ 6,239.01	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022153	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 11 Painting of LRCH Civic Centre	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 61,265.38	\$ 8,734.62	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022154	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 12 LRCH Edkins Park Ablution Block	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 288,822.52	\$ 41,177.48	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022155	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 13 LRCH Eagle St Beautification	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 52,531.19	\$ 7,468.81	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022156	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 14 LRCH Eagle St Landsborough HWY and Pelican St	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 678,295.32	\$ 96,704.68	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022157	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 15 Isisford Footpaths	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 61,265.38	\$ 8,734.62	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022159	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 17 Longreach Footpaths	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 85,771.54	\$ 12,228.46	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2022160	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 16 Isisford Airport Road	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 293,198.62	\$ 41,801.38	01/01/2022	30/06/2024
GC2023187	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 18 Longreach Showgrounds Rodeo Arena Resurfacing	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 27,131.81	\$ 388,868.19	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023188	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 19 Powerhouse Museum Centenary Garden	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 21,880.49	\$ 3,119.51	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023189	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 20 Wool Pavillion Concreting	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 105,026.37	\$ 14,973.63	21/03/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023190	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P3 - 21 Longreach Library Roof Replacement	\$ 713,500.00	\$ 624,469.93	\$ 89,030.07	21/03/2023	30/06/2024

12.4 - 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
GC202323	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.01 Eagle & Swan Street New Grossover & Shelter	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC202324	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.02 Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre Wall & Drainage Replacement	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 60,000.00		
GC202325	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.03 Beersheba Park Shade Structure	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC202326	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.04 Yarka IOR Fuel Turn Around	\$ 148,000.00	\$ 59,200.00	\$ 88,800.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC202327	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.05 Ilfracombe Multi-purpose Court	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC202328	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.06 Apex Park High Bar Installation	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC202329	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.07 Apex Park Shade Structure Installation	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023220	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.08 Ilfracombe Street Number Replacement	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023221	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.09 Longreach Showgrounds Canteen Repair	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023222	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.10 Banner Poles (Ilfracombe & Isisford)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023223	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.11 Apex Park Beautification	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 14,800.00	\$ 22,200.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023224	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.12 Isisford Bin Cage Replacement	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,470.00	\$ 10,530.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023225	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.13 Isisford-Bimerah Gravel Resheet	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 135,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023226	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.14 Rural Road Signage Upgrade	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023227	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.15 Corella Lane Pave & Seal	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023228	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.16 Bailey Street Upgrade	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 38,400.00	\$ 57,600.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023233	DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE & REGIONAL	LRCI P4.17 Longreach Childcare Centre Footpath (Galah Street to Childcare Centre)	\$ 93,980.00	\$ 37,592.00	\$ 56,388.00	17/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2019036	DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEVELOPMENT	BoR R4 Long 0056 - Railway Siding Extension	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	12/12/2019	01/05/2024
GC202275	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	MWPC - CN7474 - 95B Longreach - Jundah Road	\$ 5,117,549.56	\$ 4,680,977.14	\$ 436,572.42	01/07/2022	30/11/2023
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
GC2023181	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	Walking Local Government Grant 2022/2023	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	30/06/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023202	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	TIDS - CN-2856 2023/2024 Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	01/07/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023238	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS	MWPC - CN21072 Cransie Muttaborra Road (Pavement Rehab & Widening)	\$ 1,762,125.70	\$ -	\$ 1,762,125.70	30/06/2023	30/06/2024
GC202116	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	W4Q 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	W4Q 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
GC2023186	DEPT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PLANNING	FAGS - Financial Assistance Grants 2023/2024 FY	\$ 12,296,832.00	\$ 11,960,738.00	\$ 336,094.00	30/04/2023	30/06/2024
GC2022169	DEPT. OF STATE DEVELOPMENT	LGGSP 2022/2024 - Water and Sewerage Replacement	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 163,636.64	\$ 436,363.64	01/07/2022	30/06/2024
GC2023239	NATIONAL AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL LIMITED	NADC.Australia Day 2024	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	26/10/2023	30/06/2024
GC2022174	QUEENSLAND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	SES Support - Driving safely 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
GC202129	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA NDRRA 2021/2023 - LRCO019202F:REC	\$ 11,547,221.28	\$ 9,134,745.50	\$ 2,412,475.78	12/08/2021	30/06/2024
GC2022173	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	ORRRF - 2022-2023 Regional Disaster Management Coordinator	\$ 207,500.00	\$ 62,250.00	\$ 145,250.00	01/01/2023	30/06/2026
GC2023195	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA - LRCO025:212J:REC (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 - LRCO026:212B:WPF - WP3 Flood Studies	\$ 103,500.00	\$ 31,050.00	\$ 72,450.00	31/05/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023198	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	GRQ - Get Ready Queensland 2023/24 - LRCO0272324A:GQR	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 8,730.00	\$ 970.00	01/07/2023	30/06/2024
GC2023212	QUEENSLAND RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY	DRFA - LRCO023:212F:REC - Tallundilly Creek Reconstruction	\$ 658,362.69	\$ 187,664.91	\$ 470,697.78	21/08/2023	30/06/2024
GC2022166	Translink Division- Transport Dept	PTIIP - Long Distance Coach Stops Grant	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	01/06/2022	30/06/2024
		Total	\$ 62,240,554.70	\$ 40,878,341.38	\$ 21,362,213.32		

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.5 - Information Report - Finance

12.5 Information Report - Finance

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of October 2023 for the Financial Services Department.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Nil

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

OUR SERVICES	
	Corporate Plan Outcome
2.1	Sustainable infrastructure and services that represent value for money, are environmentally responsible, and are responsive to community needs.
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

Nil

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.

Issue:

Management Accounting

In the month of October in the Management accounting space we have managed to work through the following projects;

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.5 - Information Report - Finance

1. Service Level Plans

Service Level Planning has been undertaken by the Finance department to develop a better understanding of our services and which can then help the whole of council to understand the services which are delivered and what they cost us.

We had completed Parks and Gardens and Swimming Pools service level plans. We have started analyzing our costing in relation to the services highlighted in the service levels, these will help in budgeting as per activities.

The next two areas we are looking at are the Rural Roads and Town Streets maintenance. In this space we are in the process to draft the services as our initial cost analysis are complete.

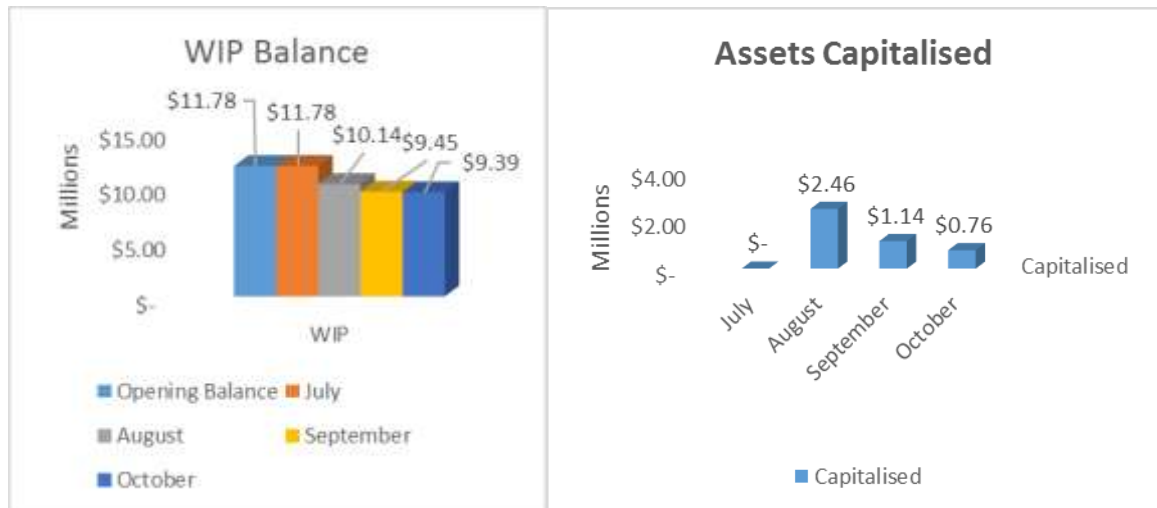
2. Asset Register

Assets have been a focus for the Management Accounting function and as result we have developed a procedure to Capitalize and Dispose assets every month as they arise.

Council has a Work in progress balance relating to all the Capital works that are carried out through the year. Once the Project is complete it is to be recognised in the Asset register and the asset should be capitalised.

We have been capitalizing every month and recognizing as they are complete.

The Graphs below show WIP Balance for each month. At the end of October Work in Progress Balance is \$9,389,973 whereas we have capitalised a total of \$4,359,996 and in month of October the amount was \$759,109.



We are carrying out a full analysis of the Depreciation and effective lives. Presently we are working on the depreciation of road assets which will be complete by the end of this month, as per the initial review it seems like that we might see a variance to what we have at this stage in Depreciation.

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.5 - Information Report - Finance

Innovation And Business Improvement

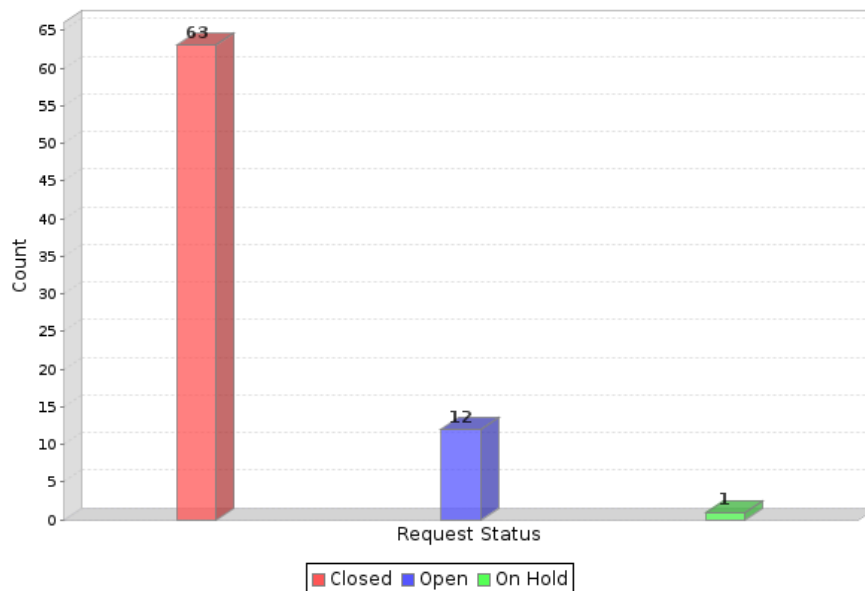
Throughout October the Innovation and Business Improvement Team have been focused on improving the Customers experience with innovation and the overall services provided by the Team. The number of outstanding requests have been halved during October through a daily push to complete what could be resolved by the Team or a follow up of requests that were escalated externally e.g. software vendors.

Work continued on the IT Governance framework with a draft policy, framework and standards completed ready for consultation. Training was undertaken across Council to promote cybersecurity awareness following the first Phishing campaign held in September which was to create a baseline phish measure. Planning has commenced for the next phishing campaign in partnership with the State Government Cybersecurity Team.

The Team assisted with a range of other activities which included:

- Participation in the inaugural RAPAD IT Alliance meeting;
- Supporting the implementation of the assets management system project;
- Commenced planning for the Azure migration project;
- Assisted with the smooth running of the Big Day In;
- The design of a solution to facilitate the connection of the new regulatory compliance office; and
- Roll out of Phase 1 – workshop maintenance request system.

Overall October has been a busy month for the team with 76 requests logged in the month. Of the 76 requests logged, 63 requests were completed, 12 requests remain open and 1 on hold in the helpdesk system:



12. FINANCE REPORT

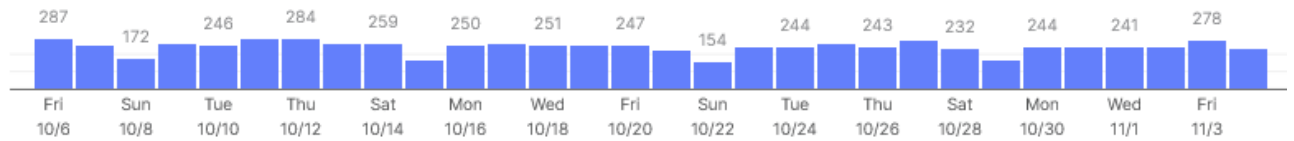
12.5 - Information Report - Finance

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 Library, closely followed by Prices Plus. The busiest area in terms of people connected using the Wi-Fi network was the Merino Bakery followed closely by Vinnies. The Wi-Fi network had an average of 240 users per day with 955 unique people over this period, for a total use of 931.18GB of data.

The new Wi-Fi signage promoting the service provided by Council has arrived and will be installed in the coming weeks by the Communities Department.

Clients per day



Top devices

Name	Model	# Clients	Usage	% Usage
Library Meeting Room	MR33	259	369.95 GB	39.73%
Library Entrance	MR36	398	168.54 GB	18.10%
Prices Plus	MR33	737	146.21 GB	15.70%
Vinnies	MR33	744	66.25 GB	7.11%
Merino Bakery	MR33	757	64.51 GB	6.93%
Apex Park	MR74	187	60.88 GB	6.54%
Kinnon	MR33	576	41.68 GB	4.48%
Mercury Business Supplies	MR33	526	10.77 GB	1.16%
VIC AP	MR33	150	2.31 GB	0.25%

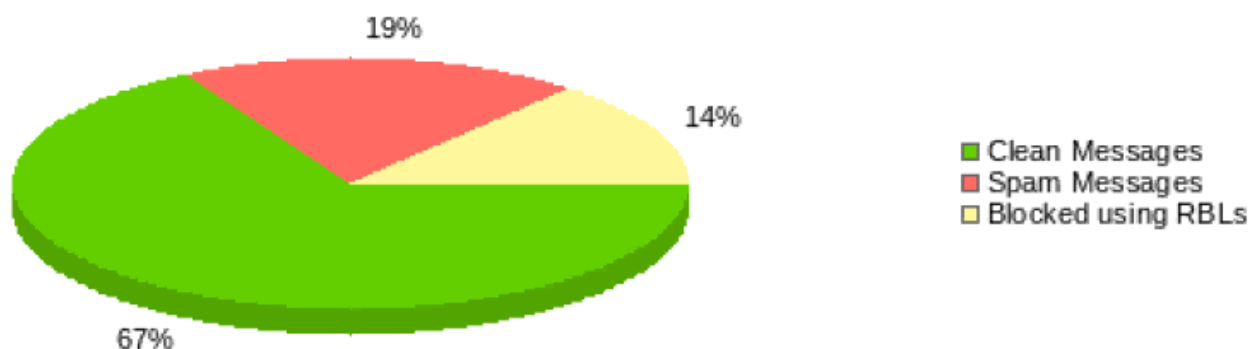
Email Protection

IBI (Innovation and Business Improvement) have included a small snapshot of the email protection system and how many emails it's filtering and blocking. This report is from the last 30 days only, it does indicate just how many emails are coming in and being blocked in the system each month. For the last 30 days, there were 31,147 incoming emails, 20,858 were clean, 10,289 were blocked in the last month.

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.5 - Information Report - Finance

	Mail Type	Count
1.	Clean Messages	20858
2.	Spam Messages	5966
3.	Blocked using RBLs	4307
4.	SPF Fail	11
5.	Banned Attachments	3
6.	Viruses	1
7.	Geoblocked	1



RBL – Remote Block List (active spammers)

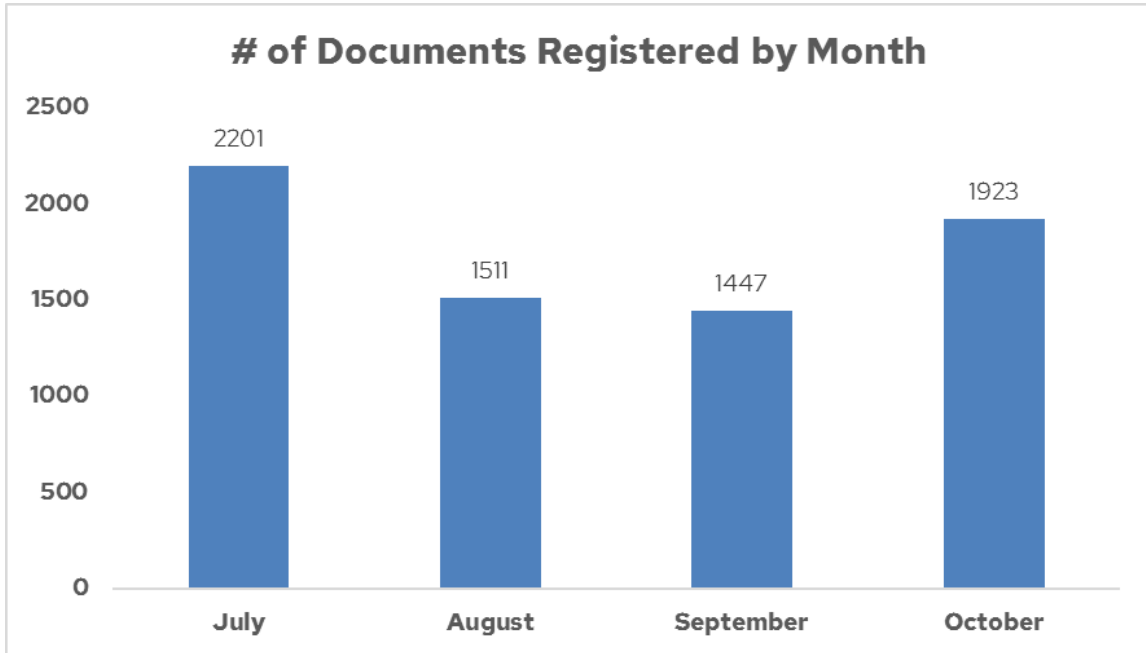
SPF – Sender Policy Framework (email pretending to be from another domain)

Records Management

During the month of October over 1,900 records were registered into Councils document management system. Over 800 emails were sent to Councils official email address (council@longreach.qld.gov.au) with information ranging from job applications, official correspondence from Government entities, grants information, customer requests, surveys and sales oriented from various suppliers across Australia. Of the emails received 104 were converted to customer requests by the Records Officer.

As part of the Records Management Improvement project, the Records Officer has been reviewing the records located in the Longreach archive room and has identified 88 boxes which are ready for destruction once the authorisation process has taken place. A large majority of these boxes contain financial records which have been held for over the 7 year required retention period as outlined in the [Queensland Governments General Retention and Disposal Schedule](#).

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.5 - Information Report - Finance



Procurement

Purchasing Thresholds for Purchase Orders YTD			
Order Value	Amount	Order Value	Value Invoiced
\$100 Under	102	\$ 5,758.88	\$ 4,342.40
\$101-\$5,000	789	\$ 692,850.06	\$ 528,163.74
\$5,001 - Under \$15,000	200	\$ 1,337,823.70	\$ 965,078.47
\$15,001 - under \$200,000	107	\$ 4,601,020.30	\$ 3,036,601.99
\$200,000 or more	12	\$ 7,827,540.82	\$ 1,911,848.03
Total	1210	\$ 14,464,993.76	\$ 6,446,034.63

The table above shows the number of payments made by purchasing threshold outlined in the procurement policy for 2023/24 financial year and the total amount spent in each threshold.

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.5 - Information Report - Finance

2023/2024

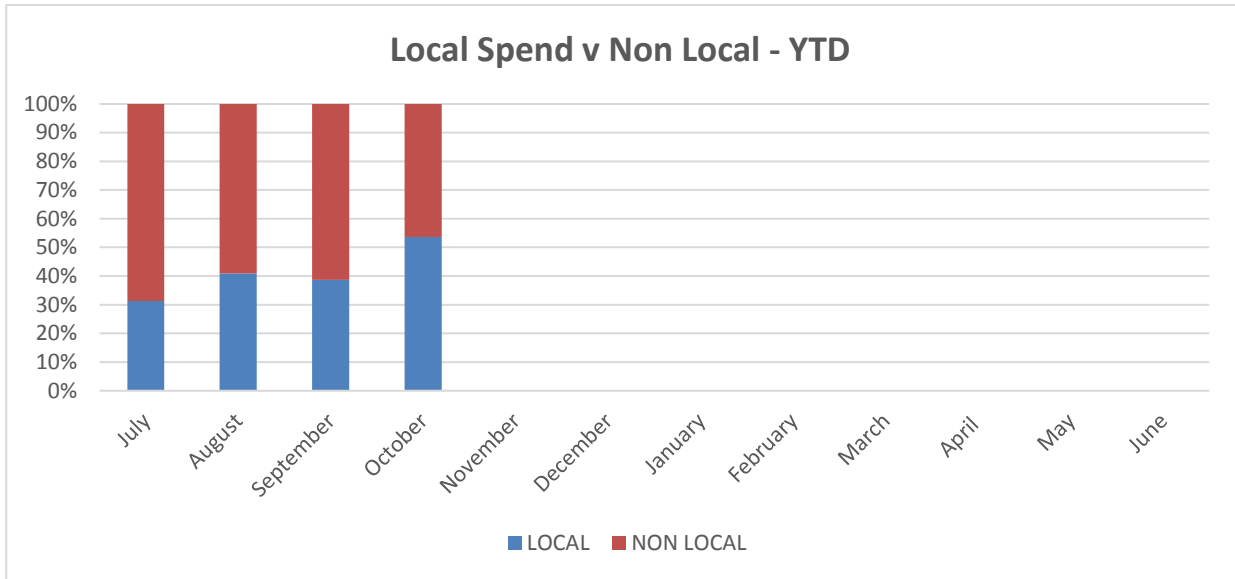
Contracts Awarded October

VP Number Request Name	Supplier	Value of Contract Exc. GST	Purpose
No Contracts over \$200,000 were awarded in October			

Suppliers with expenditure >\$200,00 YTD 23/24

Creditor Name	Sum of Invoice Amount	Purpose
Rayner's Western Hire Pty Ltd	\$ 1,475,120.94	Plant and Labour Hire
Moore Civil & Plant Hire Pty Ltd	\$ 702,183.36	Plant and Labour Hire
Tropic Petroleum	\$ 647,651.38	Fuel and Lubricants
Champion Contracting	\$ 580,988.00	Quarry Supplies
Jtcox Concrete & Precast Pty Ltd	\$ 580,761.62	Quarry Supplies
Sopharr Pty Ltd T/A Kent Construction	\$ 572,997.24	Construction
Lgm Assets	\$ 523,712.89	Insurance
Midland Pty Ltd	\$ 323,139.54	Plant
Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	\$ 313,310.42	Quarry Supplies
George Bourne & Associates	\$ 310,535.70	Engineering Services
Western Queensland Livestock Exchange Pty Ltd	\$ 301,189.19	Saleyard
Oma Contracting	\$ 301,000.00	Plant Hire
Central Highlands Auto Pty Ltd	\$ 284,101.01	Plant
Local Government Workcare	\$ 248,463.50	Workers Compensation Cover
Ergon Energy Corporation Limited	\$ 235,755.27	Power
Hastings Deering (Australia) L	\$ 211,390.52	Plant Hire

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.5 - Information Report - Finance



The graph outlined above depicts the spend year to date for 2023/2024 financial year, broken down by local v non local 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 Yarka compared to other businesses in the finance system.

Current Quotes and Tenders

The below table outlines the current quotes and tenders that have either been finalised during this period or that are currently yet to be awarded.

SEPTEMBER				
VP380379 – Supply Fire & First Aid Services	Public Tender	VenderPanel	3	Not Awarded
LRC382023 – Murray McMillan Dam Switchboard Electrical Upgrade	Public Tender	QTender		No Yet Awarded
LRC342023 – Supply & Replace Air Conditioning Units Longreach Administration Building	Public Tender	QTender	5	Not Yet Awarded
LRC332023 – Cleaning of Childcare Services Complex	Public Tender	QTender	2	Not Yet Awarded
LRC352023 – Supply & Installation of Shade Structure at 20 Torrs Road Ilfracombe, QLD	Public Tender	QTender	7	Not Yet Awarded

12. FINANCE REPORT
12.5 - Information Report - Finance

LRCQ152023 - Longreach Childcare Fence Replacement	7	RFQ Email	1	Yes
OCTOBER				
VP382396 - Ilfracombe Multi-Purpose Court Surfacing	250	Vendor Panel Local Buy Panel	3	Not Yet Awarded
LRC402023 - Cleaning of Longreach Regional Council Facilities	Public Tender	QTender		Not Yet Awarded
LRCQ162023 - Langenbaker House Fence Replacement	13	Email	2	Not Yet Awarded
LRC392023 - Sale of Lot 151 on SP25953	Public Tender	QTender		Not Yet Awarded
LRC412023 - Longreach Water Mains Upgrade	Public Tender	QTender		Not Yet Awarded
VP384959 - Re Seal Saint Mary Street	3	Vendor Panel Local Buy Panel	0	No Responses

Future Requests for Quote and Tenders

REQUEST	QUOTE/TENDER
Supply Fleet	QUOTE
Longreach Squash Court Upgrade	TENDER
Civic Centre Shade Replacement	TENDER
Apex Park Bar Fence and Privacy Screen	QUOTE

Asset Management

In the month of October, we are full steam ahead with work on the new Asset Management Software package. We are confirming all data and creating plans for all assets and have been working with Pinnacle to implement the first stage of the Asset System. Building & Communities are our test subject which will then be followed by Water & Sewerage, then roads. We are looking to have all the Buildings & Communities up and operational by November.

Proterra Group has completed their onsite inspections of our water & sewerage network. The written reports will be completed in the coming weeks. There were only two issues identified (Observation only). The capping on the minor tributary weirs (Thomson River Weir) were loose and will need to be monitored. The Fairmont Weir did have some areas

12. FINANCE REPORT

12.5 - Information Report - Finance

of cracking at the back of the weir that was opening up but was not of concern and to continue monitoring.

We have put on hold the desktop review of the Sewerage Treatment Plant opportunities. All efforts are being focused on the Asset Management Software System and its implementation.

Future works & projects

- Stocktake of all plant & equipment (Due by Mar 2024)
- Road Network - assets Inspection and condition reports (Due June 2024)
- Grid Network - assets Inspection and condition reports (Due June 2024)
- Stormwater works – Priority 2 works costing for budget consideration 24/25

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.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.1 - Community Donations - Individuals

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.1 Community Donations - Individuals

Considerations of applications received for the month of November 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 Mayoral Donations	Budget remaining for future applications
Community Donations	\$112,000.00	\$3,445.52	\$67,036.19	\$2,000.00	\$65,036.19

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

NIL

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: Abby Lewis, Customer Service Coordinator

Approved by: Karyn Stillwell, Director of Communities

Background:

Longreach Regional Council Individual Donations Program received four applications for the month of November 2023.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.1 - Community Donations - Individuals

1. Erika Holland has been selected to represent the North West Team to attend the All Schools Track and Field Championships in Perth from 8-10 December 2023.

Erika Holland	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	Yes
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 23/24 Financial Year?</i>	Yes
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
<i>Erika Holland</i> \$500.00	<i>Erika Holland</i> \$500.00

2. Jackarra Jones has been selected to represent the North West Team to attend the All Schools Track and Field Championships in Perth from 8-10 December 2023.

Jackarra Jones	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	Yes
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 23/24 Financial Year?</i>	Yes
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
<i>Jackarra Jones</i> \$500.00	<i>Jackarra Jones</i> \$500.00

3. Jozette Jones has been selected to represent the North West Team to attend the All Schools Track and Field Championships in Perth from 8-10 December 2023.

Jozette Jones	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	Yes
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 23/24 Financial Year?</i>	Yes
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
<i>Jozette Jones</i> \$500.00	<i>Jozette Jones</i> \$500.00

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.1 - Community Donations - Individuals

4. Max Bruggemann has been selected to represent the North West Team to attend the All Schools Track and Field Championships in Perth from 8-10 December 2023.

Max Bruggemann	
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds in the past?</i>	Yes
<i>Has the recipient applied for funds within the 23/24 Financial Year?</i>	No
<i>Does the recipient have any outstanding acquittals?</i>	No

Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
Max Bruggemann \$500.00	Max Bruggemann \$500.00

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>Erika Holland</i>	<i>North West All Schools Track and Field</i>	<i>8-10 December 2023</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Jackarra Jones</i>	<i>North West All Schools Track and Field</i>	<i>8-10 December 2023</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Jozette Jones</i>	<i>North West All Schools Track and Field</i>	<i>8-10 December 2023</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Max Bruggemann</i>	<i>North West All Schools Track and Field</i>	<i>8-10 December 2023</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
TOTAL			\$2,000.00

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations

13.2 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations

Consideration of the minutes and recommendations of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023.

Council Action

Partner
Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Advisory Committee Policy 2.31

Corporate and Operational Plan Considerations

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL: ARTS AND CULTURE			
Link to Corporate Plan	Activity	Key Performance Indicators	Operational Targets
1.1.7	Deliver the Regional Arts Development Fund.	All Regional Arts Development Fund applications are assessed in accordance with the guidelines	Deliver program within budget allocated by June 2024.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

(Res-2023-08-218)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Hatch

That Council:

- a) Receives the Minutes of the Regional Arts Development Fund Committee held on Thursday 27 July 2023;
- b) Approves the application by Longreach Brolga Girl Guides for the 'Girl Guides Mural' to the value of \$9,570.00;
- c) Approves the application by Qantas Founders Museum for the 'Kirrinderi - Heart of the Channel Country Exhibition and Education Program' to the value of \$5,500.00;
- d) Approves the application by Isisford State School P & C for the 'Isisford Dance Lessons' to the value of \$10,000.00;
- e) Approves the application by Yaraka Sports and Progress Association for the 'Furniture Restoration Workshop' to the value of \$4,000.00;
- f) Approves the application by Elizabeth Clark for the 'Iningai Windmill Shade Structure' to the value of \$44,318.00;
- g) Retrospectively approves the opening and closing dates for round two of the 23/24 financial year; and,
- h) Advertises the RADF round two opening and closing dates.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: Abby Lewis, Customer Service Coordinator

Background:

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) committee met on Tuesday 31 October 2023 to discuss the following:

1. Confirm the minutes from the previous RADF meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2023;
2. Budget Update 23/24 financial year;
3. Assess three funding applications received from round two of the 23/24 financial year.

The following recommendations have been made by the committee:

- a) *That the minutes of the Regional Arts Development Fund Committee held on Thursday 27 July 2023 be received;*
- b) *That the 23/24 budget is received as presented;*
- c) *To support the 'Isisford Industry Recreation and Development Association Inc' application by Morgan Berry to the value of \$5,487.00;*
- d) *Not support the 'Topology Music' application by Christa Powell to the value of \$6,000.00, due to insufficient funds in the RADF budget;*
- e) *Not support the 'Longreach State High School' application by Linda Ballin to the value of \$7,026.00, due to insufficient funds in the RADF budget.*

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)

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

Nil

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations

Appendices

1. RADF Minutes - Tuesday 31 October 2023.pdf [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council:

- a) receives the Minutes of the Regional Arts Development Fund Committee held on Tuesday 31 October 2023;*
- b) approves the application by the 'Isisford Industry Recreation and Development Association Inc' for the 150 years of Dirt, Dust and Dream to the value of \$5,487.00;*
- c) Accepts the decision to not support the 'Topology Music' application by Christa Powell to the value of \$6,000.00, due to insufficient funds in the RADF budget;*
- d) Accepts the decision to not support the 'Longreach State High School' application by Linda Ballin to the value of \$7,026.00, due to insufficient funds in the RADF budget.*

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL



Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Meeting

Tuesday 31 October 2023

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations --Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the Longreach Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10:05am

2. Present

Present

Committee Members

Mrs Sheila Back	Chairperson, Ilfracombe
Mrs Sue Pratt	Longreach, Zoom
Cr Leonie Nunn	Deputy Mayor, Zoom
Mr Bill Parker	Longreach
Mrs Rowena Arthur	Longreach

Council Representatives

Abby Lewis	Customer Service Coordinator
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3. Apologies

Committee Members

Mrs Susan Glasson	Yaraka
Cr Tracy Hatch	Councillor
Mrs Elizabeth Clarke	Longreach

Council Representatives

Nil

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting

4.1 Regional Arts Development Fund Committee - Thursday 27 July 2023

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Regional Arts Development Fund Committee held on Thursday 27 July 2023, be received.

Moved: Sue Pratt

Seconded: Leonie Nunn

5. Business Arising from Minutes

Int.____

UNCONFIRMED

2

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations --Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the Longreach Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach

6. General Business

6.1 Budget Update 2023/2024

Please see below the current budget update for 2023/24 Financial Year:

Funding Summary	
RADF Funding Allocated	\$28,875.00
Council Contribution	\$10,000.00
Carryover Funds 22/23	\$40,000.00
Total	\$78,875.00
Current funds unallocated	\$78,875.00
Applications for Round 1 2023/2024	
Longreach Broilga Girl Guides	\$9,570.00
Qantas Founders Museum	\$5,500.00
Isisford State School P and C	\$10,000.00
Yaraka Sports and Progress Association	\$4,000.00
Elizabeth Clarke	\$44,318.00
Total	\$73,388.00
Funds remaining for future applications	\$5,487.00
Applications for Round 2 2023/2024	
Isisford Industry Recreation and Development Association	\$6,500.00
Topology Music	\$6,000.00
Longreach State High School	\$7,026.00
Total	\$19,526.00

Recommendation:

That the RADF Committee receives the report, as presented.

Moved: Rowena Arthur

Seconded: Shelia Back

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations --Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the Longreach Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach

6.2 Funding Application - Isisford Industry Recreation and Development Association Inc

Applicant Name: Morgan Berry
Category: Music
Recommendation: Celebrating 150 years of Dirt, Dust and Dreams

That the RADF Committee discusses the application by Morgan Berry for the Celebration of 150 Years of Dirt, Dust and Dreams to the value of \$6,500.00.

Project Name:

Project Description: Employing a golden guitar award winner Josh Arnold to collaborate with the Isisford Community to write, perform and film an 'Isisford' song with the kids and local community about where they live and what they love about it.

Project Start Date: March 2024

Project End Date: June 2024

Outcome Report Due: July 2024

Total Project Costs: \$7,700.00

RADF Grant Requested: \$6,500.00

Recommendation: That the RADF Committee approve the application from Morgan Berry to the value of \$5,487.00.

Moved: Bill Parker

Seconded: Sue Pratt

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations --Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the Longreach Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach

6.3 Funding Application - Topology Music

Applicant Name: Christa Powell
Category: Music
Recommendation: Longreach Wellness

That the RADF Committee considers the application by Christa Powell for the Longreach Wellness Project to the value of \$6,000.00.

Project Name:

Project Description: Three artists to travel to the Longreach LGA to run a workshop at Longreach State High School wellness day and workshop at Isisford Sate School followed by a performance.

Project Start Date: 24 November 2023

Project End Date: 28 November 2023

Outcome Report Due: December 2023

Total Project Costs: \$14,170.00

RADF Grant Requested: \$6,000.00

Recommendation: *Not support the 'Topology Music' application by Christa Powell to the value of \$6,000.00, due to insufficient funds in the RADF budget.*

Moved: Sue Pratt

Seconded: Leonie Nunn

13.2 - Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee Meeting and Recommendations --Appendix 1

Minutes of the Longreach Regional Council Regional Arts Development Fund Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the Longreach Civic Centre, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach

6.4 Funding Application - Longreach State High School

Applicant Name: Linda Ballin
Category: Dance
Recommendation: Phluxus2 Dance Collective Artist in Residence 2024
That the RADF Program of Events Committee considers the application by Linda Ballin for the Phluxus2 Dance Collective Artist to the value of \$7,026.00.

Project Name:
Project Description: Award Winning Phluxus2 Dance Collective artists in the Longreach State High School to deliver a program of dance activities in 2024.

Project Start Date: 01 March 2024
Project End Date: 10 April 2024
Outcome Report Due: May 2024
Total Project Costs: \$11,126.00
RADF Grant Requested: \$7,026.00

Recommendation: *Not support the 'Longreach State High School' application by Linda Ballin to the value of \$7,026.00, due to insufficient funds in the RADF budget.*

Moved: Sue Pratt

Seconded: Leonie Nunn

7. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.20am.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.3 - Childcare - Child Protection Policy

13.3 Childcare - Child Protection Policy

Consideration of adoption of the new *Child Protection Policy*.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. (Amended 2023)

Child Protection Act 1999

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020

Policy Considerations

12-01 Childcare Centre Policy

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/s: *Elissa Balke, Childcare Services Director*

Background:

Childcare Services currently use one overarching Childcare Centre Policy and several Management Directives. All Management Directives are overdue for review.

Issue:

At a recent visit by the Education Department, Council was advised that the Management Directives were not clear enough and that they would like to see the Centre using policies rather than Management Directives.

Some research was done investigating what other centres have done in situations such as opening brand new centres when they have had to start from scratch with their policies. A company, Childcare Centre Desktop, was identified as a common theme. Their aim is to support childcare services in remote and regional areas, focusing on providing affordable, easy-to-access resources that save time, assist with compliance and relieve stress for Childcare Management teams. Their policies are written with reference and consideration

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.3 - Childcare - Child Protection Policy

to the legislative requirements under the National Education and Care National Law and Regulations, the National Quality Standard and approved learning frameworks. Additionally, policies are written to assist services in meeting requirements for other laws, including Family Assistance Law and Child Protection and child wellbeing legislation.

All Policies are first in draft format so that they can be easily amended to match the service's culture, style and state by state specifications. Childcare Centre Desktop reviews and updates their policy drafts annually or when regulation changes are applied. The service is required to thoroughly read and amend each policy so that each document is aligned to our services and Council's unique context and operation. All childcare centre staff will be involved in the amendment of each policy before it is taken to Council. Parents will then be informed of the new policies as they are adopted and from then on, will also be involved in the review of these policies.

Given that this would be an extremely lengthy process changing every single Management Directive over to Policies, the plan is to aim for a 14-month policy project timeframe so that by the end of 2024, all policies will be live documents. Doing so over a period of time will allow ELT/Councillors to review and approve several policies at a time at each Council meeting between now and December 2024. The most important policies will be first and the others will follow in order of importance.

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 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:	Catastrophic
Rating:	High (19/25)

Council is committed to good governance and has a minimal risk appetite for significant breaches of our legal obligations. It is extremely important that the Child Protection Policy is current.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.3 - Childcare - Child Protection Policy

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

Other Comments:

A detailed review of the policy has been undertaken to ensure it aligns with current business practices.


A copy of the new policies is attached for consideration.

Appendices

1. Child Protection Policy [↓](#)

Recommendations:

That Council adopts the new Child Protection Policy No. 12.5, as presented.

Child Protection Policy		 <p>Longreach Regional Council <small>Ilbarra: kibirri Longgerrri Yarran</small></p>
Policy Number:	12.5	
Policy Category:	Childcare Centre	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:	November 2024	

PURPOSE

Longreach Childcare Services is committed to providing a child safe environment where children's safety and wellbeing is supported and children feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Our Service embeds the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and promotes a culture of safety and wellbeing to minimise the risk of child abuse or harm to children whilst promoting children's sense of security and belonging. We will ensure all employees and volunteers understand the meaning, importance and benefits of providing a child safe environment and critically, understand their obligations and requirements as Mandatory Reporters.

SCOPE

This policy applies to management, the approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, staff, families, visitors (including contractors) and children of the Service.

LEGISLATION

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)

Education and Care Services National Regulations. (Amended 2023)

Child Protection Act 1999

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020

DEFINITIONS

Department of Education - Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) – Regulatory Authority responsible for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in their jurisdiction in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the National Quality Standard.

Educator – early childhood or school age practitioner who works directly with children in early childhood or school age care settings.

National Quality Framework (NQF) – provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services across Australia.

National Quality Standard (NQS) – sets a high national benchmark for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services in Australia. The NQS includes seven quality areas that are important outcomes for children. Services are assessed and

rated by their regulatory authority against the NQS, and given a rating for each of the 7 quality areas and an overall rating based on these results.

Parents/Guardians – a person who has parental responsibility for the child.

Staff – employee of Longreach Regional Council based at the Longreach Childcare Centre.

Nominated Supervisor – a person with responsibility for the day to day management of an approved service.

Leadership Team – an internal group of leaders within the Childcare Centre comprising of the Childcare Services Director, the Childcare Services Assistant Director and the Staff Engagement and Development Officer.

Mandatory reporting – the legislative requirement for selected classes of people to report suspected child abuse and neglect to government authorities. In Queensland (QLD), mandatory reporting is regulated by the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

Mandatory reporters – in Queensland, are people who deliver the following services, wholly or partly, to children as part of their paid or professional work:

- a doctor
- a registered nurse
- a teacher
- certain police officers
- a child advocate under the Public Guardian Act 2014
- an early childhood education and care professional
- Child Safety Services
- licensed care services

POLICY STATEMENT

All staff have a responsibility to recognise and respond to concerns for safety, welfare and the wellbeing of children and young people, and to report these concerns to management and appropriate Child Safe authorities.

At all times, management, staff and volunteers will treat children with the utmost respect and understanding. Longreach Childcare Services believes that:

- Children are capable of the same range of emotions as adults
- Children's emotions are real and need to be accepted by adults
- A reaction given to a child from an adult in a child's early stages of emotional development can be positive or detrimental depending on the adult's behaviour
- Children who enhance their understanding of their body's response to a situation are more able to predict the outcome and ask for help or evade a negative situation.

DUTY OF CARE

All educators, staff and volunteers are committed to identifying possible risk and significant risk of harm to children and young people at Longreach Childcare Services. We comprehend our duty of care responsibilities to protect children from all types of abuse and neglect and will adhere to our moral and legislative obligations at all times.

We aim to implement effective strategies to assist in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children. Our Service will act in the best interest of each child, assisting them to develop to their full potential in a secure and child safe environment.

POLICY

What Is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is any action towards a child or young person that harms or puts at risk their physical, psychological or emotional health or development. Child abuse can be a single incident or can be a number of different incidents that take place over time. There are different forms of child abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.

Indicators of Abuse

There are common physical and behavioural signs that may indicate abuse or neglect. The presence of one of these signs does not necessarily mean abuse or neglect. Behavioural or physical signs which assist in recognising harm to children are known as indicators. *The following is a guide only.* One indicator on its own may not imply abuse or neglect. However, a single indicator can be as important as the presence of several indicators. Each indicator needs to be deliberated in the perspective of other indicators and the child's circumstances. A child's behaviour is likely to be affected if he/she is under stress. There can be many causes of stress and it is important to find out specifically what is causing the stress. Abuse and neglect can be single incidents or ongoing and may be intentional or unintentional.

General Indicators of Abuse And Neglect May Include:

- a) marked delay between injury and seeking medical assistance
- b) history of injury
- c) the child gives some indication that the injury did not occur as stated
- d) the child tells you someone has hurt him/her
- e) the child tells you about someone he/she knows who has been hurt
- f) someone (relative, friend, acquaintance, and sibling) tells you that the child may have been abused.

The Queensland Government identifies the following signs of child abuse and includes definitions and physical indicators:

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is when a child suffers physical trauma or injury that is not accidental. It doesn't always leave visible marks or injuries. Physical abuse can include hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, biting and poisoning.

Indicators of Physical Abuse

- a) Broken bones or unexplained bruising or burns in different stages of healing
- b) Being unable to explain an injury or giving inconsistent, vague or unlikely explanations for an injury
- c) Having unusual or unexplained internal injuries
- d) History of family violence
- e) Delay between injury and seeking medical assistance
- f) Repeated visits to the doctor with injuries, poisoning or minor complaints
- g) Being unusually frightened of a parent or carer
- h) Wearing inappropriate clothing in warm weather (to hide bruises, cuts or marks)
- i) Avoiding physical contact
- j) Becoming scared when other children cry or shout
- k) Being excessively friendly to strangers
- l) Starting fires or being fascinated with fire
- m) Destroying property
- n) Hurting animals

Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse happens when an adult, a stronger child or a teenager uses their power or authority to involve a child in a sexual activity. The sexual activity does not always need to be a physical act; it can also be a non-contact abusive behaviour such as flashing, exposure to sexually explicit material or inappropriate sexual conversations. Sexual abuse includes exposing the child to the sexual behaviours of others, coercing the child to engage in sexual behaviour with other children or adults, verbal threats of sexual abuse and/or exposing the child to pornography.

Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- a) know more about sexual activities than other children their age
- b) play in a sexual way
- c) masturbate more than what's normal for their age and stage of development
- d) refuse to undress for activities or often wearing layers of clothing
- e) have bruising, bleeding, swelling, tears or cuts on their genitals or anus
- f) have unusual vaginal odour or discharge
- g) have itching or pain in the genital area, difficulty going to the toilet, walking or sitting
- h) have a sexually transmitted disease, especially in a young child
- i) have torn, stained or bloody clothing, especially underwear
- j) be afraid of being alone with a particular person
- k) be frequently depressed, feel suicidal or attempt suicide
- l) create stories, poems or artwork about abuse.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse happens when a child's social, emotional or intellectual development is damaged or threatened. It can include constant rejection, teasing, bullying, yelling, criticism and exposure to domestic and family violence. Some examples are constant or excessive criticism, condescending, teasing of a child or ignoring or withholding admiration and affection, excessive or unreasonable demands, persistent hostility, severe verbal abuse, and rejection, belief that a specific child is bad or 'evil', using inappropriate physical or social isolation as punishment, exposure to domestic violence and/or intimidating or threatening behaviour.

Indicators of emotional abuse

- a) extreme behaviour ranging from being overly aggressive to submissive
- b) delayed emotional development
- c) compulsive lying or stealing
- d) high levels of anxiety
- e) lack of trust in people
- f) persistent bedwetting, urinating or soiling in clothes
- g) regressive behaviour, such as baby talk or thumb sucking
- h) having feelings of worthlessness about life and themselves
- i) overeating or hardly eating at all
- j) self-harming.

Neglect

Neglect occurs when a child's health and development are affected because their basic needs are not met. These include the need for food, housing, health care, adequate clothing, personal hygiene, hygienic living conditions, medical treatment and adequate supervision. Some examples include inability to respond emotionally to the child, child abandonment, depriving or withholding physical contact, failure to provide psychological nurturing and/or treating one child differently to the others.

Indicators of Neglect in children

- a) Starving, begging, stealing or hoarding food
- b) Having poor hygiene, matted hair, dirty skin or body odour
- c) Frequent illness, infections or sores
- d) Talking about no one being at home to provide care
- e) Frequently late or absent from school
- f) Wearing inadequate clothing, especially in winter
- g) Being left unsupervised for long periods
- h) Alcohol or drug abuse at home
- i) Delayed physical, emotional or intellectual development.

Child Protection Guide

Professionals who encounter concerns related to possible abuse or neglect of children should use the online [Child Protection Guide](#) (CPG) to assist in making decisions about

where to report or refer their concerns. The online Child Protection Guide is a tool to assist professionals' decision making if concerns arise about a child who appears:

- a) to have experiences or is likely to experience significant harm AND
- b) may not have a parent willing and able to protect them from harm.

The CPG will help professionals decide to report to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (Child Safety) or refer to other service providers, to help families receive appropriate supports.

Blue Card

Queensland's Working With Children Check is administered by the Blue Card Services. All employees working or volunteering with children within Education and care services are required to hold a valid Blue Card at all times when working or volunteering with children. Education and care services are required to validate employee Blue Cards BEFORE an employee begins working with children. Education and care services are required to register the organisation details with Blue Card Services and link each new employee with the organisation at the start of employment through the Organisation Portal. Blue Card Services will advise organisations if an employee's Blue Card has been suspended/cancelled or disqualified. Blue Card Services monitors and audits service providers to ensure compliance including risk management to ensure that appropriate safeguards are implemented and maintained to protect children from harm.

Implementation

Longreach Childcare Services strongly opposes any type of abuse against a child and endorses high quality practices in relation to protecting children. We have policies and procedures in place that demonstrate our aim and willingness to keep children and young people safe in accordance to the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (the Act) and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020.

Educators have an important role to support children and young people and to identify concerns that may jeopardise their safety, welfare, or wellbeing. To ensure best practice, all educators will attend approved Child Protection training certified by a registered training organisation. Educators will continue to maintain current knowledge of child protection and Mandatory Reporter requirements by completing Child Protection Awareness Training annually.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure:

- a) any Responsible Person in day-to-day charge of the Service has successfully completed a course in child protection approved by the Regulatory Authority
- b) all educators, staff, volunteers and students Blue Card is validated unless the person meets the criteria for exemption from a Blue Card
- c) a record is kept of each Blue Card number and expiry date
- d) all employees, volunteers and students are:

1. provided with a copy of the current *Child Protection* and *Child Safe Environment Policies* as part of the induction process at the Service
 2. aware of their mandatory reporting obligations and responsibilities to report a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse; and may not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from the harm to Child Safety Services
 3. aware of indicators showing a child may be at risk of harm or significant risk of harm.
- e) training and development are provided for all educators, staff, and volunteers in child protection on an annual basis
 - f) educators are provided with a reporting procedure and professional standards to safeguard children and protect the integrity of educators, staff and volunteers
 - g) a *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy* will aim to be developed to identify potential risks of harm to children and young people
 - h) once developed, all educators and staff will be aware of their commitment to the *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy*
 - i) educators are provided with training and ongoing supervision to ensure they understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility, and they adhere to the National Principals Child Safe Organisations
 - j) access is provided to all staff regarding relevant legislations, regulations, standards and other resources to help educators, staff, and volunteers meet their obligations
 - k) records of abuse or suspected abuse are kept in line with our *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*
 - l) to notify the regulatory authority through the NQA-ITS (within 7 days) of any incident where it is reasonably believed that physical and/or sexual abuse of a child has occurred or is occurring while the child is being educated and cared for by the Service
 - m) to notify the regulatory authority through the NQA-ITS (within 7 days) of any allegation that sexual or physical abuse of a child has occurred or is occurring while the child is being educated and cared for by the Service

The Nominated Supervisor/Leadership Team/Educators will:

- a) contact the police on 000 if there is an immediate danger to a child and intervene if it is safe to do so
- b) be able to recognise indicators of abuse
- c) respect what a child discloses, taking it seriously and follow up on their concerns through the appropriate channels
- d) comprehend their obligations as mandatory reporters and their requirement to report any situation where they believe, on reasonable grounds, that a child is at risk of significant harm to the Child Safety Services:
 1. during normal business hours - contact the Regional Intake Service. See [QLD government website](#) for contact details

2. After hours and on weekends - contact the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre on 1800 177 135. The service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- e) refer families to appropriate agencies where concerns of harm do not meet the threshold of significant harm. These services may be located through Family and Child Connect at <https://familychildconnect.org.au/>. Family consent will be sought before making referrals.
- f) promote the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of children at the Service
- g) allow children to be part of decision-making processes where appropriate
- h) prepare accurate records recording exactly what happened, conversations that took place and what was observed to pass on to the relevant authorities to assist with any investigation
- i) understand that allegations of abuse or suspected abuse against them are treated in the same way as allegations of abuse against other people
- j) NOT investigate suspicion of abuse or neglect but collect only enough information to substantiate concerns and pass on to Child Safety Services or appropriate authority.

Documenting A Suspicion of Harm

If educators have concerns about the safety of a child, they will:

- a) seek guidance from the Nominated Supervisor/Director
- b) record their concerns in a non-judgmental and accurate manner as soon as possible
- c) record their own observations as well as precise details of any discussion with a parent (who may for example explain a noticeable mark on a child)
- d) not endeavour to conduct their own investigation
- e) document, using a *Child Protection Notification- Observation Record* as soon as possible so the details are accurate including:
 1. child's personal details (name, address, DOB, details of siblings)
 2. time, date and place of the suspicion
 3. full details of the suspected abuse
 4. date of report and signature

Documenting A Disclosure

A disclosure of harm emerges when someone, including a child, tells you about harm that has happened or is likely to happen. When a child discloses that he or she has been abused, it is an opportunity for an adult to provide immediate support and comfort and to assist in protecting the child from the abuse. It is also a chance to help the child connect to professional services that can keep them safe, provide support and facilitate their recovery from trauma. Disclosure is about seeking support and your response can have a great impact on the child or young person's ability to seek further help and recover from the trauma.

When Receiving A Disclosure Of Harm, The Educator Will:

- a) give the child or young person their full attention
- b) remain calm and find a private place to talk
- c) not make promises that can't be kept. For example, never promise that you will not tell anyone else
- d) honestly tell the child or young person what you plan to do next
- e) tell the child/person they have done the right thing in revealing the information but that they'll need to tell someone who can help keep the child safe
- f) only ask enough questions to confirm the need to report the matter because probing questions could cause distress, confusion and interfere with any later enquiries
- g) let the child or young person take his or her time
- h) let the child or young person use his or her own words
- i) not attempt to conduct their own investigation or mediate an outcome between the parties involved
- j) not confront the perpetrator
- k) document as soon as possible so the details are accurately captured including:
 - 1. time, date and place of the disclosure
 - 2. 'word for word' what happened and what was said, including anything they (the staff member/educator) said and any actions that have been taken
 - 3. date of report and signature.

Making A Report

Mandatory reporters must report to Child Safety a reasonable suspicion that a child has suffered, is suffering or is at unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse and may not have a parent able and willing to protect them from the harm. Mandatory reporters should still report to Child Safety a reasonable suspicion a child may be in need of protection where the harm or risk of harm relates to any other type of abuse or neglect.

Educators should refer to the Child Protection Guide to decide whether to refer a family for help or to make a report to Child Safety. To report a concern to Child Safety, educators are to complete an online report form on the Child Safety website.

When a report is made, ensure you provide the following information:

- a) the name, age and address of the child or young person
- b) the reasons you suspect the child or young person may have experienced or is at risk of experiencing harm
- c) the immediate risk to the child or young person
- d) contact details. You may remain anonymous; however, it is preferable to provide these details so that the officer can call you if further information is needed.

Confidentiality

It is important that any notification remains confidential, as it is vitally important to remember that no confirmation of any allegation can be made until the matter is investigated. The individual who makes the notification should not inform the suspected perpetrator (if known). This ensures the matter can be investigated without contamination of evidence or pre-rehearsed statements. It also minimises the risk of retaliation on the child for disclosing.

Protection for Reporters

All reporters are protected against retribution for making or proposing to make a report under amendments to the *Child Protection Act 1999* effective 31 August 2020. The identity of the reporter is protected by law from being disclosed, except in certain exceptional circumstances. Provided the report is made in good faith:

- a) The report will not breach standards of professional conduct
- b) The report cannot lead to defamation and civil and criminal liability
- c) The report is not admissible in any proceedings as evidence against the person who made the report
- d) A person cannot be compelled by a court to provide the report or disclose its contents
- e) The identity of the person making the report is protected.

A report is also an exempt document under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

Sharing of Information

Sharing information is a key part of ensuring that vulnerable children are protected and supported. The *Child Protection Act 1999* sets out the legal framework for reporting concerns about children to Child Safety and referring families to Family and Child Connect and support services, including intensive family support services. It outlines information sharing rights and responsibilities between professionals, Child Safety and services that support children and families.

Sharing concerns and information about a family with the right service enables a comprehensive assessment, informs decision making and leads to better outcomes that ensure the child's safety. Sharing information can also facilitate a coordinated multi-agency response to families with multiple or complex needs.

Where possible, you should obtain a family's consent to share information. You do not need written consent to share information. A verbal agreement or acknowledgment is sufficient. It is advisable to document the conversation for your own records.

The legislative provision that enables direct referrals without consent allows early support to be offered to the family before problems escalate and require statutory intervention. Sharing information takes precedence over a parent's right to confidentiality or privacy because the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the child is paramount.

Breach of Child Protection Policy

All educators and staff working with children have a duty of care to support and protect children. A duty of care is breached if a person:

- a) does something that a reasonable person in that person's position would not do in a particular situation
- b) fails to do something that a reasonable person in that person's position would do in the circumstances or
- c) acts or fails to act in a way that causes harm to someone the person owes a duty of care.

Managing A Breach in Child Protection Policy:

Management will investigate the breaches in a fair, unbiased and supportive manner by:

- a) discussing the breach with all people concerned and advising all parties of the process
- b) giving the educator/staff member the opportunity to provide their version of events
- c) documenting the details of the breach, including the versions of all parties
- d) recording the outcome clearly and without bias
- e) ensuring the matters in relation to the breach are kept confidential
- f) reach a decision based on discussion and consideration of all evidence.

Outcome of A Breach In Child Protection Policy:

Depending on the nature of the breach outcomes may include:

- a) emphasising the relevant element of the child protection policy and procedure
- b) providing closer supervision
- c) further education and training
- d) providing mediation between those involved in the incident (where appropriate)
- e) disciplinary procedures if required
- f) reviewing current policies and procedures and developing new policies and procedures if necessary

Educating Children About Protective Behaviour

Our program will educate children in an age-appropriate manner

- a) about acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and what is appropriate and inappropriate contact at an age-appropriate level and understanding
- b) about their right to feel safe at all times
- c) to say 'no' to anything that makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable
- d) about how to use their own knowledge and understanding to feel safe
- e) to identify feelings that they do not feel safe
- f) the difference between 'good' and 'bad' secrets

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.4 - Childcare - Safe Arrival of Children Policy

13.4 Childcare - Safe Arrival of Children Policy

Consideration of adoption of the new *Safe Arrival of Children Policy*.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. (Amended 2023)

Policy Considerations

12-01 Childcare Centre Policy

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/s: *Elissa Balke, Childcare Services Director*

Background:

Childcare Services currently use one overarching Childcare Centre Policy and several Management Directives. All Management Directives are overdue for review.

Issue:

At a recent visit by the Education Department, Council was advised that the Management Directives were not clear enough and that they would like to see the Centre using policies rather than Management Directives.

Some research was done investigating what other centres have done in situations such as opening brand new centres when they have had to start from scratch with their policies. A company, Childcare Centre Desktop, was identified as a common theme. Their aim is to support childcare services in remote and regional areas, focusing on providing affordable, easy-to-access resources that save time, assist with compliance and relieve stress for Childcare Management teams. Their policies are written with reference and consideration to the legislative requirements under the National Education and Care National Law and Regulations, the National Quality Standard and approved learning frameworks.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.4 - Childcare - Safe Arrival of Children Policy

Additionally, policies are written to assist services in meeting requirements for other laws, including Family Assistance Law and Child Protection and child wellbeing legislation.

All Policies are first in draft format so that they can be easily amended to match the service's culture, style and state by state specifications. Childcare Centre Desktop reviews and updates their policy drafts annually or when regulation changes are applied. The service is required to thoroughly read and amend each policy so that each document is aligned to our services and Council's unique context and operation. All childcare centre staff will be involved in the amendment of each policy before it is taken to Council. Parents will then be informed of the new policies as they are adopted and from then on, will also be involved in the review of these policies.

Given that this would be an extremely lengthy process changing every single Management Directive over to Policies, the plan is to aim for a 14-month policy project timeframe so that by the end of 2024, all policies will be live documents. Doing so over a period of time will allow ELT/Councillors to review and approve several policies at a time at each Council meeting between now and December 2024. The most important policies will be first and the others will follow in order of importance.

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 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:	Catastrophic
Rating:	High (19/25)

Council is committed to good governance and has a minimal risk appetite for significant breaches of our legal obligations. It is extremely important that the Safe Arrival of Children Policy is current.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.4 - Childcare - Safe Arrival of Children Policy

Other Comments:

A detailed review of the policy has been undertaken to ensure it aligns with current business practices.

A copy of the new policies is attached for consideration.

Appendices

1. Safe Arrival of Children Policy ↓

Recommendations:

That Council adopts the new Safe Arrival of Children Policy No. 12.6, as presented.

Safe Arrival of Children Policy		 <p style="margin: 0;">Longreach Regional Council</p> <small>Ilbrade kinfed Longgort Yerak</small>
Policy Number:	12.6	
Policy Category:	Childcare Centre	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:	November 2024	

PURPOSE

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, Education and Care Services must have policies and procedures in place for the safe arrival of children who travel to or from an education and care service premises. This includes children traveling between our service and an educational facility such as a school which provides education and care to children.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor and visitors of the Service.

LEGISLATION

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. (Amended 2023)

DEFINITIONS

Department of Education - Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) – Regulatory Authority responsible for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in their jurisdiction in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the National Quality Standard.

Educator – early childhood or school age practitioner who works directly with children in early childhood or school age care settings.

National Quality Framework (NQF) – provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services across Australia.

National Quality Standard (NQS) – sets a high national benchmark for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services in Australia. The NQS includes seven quality areas that are important outcomes for children. Services are assessed and rated by their regulatory authority against the NQS, and given a rating for each of the 7 quality areas and an overall rating based on these results.

Parents/Guardians – a person who has parental responsibility for the child.

Staff – employee of Longreach Regional Council based at the Longreach Childcare Centre.

Nominated Supervisor – a person with responsibility for the day to day management of an approved service.

Leadership Team – an internal group of leaders within the Childcare Centre comprising of the Childcare Services Director, the Childcare Services Assistant Director and the Staff Engagement and Development Officer.

Education or early childhood service – includes a school, an education and care service (including Long Day Care and Outside School Hours Care), which provides education or care to children.

Travel between education or early childhood services - a child travelling from our Service to school or from school to our Service.

POLICY STATEMENT

Longreach Childcare Services aims to ensure the safe and secure arrival and departure of all children into our Service who may be travelling to or from another early childhood service or education facility. We are committed to identifying and minimising risks and potential hazards to ensure children are not placed at risk of harm or hazard when travelling between other educational facilities and our Service.

The safety of children enrolled at our Longreach Childcare Services is paramount. Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury. Appropriate safety measures have been implemented through our comprehensive risk assessment process to ensure supervision is adequate at all times including when children are travelling between our Service and an educational facility. We are advocates for children and have a strong commitment to child safety and establishing and maintaining a child safe environment.

POLICY

Safe Arrival of Children Specific Risk Assessment:

The Nominated Supervisor, in conjunction with educators of our Service, will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment in order to identify any potential risk/s or hazards and ensure the safe arrival and departure of children who are travelling between our Service and an educational facility.

The risk assessment will be reviewed at least annually or after being aware of an incident or circumstance where the health, safety or wellbeing of children may be compromised. All risk assessments will be regularly assessed and evaluated as to facilitate continuous improvement in our service. If a risk concerning a child's travel is identified during the risk assessment, the Nominated Supervisor must update the *Safe Arrival of Children Policy* and procedure as soon as possible. The risk assessment must be stored safely and securely and kept for a period of 3 years.

Our risk assessment will consider and include the following information:

- a) the age, developmental stages and individual needs of children
- b) the roles and responsibilities of;
 - 1) the nominated supervisor of each service (where applicable)
 - 2) the child's parents/family member
 - 3) an authorised nominee listed on the child's enrolment form
 - 4) a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee listed on the child's enrolment form (if applicable)
 - 5) the role and responsibilities of the service the care of which the child is entering or leaving
- c) communication arrangements made between the service the child is leaving from, and the service the child is entering, including arrangements if the child is missing or unaccounted for
- d) procedures to be followed if a child is missing or unaccounted for during travel between services
- e) educator to child ratios required for adequate supervision during travel between services
- f) the proposed route and destination, including proximity to harm and hazards
- g) the process for entering and exiting the service premises and the pickup location or destination (as required)
- h) procedures to be followed to ensure children only leave the service in accordance with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee listed on the child's enrolment form.

The Nominated Supervisor/Leadership Team Will:

- a) ensure that obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- b) take reasonable steps to ensure all staff, educators, visitors, families, children follow this policy and related procedure
- c) ensure all staff and educators are inducted in the *Safe Arrival of Children Policy* and procedure
- d) ensure copies of the policy and procedures are readily available and accessible to educators, staff and families
- e) clearly communicate any updates to policies and procedures to educators
- f) develop a *Safe Arrival of Children Procedure* to clearly outline roles, responsibilities and obligations for educators, families and the educational facility when children are travelling between services
- g) conduct a risk assessment to identify any risks or hazards that may pose a risk to children's health, safety or wellbeing as they travel between our service and an educational facility
- h) consult with staff, educators, families and children (where applicable) during the preparation of a risk assessment
- i) consult with the educational facility during the preparation of a risk assessment

- j) review the risk assessment annually or after being aware of an incident or circumstance where the health, safety or wellbeing of children may be compromised
- k) notify families at least 14 days in advance of any changes to policy or procedures - as per regulations
- l) provide induction training to new educators and staff of this policy and related procedure
- m) provide ongoing training and information to nominated supervisors and educators to ensure they can fulfil their roles and provide a child safe environment for all children and young people
- n) develop open communication channels and strategies between families, our service, educators and the educational facility
- o) request families complete a *Safe Travel Agreement Form* prior to children travelling between our service and educational facility
- p) advise families to inform our service of any change in attendance or routine that may affect the child's safe arrival or departure as soon as they are aware
- q) ensure the *Administration of First Aid Policy* and *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy* is implemented in the event of a serious incident, injury, trauma or medical emergency, including contacting emergency services and notifying parents/guardians as required
- r) ensure the service keeps accurate attendance records recording the following:
 - 1) the time and date children arrive or depart the service
 - 2) the signature of the person who has collected or delivered the child to our service or the signature of the Nominated Supervisor or educator in accordance with the *Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy*

The Leadership Team/Educators Will:

- a) implement a risk assessment to identify and manage any risks or hazards that may pose a risk to children's health, safety or wellbeing as they travel between our service and an educational facility
- b) implement procedures for the safe handover of children between our Service and educational facility is documented correctly and clearly communicated with all stakeholders
- c) ensure enrolment records are kept up to date for all children, including authorisations from families
- d) ensure accurate attendance records are kept up to date recording the following:
 - 1) the time and date children arrive or depart our service
 - 2) the signature of the person who has collected or delivered the child to our service or the signature of the Nominated Supervisor or educator in accordance with the *Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy*
- e) cross check children's attendance against an accurate attendance record showing when children are within the care of the service
- f) follow the *Safe Transportation Policy* at all times to ensure regulations are met when children embark and disembark from vehicles during travel between our service and educational facilities

- g) implement the *Administration of First Aid Policy and Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy* in the event of a serious incident, injury, trauma or medical emergency, including contacting emergency services and notifying parents/guardians as required
- h) ensure that when leaving our service, children are given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment form or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee; or given into the care of a person in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee
- i) discuss safe travel strategies with children prior to children travelling between our service and the educational facility to ensure children are supported to feel safe and act responsibly
- j) ensure families complete a *Safe Travel Agreement Form* prior to children travelling between our service and an educational facility
- k) communicate any changes to travel routine to family members, educators and the nominated supervisor

Families Will:

- a) adhere to the Service's *Delivery of children to and from ECEC Service Policy and Safe Arrival of Children Policy*
- b) communicate any changes in routine and activities that may affect the child's safe arrival or departure as soon as they are aware
- c) notify the Service if their child is going to be absent on a particular day or session
- d) provide emergency contact details and phone numbers upon enrolment and update emergency contact details and phone numbers regularly (as required)
- e) complete a *Safe Travel Agreement Form* detailing circumstances where children will travel between our service and an educational facility.

Missing or Unaccounted Child:

Our Service has developed clear procedures to follow in case of a missing or unaccounted child who is deemed missing whilst travelling to or from our Service from an educational facility. Parents must advise Service staff as early as possible of any changes to the child's routine or activity.

If the child does not arrive at our Service at the predetermined time the nominated supervisor/responsible person or educators will:

- a) check the *Safe Travel Agreement Form* and any communication from the family if the child does not arrive at our service at the pre-determined time.
- b) follow the *Missing Child During Transportation Procedure*

If the child does not arrive at the educational facility at the predetermined time, our service will:

- a) assist the educational facility to provide details when the child left our service.
- b) follow the *Missing Child During Transportation Procedure*

Our Service will notify the regulatory authority within 24 hours of becoming aware of a serious incident, including if a child is missing or unaccounted for when travelling between our Service and an educational facility.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Safe Arrival of Children Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

CHILDCARE CENTRE DESKTOP- RELATED RESOURCES

Safe Arrival of Children Procedure Safe Arrival of Children Risk Assessment	Safe Travel Agreement Form Missing Child During Transportation Procedure
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REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Elissa Balke	Childcare Services Director	01.11.2023
POLICY REVIEWED	NOVEMBER 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	NOVEMBER 2024

Authorised by resolution as at <insert date>:

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.5 - Childcare - Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy

13.5 Childcare - Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy

Consideration of adoption of the new *Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy* for Childcare Services.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. (Amended 2023)

Policy Considerations

12-01 Childcare Centre Policy

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/s: *Elissa Balke, Childcare Services Director*

Background:

Childcare Services currently use one overarching Childcare Centre Policy and several Management Directives. All Management Directives are overdue for review.

Issue:

At a recent visit by the Education Department, Council was advised that the Management Directives were not clear enough and that they would like to see the Centre using policies rather than Management Directives.

Some research was done investigating what other centres have done in situations such as opening brand new centres when they have had to start from scratch with their policies. A company, Childcare Centre Desktop, was identified as a common theme. Their aim is to support childcare services in remote and regional areas, focusing on providing affordable, easy-to-access resources that save time, assist with compliance and relieve stress for Childcare Management teams. Their policies are written with reference and consideration to the legislative requirements under the National Education and Care National Law and Regulations, the National Quality Standard and approved learning frameworks.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.5 - Childcare - Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy

Additionally, policies are written to assist services in meeting requirements for other laws, including Family Assistance Law and Child Protection and child wellbeing legislation.

All Policies are first in draft format so that they can be easily amended to match the service's culture, style and state by state specifications. Childcare Centre Desktop reviews and updates their policy drafts annually or when regulation changes are applied. The service is required to thoroughly read and amend each policy so that each document is aligned to our services and Council's unique context and operation. All childcare centre staff will be involved in the amendment of each policy before it is taken to Council. Parents will then be informed of the new policies as they are adopted and from then on, will also be involved in the review of these policies.

Given that this would be an extremely lengthy process changing every single Management Directive over to Policies, the plan is to aim for a 14-month policy project timeframe so that by the end of 2024, all policies will be live documents. Doing so over a period of time will allow ELT/Councillors to review and approve several policies at a time at each Council meeting between now and December 2024. The most important policies will be first and the others will follow in order of importance.

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 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: Catastrophic
Rating: High (19/25)

Council is committed to good governance and has a minimal risk appetite for significant breaches of our legal obligations. It is extremely important that the *Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy* is current.

Environmental Management Factors:

Nil

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.5 - Childcare - Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy

Other Comments:

A detailed review of the policy has been undertaken to ensure it aligns with current business practices.


A copy of the new policy is attached for consideration.

Appendices

1. Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy [↓](#)

Recommendations:

That Council adopts the new Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy No. 12.4, as presented.

Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy		 <p>Longreach Regional Council Ilkarrakirri Kirrikirri Longgerrri Yarrak</p>
Policy Number:	12.4	
Policy Category:	Childcare Centre	
Authorised by:		
Date approved:		
Review Date:	November 2024	

PURPOSE

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place for the delivery of children to, and collection from, service premises and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies are followed.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor and visitors of the Service.

LEGISLATION

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. (Amended 2023)

DEFINITIONS

Department of Education - Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) – Regulatory Authority responsible for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in their jurisdiction in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the National Quality Standard.

Educator – early childhood or school age practitioner who works directly with children in early childhood or school age care settings.

National Quality Framework (NQF) – provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services across Australia.

National Quality Standard (NQS) – sets a high national benchmark for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services in Australia. The NQS includes seven quality areas that are important outcomes for children. Services are assessed and rated by their regulatory authority against the NQS, and given a rating for each of the 7 quality areas and an overall rating based on these results.

Parents/Guardians – a person who has parental responsibility for the child.

Staff – employee of Longreach Regional Council based at the Longreach Childcare Centre.

Nominated Supervisor – a person with responsibility for the day to day management of an approved service.

Leadership Team – an internal group of leaders within the Childcare Centre comprising of the Childcare Services Director, the Childcare Services Assistant Director and the Staff Engagement and Development Officer.

Excursion – an outing organised by an education and care service

Regular outing – in relation to an education and care service, means a walk, drive or trip to and from a destination

- (a) that the service visits regularly as part of its educational program; and
- (b) where the circumstances relevant to the risk assessment are *substantially* the same on each outing

Regular transportation – in relation to an education and care service, means the transportation by the service or arranged by the service (other than as part of an excursion) of a child being educated and cared for by the service, where the circumstances relevant to a risk assessment are the same for each occasion on which the child is transported.

Transportation (that is part of the education and care service) – transportation forms part of an education and care service if the service remains responsible for children during the period of transportation. The responsibility for, and duty of care owed to, children applied in scenarios where services are transporting children, or have arranged for the transportation of children, including between an education and care service premises and another location, for example their home, school or a place of excursion.

National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) – the online administrative system for the implementation of the NQF. The NQAITS allows providers and nominated service leaders to submit online applications and notifications under the National Quality Framework.

ECEC Service – an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service that provides long day care generally for children aged 6 weeks to school age.

POLICY

To ensure the health and safety of children at Longreach Childcare Services, our *Delivery of children to and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy* is strictly adhered to, allowing only nominated authorised persons to collect children at any time throughout the day. The daily sign in and out register is not only a legally required document to record children's attendance as per National Law and Regulations but also used as a record of the children on the premises should an emergency evacuation be required to be implemented. Guidelines for delivery and collection of children are put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each individual child.

Arrival and departure times are planned to promote a smooth transition between home and our Service. The opportunity to build secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships between children and families is promoted during arrival and departure times where educators have the opportunity to engage in conversations with families and support each child's well-being.

Arrival at Service

Longreach Childcare Services has an obligation to ensure the health and safety of employees, children and visitors in our workplace, so far as reasonably practicable. Our Service has implemented the following measures:

- a) all children need to be signed in by an authorised person. Note: the signing in of a child is verification of the accuracy of the attendance record. Information required on the register includes the child's name, the date and time they arrive and the signature of the person dropping off the child
- b) the parent/authorised nominee must also advise staff who will be collecting the child/children
- c) families will be reminded to sign their child/children into the Service and will be encouraged to do so immediately upon arrival to avoid forgetting
- d) should families forget to sign their child/children in, National Regulations require the Nominated Supervisor or educator to sign the child in
- e) sign in sheets/attendance records are to be used as a record in the case of an emergency to account for all children present at the Service
- f) children are to be sighted by an educator before the parent or person responsible for the child leaves. This ensures that the educator is aware that the child has arrived and is in the building
- g) a child's medication needs, or any other important or relevant information should be passed on to one of the child's educators by the person delivering the child
- h) the educator will check that the family has completed a *Medication Record* and store the medication appropriately, away from children's reach
- i) in order for children to feel secure and safe, it is important that children and families are greeted upon arrival by a member of staff and have the chance to say goodbye to the person dropping them off. Saying goodbye helps to build trust, while parents/guardians leaving without saying goodbye could cause the child to think they have been left behind.
- j) a locker will be made available to children and their families.
- k) in the case of a separated family, either biological parent is able to add a contact in writing unless a court order is provided to the Director stating that one parent has sole custody and responsibility.

Departure from the Service

- a) Children may only leave the Service premises if the child leaves:
 - 1) in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the enrolment record; or

- 2) taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee; or
 - 3) given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises; or
 - 4) because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment; or
 - 5) because of another emergency (evacuation due to bush fire, flood, severe storm)
- b) in the case of an emergency, (because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment), where the parent or a previously authorised nominee (as indicated in the child's enrolment form) is unable to collect the child, the parent or person responsible for the child (as listed on enrolment form as having a parenting role) may telephone the service and arrange an alternative person to pick up the child. This contact must then be confirmed in writing to the Service (email, text or letter)
 - c) parents/guardians are to advise their child's educator if someone different is picking up their child, both verbally and on the sign in/out sheet. This person is to be named on the enrolment form or added in writing to management as an authorised nominee or authorised person for the child.
 - d) photo identification must be sighted by a staff member before the child is released. If educators cannot verify the person's identity, they may be unable to release the child into that person's care, even if the person is named on the enrolment form
 - e) all children must be signed out by their parent (or a person authorised by the parent) when the child is collected from our Service including each child's name, date and time they depart. If the parent or other person forgets to sign the child out, they will be signed out by the Nominated Supervisor or educator.
 - f) tablets used to sign children out of the service should be disinfected daily
 - g) parents/guardians or authorised person are requested to arrive to collect their child/children by 5:30pm.
 - h) no child will be withheld from an authorised contact or biological parent named on the enrolment form unless a current court order is on file at the Service
 - i) in the case of a particular person (including a biological parent) being denied access to a child, the service requires a written notice (court order) from a court of law.
 - 1) educators will attempt to prevent that person from entering the service and taking the child however, the safety of other children and educators must be considered.
 - 2) educators will not be expected to physically prevent any person from leaving the service
 - 3) in such cases, the parent with custody will be contacted along with the local police and appropriate authorities
 - 4) where possible the educator will provide police with the make, colour, and registration number of the vehicle being driven by the unauthorised person, and the direction of travel when they left the service.

- 5) a court order overrules any requests made by parents to adapt or make changes. For the protection of the children and educators, family members are asked not to give their individual pin to anyone. Authorised pickup/ drop of contacts will receive their own individual pin.
- j) in the case of a serious incident occurring, as described above, the regulatory authority must be notified within 24 hours through the NQAITS
- k) Nominated Supervisor will ensure that the authorised nominee pick-up list for each child is kept up to date. It is our policy that we do not allow anyone under the age of 16 to collect children
- l) if the person collecting the child appears to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, and educators feel that the person is unfit to take responsibility for the child, educators will:
 - 1) discuss their concerns with the person, without the child being present if possible, and
 - 2) suggest they contact another parent or authorised nominee to collect the child
 - 3) follow procedures to protect the safety of children and staff of the education and care service as per Child Protection Law and Child Protection Policy
 - 4) contact the Police and other regulatory authorities (Child Protection Hotline 132 111)
 - 5) if an authorisation to collect a child is refused by the Service, it is best practice to document the actions for evidence to authorities (refer to *Refusal of Authorisation Register*).
- m) at the end of each day educators will check indoor and outdoor premises including all rooms and storage rooms, beds and cots, and storage sheds to ensure that no child remains on the premises after the service closes
- n) children may leave the premises in the event of an emergency, including medical emergencies as outlined in our *Emergency Evacuation Policy*
- o) details of absences during the day will be recorded.

Late Collection of Children

- a) if there are children still present at the Service upon closing, at least two educators will remain until all children are collected.
- b) instruction to parents; *"Please remember that our educators have families to go home to and their own children to collect by a designated time. If you are late to collect your child two educators have to stay behind and therefore both have to be paid overtime. To cover this, a late fee of \$20 per 15 minutes or part thereof will be charged (e.g., if you are 5 minutes late you will be charged for a 15-minute block. If you are 20 minutes late you will be charged for a 30-minute block, etc.)"*.
- c) if parents/guardians know that they are going to be late, they must notify the Service. If possible, they should make arrangements for someone else to collect their child.
- d) if they have not arrived by 5:30pm the service will attempt to contact them via phone. If parents/authorised persons are unable to be contacted an educator will

call alternative contacts as listed on the enrolment form to organise collection of the child.

- e) due to licensing and insurance purposes, if by 5:30pm neither the parent or any of the authorised nominee are available or contactable, the Service may need to contact the police and other relevant authorities
- f) if the child is taken to an alternative safe location for example: Police Station, a sign will be displayed at the Service notifying parents/guardian of the child's whereabouts. If this occurs, the Service will be obligated to contact relevant Child Protection Agencies and notify the Regulatory Authority.
- g) where families are continually late to collect children, a *Late Collection of a Child letter* will be presented to parents/guardians
- h) should this non-compliance continue, the service reserves the right to terminate a child's enrolment.

Visitors

- a) to ensure we meet Work Health and Safety requirements and ensure a child safe environment, individuals visiting our Service must sign in when they arrive at the service and sign out when they leave

The Nominated Supervisor/Designated Educator/ Designated Driver/ Educators Will Ensure:

- a) adequate supervision is provided when children arrive and depart the service premises
- b) relevant educator to child ratios are adhered to at all times
- c) accurate attendance records are kept
- d) children only leave the education and care premises in the care of a parent /guardian or authorised person or in accordance with written authorization as per Regulation 99
- e) enrolment records are kept for each child enrolled in the Service including the name, address and contact details of
 - 1) any emergency contacts
 - 2) any authorised nominee
 - 3) any person authorised to consent to medical treatment or administration of medication
 - 4) any person authorised to give permission to the educator to take the child off the premises
 - 5) any person who is authorised to authorize the education and care service to transport the child or arrange transportation
 - 6) details of any court order, parenting orders or parenting plan
 - 7) authorisations for the service to take the child on regular outings
 - 8) authorisations for the service to take the child on regular transportation
 - 9) any medical management plan, anaphylaxis medical management plan or risk minimisation plan
- f) should any serious incident occur, an *Incident, Injury, Trauma or Illness Record* must

be completed according to the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and Procedure*.

- g) in the case of a serious incident occurring, the regulatory authority must be notified within 24 hours through the NQAITS
- h) all new educators and staff are provided with an induction to the Service including an understanding of this policy
- i) all educators and staff are provided with procedures and training on how they will verify the identity of an authorised nominee or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee to collect the child (including procedures of what to do when an unauthorised person attempts to collect a child).

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Delivery of Children to and from ECEC Service Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

CHILDCARE CENTRE DESKTOP- RELATED RESOURCES

Employee Induction Checklist	Transport Pick Up/Drop Off Checklist
Missing Child during Regular Transportation Procedure	Transporting Children Risk Assessment Template
Regular Transportation Authorisation	Vehicle/Bus Transportation Procedure
Safe Transportation of Children Module	Transportation Attendance Record

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Elissa Balke	Childcare Services Director	19.09.2023
POLICY REVIEWED	SEPTEMBER 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	NOVEMBER 2024

Authorised by resolution as at <insert date>:

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
13.6 - Information Report - Community Services

13.6 Information Report - Community Services

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of October for the Community Services Department.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Nil

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 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.

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Library Services

Emma Murphy from National Broadband Network (NBN) held community consultations in the library during October. Emma also closed her last session on a lighter note with interaction with local children accessing virtual reality. Tourist numbers have begun to drop but we still have occasional drop ins, many wanting a reprieve from the heat.

Library Statistics (financial year)

	Longreach		Ilfracombe		Isisford	
	OCT	YTD	OCT	YTD	OCT	YTD
Items Borrowed	541	1,867	12	100	33	126
New Members	13	41	0	2	0	0
Total Members	1582		147		73	

Funeral Services

Cemetery Details / Figures - October 2023	
Funeral Type	
Church & Grave Side Funeral	
Church Service Only	
Graveside Funeral	2
Memorial Service	
Cremation	3
Interment of Ashes - Private / Family Only	
Interment of Ashes - Graveside Service	
Plaques arranged by LRC	2
Undertaker Service Only	

Childcare Services

In early October, the service underwent an Assessment and Rating process (with 5 business days' notice of the A&R visit). This involves two days of observation by the Regulatory Officer who spent time within all of the rooms and talked to the Educators about their Educational Programs and their environments. The Leadership Team had to submit a magnitude of evidence from policies and procedures to rosters and everything in between. This was followed up by a final meeting where the Regulatory Officer asked final questions regarding the documents that had been submitted. It has been 7 years since the last rating was issued so we are looking forward to the feedback which will allow us the opportunity to make any changes necessary.

We invited our Phoenix Cups consultant back to our Service in early October to assist us with our Centre Philosophy review. With a team that has changed significantly since it was developed, as well as many changes to our Educational Program and Practice after the embedding of the Phoenix Cups Framework within our Service, we thought it was timely

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

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to create a new Philosophy that was a more accurate representation of the current Service we deliver.

Outback Futures conducted a professional development session with our Team in mid-October that was focused on staff wellbeing. This was organised a couple of months ago when our Leadership Team identified that this was an area that required attention. Staff wellbeing is a priority for council and we continue to make improvements in this space.

Our staff and children raised awareness for Day for Daniel on Friday 27 October. They did so by wearing the colour red and each of the rooms participated in age-appropriate child safety lessons using resources provided by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. We were proud to be able to be involved in such an important day.

Please see attachment for some October photos from the Childcare Centre!

Kindergarten 2024

With the announcement of free findy in 2024 by the Queensland Government, our Service has had to make some changes to the way the program will run from Jan 2024. The government will be subsidising 15hrs a week or 30hrs a fortnight of free kindy per child (school terms only). Each Service has the ability to split the 30hrs up however they wish. Currently, our Kindy Program runs every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday during school terms from 8.45-2.45pm. The children enrolled in the program are also able to be booked in for Long Daycare if their parents require this, which means they are able to attend for a full day rather than just the kindy hours, at an extra cost. As our approved Kindy Program currently runs for 6hrs a day, this equals an 18hr week or 36hr fortnight. In order to ensure we are providing a Free Kindy Service in 2024 with no out of pocket fees for parents who only want their child to be enrolled in the Kindy Program rather than Long Daycare, we need to reduce our current Kindy Program hours.

Upon reflection of the hours we run the program and discussions with our Early Childhood Teacher and Leadership Team about how this will best work, these were our options:

1. Continue to run the Kindy Program 3 days per week but reduce the hours to 5 per day (equalling 30hrs per fortnight).
2. Change our kindy days to every Thursday and Friday, and every second Wednesday and continue running the hours at 6 per day (equalling 30hrs per fortnight).

The decision was made to go with option 2 for the following reasons:

- the children will still experience the 6hr school day that will prepare them for School
- our Service will run the exact opposite kindy days to C&K, which will mean less competition between the two approved kindergarten programs in town as our kindy days will not overlap with theirs.
- There will be the potential for our Kindy Teacher to pick up one day of non-contact planning time on the day that we will no longer run the Kindy Program

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- This will only impact the families who are enrolling for kindy only. However they may choose to book their children in for the extra Wednesday at the Long Daycare if they choose to. Families enrolling for Long Daycare will not be impacted.

Horticulture and Community Facilities

New turf has been laid in several areas of the Longreach Lawn Cemetery. The Isisford Horticulture Team were busy preparing the Isisford Racecourse for the October Race Meeting. The Isisford Race Club Committee also held a working bee and the grounds looked fantastic. We are currently awaiting updated quotes from a contractor who will look to replace the septic tank system at the racecourse - hopefully this work will be started in the New Year.

Council received 1 of 2 reports from Roxanne Taylor, the Horticulture Consultant who visited Longreach last month. Ms Taylor's first report outlined some planting strategies for key areas in Longreach including the skate park, Childcare Centre, cemetery and airport entrance. The report will assist Council with our continuing green vision for the area and inform future work programs and budget requests.

The Year 1 class from Our Lady's Catholic Primary School visited Edkins Park for a lesson about playgrounds and had to identify the features included in the playground. They took photos for the playground book they will be creating.



The Longreach Town Band visited Isisford and played at the Isisford Memorial Park.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

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The following community facilities were utilised in October -

Longreach Showgrounds

- Longreach State High School Blue Edge Program
- Fire trials training
- Senior & Junior Cricket
- Junior League trophy presentation
- Longreach Rodeo, Team Penning & Gymkhana
- Defence Force camping
- Longreach School of Distance Education Softball
- Heart Bus Australia
- Camping and stabling of horses

Longreach Civic Centre

- Council's Big Day In
- Longreach School of Dance Rehearsals and High Tea & Mini Cent Sale
- Skills Insight - Ag Trade Apprenticeship Workshop

Isisford Racecourse

- Isisford Races



Isisford Hall

- Craft Days
- Dancing Classes and Dance Presentation Night – Isisford State School
- New Beginnings Church

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

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Ilfracombe Rec Centre

- Craft Days
- Australian Electoral Commission
- Social Darts Competition
- Community Builders Program – Rural Aid

During October the water tower lights were lit up for the following –

5 October World Meningitis Day – **Purple**
20-23 October The Australasian Mastocytosis Society – **Purple**
27 October Day for Daniel – **Red**

Community development

Health and Wellbeing Month

October stands for Health and Wellbeing Month. We hosted a variety of events focusing on the four pillars social, mental, physical and financial health.

Two cooking workshops in the Civic Centre kitchen saw attendees learning about different meats and how to cook the perfect curry. The attendees made their own lamb kofta, sushi and spring rolls. The evenings were full of learning, chatter and lots of laughs.

Together with other health providers in the region we hosted a stall for mental health week handing out little enamel conversation starter cups and had information on healthy lunchboxes. During the whole month everybody in the region had the chance to participate in our 'shape run' and this year we had a waddling winner, the duck! The highlight of the month saw motivational speaker Luke S. Kennedy visiting Longreach. We hosted a session for parents and teachers at the Civic Centre, and Luke spoke to all High School students as well as students grade 3 and up from Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Longreach State Primary School, Ilfracombe Primary School and Isisford School. His message about labelling, negative self-talk and mental health was inspiring as it came from the heart. His story is filled with lived experience. On a daily basis we can choose to be the best version of ourselves, to be kind to ourselves and other, and helpful even when life is tough.



(Luke S Kennedy – Primary School)

Wattsy & Friends: Asian with a twist

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.6 - Information Report - Community Services

NBN Partnership

We had a meeting with NBN Engagement Coordinator Emma Murphy to talk about our partnership and several workshops we want to deliver in the region next year in regards to cyber security.

Youth Council

Youth Council is a focus for 2024. At this stage we have a campaign running to encourage applications. We are aiming for a diverse and inclusive youth council and are encouraging everybody to nominate.

You only need to fulfil the following criteria:

- You must be between 14 – 25 years' old
- You must live in the Longreach Region
- You must be keen to be a voice for our youth and create change

The youth council will kick-off with a 2-day youth retreat on the 17th/18th February 2024. For more information and to nominate visit longreach.qld.gov.au.

Community Builders Program

A program run by Rural Aid and Bank of I.D.E.A.S sees 6 different small communities meet once in each community (Ilfracombe, Jericho, Aramac, Clermont, Blackall and Barcaldine) over the next 6 months with a different focus for each meeting day. The meeting in Clermont on the 30/10/2023 was all about tourism and how a small town can market itself. The owners of Paronella Park told their story about how they turned an abandoned ruin into one of the biggest tourist attractions in Australia. With each workshop the community will gain new insight, skills and ideas what to do in their own town. Another focus is connecting with other towns and improving or implementing new partnerships.

Australia Day

To deliver an outstanding event in each of our communities, this month we have applied for two grants for Australia Day and put in an expression of interest to host Ambassadors. We already know one of the applications has been successful and we are just waiting to hear back from Great Australian Bites.

Upcoming Events longreach.qld.gov.au/events:

- Christmas activities:
 - A not-so-silent Night Community Concert on Thursday 30 November at 6pm in Edkins Park
 - Christmas Lights Competition
 - Christmas in a jar Competition
- Australia Day

Project Management

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

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Executive House Construction

Council's new executive house is now complete. The majority of the new build has been proudly completed by locals of various trades, contributing to the local economy.

- Built by locals – supporting local employment
- Putting money into the economy
- Add new housing into Longreach, rather than taking one off the market



Ilfracombe Multi-purpose court:

Phase 1 of the new multi-purpose court has now commenced. The drainage diversion and foundation pad are included in this stage in preparation for the concrete slab instalment.

- Using council expertise/resources for this component of the project
- Made for the community
- Water diversion designed to keep our infrastructure protected



13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.6 - Information Report - Community Services

Powerhouse Museum Centenary Garden Beautification:

Our proud new garden is now finished and we were honoured to have the Governor General - His Excellency General, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) - and Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley, officially open the community garden on the 1st November. Council staff and local contractors put a lot of time and effort into ensuring this project was completed in time and we are very proud of the result.

- Increased green space
- Display of cultural and historical heritage
- Accessible sensory garden for all visitors



Further information on progress on the following projects can be found in the attached Project Dashboards for:

- Summary of all Projects
- Longreach Squash Court Upgrade
- Ilfracombe Multi-Purpose Court
- Executive House
- Apex Park Beautification
- Eagle and Swan Street Beautification

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
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After Hours Message Centre October 2023

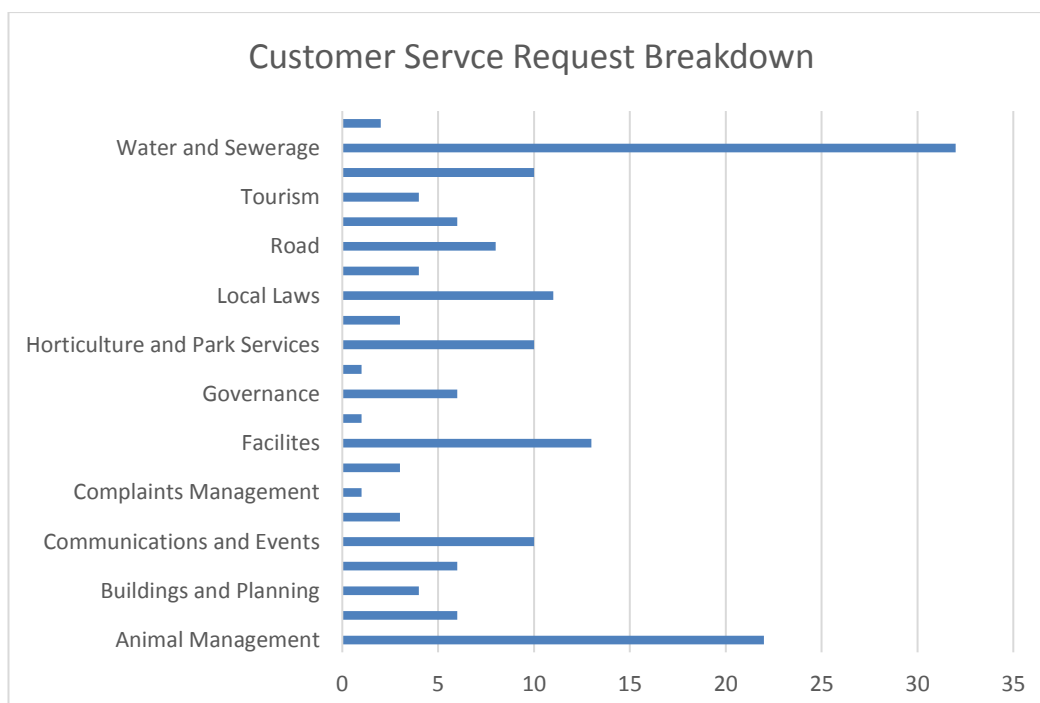
Incoming Calls Received	No. of Hang Ups	Total
41	89	130

During the month of October 2023 there were 41 after hours' calls received. The calls were related into the follow sections of Council:

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CALLS
Water and Sewerage	8
Waste	1
Local Laws/Animal Management	9
Facilities	5
Funeral/ Undertaker Services	2
Tourism/VIC	5
Parks and Gardens	1
Roads	0
Other / Events	10

Customer Service Requests

A total of **166 Customer Service Requests** were received for the month of October 2023. Of these requests **121** were **completed**. Table below tables outlines the Customer Service Request by category.



The following Customer Service Requests present in the system as **outstanding, in progress** or **responded to** as at 31 October 2023.

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OUTSTANDING	IN PROGRESS	RESPONDED TO	TOTAL
33	12	0	45

Tourism Update

We have had a few visitors brave enough to handle the hotter weather enjoying the attractions and region. The summer season means that the Explore Centre will no longer be open on weekends and the Powerhouse & Historical Museum will be reducing hours next month. The development of the 2024 Longreach Region Visitor Guide will be the focus in the coming weeks as well as updating and creating new signage.

A calendar of events (more of a "what is there to do" for our visitors) has been added to the www.longreachregion.com.au website. For example, Rotary meetings or visiting bands at the hotels, small markets etc. Michelle attended the 2023 QICA (Queensland Information Centre Association) Conference, where all Qld Visitor Information Centre staff meet and learn about the latest and greatest in providing/attracting and accommodating needs of our visitors. The Outback Region was poorly represented at this conference with only Longreach and Emerald in attendance.

There were three stand out achievements by the Longreach Explore Team this month and we are very proud of these projects:

1. Longreach Region Explore centre were chosen in the first 10 Explore Centres in the state to have our centre accessible through the Explore Centre App. Time has been spent writing scripts and recording audio guides of our region and centre to make us accessible to all visitors with all abilities. This will be launched on Friday 10th November through the Australian Visitor Centres App.
2. Facilitating the purchase and handover of original art pieces and their stories created by local Indigenous Artist Karen Monaghan to Council. The art work will be incorporated into various Council publications at a later date. The story behind each painting will be explored in future council reports.
3. The completion of the Centenary Sensory garden (including other members of the Communities team) celebrating the Powerhouse Museum, Longreach Swimming baths and the Longreach Ambulance Station (Arts and Crafts centre) – see attached photos in the Projects report.

Karen Monahan original paintings



"Follow the Paya-Paya (Birds) for Kutha (water)"

Acrylic on Canvas, 2023

Artist – Karen Monaghan

Karen grew up in Windorah, and is a traditional descendant of the Wangkangurru Yarluyandi. She is the daughter of Maud and Spinny Monaghan, partner to Kelly and mother of Amber, Venessa and Tom.

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Ngurru (Strong) Longreach

Acrylic on Canvas, 2023

Artist – Karen Monaghan

Karen grew up in Windorah, and is a traditional descendant of the Wangkangurru Yarluyandi. She is the daughter of Maud and Spinny Monaghan, partner to Kelly and mother of Amber, Venessa and Tom.

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“Iningai (Longreach) Dreaming”

Acrylic on Canvas, 2023

Artist – Karen Monaghan

Karen grew up in Windorah, and is a traditional descendant of the Wangkangurru Yarluyandi. She is the daughter of Maud and Spinny Monaghan, partner to Kelly and mother of Amber, Venessa and Tom.

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT
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Aug 2023	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	2023/2024 YTD	2022/2023 total
3492	2499	1097	12492	22866

Bookings made by information centre staff on behalf of Operators for the month of October were to the value of \$17 152.00.

Information Requests 2023-2024	October 2023	2023 -2024 YTD
Phone calls	28	470
Emails	24	228
General Information over the Counter	956	10823
Information packs posted	9	108
Phone Bookings	2	44
Over the Counter Bookings	141	1701

Longreach Powerhouse and Historical Museum Statistics (financial year) 2023-2024:

Aug 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2023	2023/2024 YTD	2022/2023 total
887	697	262	3036	4205

Longreach Regional Council Approved Camping Areas (financial year) 2023-2024:

Location	Oct 2023 Vans	2023 -2024 YTD Vans
Apex Park	193	4487
Emergency Camping Passes	0	80
Barcoo Weir/Oma Waterhole	10	1856
Isisford Emergency Passes	0	82
Yaraka	N/A	317

13. COMMUNITIES REPORT

13.6 - Information Report - Community Services

Strategy and planning

The Communities team are also working on a number of other initiatives and projects such as:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Walking Network Plan (grant funded)
- Destination Management Plan (with Governance team)
- Local Resilience Action Plan (with Governance team)
- Tree and Greening project
- Community Engagement Policy
- Development of a Customer Experience Strategy
- Finalisation of facility concept plans
- Talk Tourism meetings
- Recreational planning for future grant applications

Some of the work will be done in-house and specialist advice will be brought in where required. Updates will be provided in future council reports.

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

Appendices

1. [23.24 Projects Dashboard](#) ↓
2. [2023_24 Projects](#) ↓
3. [Childcare Photos from October](#) ↓

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Community Services information report, as presented.



Project: Longreach Squash Court Upgrade		Status	Design	6/11/23
Purpose:	Construct a new clubhouse area onto the existing facility and resurface squash courts walls. This will ensure safe and cost-effective operation of the site, accommodate additional community level activities, increase participation and improve the quality of the participant experience.	Recent Deliverables	Design and specifications drafted and now being finalised by Architect. One workshop for Project Manager has been completed.	Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period
Project Team:	Executive Sponsor: Karyn Stillwell Department Sponsor: Debbie Hall Project Manager: Joel Perry		Liaison with potential builders constantly being undertaken.	RFT to be undertaken
Funding Source:	Total current project budget is \$365,214, comprised of \$328,692 from the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (Minor Infrastructure Program) and a further \$36,522 commitment from Council.		Provide project update to Department Sponsor.	Provide project update to Department Sponsor.
Key Stakeholders:	Longreach residents and ratepayers, Longreach Regional Council and Longreach Squash.			
Budget <p>Project Budget</p> <p>Total spend to date</p> <p>■ Total spend to date ■ Council Funding ■ Minor Infrastructure Program</p>		Risks	Previous status	Current status
		Overall		Main focus on confirming scope and scheduling delivery timeframe for minimal disruption to squash playing seasons.
		Time		Work aimed to start early/mid 2024 which will disrupt playing season. RFT taking longer than expected with aim to keep it clear for builders.
		Budget		Finalising the design/scope currently in progress to limit budget overrun risk
		Scope		Currently finalising specifications and design with Architect.
		Communication		General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.



<p>Project: Ifracombe Multi-Purpose Court</p>		<p>Status</p>	<p>Procurement</p>	<p>6/11/23</p>
<p>Purpose: Construct a new multi-purpose court in Ifracombe next to the rec centre. Allow the existing rec centre facilities to be utilised more as the area becomes the sporting hub of Ifracombe.</p>		<p>Recent Deliverables</p>		
<p>Project Team: Executive Sponsor: Karyn Stillwell Project Manager: Joel Perry</p>		<p>RQT's for shade structure, surfacing, fencing and sporting accessories underway.</p>		
<p>Funding Source: Total current project budget is \$500,000, comprised of \$450,000 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program and a further \$50,000 commitment from Council.</p>		<p>Foundation and footing designs are requested in the RQT.</p>		
<p>Key Stakeholders: Ifracombe residents and ratepayers, Longreach Regional Council, Ifracombe District & Progress Association (LDPA) and Sport and Rec</p>		<p>Foundations and drainage diversion has commenced.</p>		
<p>Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period</p>		<p>Review of RQT's to be undertaken. This includes the foundation and footing designs to ensure they are engineered certified.</p>		

Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description
Overall	Green	Green	Main focus on confirming scope and scheduling delivery timeframe.
Time	Green	Green	No risk of delays identified to date to take project past 23/24 financial year.
Budget	Green	Yellow	Engineered certified structure is expected to go over the original budget. Scope being discussed to determine the total amount.
Scope	Green	Green	Scope being reviewed to reevaluate costings.
Communication	Green	Green	General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.

Budget

Category	Amount
Total spend to date	~\$100,000
Council Funding	~\$100,000
Minor Infrastructure Program	~\$450,000
Total	\$550,000

Timeline



Project: Executive House		Status	Complete	6/11/23							
Purpose:	Construct a new 4 bedroom home in Longreach for Executive staff of Longreach Regional Council. Construction to be completed by a local builder to provide jobs to local residents.	Recent Deliverables		Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period							
Project Team:	Executive Sponsor: Karyn Stillwell Project Manager: Joel Perry Builder: Kent Construction	Project complete		Final invoices to process.							
Funding Source:	Total project budget is \$850,000, committed from Council.										
Key Stakeholders:	Longreach Regional Council.										
Budget <table border="1"> <caption>Budget Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total spend to date</td> <td>\$850,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project Budget</td> <td>\$800,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Amount	Total spend to date	\$850,000	Project Budget	\$800,000	Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description
Category	Amount										
Total spend to date	\$850,000										
Project Budget	\$800,000										
Overall				No major risks have occurred.							
Time				Contract reached conclusion on 3rd November. A delay of 3 days.							
Budget				Project to be 1% over budget due to late inclusion of water tank and pump to assist irrigation.							
Scope				No major change of scope has occurred.							
Communication				Constant communications between builder and Project Manager to ensure time frames and scope are met.							



Project: Apex Park Beautification

Status: Procurement

6/11/23

Recent Deliverables	Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period
Project approved under Round 1 of the Minor Infrastructure Program from the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport.	Water tower removal to be completed
RFQ for fence upgrade completed.	Shade structures to arrive.
RFQ for bar benches and privacy screen in progress.	Fence to be upgraded.

Purpose: Remove old water tower; upgrade fence; install bar bench and install shade structures.

Project Team: Executive Sponsor: Karyn Stillwell
Project Manager: Joel Perry

Funding Source: Total current project budget is \$85,000, comprised of \$54,000 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program and a further \$31,000 commitment from Council.

Key Stakeholders: Longreach residents and ratepayers and Longreach Regional Council.

Budget

Category	Amount
Total spend to date (Council Funding)	\$40,000
Minor Infrastructure Program	\$80,000
Total spend to date (Minor Infrastructure Program)	\$120,000

Risks

Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description
Overall			Main focus on scheduling delivery timeframe.
Time			No risk of delays identified to date. Work to commence now tourism season is at a end.
Budget			Nil risk.
Scope			Nil risk.
Communication			General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.

Project Timeline

Phase	Start Date	End Date
Planning	Mar-23	Aug-23
Procurement	Sep-23	Oct-23
Project completion	Nov-23	Jul-24



Project: Eagle and Swan Street Beautification

Purpose: To improve the streetscape area around the Swan Street toilet block.

Project Team: Executive Sponsor: Karyn Stillwell
Project Manager: Joel Perry

Funding Source: Total current project budget is \$200,000, comprised of \$180,000 from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program and a further \$20,000 commitment from Council.

Key Stakeholders: Longreach residents and ratepayers and Longreach Regional Council.

Status

6/11/23

Planning

Recent Deliverables

Project approved under Round 1 of the Minor Infrastructure Program from the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport.

Engineering Certification for shade structure identified and will be used to fabricate new structure.

It has been established that the shade structure can have materials fabricated locally and installed by local contractors.

Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period

Further internal discussions around the infrastructure impact of affected road.

Finalise the scope of work.

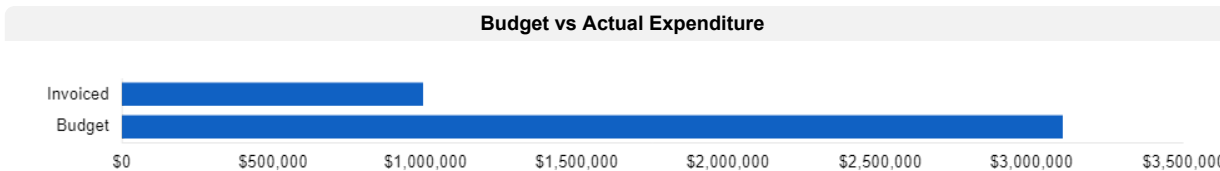
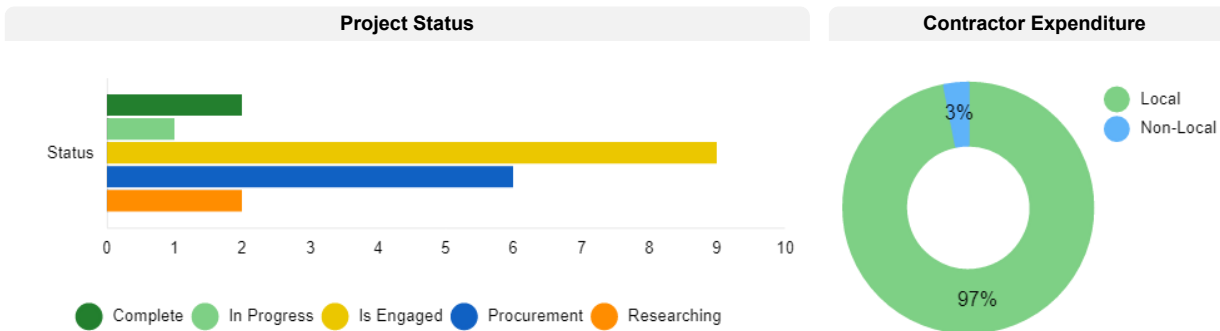
Budget

Category	Amount
Total spend to date	\$20,000
Council Funding	\$10,000
Minor Infrastructure Program	\$10,000

Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description
Overall	Green	Green	Main focus on confirming scope and scheduling delivery timeframe.
Time	Green	Green	No risk of delays identified to date.
Budget	Green	Green	Finalising the design/scope currently in progress to limit budget overrun risk.
Scope	Green	Green	Currently finalising scope with engagements with community to be completed.
Communication	Green	Green	General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.

13.6 - Information Report - Community Services --Appendix 2

23.24 Project Status - Council			
Project	Description	Status	Funded By
Eagle Street Beautification - 22/23		Complete	LRCI
Powerhouse Museum Centenary Garden Beautification		Complete	LRCI
Executive House Construction	Contract completed. Processing final invoices.	In Progress	LRC
Longreach Administration Building Air Con Replacement	Contractor engaged and materials being ordered.	Is Engaged	LRC
Showground Electrical conduits	Work scheduled for end of November.	Is Engaged	LRC
Longreach SES New Flood Boat Shed	Concrete slab completed. Shed install in November.	Is Engaged	LRC SES
Longreach Beersheeba Place - Shade Structure	Materials have arrived. Installation to occur in January.	Is Engaged	LRCI
Isisford OBIC Rat Wall	Worked scheduled to commence mid November 2023.	Is Engaged	LRCI
Longreach Apex Park fence upgrades	Work scheduled in November.	Is Engaged	LRC
Longreach Apex Park old tower disposal	Power turned off. Worked scheduled for November.	Is Engaged	LRC
Longreach VIC painting	Painting scheduled for April 2024.	Is Engaged	LRC
Longreach Bar and Canteen upgrade	Various work being undertaken through multiple contractors.	Is Engaged	LRC
Ilfracombe Multi-purpose court	Procurement in progress.	Procurement	LRCI
Longreach - Civic Centre Shade	Currently under insurance claim process. Engineer finalising design and specifications for procurement stage.	Procurement	LRC
Longreach Apex Park - Install 2 new shade structures over existing chairs	Structures ordered. Quotes being taken for install.	Procurement	LRCI
Longreach Apex Park bar bench & privacy screen	RFQ due 8th November.	Procurement	LRCI
Longreach Cemetery Plinth Repairs	Areas to repair identified. Costs being established.	Procurement	LRC
Longreach Childcare Fence Replacement	RFQ underway.	Procurement	LRC
Longreach Squash Court Upgrade	Architect engaged to complete specifications and design for RFT.	Researching	LRC Sport & Rec
Longreach Eagle Street Improve Swan/Eagle Street 23/24	Scope/design in progress.	Researching	LRCI





Around the rooms!





Around the Rooms!





Day for Daniel!

**DAY FOR DANIEL
TODAY WAS DAY FOR
DANIEL AND TO HONOUR
THIS WE WATCHED THE
SAFETY VIDEO FROM THE
DAY FOR DANIEL WEBSITE.
THIS VIDEO TALKED ABOUT
FEELINGS, BODY PARTS AND
WHO OUR SAFETY PEOPLE
ARE. THE CHILDREN
SEEMED TO REALLY ENJOY
WATCHING THIS VIDEO AS
IT WAS INTERACTIVE AND
MADE THE CHILDREN THINK
ABOUT ANSWERS. AFTER
WATCHING THE VIDEO WE
HAD A DISCUSSION AROUND
WHAT WE HAD WATCHED
AND ONE OF THE
QUESTIONS I ASKED THE
CHILDREN WERE WHO ARE
OUR SAFETY PEOPLE THEY
TOLD ME**

- MUMS AND DADS
- SIBLINGS
- TEACHERS
- GRANDPARENTS
- AUNTS AND UNCLES
- EMERGENCY SERVICE
PEOPLE





Philosophy review night!

14. WORKS REPORT

14.1 - Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade - Additional Budget Request

14. WORKS REPORT

14.1 Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade - Additional Budget Request

Council to consider and approve an increased budget allocation for the Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade Project.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

Policy Considerations

Procurement Policy

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

Council has previously approved \$25,000 for the 2023-2024 Budget. Officers are requesting an additional \$160,000 in funding allocation to successfully complete this project.

Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter

Nil

Officer Comment

Responsible Officer: *Ingrid Miller – Engineering Technical Officer*
André Pretorius – Works Director

14. WORKS REPORT

14.1 - Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade - Additional Budget Request

Background:

The Murray McMillan Dam is filled naturally by the Collumpton Creek using a fluming inlet with a flap gate. The existing backwater storage and harvest pump infrastructure behind the dam enables pumping of an extra 2m+ of water to top-up the dam level above the fluming inlet. The extra water provides an additional 6 months (approximately) of water for the Ilfracombe Town, excluding evaporation and other losses.

The existing electrical switchboards do not meet current electrical standards and is posing severe safety risks. For the past 3 years, harvest pumping of this additional water has not been possible as the current electrical infrastructure is aged (has reached its end of useful life) and non-compliant.

Due to the unsafe nature of current switchboard infrastructure, Council has in the past, sourced a temporary mobile generator at critical times to pump additional water by connecting into the existing harvest pump. However, this option is no longer feasible as the electrical cabling and switchboard for the harvest pump have deteriorated to a state where safely connecting to a generator is no longer possible. Hiring a portable generator also takes considerable time and cost including site preparation, safety assessments, plant hire, labour and ongoing monitoring by Council.

A significant upgrade of the switchboards and electrical cabling supporting the harvest pump is therefore required to reinstate the infrastructure to a safe standard and provide added water security for the Ilfracombe community. Proceeding with the switchboard upgrades is considered to be the most reliable and safest long term option for Council to efficiently harvest and pump water.

At the time of writing this Report, the remaining dam capacity of Murray McMillan is 52%.

Issue:

As the drinking water service provider for Ilfracombe, Longreach Regional Council is obligated to provide safe and reliable drinking water in accordance with the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan. Council has a duty of care to provide safe systems and a safe work environment to workers and contractors. At this stage an alternative and insufficient practice is in place to mitigate this risk.

14. WORKS REPORT

14.1 - Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade - Additional Budget Request



Current state of electrical switchboards and cabling at Murray McMillan Dam.

Tenders were called for the electrical switchboard upgrade and it was found that the approved budget of \$25,000 was insufficient to cover the scope of works to complete this project.

Should Council not wish to proceed with the upgrade of the electrical switchboard and associated infrastructure, then the existing infrastructure should be decommissioned and removed.

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:	H5

Environmental Management Factors:

Consideration of Climate Change and changing weather patterns.

Meeting legislative and safety requirements.

14. WORKS REPORT

14.1 - Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade - Additional Budget Request

Recommendation:

That Council allocates an additional \$160,000 funding to the Murray McMillan Dam Electrical Switchboard Upgrade Project.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

14.2 Information Report - Works

This report provides an update on a range of activities that has occurred during the month of October/November 2023 for the Infrastructure Works Department.

Council Action

Deliver

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

Policy Considerations

Nil

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 Officer/s: *Andre Pretorius, Director of Works*
Guy Goodman, Manager of Operations
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.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

Manager of Operations Update - Current projects underway

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
R2R Projects					
Crossmoor Road	Gravel Resheet	95%	\$ 359,688.00	\$ 300,000.00	Project commenced in July 2023. Material stockpiled. Carting have commenced in September. Currently mixing, compacting & trimming material. Project completed. Grading haul road as part of site restoration.
Bude Road	Gravel Resheet	10%	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	Project commenced in July 2023. Material carting commenced mid-October.

Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
TIDS Projects					
Silsoe Road	Prep 10mm Reseal	100%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 98,000.00	Prep work have commenced in July 2023. Prep work completed. Sealing to commence 18/10. Project completed.
Stonehenge River Road	Prep 10mm Reseal	100%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 92,000.00	Prep have commenced in July 2023. Project started. Prep work completed. Sealing to commence 18/10. Project completed.
Isisford – Saint Mary Street	Install new kerb and rehabilitation	85%	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 185,000.00	Project have commenced in July 2023. Kerb & channel installed, earth works commenced mid-October.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

Project		% complete	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
NDRRA Projects 2022 Event					
Isisford-Bimerah Road	Medium formation grade	40%	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 68,000.00	Project started in September 2023.
Tonkoro Road	Medium formation grade	90%	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 76,000.00	Project started in September 2023.
Arundel Road	Medium formation grade	60%	\$ 108,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Russleigh Road	Medium formation grade	0%	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to start in November.
Bogewong Road	Medium formation grade	35%	\$ 625,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Campsie Road	Medium formation grade	100%	\$ 368,000.00	\$ 157,000.00	Project started in May 2023. Project completed.
Crossmoor Road	Medium formation grade	80%	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	Project started in May 2023.
Amor Downs	Heavy formation grade	100%	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 136,000.00	Project started in September 2023. Project completed.
Bude Road	Medium formation grade	45%	\$ 236,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	Project started in October.
Spoilbank Lane	Medium formation grade	100%	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	Project started in September 2023. Project completed.
Stonehenge River Road	Medium formation grade	85%	\$ 635,000.00	\$ 417,000.00	Project started in July 2023.
Silsoe Road	Medium formation grade	75%	\$ 332,000.00	\$ 285,000.00	Project started in July 2023.
Cronulla Road	Medium formation grade	45%	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 86,000.00	Project started in September 2023.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

Project		% complete	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
MWPC					
Longreach – Jundah road	Pave and seal, culvert upgrade	90%	\$ 5,100,000.00	\$ 4,241,988.00	Concrete works have commenced. Concrete culverts are being delivered to site. Surveying completed. Crews have commenced works 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. Culvert variation authorised. Assessed and awarded culvert tenders. Variation culverts installed. Mixing last section of sub-base. Carting of base material commenced.
Cramsie- Muttaborra Road	Pave and seal, widening	5%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Detour started in November 2023.
Project		% complete	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
Town Streets Projects					
Street Maintenance	Pot Hole Patching				Ongoing
Project		% complete	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
RMPC Projects					
Ilfracombe – Aramac Road	Culvert headwall and batter upgrade	25%	As per RMPC Contract		Project started in November 2023.
Ilfracombe – Aramac Road	Gravel resheet	100%	\$ 612,000.00	\$ 496,000.00	Project started in August, Gravel sourced

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

					and currently being carted to site. Project to be completed end of October. Project completed.
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Project		% completed	Budget	Spent to date	Comments
LRCI4 Projects					
All Areas	Rural Road Signage Upgrade	55%	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 68,000.00	Data pickup has been completed. Signage tenders have been assessed and awarded tenders. Signage delivered. Installation commenced October.
Isisford / Yaraka Area	Rural Property Signage Upgrade	0%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project to commence in July 2023. Correspondence/emails sent out to property owners to confirm details. Reviewing data. Aim to place orders before Christmas close down.
Yaraka	Pave & Seal around IOR Fuel Pod	0%	\$ 148,000.00	\$ 0.00	Project scoped in July 2023. Project to commence in February 2024.
Isisford – Bimerah Road	Gravel Resheet	10%	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	Project to commence in August 2023. Chainages for gravel have been determined. Gravel currently being stockpiled. Carting gravel to commence in late October.

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.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

Engineering Technical Officer Update
Current projects and operational undertakings underway for 2023/2024

Water & Sewer Projects			
Project	Location	% Completed	Comments
Water Mains Replacement	Longreach	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement process in progress. Tender expected to be tabled at December Council Meeting.
WTP ELR Replacement/Repair	Ilfracombe	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of quotes from structural engineering firms to conduct an onsite assessment is ongoing.
Exclusion fencing at Yaraka Town Dam	Yaraka	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract has been awarded in accordance with Procurement Policy. Works scheduled to commence late 2023.
Concrete slab for WTP Generator & Chlorine Area	Longreach	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works to commence in Nov/Dec 2023 and will be undertaken by Council crews.
Smart Water Meter Trial	Ilfracombe	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart meters and communications equipment has arrived. Installation is estimated for early 2024.
Refurbishment of Murray, Shannon & Isisford Dam Pumps	Ilfracombe & Isisford	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipework, floats and cabling will be installed during warmer weather conditions.
Upgrade to Murray McMillan Dam Switchboard	Ilfracombe	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement process being finalised.
Isisford CED Ponds Repairs	Isisford	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works are programmed for November 2023.
DRFA Flood Risk Management Program	Longreach	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Flood Action Plan has been reviewed and finalised. Procurement process for the Longreach Flood Study to commence in early 2024. QRA has granted an extension for the program until 30/06/2026.
Reservoir Cleaning (RAPADWSA Project)	All Sites	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor will carry out works late November 2023.
Mains Scouring (RAPADWSA Project)	All Sites	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor will carry out works late November 2023.
Flood Gauge Camera Arno Crossing	Yaraka	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood camera and infrastructure has arrived. Installation scheduled late 2023.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works

Barcoo River			
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Waste Projects			
Project	Location	% Completed	Comments
Land Parcels	Longreach	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing communication with DoR in relations to extension the Longreach Landfill to the west.

Grants & Funding Projects			
Project	Location	% Completed	Comments
Passenger Transport Infrastructure Investment Program	Longreach	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works have commenced Edkins Park (Galah Street). Estimated completion by mid-November.
	Ilfracombe	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works to commence in late November 2023.
School Transport Infrastructure Program	Our Lady's	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carpark design in progress. Site works scheduled for 2024.
	LSHS	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carpark design in progress. Site works scheduled for 2024.

Plant & Fleet

Project	Task	Comment
Plant Replacement	Plant Procurement and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Truck arrived for the Longreach Minor Works Team. Continued delays with arrival of some plant due to long manufacturing lead times.
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 August-October 2023 is attached. Plant utilisation is on track with crews busy working on various Flood Damage, TMR, RMPC, MWPC and Council projects throughout the road network.
Workshop Operations	General Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant plant items will be prepared for TMR inspections during November. New plant maintenance request system implemented in early November 2023. Workshop Supervisor attending Leadership Training in early November. Tidy up of Isisford Workshop in progress.
SES Support Grant 2023/2024	Vehicle Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement vehicle has been ordered. Scheduled to arrive December 2023.

14. WORKS REPORT

14.2 - Information Report - Works

Waste Management

Waste Facilities Update

Longreach Waste Facility

- No matters to report.
- Proterra are continuing to recruit for an additional operational team member. Staff from other locations are currently filling in personnel gaps.

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.
- Monthly and quarterly SWIM data reporting completed and lodged.
- Drinking Water Annual Service Report 2022-2023 has been completed within required timeframe and lodged to the DRDMW.
- BTX Consultants visited all schemes and carried out quarterly audit to monitor WTP performance/water quality.



BTX consultants onsite at Isisford WTP.

Longreach Water Treatment & Network

- WTP operating as normal.
- Level 2 Water Restrictions for Longreach commenced on 01/11/2023.
- Manual pumping of Fairmount Weir over to the main channel is in progress and is helping stabilise river levels.

14. WORKS REPORT
14.2 - Information Report - Works



Relocating the pump at Fairmount Weir to increase pumping performance.

Ilfracombe Water Treatment & Network

- Ilfracombe WTP & RO Plant – operating as normal.
- Quarterly hazard inspection of facility completed during October.

Isisford Water Treatment & Network

- Isisford WTP – operating as normal.
- Do not consume and Boil Water Alert as a result of UV System fault has been resolved.

Yaraka Water Treatment & Network

- Yaraka WTP – operating as normal.

Sewerage Operations

Longreach Pump Stations & STP

- Routine maintenance undertaken as required.

Ilfracombe Pump Stations & CED Ponds

- Routine maintenance undertaken as required.

Isisford Pump Station & CED Ponds

- 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	0.00m	68%	1.3m	Maintaining level due to pumping over Fairmount Weir.
Shannon Dam	14.5m	100%	14.5m	Water is regularly pumped from Murray McMillan to keep Shannon Dam at full levels.
Murray MacMillan Dam	~6.4m	52%	10.3m	

14. WORKS REPORT

14.2 - Information Report - Works

Isisford Dam	~7.911m	71%	11m	
Isisford Weir	0.3m	68%	1.3m	
Yaraka North Dam	8.5m	68%	12.5m	
Yaraka South Dam	9.0m	72%	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

Other Comments:



Saint Mary Street Isisford – new curb installation and rehabilitation project

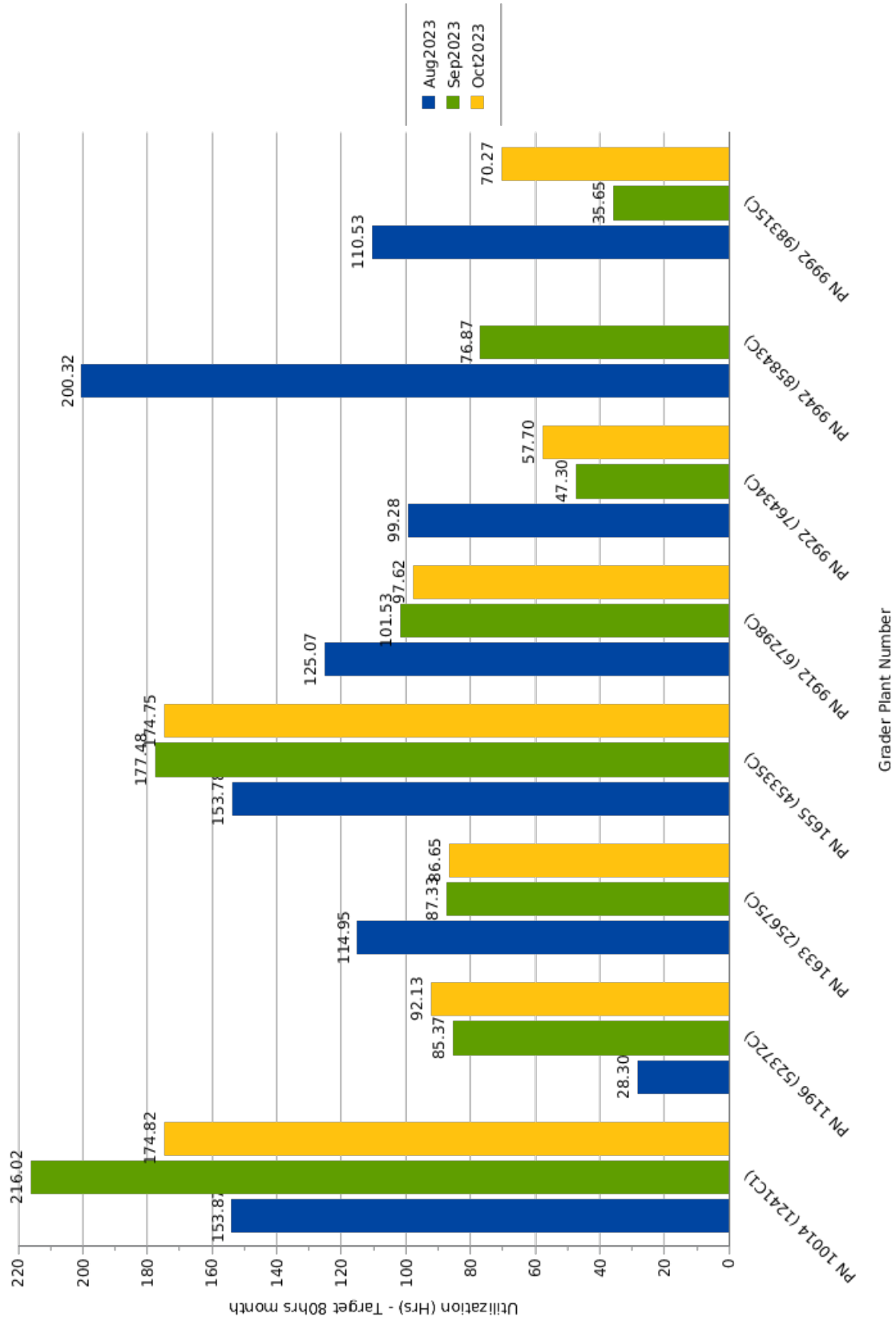
Appendices

1. Plant Utilisation August–October 2023 [↓](#)

Recommendation:

That Council receives the Works Information Report, as presented.

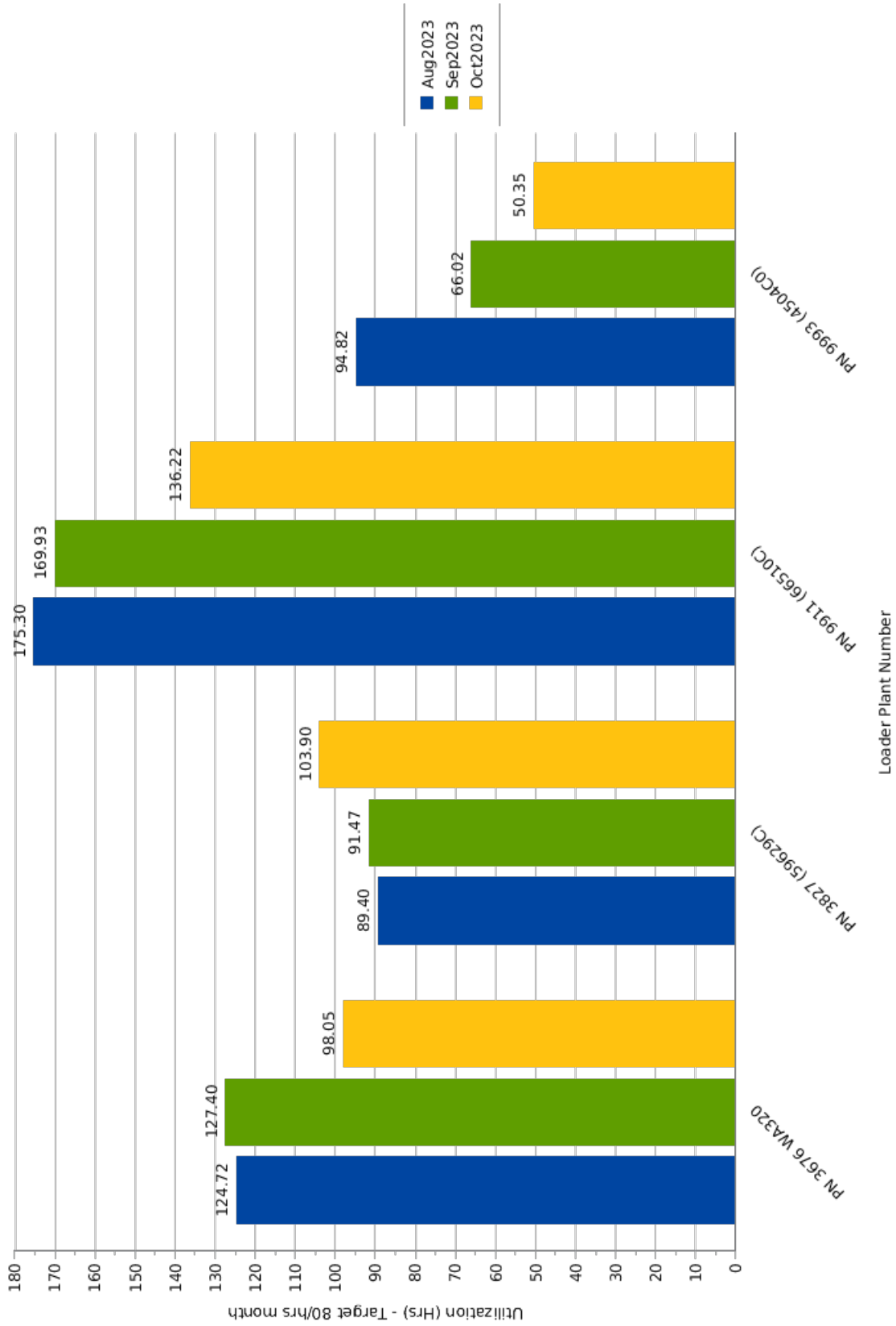
Grader Utilisation



Grader Utilisation

Grader Plant Number	Month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80hrs month
PN 10014 (1241C1)	Aug2023	153.87
	Sep2023	216.02
	Oct2023	174.82
PN 1196 (52372C)	Aug2023	28.30
	Sep2023	85.37
	Oct2023	92.13
PN 1633 (25675C)	Aug2023	114.95
	Sep2023	87.33
	Oct2023	86.65
PN 1655 (45335C)	Aug2023	153.78
	Sep2023	177.48
	Oct2023	174.75
PN 9912 (67298C)	Aug2023	125.07
	Sep2023	101.53
	Oct2023	97.62
PN 9922 (76434C)	Aug2023	99.28
	Sep2023	47.30
	Oct2023	57.70
PN 9942 (85843C)	Aug2023	200.32
	Sep2023	76.87
	Oct2023	0
PN 9992 (98315C)	Aug2023	110.53
	Sep2023	35.65
	Oct2023	70.27

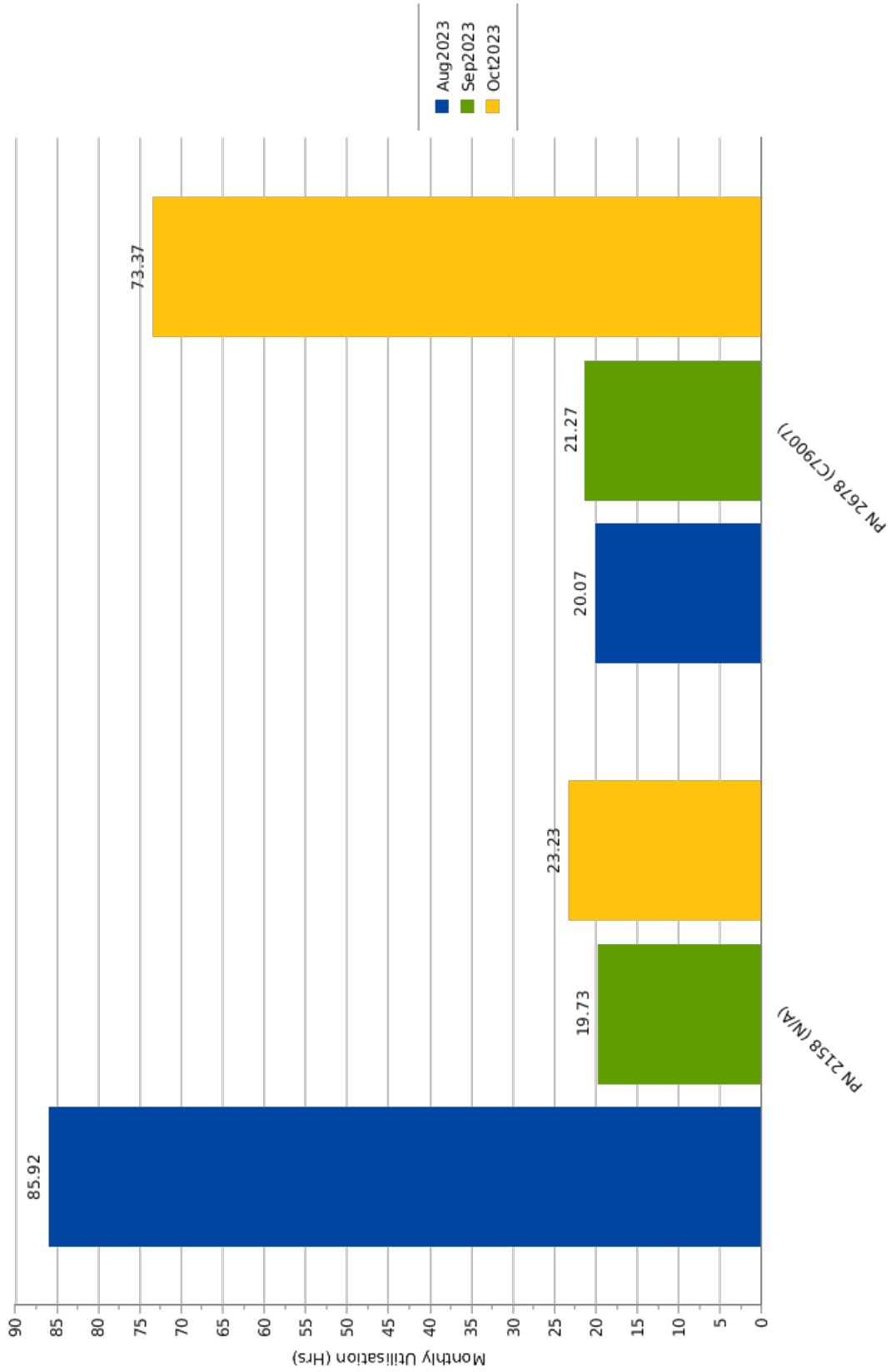
Loader Utilisation



Loader Utilisation

Loader Plant Number	Month	Utilization (Hrs) - Target 80/hrs month
PN 3676 WA320	Aug2023	124.72
	Sep2023	127.40
	Oct2023	98.05
PN 3827 (59629C)	Aug2023	89.40
	Sep2023	91.47
	Oct2023	103.90
PN 9911 (66510C)	Aug2023	175.30
	Sep2023	169.93
	Oct2023	136.22
PN 9993 (4504C0)	Aug2023	94.82
	Sep2023	66.02
	Oct2023	50.35

Stabiliser & Scraper Utilisation

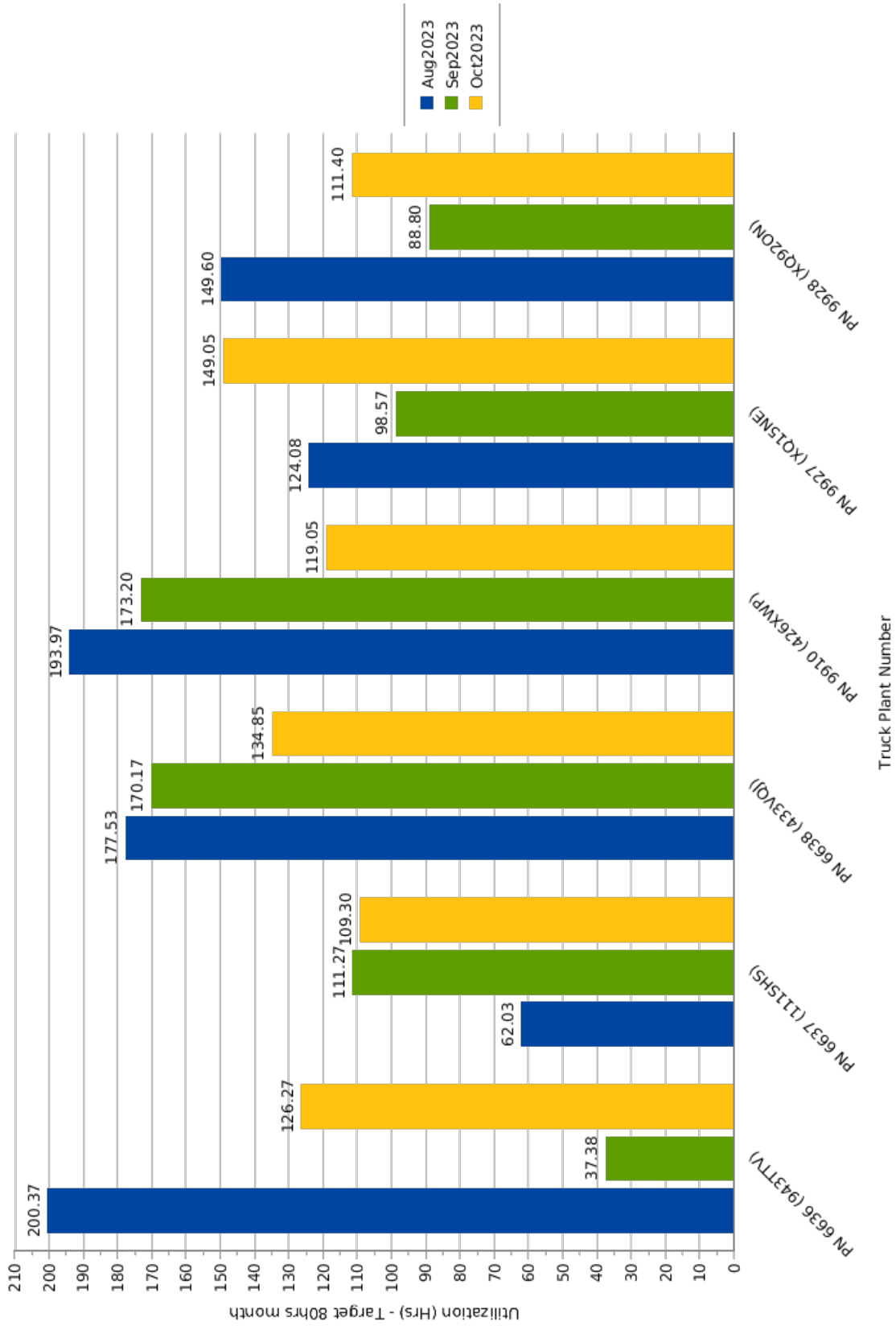


Stabiliser PN #2678 - Scraper PN #2158

Stabiliser & Scraper Utilisation

Month	Aug2023	Sep2023	Oct2023
Stabiliser PN #2678 - Scraper PN #2158	Monthly Utilisation (Hrs)	Monthly Utilisation (Hrs)	Monthly Utilisation (Hrs)
PN 2158 (N/A)	85.92	19.73	23.23
PN 2678 (C79007)	20.07	21.27	73.37

Truck Utilisation



Truck Utilisation

	Truck Plant Number					
	PN 6636 (943TTV)	PN 6637 (111SHS)	PN 6638 (433VQJ)	PN 9910 (426XWP)	PN 9927 (XQ15NE)	PN 9928 (XQ92ON)
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
Aug2023	200.37	62.03	177.53	193.97	124.08	149.60
Sep2023	37.38	111.27	170.17	173.20	98.57	88.80
Oct2023	126.27	109.30	134.85	119.05	149.05	111.40

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

15. LATE ITEMS

- 15.1 Longreach region playground provision**
The full report will be tabled at the meeting.

16. CLOSED MATTERS
Nil for this meeting

17. CLOSURE OF MEETING

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2009 – PRINCIPLES

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

The **local government principles** are:

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

Decisions, based on recommendations, provide for the following Council actions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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