



## Connecting Council and Community



# Longreach Regional Council AGENDA

Of the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 22 January 2026  
at Longreach Council Chambers, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach, Qld 4730



## Delivering excellent service



**Longreach  
Regional Council**  
Marrionne, Isisford, Longreach, Yaraka

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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Dear Councillors

**Re: Meeting Notice for Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 22 January 2026**

Notice is hereby given that the Council Meeting of the Longreach Regional Council will be held in the Longreach Council Chambers, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach, Qld 4730 on Thursday 22 January 2026 commencing at 9:00am.

Your attendance at this meeting is requested.

Yours faithfully



Brett Walsh  
Chief Executive Officer  
Enc

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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**1 Opening of Meeting and Acknowledgment of Country**

**2 Prayer**

**3 Condolences**

**4 Leave of Absence**

**5 Declaration of any Prescribed / Declarable Conflicts of Interest by Councillors**

**6 Confirmation of Minutes**

**6.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

***Recommendation***

*That Council confirms the Minutes dated 11 December 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

**Appendices**

1. Ordinary Council Meeting 11 December 2025 [**6.1.1** - 21 pages]

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

**Connecting Council  
and Community**



**Longreach Regional Council  
MINUTES**

of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 11 December 2025 at  
96 Eagle Street, Longreach, Qld 4730

**Delivering  
excellent service**



**Longreach  
Regional Council**  
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

### 1 Opening of Meeting and Acknowledgment of Country

The Mayor declared the meeting open at **9:01 am**.

"We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and we pay our respects to their elders past and present."

#### **Present Councillors**

Mayor	Cr AC Rayner
Deputy Mayor	Cr LJ Nunn
	Cr DJ Bignell
	Cr AJ Emslie
	Cr NA Gay
	Cr TM Hatch
	Cr AR Watts

#### **Officers**

Chief Executive Officer	Brett Walsh
Chief Financial Officer	David Wilson
Director of Communities	Tanya Johnson
Director of Works	André Pretorius
Director of Organisational Services	Grace Cronin-Jones
Manager of Economics, Planning, and Legal	Simon Kuttner
Executive Officer of Governance	Sharon Calligaro

#### **Apologies**

NII

### 2 Prayer

Pastor Steve Cavill, Outback Aerial Mission, opened the meeting with a prayer.

### 3 Condolences

Nil

### 4 Leave of Absence

Nil

### 5 Declaration of any Prescribed / Declarable Conflicts of Interest by Councillors

No declarations were made during this point of the meeting.

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ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

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**6 Confirmation of Minutes**

**6.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

Res-2025-12-339

*Moved: Cr Tracy Hatch / Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie*

*That Council confirms the Minutes dated 20 November 2025 and 28 November 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meetings.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

**7 Mayoral Report**

**7.1 Mayoral Report**

Res-2025-12-340

*Moved: Cr Tracy Hatch / Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay*

*That Council receives the Mayoral Report, as presented.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

**8 Notices of Motion**

Nil.

**9 Petitions**

Nil.

**10 Deputations**

Nil.

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

### 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.

Res-2025-12-341

*Moved: Cr Nikki Gay / Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie*

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

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

#### 11.2 Chief Executive Officer's Council Report

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Chief Executive Officer.

Res-2025-12-342

*Moved: Cr Nikki Gay / Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie*

*That Council receives the Chief Executive Officer's Council report, as presented.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

The meeting adjourned for Morning Tea at **10:30am** and resumed at **11:11am** with all those present prior to the adjournment in attendance.

### 12 Organisational Services Report

#### 12.1 Director of Organisational Services Report

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Director of Organisational Services.

Res-2025-12-343

*Moved: Cr Leonie Nunn / Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay*

*That Council receives the Director of Organisational Services Council report, as presented.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

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**12.2 Information Report - Organisational Services**

This report provides an update on a range of activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Organisational Services Directorate.

Res-2025-12-344

Moved: Cr Dale Bignell | Seconded: Cr Leonie Nunn

*That Council receives the Organisational Services Information Report, as presented.*

CARRIED 7 / 0

**12.3 Monthly Workplace Health and Safety Report**

The Workplace Health and Safety report is presented to Council for consideration. Details include performance commentary, risk management activities, health and safety initiatives, training, injuries and Workers Compensation claims information, as of 1 December 2025.

Res-2025-12-345

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie | Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay

*That Council notes the monthly Workplace Health and Safety report for November 2025, as presented.*

CARRIED 7 / 0

**12.4 Information Report - Planning and Development Report**

This report provides an update on Development Services that occurred during the month of November.

Res-2025-12-346

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie | Seconded: Cr Andrew Watts

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

CARRIED 7 / 0

**12.5 DA25/26-017 - Development Application for Building works assessable against the planning scheme - 6 St Frances Street, Isisford**

Consideration of a development application seeking approval for Building Work for a shed at 6 St Frances Street, Isisford, formally described Lot 1 on RP608117.

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Res-2025-12-347

Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Leonie Nunn

That Council approves the development application for Building Work for a shed at 6 St Frances Street, Isisford, formally described Lot 1 on RP608117, subject to the following conditions:

### 1.0 PARAMETERS OF APPROVAL

- 1.2 The Developer is responsible for ensuring compliance with this development approval and the conditions of the approval by an employee, agent, contractor or invitee of the Developer at all times unless otherwise stated.
- 2.2 Where these conditions refer to "Council" in relation to requiring Council to approve or be satisfied as to any matter, or conferring on the Council a function, power or discretion, that role of the Council may be fulfilled in whole or in part by a delegate appointed for that purpose by Council.
- 3.2 The cost of all works associated with the development and construction of the development including services, facilities and/or public utility alterations required are met at no cost to the Council or relevant utility provider, unless otherwise stated in a development condition.
- 4.2 The developer is required to have repaired any damage to existing infrastructure that may have occurred during any works carried out associated with the development. To the extent the damage is deemed to create a hazard to the community, it must be repaired immediately.
- 5.2 All conditions, works, or requirements of this development approval must be undertaken and completed prior to commencement of use and to Council's satisfaction, unless otherwise stated.

### 2.0 APPROVED PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The approved development must be completed and maintained generally in accordance with the approved plans and documents, except where amended by the conditions of this permit:

Plan/Document Name	Plan/Document Number	Issue	Date
Site Plan	DA25/26-017		19/10/2025 (Received date)
Building Plan	ZTOT2144		14/09/2022
Elevations	ZTOT2144		14/09/2022

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2.2	Where there is any conflict between the conditions of this approval and the details shown on the approved plans and documents, the conditions of approval must prevail.
<b>3.0 LIMITATION OF USE</b>	
3.1	The shed is limited to a Class 10a structure and must be used for domestic purposes only.
<b>4.0 ROOF AND ALLOTMENT DRAINAGE WORKS</b>	
1.2	All roof and allotment drainage must be discharged such that it does not restrict, impair or change the natural flow of runoff water or cause a nuisance to adjoining properties or infrastructure from the pre to the post-development condition.
2.2	All stormwater must drain to the lawful point of discharge and must not adversely affect adjoining land or infrastructure in comparison to the pre-development condition by way of blocking, altering or diverting existing stormwater runoff patterns or have the potential to cause damage to other infrastructure.
<b>4.0 AMENITY</b>	
4.1	Any proposed outdoor lighting must comply with AS4282 Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.
<b>5.0 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL</b>	
5.1	Implement and maintain an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) on-site for the duration of the works, and until such time as all exposed soil areas are permanently stabilised (for example, turfed, hydro mulched, concreted, and landscaped). The ESCP must be available on-site for inspection by Council Officers during the works.
5.2	The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control document from the International Erosion Control Association, as updated from time to time.
<b>6.0 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES</b>	
6.1	Construction activity and noise must be limited during earthworks and construction of the approved development to the hours of 06:30 to 18:30 Monday to Saturday, with no work to occur on Sundays or public holidays.
6.2	The construction of any works must be undertaken in accordance with good engineering practice and workmanship and generally in accordance with the

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relevant provisions of Planning Scheme Policy No.1 – Works Planning Scheme Policy under Schedule 5 of the Longreach Regional Planning Scheme 2015 (v3).
6.3 All construction materials, waste, waste skips and machinery must be located and stored or parked within the development site, unless otherwise approved in writing by Council.
<b>7.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>
7.1 Any alteration necessary to electricity, telephone, water mains, sewerage mains, and/or public utility installations resulting from the development or in connection with the development, must be undertaken and completed at no cost to Council.
<b>ADVISORY NOTES</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Permits and approvals for building work, plumbing and any other related works should be obtained prior to commencement of the building works authorised by this permit.</li><li>2. This approval does not negate the requirement for compliance with all other relevant Local Laws and other statutory requirements. Any provisions contained in this approval relating to the enforcement of any of the conditions shall be in addition to all other rights, powers and privileges that the Council may possess or obtain, and nothing contained in these conditions shall be construed so as to prejudice, affect or otherwise derogate or limit these rights, powers and privileges of the Council.</li><li>3. General environmental duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 prohibits unlawful environmental nuisance caused by noise, aerosols, particles, dust, ash, fumes, light, odour or smoke beyond the boundaries of the development site during all stages of the development including earthworks, construction and operation.</li><li>4. This development approval does not authorise any activity that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. It is advised that under section 23 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, a person who carries out an activity must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage (the "cultural heritage duty of care").</li></ol>
<i>CARRIED 7 / 0</i>

**12.6 DA2526-021 - Siting Variation at 141 Galah Street Longreach**

Consideration of a Referral Agency Assessment Application for an alternative siting assessment lodged with Council for the proposed residential use at 141 Galah Street, Longreach described as Lot 3 on RP602257.

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Res-2025-12-348

*Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay*

*That Council approves the Referral Agency Assessment Application DA2526-021, as presented.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

**12.7 DA25/26-022 – Development Application for Building works  
assessable against the planning scheme – 114 Galah Street,  
Longreach**

Consideration of a development application seeking approval for Building Work for a shed at 114 Galah Street, Longreach, formally described Lot 1 on RP606521.

Res-2025-12-349

*Moved: Cr Leonie Nunn / Seconded: Cr Andrew Watts*

*That Council approves the development application for Building Work for a shed at 114 Galah Street, Longreach, formally described Lot 1 on RP606521, subject to the following conditions:*

**1.0 PARAMETERS OF APPROVAL**

- 1.2 The Developer is responsible for ensuring compliance with this development approval and the conditions of the approval by an employee, agent, contractor or invitee of the Developer at all times unless otherwise stated.
- 2.2 Where these conditions refer to "Council" in relation to requiring Council to approve or be satisfied as to any matter, or conferring on the Council a function, power or discretion, that role of the Council may be fulfilled in whole or in part by a delegate appointed for that purpose by Council.
- 3.2 The cost of all works associated with the development and construction of the development including services, facilities and/or public utility alterations required are met at no cost to the Council or relevant utility provider, unless otherwise stated in a development condition.
- 4.2 The developer is required to have repaired any damage to existing infrastructure that may have occurred during any works carried out associated with the development. To the extent the damage is deemed to create a hazard to the community, it must be repaired immediately.

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5.2 All conditions, works, or requirements of this development approval must be undertaken and completed prior to commencement of use and to Council's satisfaction, unless otherwise stated.

**2.0 APPROVED PLANS AND DOCUMENTS**

2.1 The approved development must be completed and maintained generally in accordance with the approved plans and documents, except where amended by the conditions of this permit:

Plan/Document Name	Plan/Document Number	Issue	Date
Site Plan	DA25/26-022		28/10/2025 (Received date)
Elevations	-	-	13/10/2025

2.2 Where there is any conflict between the conditions of this approval and the details shown on the approved plans and documents, the conditions of approval must prevail.

**3.0 LIMITATION OF USE**

3.1 The shed is limited to a Class 10a structure and must be used for domestic purposes only.

**4.0 ROOF AND ALLOTMENT DRAINAGE WORKS**

1.2 All roof and allotment drainage must be discharged such that it does not restrict, impair or change the natural flow of runoff water or cause a nuisance to adjoining properties or infrastructure from the pre to the post-development condition.

2.2 All stormwater must drain to the lawful point of discharge and must not adversely affect adjoining land or infrastructure in comparison to the pre-development condition by way of blocking, altering or diverting existing stormwater runoff patterns or have the potential to cause damage to other infrastructure.

**4.0 AMENITY**

4.1 Any proposed outdoor lighting must comply with AS4282 Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.

**5.0 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL**

5.1 Implement and maintain an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) on-site for the duration of the works, and until such time as all exposed soil areas are permanently stabilised (for example, turfed, hydro mulched, concreted, and

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<p>landscaped). The ESCP must be available on-site for inspection by Council Officers during the works.</p> <p>5.2 The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control document from the International Erosion Control Association, as updated from time to time.</p>
<p><b>6.0 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>6.1 Construction activity and noise must be limited during earthworks and construction of the approved development to the hours of 06:30 to 18:30 Monday to Saturday, with no work to occur on Sundays or public holidays.</p> <p>6.2 The construction of any works must be undertaken in accordance with good engineering practice and workmanship and generally in accordance with the relevant provisions of Planning Scheme Policy No. 1 – Works Planning Scheme Policy under Schedule 5 of the Longreach Regional Planning Scheme 2015 (v3).</p> <p>6.3 All construction materials, waste, waste skips and machinery must be located and stored or parked within the development site, unless otherwise approved in writing by Council.</p>
<p><b>7.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>7.1 Any alteration necessary to electricity, telephone, water mains, sewerage mains, and/or public utility installations resulting from the development or in connection with the development, must be undertaken and completed at no cost to Council.</p>
<p><b>ADVISORY NOTES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Permits and approvals for building work, plumbing and any other related works should be obtained prior to commencement of the building works authorised by this permit.</li><li>2. This approval does not negate the requirement for compliance with all other relevant Local Laws and other statutory requirements. Any provisions contained in this approval relating to the enforcement of any of the conditions shall be in addition to all other rights, powers and privileges that the Council may possess or obtain, and nothing contained in these conditions shall be construed so as to prejudice, affect or otherwise derogate or limit these rights, powers and privileges of the Council.</li><li>3. General environmental duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 prohibits unlawful environmental nuisance caused by noise, aerosols, particles, dust, ash, fumes, light, odour or smoke beyond the boundaries of the development site during all stages of the development including earthworks, construction and operation.</li><li>4. This development approval does not authorise any activity that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. It is advised that under section 23 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, a person who carries out an activity must take all reasonable and</li></ol>

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practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage (the "cultural heritage duty of care").

CARRIED 7 / 0

**12.8 DA2526-030 - Development Application for  
Reconfiguration of a Lot - 41 Duck Street and 105 Crane Street,  
Longreach (boundary realignment - 2 into 2)**

Consideration of a development application seeking a Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot (Boundary realignment - 2 lot into 2 lots) at 41 Duck Street and 105 Crane Street, Longreach, formally described Lot 1 and 2 on RP910760.

Res-2025-12-350

Moved: Cr Dale Bignell | Seconded: Cr Tracy Hatch

*That Council approves the development application for a Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot (Boundary realignment - 2 lot into 2 lots) at 41 Duck Street and 105 Crane Street, Longreach, formally described Lot 1 and 2 on RP910760, subject to the following conditions:*

**1.0 PARAMETERS OF APPROVAL**

- 1.5 The developer is responsible for ensuring compliance with this development approval and the conditions of the approval by an employee, agent, contractor or invitee of the Developer at all times unless otherwise stated.
- 2.5 Where these conditions refer to "Council" in relation to requiring Council to approve or be satisfied as to any matter, or conferring on the Council a function, power or discretion, that role of the Council may be fulfilled in whole or in part by a delegate appointed for that purpose by Council.
- 3.5 The developer is required to have repaired any damage to existing infrastructure that may have occurred during any works carried out for the development. To the extent the damage is deemed to create a hazard to the community, it must be repaired immediately.
- 4.5 Unless otherwise stated, all works must be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the relevant Council policies, guidelines and standards.
- 5.5 All conditions, works, or requirements of this development approval must be undertaken and completed prior to the sealing of the survey plan for the Reconfiguring a Lot, unless otherwise stated.

**2.0 APPROVED PLAN**

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2.1 The approved development must be completed and maintained generally in accordance with the approved plans, except where amended by the conditions of this approval:

<b>Plan/Document Name</b>	<b>Plan/Document Number</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>
Boundary Re-alignment of Lots 1 & 2 RP910760 (Lots 8 & 9, Cancelling Lots 1 & 2 RP910760)	25148-1	0	06/10/2025

2.2 Where there is any conflict between the conditions of this approval and the details shown on the approved plans, the conditions of approval must prevail.

**3.0 EXISTING USES**

3.1 All existing uses are to be fully contained on their own lot including, access, parking and services.

**4.0 ENDORSEMENT OF SURVEY PLAN**

4.1 Council will not endorse or release the survey plan for this development until such time as:

- All conditions of this development approval for Reconfiguring a Lot have been fully satisfied (where required);
- A statement demonstrating compliance with all conditions attached to this development approval has been submitted to Council (where required); and
- All outstanding rates and charges relating to the site have been paid.

**5.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT**

5.1 Any alteration necessary to electricity, telephone, water mains, sewerage mains, and/or public utility installations resulting from the development or in connection with the development, must be undertaken and completed at no cost to Council.

**ADVISORY NOTES**

- This approval does not negate the requirement for compliance with all other relevant Local Laws and other statutory requirements. Any provisions contained in this approval relating to the enforcement of any of the conditions shall be in addition to all other rights, powers and privileges that the Council may possess or obtain, and nothing contained in these conditions shall be construed so as to prejudice, affect or otherwise derogate or limit these rights, powers and privileges of the Council.

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2. General environmental duty under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* prohibits unlawful environmental nuisance caused by noise, aerosols, particles, dust, ash, fumes, light, odour or smoke beyond the boundaries of the development site during all stages of the development including earthworks, construction and operation.
3. This development approval does not authorise any activity that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. It is advised that under Section 23 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, a person who carries out an activity must take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal cultural heritage (the "cultural heritage duty of care").
4. This approval is issued under the *Planning Act 2016* and does not include an assessment against the *Building Act 1975*. Alterations may be required to existing buildings to ensure compliance with the building assessment provisions. The developer should seek advice from a suitably qualified person before proceeding with the development.

CARRIED 7 / 0

The meeting adjourned for Lunch at **12:50pm** and resumed at **1:43pm** with all those present prior to adjournment in attendance.

## 13 Finance Report

### 13.1 Chief Financial Officer's Report

Consideration of the financial statements for the period ending 30 November 2025:

Res-2025-12-351

Moved: Cr Leonie Nunn / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That Council receives the Chief Financial Officer's Report for the period ending 30 November 2025, as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

### 13.2 FY26 Budget Review

Consideration of the December 2026 financial year budget review, incorporating updated capital expenditure, depreciation adjustments, and other minor revisions.

Res-2025-12-352

Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie

That Council adopts the budget amendments for the December Budget Review for the 2026 financial year as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

**13.3 Information Report - Finance**

This report provides an update on a range of activities that occurred during the month for the Financial Services Directorate.

Res-2025-12-353

*Moved: Cr Tracy Hatch / Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay*

*That Council receives the Finance Information Report, as presented.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

**13.4 Proposed Rates Concession - Transfer of Land**

Consideration of proposed rates concession transfer of land.

Res-2025-12-354

*Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie*

*That Council:*

1. *accepts Philip White's letter as a properly made application for a concession pursuant to section 122(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (**LG Reg**) (**the Concession Application**);*
2. *pursuant to section 122(1)(a) and 121(c) of the LG Reg, grants the concession sought by the Concession Application to Philip White, by accepting a transfer of Lot 20 on Crown Plan M8993 (**the Land**) in full satisfaction of outstanding rates and charges, but subject to:*
  - (a) *Mr White providing satisfactory evidence to Council's Chief Executive Officer that he is a pensioner; and*
  - (b) *Council's Chief Executive Officer finalising a suitable agreement to give effect to the transfer of the Land; and*
3. *delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to negotiate, finalise and execute on behalf of Council any agreements or other documents necessary to give effect to the transfer of the Land, including a contract of sale.*

**CARRIED 7 / 0**

**14 Communities Report**

**14.1 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 Friday 28 November 2025.

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

Res-2025-12-355

Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Leonie Nunn

That Council

- a) receives the Minutes of the Regional Arts Development Fund Committee held on Friday 28 November 2025.
- b) approves the application by the 'QANTAS Founders Museum' for the Postworld – visual arts exhibition – public programs / workshops / educational programs to the value of \$5,750.00
- c) approves the application by 'Kay Searles' for the Textile Art and Design workshop to the value of \$3,575.00.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Joel Perry, Project Manager joined the meeting at **2:08pm**.

### 14.2 Information Report - Communities

This report provides an update on the range of activities that have occurred during the month for the Community Services Directorate.

Res-2025-12-356

Moved: Cr Leonie Nunn / Seconded: Cr Tracy Hatch

That Council receives the Communities Information Report, as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

### 14.3 Project Management Update

Receive the project management update for the month of November 2025.

Res-2025-12-357

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That Council receives the Project Management Update Report, as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Joel Perry, Project Manager left the meeting at **2:34pm**.

### 14.4 Director of Communities Report

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Director of Communities

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

Res-2025-12-358

Moved: Cr Nikki Gay / Seconded: Cr Tracy Hatch

*That Council receives the Director of Communities Report, as presented.*

CARRIED 7 / 0

## 15 Works Report

### 15.1 Information Report - Works

This report provides an update on the range of activities that have occurred during the month of November 2025 for the Works Directorate.

Res-2025-12-359

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

*That Council receives the Works Information Report, as presented.*

CARRIED 7 / 0

### 15.2 Director of Works Report

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Director of Works.

Res-2025-12-360

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

*That Council receives the Director of Works Report, as presented.*

CARRIED 7 / 0

## 16 Late Items

Nil for this meeting

## 17 Closed Matters

Res-2025-12-361

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay

*That pursuant to section 254J(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 the meeting be closed at **3:16 pm** to discuss the following matters, which are considered confidential for the reasons indicated.*

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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**17.1 Isisford Community Housing**

*This report is considered confidential in accordance with section 254J(3) (c), of the Local Government Regulation 2012, as it contains information relating to the Local Government's budget.*

CARRIED 7 / 0

Res-2025-12-362

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That Council move out of closed session at **3:32 pm**, to vote on item 17.1 Isisford Community Housing.

CARRIED 7 / 0

**17.1 Isisford Community Housing**

Moved: Cr Leonie Nunn / Seconded: Cr Tracy Hatch

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to enter a deferred payment arrangement to sell Council owned houses in Isisford to interested existing tenants via an instalment contract of sale.

Moved: Cr Tracy Hatch

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to enter a deferred payment arrangement to sell Council owned houses in Isisford to interested existing tenants that are Council employees via an instalment contract of sale.

LAPSED FOR WANT OF A SECONDER

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to enter a deferred payment arrangement to sell Council owned houses in Isisford to interested existing tenants via an instalment contract of sale.

MOTION LOST 0 / 7

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

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**18 Closure of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at **3:39 pm.**

**Minutes Certificate**

These minutes are unconfirmed

---

Cr AC Rayner  
Mayor

---

Brett Walsh  
Chief Executive Officer

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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**7 Mayoral Report**

**7.1 Mayoral Report**

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

- Mayor attended daily briefings for Qld Disaster Management Committee for those Councils with active LDMG status.
- Mayor met with QRA rep Chris Baker.
- Mayor Chaired Australia Day Award Panel
- Mayor attended DETSI Monsoonal Event Recovery meeting
- Mayor attended Rural Zoning discussions.
- Mayor completed various media interviews on updates for Council business

***Recommendation:***

*That Council receives the Mayoral Report, as presented.*

**8 Notices of Motion**

None received at time of agenda preparation.

**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**

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 15 January 2026.

1. Letters to Mayors and Councillors – max remuneration from 01 July 2026 [**11.1.1** - 1 page]
2. LG Remuneration Commission annual report 2025 [**11.1.2** - 22 pages]
3. RADF Funding approval [**11.1.3** - 1 page]
4. State-Owned Quarry Material – update [**11.1.4** - 3 pages]
5. Local Govt Legislation Amendment Regulation [**11.1.5** - 2 pages]
6. Local Govt Empowering Councils Bill [**11.1.6** - 1 page]
7. Empowering Councils Bill Factsheet [**11.1.7** - 5 pages]
8. Inside Water article [**11.1.8** - 6 pages]
9. Christmas Wishes – K and K Mac Donald [**11.1.9** - 1 page]

**Recommendation:**

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

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Our ref: D25/155930

12 December 2025

Dear Mayor and Councillors

**Determination of maximum remuneration**

I am writing to advise you of a recent decision about maximum council remuneration amounts made by the independent Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission).

Consistent with section 243 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation), the Commission has finalised its determination of the maximum remuneration amounts for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors for these categories, which will apply from 1 July 2026.

The Commission also resolved to discontinue the meeting-based remuneration requirement for councillors in A1, A2 and A3 category councils, effective from the 2026-27 determination period. This ensures there is parity in the remuneration policies for all councillors in Queensland and removes an unnecessary administrative burden on councils in these categories.

Under sections 247 and 248 of the Regulation, councils are required to pay councillors the maximum remuneration amount set out in the remuneration schedule unless the council resolves to pay a lesser amount. Any such resolution must be made before 1 July of the relevant financial year. If exceptional circumstances arise where a councillor/s may be entitled to remuneration above the maximum amount, councils can make a submission to the Commission for approval. The Commission will assess such requests on a case-by-case basis but is not obligated to approve them.

The remuneration schedule was published in the Government Gazette on 12 December 2025. More information about the council remuneration categories, guiding framework and maximum remuneration amounts is included in the Commission's Annual Report for 2025. The report is available online through the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers website: <https://www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>.

If you have any further queries in this regard, please contact the Commission Secretariat at [LGRCEnquiries@dlgwv.qld.gov.au](mailto:LGRCEnquiries@dlgwv.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Abbot'.

Bob Abbot OAM  
Chair  
Queensland Local Government Remuneration Commission

1 William Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 2247 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)  
Website [www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au](http://www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au)  
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LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

**DELIVERING**  
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland  
Government

Local Government  
**Remuneration Commission**  
*ANNUAL REPORT 2025*

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country. We recognise the ongoing spiritual and cultural connection Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have with land, water, sea and sky. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past and present, support future leaders and acknowledge First Nations People's right to self-determination.

This publication has been compiled by the Secretariat of the Queensland Local Government Remuneration Commission, within the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers.

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LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

12 December 2025

The Honourable Ann Leahy MP  
Minister for Local Government and Water and  
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers  
1 William Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Minister

On 28 November 2025, the Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission) concluded its determination of the levels of remuneration for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors of Queensland local governments (excluding Brisbane City Council) as required by section 177(c) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Chapter 8, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation).

Our determinations on these matters, together with the Remuneration Schedule to apply from 1 July 2026 are included in the enclosed Report, which we commend to you.

Yours sincerely



Robert (Bob) Abbot OAM  
Chairperson



Andrea Ranson  
Commissioner



Reimen Hii  
Commissioner

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



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## 1. 2025 Report key determinations

### Determination of maximum remuneration levels

The Commission has decided to increase the maximum remuneration levels for mayors, deputy mayors and councillors as follows:

Council Categories A1, A2, A3 and B1	Increase by 4.5% from 1 July 2026
Council Categories B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D2, D3, E2 and F2	Increase by 3.25% from 1 July 2026

In making its determination of maximum remuneration levels applicable for 2025-26, the Commission considered the following:

- The outcomes of the Commission's 2023 remuneration category methodology.
- Remuneration and wages indexation applied for other public sector entities.
- The importance of maintaining financially sustainable and fiscally responsible wage growth, taking into consideration:
  - the recently challenging and unstable inflationary environment and measures taken by other government authorities to manage the impacts of inflation.
  - the challenges faced by local governments and their communities in relation to climate change and environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) reporting, and the additional resources required in relation to sustainability and resilience strategies.
  - the realistic affordability and sustainability impacts for councils and their communities of wage increases for elected members.
  - the potential differential impact of Consumer Price Impact (CPI) changes across various parts of Queensland, including rural and remote regions.
  - the appropriateness or otherwise of CPI as a potential measure in significant inflationary periods of time and the relative volatility of annual CPI since the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - existing remuneration disparity in dollar terms between the remuneration paid to mayors and councillors in smaller, rural, regional and remote parts of Queensland when compared to mayors and councillors in larger, metropolitan locations.
  - anecdotal evidence of the desire to attract and retain high quality candidates to these roles, particularly in regional and remote areas.
  - the continuing significant disparity in remuneration between Mayors and Councillors from smaller rural, regional, and remote communities compared to those in larger metropolitan areas, as highlighted in written and oral deputations to the Commission over the last five years.
  - the gap in real wage terms between Mayors and Councillors in Categories A1 to B1 and those in Categories B2 to F2, despite the equally important work undertaken by local governments in all categories.
  - the Commission remains committed to addressing this gap through its annual remuneration schedule and category reviews and has applied a higher percentage increase for A1, A2, A3 and B1 councils.

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

The Commission further took into consideration the following data:

**Increase in CPI<sup>1</sup>:**

	Dec Qtr 2024	Mar Qtr 2025	June Qtr 2025	Sep Qtr 2025
All Groups CPI inflation change (quarter)				
Brisbane	0.6%	1.9%	0.8%	1.3%
Australia*	0.2%	0.9%	0.7%	1.3%
All Groups CPI inflation change (annual)				
Brisbane	1.8%	2.7%	2.5%	4.7%
Australia	2.4%	2.4%	2.1%	3.2%

\* Australia\* refers to weighted average of eight capital cities

**Increases in the Wage Price Index (WPI)<sup>2</sup>:**

For the financial year ended 30 June 2025 as compared to the financial year ending 30 June 2024<sup>1</sup>:

<b>Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses</b>			
		Quarterly change (%) Mar 2025 to Jun 2025	Annual change (%) Jun 2024 to Jun 2025
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>	Australia	0.8	3.4
	Private sector	0.8	3.4
	Public sector	1.0	3.7
<b>Original</b>	Australia	0.6	3.4
	Private sector	0.6	3.3
	Public sector	0.8	3.7

<b>Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses (original)</b> <b>Annual and quarterly movement - states and territories</b>		
	<b>Annual Change (%)</b>	<b>Quarterly Change (%)</b>
<b>NSW</b>	3.2	0.5
<b>VIC</b>	3.4	0.6
<b>QLD</b>	3.6	0.6
<b>SA</b>	3.4	0.5
<b>WA</b>	3.7	0.8
<b>TAS</b>	3.1	0.6
<b>NT</b>	3.3	0.3
<b>ACT</b>	3.6	1.2
<b>Australia</b>	3.4	0.6

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics  
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release>

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics  
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/jun-2025>

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## **Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal (ICRT)<sup>3</sup>:**

- The Commission has considered the Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal (ICRT) determination as a potentially relevant factor.
- The Tribunal has determined that the base rate for a BCC Councillor should be increased by 2.5% on 1 June 2022 with effect on and from 1 September 2022.
- Note: Councillors remuneration is reviewed every 4 years.

## **The Office of Industrial Relations (OIR):**

The State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2023 (2023 Core Agreement) wage increase arrangements:

- 4% effective 1 July 2023 + COLA<sup>4</sup> payment of max 3% base wages
- 4% effective 1 July 2024 + max 3% COLA if applicable
- 3% effective 1 July 2025 + max 3% COLA if applicable.

## **New South Wales<sup>5</sup>**

The New South Wales Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined an increase of 3.0% to mayoral and councillor fees for the 2025-26 financial year, with effect from 1 July 2025, circulated on 21 May 2025.

## **Victoria<sup>6</sup>**

On 30 June 2025, the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (VIRT) made the allowance payable to mayors, deputy mayors, and councillors (Victoria) Annual Adjustment Determination 2025.

The VIRT determined a 3.0% increase to the values of the base allowances payable to mayors, deputy mayors, and councillors, effective from 1 July 2025. A 3.0% increase has also been applied to the base allowance values which take effect on 18 December 2025.

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<sup>3</sup> Brisbane City Council's Independent Councillor Remuneration Tribunal  
<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/governance-and-strategy/councillors-and-wards>

<sup>4</sup> COLA refers to the Cost-of-Living Adjustment paid if CPI is higher than the base wage increases e.g. in a year where base increase is 4% and CPI is 7% the COLA paid will be 3%. If base increase is 4% and CPI is 6%, the COLA paid will be 2%  
<https://www.qirc.qld.gov.au/agreements/public-service-agreements>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/https-www-olg-nsw-gov-au-category-https-www-olg-nsw-gov-au-category-council-circulars/governance/council-circular-2025-26-determination-of-the-local-government-remuneration-tribunal/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.remunerationtribunal.vic.gov.au/allowances-mayors-deputy-mayors-and-councillors-annual-adjustment>

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Western Australia<sup>7</sup>

- In a determination published on 4 April 2025, the Western Australian Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, resolved that attendance fees and annual allowance ranges for Elected Members would be increased by 3.5%, with the adjustment to taking effect from 1 July 2025.
- In Western Australia a local government or regional local government can elect to pay council members an attendance or an annual fee to all council members who attend council, committee, or prescribed meetings. There is also provision for reimbursement of expenses.

### Tasmania<sup>8</sup>

In Tasmania, the remuneration for local government councillors is automatically increased under the provisions of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015.

Allowances are adjusted from 1 November each year by multiplying the allowances for the previous year by the inflationary factor for the current year.

Individual allowances payable to elected members from 1 November 2025 will be rounded to the nearest dollar using the inflationary factor, which is 3.09% for 2025-26.

### Northern Territory<sup>9</sup>

The Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal has increased all base allowances paid to Mayors and Councillors on 10 December 2024 by 4% in recognition of movements in earnings within Australia as well as the Territory, effective from 1 July 2025.

## Determination of remuneration policy for A1, A2 and A3 Councils

The Commission resolved to discontinue the meeting-based remuneration requirement for councillors in A1, A2, and A3 category councils, effective from the 2026–2027 determination period.

Prior to making this determination, the Commission consulted with councils from these categories, as well as more broadly across the sector, to ascertain industry support for removing the meeting-based remuneration model. Overwhelming positive support was received during consultations, with many councils expressing favour in ensuring there is parity in the remuneration policies for all councillors in Queensland and in taking steps to remove unnecessary administrative burden on category A1, A2 and A3 councils.

This amendment to the remuneration policy seeks to:

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/local-government-chief-executive-officers-and-elected-council-members-determination-no-1-of-2025#determination-of-the-salaries-and-allowances-tribunal-for-local-government-chief-executive-officers-and-elected-council-members>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local\\_government/councillor\\_resources/councillor\\_allowances](https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/councillor_resources/councillor_allowances)

<sup>9</sup> <https://cmc.nt.gov.au/supporting-government/boards-and-committees/reports-determinations>

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

1. **Promote Equity:** Ensure that all councillors across Queensland's 77 local governments remuneration process is administered on a similar basis, reflecting the value of their contributions irrespective of council size or classification.
2. **Reduce Administrative Burden:** Simplify remuneration processes by eliminating the need for monthly certification, consistent with the Queensland Government's commitment to reducing red tape for local governments.
3. **Support Financial Sustainability:** Enable councils to allocate their operating budgets with greater consistency and predictability

### Councillor advisors

The Commission was not approached to make recommendations relating to councillor advisors in the period between 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025.

## 2. The Commission

### Formation and composition

The Local Government Remuneration Commission (the Commission) is an independent entity established under the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act). On 1 October 2019, the Governor in Council, approved the current Commission for a term of four years.

The Chair and Commissioners were reappointed by the Governor in Council for a second four-year term on 1 October 2023.

This is the seventh report of the Commission, and the 19th report about Queensland councillor remuneration, including the reports of the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal and the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The Chair and Commissioners of the Commission are:

### Mr Robert (Bob) Abbot OAM

#### Chairperson

Mr Abbot has extensive experience in the local government sector with 32 years as an elected councillor and mayor. Mr Abbot has experience working at state and national local government organisations and has held board and panel positions, including Deputy Chair of the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors, Director of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), and Director of the Australian Local Government Association. Mr Abbot has been a mentor for newly elected mayors on behalf of the LGAQ, with a particular focus on mentoring Queensland Indigenous mayors.

In the 2021 Australia Day Honours List, Mr Abbot was the recipient of an Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to local government and to the communities of Noosa and the Sunshine Coast.

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Ms Andrea Ranson

#### **Commissioner**

Ms Ranson is a practising commercial and dispute resolution lawyer with experience in both public and private sectors of business and governance. She holds a Master of Laws (LLM), Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts from Monash University, Victoria. She is additionally a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Directors (AICD) and a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA).

Ms Ranson was a director appointed to North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation, a government owned corporation, holding the role of Chair of the Corporate Governance and Planning Committee, and the role of Member of the Audit & Financial Risk Management Committee of that Board from 2018 to 2025. Ms Ranson was appointed on 1 October 2024, as a Member of the Mackay Health & Hospital Service, a board upon which she currently serves, and is a Member of the Finance Committee, a Member of the Quality, Safety and Health Committee and a Member of the Sustainability and Capital Works Committee of that Board. Her experience includes business and commercial law, employment and industrial relations, diversity, justice, and ethics. Ms Ranson lives regionally and is passionate about regional development. Ms Ranson is a Nationally Accredited Mediator presently working with QCAT, the QSBC, and is a member of the QLD Department of Justice & Attorney-General Dispute Resolution Panel.

### Mr Reimen Hii

#### **Commissioner**

Mr Hii is a barrister and Nationally Accredited Mediator. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts. He is a practicing lawyer with extensive knowledge in public administration and community affairs, and a particular interest in civil and commercial law. Mr Hii is experienced in professional discipline matters, including investigations, public administration, corporate and public governance, public sector ethics and finance.

Mr Hii has a culturally and linguistically diverse background and experience collaborating with diverse communities. Mr Hii has previously been recognised as Australian Young Lawyer of the Year by the Law Council of Australia, in recognition of his significant contribution to access to justice and diversity advocacy. Mr Hii provides a deep understanding of diversity and brings well respected analytic skill, together with legal and business acumen to the role.

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Commission Responsibilities

Chapter 6, Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) established the Local Government Remuneration Commission to assume the remuneration functions of the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal which ceased to exist on 3 December 2018.

Section 177 of the Act provides the functions of the Commission are:

- to establish the categories of local governments, and
- to decide the category to which each local government belongs, and
- to decide the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillors in each of the categories, and
- to consider and make recommendations to the Minister about the following matters relating to councillor advisors—
  - (i) whether or not to prescribe a local government under section 197D(1)(a)
  - (ii) the number of councillor advisors each councillor of a local government may appoint
  - (iii) the number of councillor advisors a councillor of the council under the City of Brisbane Act 2010 may appoint; and
- another function related to the remuneration of councillors if directed, in writing, by the Minister.

Chapter 8, Part 1, Division 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Regulation) sets out the processes of the Commission in deciding the remuneration that is payable to mayors and councillors.

The Regulation requires the Commission to review the categories of local governments once every four years, to determine whether the categories and the assignment of local governments to those categories require amendment.

After determining the categories of local governments, the Regulation also requires the Commission to decide annually, before 1 December each year, the maximum amount of remuneration to be paid to mayors, deputy mayors, and councillors in each category from 1 July of the following year.

In addition, section 248 of the Regulation allows a local government to make a submission to the Commission to vary the remuneration for a councillor, or councillors, where the local government considers there are exceptional circumstance and seeks payment of an amount *higher than the maximum amount* stated in the Remuneration schedule. The Commission may, but is not required to, consider any such submission. If the Commission is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist, the Commission may approve payment of an amount higher than the maximum amount of remuneration scheduled.

Section 248 of the Regulation does not address whether a council can pay a councillor whilst temporarily acting in higher duties, such as moving from Councillor to Deputy Mayor or from Deputy Mayor to Mayor. The determination to compensate for higher duties during any relieving period—provided the payment amount does not exceed the maximum established by the commission for the respective role—resides exclusively with each individual council. The Commission strongly encourages all councils to establish thorough human resources policies that guide decision-making protocols concerning the assignment of higher duties, minimum relieving periods (eg.4 weeks), the disbursement of allowances, superannuation payments, and any other related procedures.

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### 3. Remuneration determination

#### Remuneration determination for councillors

As required by section 246 of the Regulation the Commission has prepared a Remuneration Schedule (the Schedule) for the 2026-27 financial year, applicable from 1 July 2026, which appears below.

Arrangements have been made to publish the Schedule in the Queensland Government Gazette and for this report to be presented to the Minister for Local Government.

#### Methodology

The Commission had regard to the matters in section 244 and 247 (2) and (5) of the Regulation in determining the Schedule. The Commission also noted and had regard to the matters listed throughout this report to determine the appropriate maximum remuneration in each category of local government.

#### Pro rata payment

Should an elected representative hold a councillor position for only part of a financial year, they are only entitled to remuneration to reflect the portion of the year served. It is out of the scope of the Commission's powers to determine otherwise.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
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**Remuneration schedule to apply from 1 July 2026**

Remuneration determined from 1 July 2026 (\$ per annum; see Note 1)

<b>Category</b>	<b>Local Governments assigned to categories</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Deputy Mayor</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
A1  *Note 1	Barcaldine Regional Council	\$128,509	\$74,139	\$64,253
	Barcoo Shire Council			
	Bulloo Shire Council			
	Croydon Shire Council			
	Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council			
	McKinlay Shire Council			
	Richmond Shire Council			
	Torres Shire Council			
	Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council			
A2  *Note 1	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	\$128,509	\$74,139	\$64,253
	Aurukun Shire Council			
	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council			
	Boulia Shire Council			
	Burke Shire Council			
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Cloncurry Shire Council			
	Diamantina Shire Council			
	Etheridge Shire Council			
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council			
	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Mornington Shire Council			
	Murweh Shire Council			
	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council			
	North Burnett Regional Council			
	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council			
	Paroo Shire Council			

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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<b>Category</b>	<b>Local Governments assigned to categories</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Deputy Mayor</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council Quilpie Shire Council Winton Shire Council Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council			
A3 * Note 1	Longreach Regional Council Balonne Shire Council Douglas Shire Council Flinders Shire Council Goondiwindi Regional Council Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	\$129,744	\$74,852	\$64,872
B1	Banana Shire Council Carpentaria Shire Council Burdekin Shire Council Cook Shire Council Torres Strait Island Regional Council	\$129,744	\$74,852	\$64,872
B2	Maranoa Regional Council Cassowary Coast Regional Council Charters Towers Regional Council Gympie Regional Council Livingstone Shire Council Mareeba Shire Council Mount Isa City Council Scenic Rim Regional Council Somerset Regional Council South Burnett Regional Council Southern Downs Regional Council Tablelands Regional Council	\$154,767	\$96,729	\$82,218
B3	Isaac Regional Council Noosa Shire Council Whitsunday Regional Council	\$155,141	\$96,963	\$82,417

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Category	Local Governments assigned to categories	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council			
C1	Central Highlands Regional Council	\$157,010	\$98,130	\$83,409
	Western Downs Regional Council			
C2	Gladstone Regional Council	\$181,137	\$119,170	\$104,868
	Rockhampton Regional Council			
C3	Bundaberg Regional Council	\$182,895	\$120,327	\$105,886
	Fraser Coast Regional Council			
D2	Cairns Regional Council	\$209,739	\$143,002	\$123,938
	Mackay Regional Council			
	Redland City Council			
	Toowoomba Regional Council			
D3	Townsville City Council	\$238,338	\$162,076	\$143,002
	Ipswich City Council			
E2	Logan City Council	\$266,942	\$184,952	\$162,072
	Moreton Bay City Council			
	Sunshine Coast Regional Council			
F2	Gold Coast City Council	\$295,542	\$208,148	\$176,371

**Notes to the Remuneration schedule**

The 2014 annual report by the former Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal explained the rationale behind the adoption of a system of remuneration which comprised a base payment (of two thirds of the annual remuneration) and a monthly payment based upon attendance at, and participation in, the 12 mandated council meetings.

The monetary amounts shown are the per annum figures to apply from 1 July 2026. If an elected representative only serves for part of a full financial year (that is, 1 July to 30 June) they are only entitled to a pro rata payment to reflect the portion of the year served.

**\*Note 1: The meeting-based remuneration requirement for A1, A2 and A3 Councils has been removed in 2026-27.**

Previously, councillors in A1, A2, and A3 category councils were remunerated through a hybrid model comprising a base payment (constituting two-thirds of the annual remuneration) and a meeting attendance payment (constituting one-third of the annual remuneration). This meeting attendance payment was contingent upon certification by the mayor or chief executive officer of the council. In contrast, mayors and deputy mayors in these categories received their total annual remuneration without this attendance-based condition.

The Commission resolved to discontinue the meeting-based remuneration requirement for councillors in A1, A2, and A3 category councils, effective from the 2026–2027 determination period.

## 4. Matters raised with the Commission

### Meetings and deputations

Local governments were invited to engage with the Commission during the Annual Conference of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), held in Brisbane from 20 to 23 October 2025. As part of this engagement, the Commission conducted face-to-face deputations with representatives from eight councils, including:

- Barcoo Shire Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
- Gladstone Regional Council
- Isaac Regional Council
- Redlands City Council
- Townsville City Council
- Whitsunday Regional Council

In addition to oral deputations, local governments were also encouraged to provide written submissions to the Commission. A total of seven written submissions were received and carefully considered.

Overall, the submissions highlighted the need for increased remuneration to better reflect the growing complexities and demands faced by mayors and councillors in modern local government. Several councils also proposed changes to their individual categorisation. However, the Commission has decided to defer any decisions regarding category changes until the next scheduled review.

In reaching its maximum determination decision for 2026-27, the Commission considered the submissions received, as well as the broader notions outlined in this report.

Key themes raised during the 2025 deputations, and the previous twelve-month review period reflected issues/topics consistently highlighted by councils in previous years as accounting for increasing the complexity and workload for elected members. These included:

- **Remuneration and Talent:** The need for competitive salaries to attract diverse and skilled candidates, particularly in regional areas, and to retain high-quality elected representatives.
- **Innovation Recognition:** Suggestions to explore mechanisms for incentivising and rewarding innovative council initiatives that foster community growth, resourcefulness, and development.
- **Inflationary Impact:** Concerns about the disproportionate effects of rising inflation and cost escalation on local governments and their communities, especially those with lower-income populations and in rural areas.
- **Community Sustainability:** A greater emphasis on ensuring the long-term viability and prosperity of communities, particularly in the context of the global transition to renewable energy and the associated need for significant infrastructure changes.
- **Leadership in Crisis and Recovery:** Acknowledging the heightened responsibilities, physical and emotional burden faced by councillors during natural disasters and other

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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significant events, including leading their communities through immediate response efforts and long-term recovery processes.

This feedback will continue to inform the Commission's future deliberations and decisions.

A summary table of written submissions made to the Commission during the previous 12 months is provided below:

**Table – Summary of 2025 written submissions**

<b>1. Date received</b>		10 October 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Gladstone Regional Council</b> Mayor, Cr Matt Burnett	
<b>Summary of submission</b>	Gladstone Regional Council proposed the introduction of a transition allowance for councillors who are not re-elected. This allowance would recognize the long-term service of elected officials and support their reintegration into the workforce, aligning local government entitlements with those of other public and private sector roles. The proposal suggests a base of 12 weeks' salary, with an additional two weeks for each consecutive term served.	
<b>Determination</b>	The Commission acknowledges the submission and the significance of this proposal and will consider it during the next category review.	
<b>2. Date received</b>		24 September 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council</b> CEO, Lew Rojahn	
<b>Summary of submission</b>	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council advocated for a 20% increase in councillor salaries for remote Queensland communities, particularly for category A2 councils. The submission highlighted the unique demands placed on councillors in small communities, including their deep involvement in daily community life and responsibilities that extend beyond formal duties (e.g. attend funerals, resolve disputes, respond to emergencies within community). Key factors cited include cost of living differentials, workload intensity, recruitment and retention challenges, and the need for equity with urban counterparts.	
<b>Determination</b>	The Commission acknowledges the submission. Given the nature of the issue seeking a substantial increase to base councillor remuneration rates, the Commission will consider this proposal at the next category review.	
<b>3. Date received</b>		4 November 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council</b> CEO, Dalassa Yorkston	
<b>Summary of submission</b>	The Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council requested that the Commission take into account the unique cultural and community challenges faced by councillors in their region as part of the 2028	

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	<p>council categorisation review. Councils' submission provided a comprehensive statistical overview, comparing the Northern Peninsula Area to Queensland averages on several key indicators, including the proportion of Indigenous residents, population mobility, homelessness rates, developmental vulnerability in children, educational attainment, and socio-economic disadvantage. The Council emphasised that these factors significantly increase the complexity and demands of the councillor role in their community. Additionally, the submission proposed the introduction of new classifications to distinguish between divisional and regional councils, reflecting the distinct governance and service delivery challenges in remote areas. Council has sought that its proposal and issues are considered as part of the next category review. The proposal and issues will be taken into consideration in the next category review.</p>
<b>Determination</b>	The Commission acknowledges Councils submission and the importance of these issues and confirms that they will be considered in the next category review.
<b>4. Date received</b>	7 November 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Winton Shire Council</b> Mayor, Cr Cathy White
<b>Summary of submission</b>	Winton Shire Council expressed support for the current framework in which remuneration levels are independently set by the Local Government Remuneration Commission. In its submission, the Council has requested the removal of the requirement for council resolution to formally accept or not the Commission's maximum remuneration determination. Council is seeking that once the Commission makes the determination that it should automatically apply to all councils within the relevant category. Council has also proposed that remuneration levels be set for the full four-year term, incorporating an annual adjustment applying indexation by the Consumer Price Index.
<b>Determination</b>	The Commission acknowledges Winton Shire Council's submission and confirms that, once the Commission makes its annual maximum remuneration determination, it is automatically applied to all councils within the relevant category for the forthcoming financial year. A council resolution is only required if a council resolution is only required if a council wishes to provide a lesser remuneration amount. The Commission will consider the suggestion to implement fixed four-year remuneration terms with annual CPI indexation as part of its next category review.
<b>5. Date received</b>	6 November 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Toowoomba Regional Council</b> CEO, Sal Petroccitto OAM
<b>Summary of submission</b>	Toowoomba Regional Council requested a reclassification from category D2 to D3 to ensure parity with comparable councils. The submission provided comparative statistical and financial data, as well as details of significant capital infrastructure projects required to address regional growth.

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<b>Determination</b>	The Commission noted that the new methodology allows for category review based on factors such as population and will consider this request in the next review cycle.
<b>6. Date received</b>	10 October 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Isaac Regional Council</b> Councillor Jane Pickels CEO, Cale Dendle
<b>Summary of submission</b>	Isaac Regional Council has formally requested a reclassification of its remuneration category from B3 to C1 for 2026. The submission highlights that the Council's 2025/26 budget operating revenue is \$154 million, aligning the Council to category C1 based on the primary criterion under the new categorisation framework which the Commissioners have previously advised is the principal determinant applied. Council concludes its alignment to the C1 classification is further justified when service population, geography, forecast growth, and SEIFA indices are considered. The submission also noted that Isaac has long advocated for reclassification alongside Central Highlands and Western Downs Councils, which were recently reclassified to C1. While the financial difference in remuneration is minimal, the Council seeks recognition of its councillors' roles in comparison to similar resource and agriculture-based councils.
<b>Determination</b>	The Commission acknowledges the submission from Isaac Regional Council and will review the request in 2026, taking into account the Council's audited financial statement and other relevant data.
<b>7. Date received</b>	20 October 2025
<b>Received from</b>	<b>Western Downs Regional Council</b> CEO, Jodie Taylor
<b>Summary of submission</b>	Council has requested consideration of a category change from C1 to C2. Council has identified previous submissions made to the Commission that identify factors in the Western Downs Regional Council Area impacting upon councillors' time, workload and responsibilities. In this new submission the Council also refers to the increasingly high level of activity in the clean energy sector in the region.
<b>Determination</b>	The Commission notes the submission and will consider category change as part of the next category review.

## 5. Other activities

Exceptional circumstances submissions (matters raised under Local Government Regulation 2012, section 248):

Nil.

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### 6. Future priorities

The Commission will continue to consider enhancements to the framework for council remuneration categorisation including an equitable method to consider industry impacts on councils and matters relating to transitioning communities and improving sustainability.

The Commission will continue to invite submissions from all Councils as part of its general review of categories and maximum determination of remuneration, as well as make themselves available for deputations at the annual LGAQ conference.

The Commission intends to travel during 2026 to engage with local governments.

Further information about the Commission can be located at

<https://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>

#### **Local Government Remuneration Commission**

GPO Box 2247

Brisbane Qld 4001

1 William Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: [LGRCEnquiries@dlgwv.qld.gov.au](mailto:LGRCEnquiries@dlgwv.qld.gov.au)

Website: <https://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-councils/governance/local-government-remuneration-commission>

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Department of Local Government,  
Water and Volunteers  
GPO Box 2247, Brisbane,  
Queensland 4001  
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[info@dlgwv.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@dlgwv.qld.gov.au)  
[dlgwv.qld.gov.au](http://dlgwv.qld.gov.au)

**DELIVERING**  
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland  
Government

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Minister for Education and the Arts



17 DEC 2025

1 William Street, Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033, City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7270  
Email: education@ministerial.qld.gov.au  
arts@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Councillor Anthony Rayner  
Mayor  
Longreach Regional Council  
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor *Joney*,

I am pleased to inform you that funding of \$27,000 per annum has been approved towards delivery of Longreach Regional Council's 2026–27 to 2027–28 Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF).

This funding represents a continuation of the funding awarded for 2024–26 which was recommended by an independent panel of assessors and approved by the Director-General, Department of Education, in line with parliamentary appropriations for RADF.

The evolved RADF model implemented for the 2024–25 to 2027–28 round acknowledges the long-established State and Local Government Partnership and enhances delivery through:

- streamlined program administration, including reduced reporting requirements; and
- clear alignment between the Crisafulli Government's *Queensland's Time to Shine: a 10-year strategy for arts and culture 2025–2035*.

Arts Queensland will be in contact with your RADF officer in relation to varying your current funding deed to reflect this funding for 2026–27 to 2027–28.

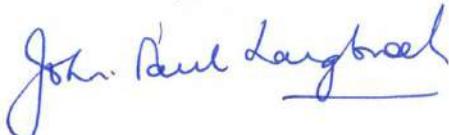
The Queensland Government's multi-year RADF investment provides greater funding certainty for 59 regional councils, streamlined program management and red tape reduction, while boosting the State's vibrant arts and cultural scene.

Please treat this funding as confidential; that is, no media or public announcements until it is announced by the Queensland Government. Once announced, I encourage you to promote your success in securing this funding.

Arts Queensland will contact council officers soon to execute this contract extension.

If you require additional information or assistance, please contact Ms Tania Hall, Executive Director, Partnerships and Investment, Arts Queensland, on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP  
Minister for Education and the Arts

Ref: 25/1204682; ACT25/4791

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Department of  
Primary Industries

Our ref: CTS 25823/25  
Your ref:

16 December 2025

Brett Walsh  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Longreach Regional Council**

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Walsh

I am writing to provide an update about the work being undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to ensure local governments can maintain access to state-owned quarry material whilst meeting native title requirements.

DPI continues to work very closely with local governments at an operational level to understand state-owned quarry material needs, the status of native title considerations for individual quarries, and to explore all potential options and practical alternatives to access state-owned quarry material.

DPI has also been leading Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) negotiations with relevant native title parties in relation to ongoing access to required state-owned quarry material. Where possible, DPI is also seeking agreement from native title parties to extend or grant sales permits issued under the authority of the *Forestry Act 1959*. These so-called 'interim agreements' reflect native title parties' limited consent to temporarily maintain access to state-owned quarry materials while negotiations progress towards an ILUA to provide valid enduring consent.

The Queensland Government has also endorsed use of section 143 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Local Government Act) to enable local governments to access state-owned quarry material in situations where the statutory requirements under that provision are able to be satisfied. This includes where the local government requires the materials to perform its responsibilities outlined in the Local Government Act; has no other reasonably practicable way of obtaining the materials; has given reasonable entry notice to the owner or

275 George Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 46 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
**Business Centre** 13 25 23  
Website [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 66 934 348 189

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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occupier of the land; and pays compensation for any damages or loss, including for the materials removed.

DPI also continues to engage regularly with local government stakeholders at the quarterly Quarry Material Native Title Update meetings. These meetings provide a forum where local government representatives are provided with updates on the work being undertaken by the Queensland Government in relation to state-owned quarry materials and native title as well as an opportunity to raise and discuss emerging issues.

I have attached a 'Dashboard' which provides an update on the quarry pits and ILUA requirements for your local government quarry sales permit. If you require further information regarding the Dashboard or your quarry sales permit, please contact Ms Belinda Hoffman by emailing [forestryquarry@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:forestryquarry@dpi.qld.gov.au).

Further information about the use of section 143 can be found by emailing the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLG WV) directly at [localgovernmentpolicy@dlgwv.qld.gov.au](mailto:localgovernmentpolicy@dlgwv.qld.gov.au). Councils can also provide information to DLG WV about their respective uses of section 143 directly to this email address.

Yours sincerely



Barry Underhill  
**Executive Director Forestry**

Att/Enc.



# Forestry Act 1959 Quarry Sales Permit - ILUA Requirements and Approval Status

## Permittee

Longreach Regional Council



### Important Note



The number of pits that may require an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in order to be renewed is based on a very preliminary assessment only and is not formal advice from the Department of Primary Industries.

The Department works with each Council at the time of the permit expiry date to discuss the specific circumstances relevant to the permit review, future requirements and potential native title considerations.

### Native Title Party for Pits Requiring an ILUA

NT holders	NT claimants/non-claimant	Number of Pits
		4
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

Number of Pits Currently Authorised  
**17**

Number of Pits That May Require an ILUA for Renewal  
**4**

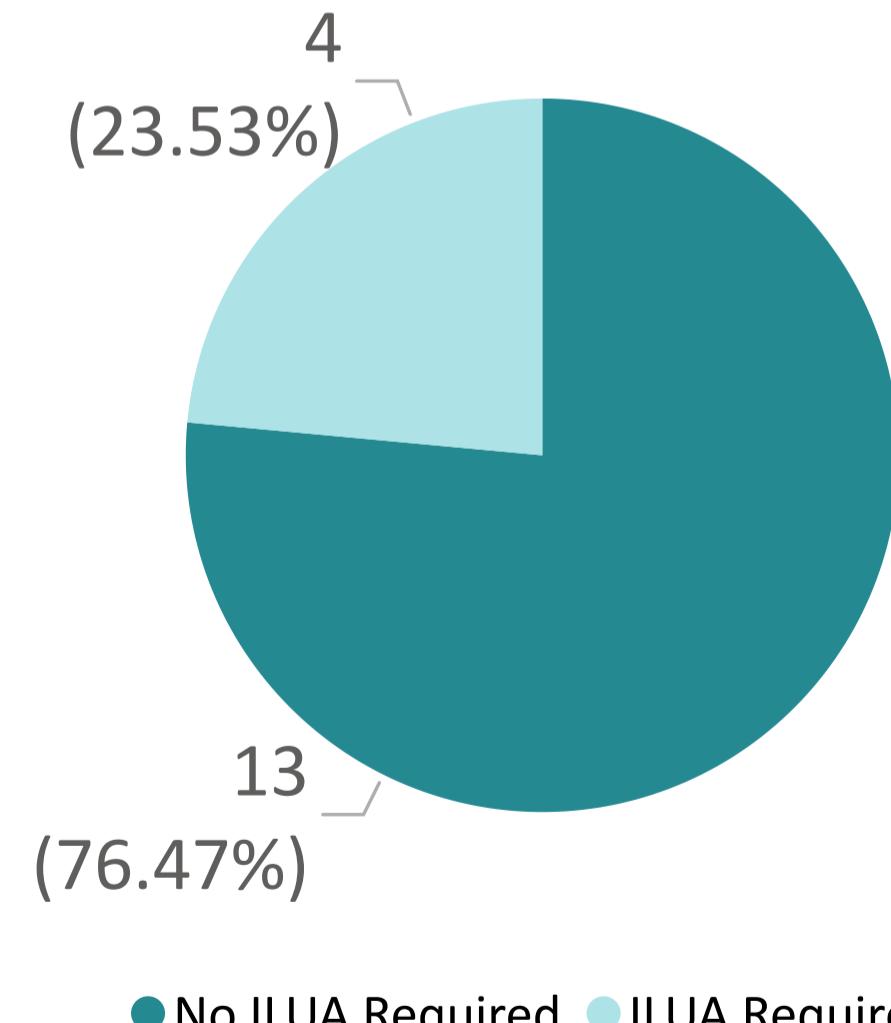
Permit Number

**132389**

Permit Expiry Date

**30/09/2026**

### Pits Requiring an ILUA



● No ILUA Required ● ILUA Required

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Department of  
**Local Government,  
Water and Volunteers**

Our ref: CTS 24579/25

12 December 2025

Mr Brett Walsh  
Chief Executive Officer  
Longreach Regional Council

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Walsh

I write to inform you that the Local Government Legislation (Empowering Councils) Amendment Regulation 2025 (Amendment Regulation) was made by the Governor in Council on 11 December 2025 and notified on the Queensland Legislation website on 12 December 2025.

The Amendment Regulation introduces amendments to the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012 which will empower local governments, cut unnecessary red tape for local governments, and clarify councillor remuneration.

The amendments empower local governments by:

- giving local governments the autonomy to decide whether to dispose of valuable non-current assets other than by tender or auction by resolution, without requiring intervention from the State
- enabling local governments, other than the Brisbane City Council, to grant concessions to ratepayers if satisfied the concession is appropriate having regard to the cost of living in the locality where the land is situated
- increasing the thresholds for requiring tenders and quotes and introducing an automatic indexation mechanism to increase the threshold annually
- ensuring that all local governments can change the discount period for the early payment of rates if there are extraordinary circumstances.

The amendments cut unnecessary red tape by:

- removing the requirement for the Minister to grant an extension of time by which a local government must adopt its annual report
- removing the requirement for local governments to notify the Minister of reportable losses
- removing the requirement to include an annual performance plan for each commercial business unit of a local government

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**ABN** 51 242 471 577

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- removing the prohibition on councillors using discretionary funds in a local government election year (from 1 January to the conclusion of the election)
- allowing local governments to not meet once in a month if impractical or unnecessary to do so, without requiring a Ministerial exemption.

The amendments clarify councillor remuneration by providing certainty to mayors and deputy mayors that their remuneration can only be decreased, by resolution, to be the same proportion of the maximum amount of remuneration payable as all other councillors of the local government are to receive.

These changes complement the amendments in the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, introduced into Parliament on 20 November 2025.

The Amendment Regulation and associated explanatory material are available on the Queensland Legislation website at [www.legislation.qld.gov.au/browse/asmade](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/browse/asmade). A summary of the amendments in the Amendment Regulation is also available on the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers' (department) webpage at [www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-councils/governance/empowering-councils-reg](http://www.dlgwv.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-councils/governance/empowering-councils-reg).

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a briefing for council, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Karl Holden, A/Director, Local Government Policy and Legislation, Local Government Division in the department on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED], who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Bronwyn Blagoev  
**Director-General**

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

**From:** DDG LGD Mailbox <[DDGLGDMailbox@dlgwv.qld.gov.au](mailto:DDGLGDMailbox@dlgwv.qld.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 December 2025 11:52 AM  
**Subject:** Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025  
(the Bill)

### OFFICIAL

Good Morning all,

On 20 November 2025, the Honourable Ann Leahy MP, Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers introduced the [Local Government \(Empowering Councils\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025](#) (the Bill) into the Queensland Parliament.

The Bill is the first phase of legislative reform to re-empower Queensland's local governments by reducing red tape and giving councils the resources and legislative framework they need to deliver for their communities. The Bill proposes amendments to the [City of Brisbane Act 2010](#), [Local Government Act 2009](#), [Local Government Electoral Act 2011](#), [City of Brisbane Regulation 2012](#) and [Local Government Regulation 2012](#)

The attached fact sheet provides a high-level overview of the proposed Bill and the subsequent changes for the local government sector.

The Bill has now been referred to the Parliamentary Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee (the Committee) for review. The Committee is currently seeking submissions on any aspect of the Bill, from all interested parties.

The closing date for written submissions is 12:00pm, Tuesday 16 December 2025. You can find more information on how to make a submission on the [Queensland Parliament website](#).

Regards,

**Emily Carrigan**  
Acting Deputy Director-General  
**Local Government Division**  
Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers

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**P:** 0447 351 763  
**A:** Level 16, 1 William Street, Brisbane City, QLD, 4000,  
**W:** [www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au](http://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au)



# Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

The Bill is the first phase of legislative reform to re-empower Queensland's local governments by reducing red tape and giving councils the resources and legislative framework they need to deliver for their communities.

The Bill proposes amendments to the [City of Brisbane Act 2010](#), [Local Government Act 2009](#), [Local Government Electoral Act 2011](#), [City of Brisbane Regulation 2012](#) and [Local Government Regulation 2012](#) to:

## Empower councils

Hiring Senior Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The council is responsible for the appointment of the CEO, who is generally responsible for the hiring of council employees.</li><li>However, under the Bill, the most senior council employees (known as 'senior executive employees') will be appointed by a panel made up of the Mayor, the CEO, and either the Deputy Mayor or a committee chair. (A senior executive employee is defined as a local government employee who reports directly to the CEO and ordinarily is considered a senior position.)</li><li>The CEO will continue to be responsible for the management, direction and discipline of senior executive employees, including dismissal.</li><li>The CEO will also be responsible for the appointment, management, direction and discipline of all other council employees.</li><li>At Brisbane City Council (BCC), councillors are already responsible for the appointment of senior executive employees. The Bill provides that the council will also be responsible for hiring senior contract employees (such as General Managers).</li></ul>
Access to State-Owned quarry materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill facilitates access to essential State-owned quarry materials. This will be achieved by replacing the current seven-day notice period to enter land and remove material, with a requirement to provide notice within a 'reasonable period'.</li></ul>
Clarifying rating powers for Indigenous councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill clarifies the current position that the fourteen Indigenous Local Governments (defined by the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i>) and Aurukun Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council, must not levy rates, whilst providing a mechanism for these councils to levy rates in the future, if they have the capacity to do so.</li></ul>

## Empower Mayors

Mayor as Official Spokesperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill makes it clear that the mayor is the official spokesperson for the council.</li> <li>Other councillors can still speak publicly, but as individual councillors, not on behalf of the whole council.</li> </ul>
Chairing Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mayor is confirmed as the chairperson of ordinary and special council meetings, and committee meetings for which the mayor has been appointed chairperson.</li> </ul>

## New rules for Conflicts of Interest

New Rules for Conflicts of Interest	<p>The Bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reintroduces conflict of interest rules based on material personal interests and conflicts of interests</li> <li>Retains current exemptions (e.g. small value gifts, club memberships, religious beliefs and political affiliations and matters that impact on the whole local government area, such as the budget and operational plan)</li> <li>Removes vague terms like "close personal relationship."</li> <li>Removes the requirement for councillors to report suspicions about each other.</li> </ul> <p>Serious breaches (i.e. intentionally trying to gain a benefit or avoid a loss) can lead to heavy penalties, including fines or imprisonment. Other breaches may be treated as misconduct under the councillor conduct framework.</p>
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## Reducing red tape

Removing barriers to Disaster Recovery Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill provides the Minister with the power to issue a general approval for councils to make major policy decisions in relation to disaster recovery funding arrangements during the caretaker period for local government elections.</li> <li>The Bill lets the Minister issue one approval covering many councils and decisions at once, which speeds up disaster recovery work.</li> </ul>
Removing "Conduct Breach" category from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill removes Conduct Breaches from the Councillor Conduct Framework.</li> <li>This means the OIA only has jurisdiction to proceed with misconduct and corrupt conduct charges and must dismiss other matters.</li> </ul>

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Councillor Conduct Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>However, inappropriate behaviour may still be called out through other mechanisms (public council meetings and the media). Unsuitable meeting conduct by a councillor will continue to be dealt with by the chairperson of the meeting.</li><li>Safeguards will remain in place to address inappropriate conduct from councillors towards council employees including under workplace health and safety legislation.</li><li>The definition of misconduct will include more serious conduct breaches like bullying or sexual harassment and circumstances where a councillor contravenes an order of the chairperson of a meeting to leave and stay away from a meeting.</li></ul>
Removing duplication of requirements for annual report and Councillor conduct register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill removes the requirement for councils to publish certain information on councillor conduct matters in their annual report. This information will still be available on the council's councillor conduct register.</li></ul>
Mandatory Training Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Returning councillors won't need to redo mandatory training in order to be nominated as a candidate or serve as a councillor.</li><li>All councillors both new and returning will be required to undertake an approved training course where there have been significant policy or legislation changes. For example, councillors would be required to undertake a training course on the proposed changes to the conflicts of interest framework.</li></ul>
Councillor advisors removal of regulation making power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill removes unnecessary powers to make a regulation to limit the functions and key responsibilities of a councillor advisor.</li></ul>
Postal Ballot Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill streamlines the postal ballot application process by allowing councils to apply directly to the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ).</li><li>The ECQ will consider applications and then make a written recommendation to the Minister about whether the application should be approved. The Minister will continue to have the final say on if a postal ballot will be held.</li></ul>
Reviewing Division/Wards and councillors before quadrennial elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The ECQ, rather than the council, will now start the review of council division/ward boundaries process before quadrennial elections, since it holds the necessary information and data.</li></ul>

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Deadline for review of wards/divisions and Councillors before quadrennial elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill aligns the deadline for the review of divisions and Councillors for local governments under the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> with the current deadline for Brisbane City Council (1 October in the year that is 2 years before the year of the quadrennial election). Giving the Local Government Change Commission more time to complete the necessary divisional boundary reviews.</li></ul>
Remove requirement to provide the Minister with public benefit assessment report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bill removes the requirement for councils to provide the Minister with a copy of a public benefit assessment report and all resolutions made in relation to the report, on the basis that this information is already publicly available in the minutes of the council meeting.</li></ul>

## Providing certainty to councillors about matters relating to remuneration, leaves of absence, vacation of office and eligibility

Clearer Remuneration and Leave Rules	<p>The Bill clarifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Councillors will be paid from the start of their term until it ends.</li><li>Councils cannot reduce or remove the remuneration of a councillor who is absent from a meeting, even where that Councillor has not been granted leave.</li><li>Councillors on leave of absence can still perform their responsibilities and take part in meetings if they choose.</li><li>If a Councillor becomes mayor the councillor automatically vacates the role of councillor.</li><li>If a councillor becomes a candidate for State Parliament, they automatically vacate the role of councillor.</li></ul>
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## Promoting good government and decision-making

Rules for Brisbane City Council's Civic Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Councillors who are not part of the Civic Cabinet cannot access its documents until decisions are final.</li></ul>
Prevent unauthorised disclosure of parliamentary proceedings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clarification that the power for councillors to request information from the CEO does not apply to information that comprises proceedings in the Assembly</li></ul>

## Enhancing safeguards for local government election candidates and participants

Election Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Election material can now list a PO box instead of a home address to protect privacy.</li></ul>
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## Minor fixes and technical updates

Changes to fix errors, reduce duplication and modernise wording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updating references to laws,</li><li>Allowing early adoption of the BCC budget,</li><li>Improving the council complaints process,</li><li>Allowing appointment of acting Independent Assessor without strict time limits.</li></ul>
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For more information visit [www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au](http://www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au)

## The digital shift transforming Longreach water security

**A digital metering rollout is helping improve Longreach's water security by uncovering real-time consumption patterns, strengthening community engagement, and supporting smarter decisions across the region's drought-prone network.**



Image: Longreach Regional Council

For Longreach Regional Council, introducing digital metering is more than a technological upgrade. It is a cultural shift toward shared responsibility for water security. It reflects a partnership between Council, technology providers and the community itself.

Mayor Tony Rayner describes water as "the backbone of each community" and said effective management was essential for the region's future.

With residents now equipped with a customer portal, they have the tools and data to monitor their own water use, introducing a new layer of accountability and conservation awareness.

### **Single-source water supply at risk**

In central west Queensland, Longreach depends almost entirely on the Thomson River, a system shaped by overland flow and unpredictable climatic cycles.

During the last major dry period, the river sank to critically low levels. Creeks thinned, channels receded, and the community entered high levels of water restrictions. Residents and business owners felt the pressure of a shrinking supply, as water scarcity severely impacts the quality of life.

"When you see your water supply dropping and dropping quickly, and then you escalate your level of water restriction to level two and then level three, it becomes quite apparent that there is a critical issue to be managed," Mayor Tony Rayner said.

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His reflection captured what many had come to understand. Water security could no longer rely on reactive responses to drought. The community needed a long-term plan, supported by modern tools and clear, accessible information, to identify areas where water can be saved.

From that moment, Council embarked on one of its most significant water initiatives in decades. The rollout of digital water meters became central to that strategy. What began as a discussion about technology soon revealed itself as a community story about behaviour, data, trust and the future of Longreach.

### **How Longreach prepared for a new approach to water management**

The first step in reshaping Longreach's water future was a detailed assessment of the region's vulnerabilities. Conducted in 2022, the assessment provided a clear picture of how frequently the town was pushed toward crisis.

Longreach sits in a drought-prone region where geography magnifies climate variability. Council recognised the town needed new tools to understand the complete picture of its water balance.

The result was the Longreach Water Security for Growth program.

Supported by the National Water Grid, the Queensland Government and the Council's own contributions, the program includes a wide range of projects. These include raising five weirs on the Thomson River, replacing water mains, and improving the water balance model that underpins long-term planning.

Digital water meters were also identified as being essential for understanding daily and seasonal consumption patterns and for revealing losses that had previously gone unnoticed.

Previously, the meters were read only annually, with residents receiving a fixed annual allocation of 1,200 kilolitres. With only one reading per year, both residents and Council were operating in the dark with no visibility into how water was being used or lost to leaks.

Another pressing issue was that the town's existing mechanical meters were near the end of their useful life. Many were slowing down and underreading.

It was clear that the town needed a system that could provide accurate, day-to-day data.

The digital meters offered that opportunity. They were more accurate and equipped to send data remotely. They also provided residents with a way to see their own water use through a customer portal, introducing a new layer of accountability and conservation awareness.

### **Rethinking a drying river through long-term community planning**

Mayor Rayner has lived in Longreach long enough to witness multiple cycles of drought, flood and uncertainty. His insight has shaped how Council communicates about water security.

"Being a long-term local who has seen the impacts of drought and low water levels, I know firsthand what it is like. It impacts your liveability," he said. "The last thing you want is to go into a period of low water supply and no gardens."

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January 2026*

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Rayner and CEO Brett Walsh made water security a top strategic priority in their discussions with state and federal governments. The goal was not only to protect existing residents but also to support community growth. Families want reliable water. Businesses want certainty. Community groups want to know that sporting fields, parks and recreation areas can be maintained.

"I needed to take the business case up with both the state and the federal government," Rayner said. "We were very fortunate to get strong support."

With funding secured, Council moved quickly from planning to implementation.

### **How partnerships strengthened the regional rollout**

Collaborative partnerships with experience, local knowledge, and the right tools and processes enabled the project to launch quickly and efficiently.

With Telstra as the prime contractor and communications provider, and Taggle Systems providing project management, devices and delivery, the project was well supported.

Manager of Innovation and Business Support Kimberley Dillon said Telstra's partnership with Taggle helped establish confidence in the project.

She said the involvement of the national provider added credibility and ensured the system underwent rigorous quality and security checks.

For a remote municipal government with limited access to contractors, these partnerships and their experience were critical. They ensured fast responses to operational issues, easier communication with residents and a stronger foundation for future system upgrades.

### **Where experience counts**

Taggle worked closely with Council staff to integrate the water meter data with internal financial and administrative processes. With over 75 council and utility customers, this process has been streamlined and is a critical part of the project. The ability for meter data to flow directly into billing and customer service processes reduced duplication, improved accuracy and saved time.

"It is a massive bonus for billing, operations, and for the customer service team," Utilities Consultant Shane Anderson said.

The customer service team can now support our residents with water enquiries using the water meter data.

Once residents sign up for the customer portal, they will receive automatic leak alerts. The customer service team are also contacting property owners to quickly action the largest leaks.

### **Inside the digital rollout and the operational effort behind it**

A slow start in trialling various technologies meant that, once the go-ahead was given, the pressure was on to meet funding milestones. The deadline was tight, with half the meters needing to be installed by the end of November.

Telstra and Taggle got stuck in coordinating all the moving parts to meet the deadline, including going the extra mile to have the meters flown in rather than shipped. Council

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utilised its internal plumbing team to install the 800 meters, and they moved at an impressive pace. On their most productive day, they installed 93 meters. They completed the full 800 with time to spare.

"They performed admirably and did the job," Anderson said. "The digital metering project is the first component of the broader Water Security for Growth program to be delivered on time and under budget."

### **Once the data started to flow**

The data emerging from the newly installed meters revealed the scale of previously unseen issues. In the early weeks, the system recorded 233 potential leaks across the network, each lasting 48 hours. The total volume of water lost to these leaks in the first few weeks reached approximately 1600 kilolitres. The average rate of leakage was seventy litres per hour, and around fifteen per cent of meters showed signs of continuous flow.

These figures provided Council with its most accurate picture of water loss to date. They also confirmed that real-time monitoring could prevent long-term, costly losses and help residents avoid unexpected excess water charges.

### **How early wins and human stories helped build community trust**

Having the technology in place was just the first step; community education was a critical part of the project and is driving the success. Workshops were held with local plumbers to help them understand the system, interpret data, and assist residents.

"We made sure that our plumbers were on board and had that intimate understanding of the customer portal," Dillon said. "When they are looking at the data, they know what they are looking at and can actually help the residents and business owners."

Real stories soon began to demonstrate how powerful the system could be.

Following installation, an alert quickly appeared for a 400-litre-per-hour leak. Council contacted the resident, and a plumbing inspection revealed that the inlet shut-off to the float on an evaporative air conditioner was not working, causing water to run continuously. This issue could have gone undetected for months and was resolved within a day. With the leak, the residents' water consumption was 19,203 litres per day; once the leak was fixed, it dropped to 5,791 litres per day.

"They were super grateful," Business Support Coordinator Anna Lacey said. "Better to nip it in the bud now before it continues."

### **Another good news story**

Two businesses next door to each other on the main street, owned by the same landlord, both had significant leaks. At first, Council thought there might be an issue with the data, but sure enough, there were leaks on both properties.

The first involved a continuously running toilet, and the other was another faulty evaporative cooling system. While the leaking toilet was not concealed, quantifying just how much water was being lost was a shock to the owner.

Having the data prompted the owner to take action to fix it. Without the alerts, the owner would have had a significant water bill at the end of the year.

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

During droughts when the river runs low, quickly identifying unnecessary water losses can have a significant impact on water security.

These early examples of identified losses helped ease community concerns. Residents began thinking differently about how they are using water, considering their irrigation and household systems. Some adjusted sprinkler times. Others checked older plumbing fixtures. Many became more aware of how much water they were using daily.

### **Backing of the Councillors**

Councillors were briefed throughout the rollout to ensure their understanding aligned with community expectations. Their involvement helped reduce confusion, especially among residents who initially worried that digital monitoring might lead to unwanted scrutiny. The consistent message focused on conservation, community benefit, and long-term security rather than punitive measures.

### **What digital metering means for Longreach water security over the next decade**

Although the rollout has only recently begun, the long-term potential of digital metering is already clear. Aside from identifying leaks in properties, the system also allows Council to track water movement from the reservoir to the suburb and to the household. Utilising the District Metered Area (DMA) functionality within Taggle's software, zones can be set up for water management within the network. Any disparities between these points reveal non-revenue water losses in the network, enabling the Council to pinpoint leaks, assess aging infrastructure and prioritise investment in areas with greater losses.

Anderson said the new insights would reshape asset management. Council would no longer rely on assumptions based on pipe age or location. Decisions could be guided by actual performance, informing when and where to replace mains, how to manage reservoirs and how to plan for seasonal changes in consumption.

Longreach Regional Council CEO Brett Walsh said increased supply with the raising of the weirs had to be matched with smarter demand management.

"Given that we will have increased supply, we also have to manage the demand for that supply, which is why the digital meters are critical."

He said the alignment of supply and demand planning would become more critical as climate pressures intensified and the community grew. Digital metering would support future drought-triggered management by providing a better understanding of how water is used at scale, helping Council create more accurate, timely restrictions. And reduce the severity and length of those restrictions by utilising the data to identify wasted water.

Walsh said the monitoring would also help improve planning for evaporative cooling systems, which can consume significant water volumes during peak summer months.

### **A community taking charge of its future**

With digital meters in place, Longreach now has a clear and continuously updated picture of how its most important resource is used. The community has begun to adapt its behaviour, and Council has the information it needs to plan for decades rather than seasons.

Longreach will continue to rely on the ebb and flow of the Thomson River, but it now has the tools to prepare for dry periods and protect its natural resources.

*Inside Water Newsletter  
January 2026*

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

The story unfolding in the region is one of resilience, clarity and long-term security.

For a community shaped by harsh climate and strong identity, the project marks a meaningful step toward greater confidence in its future.

Mayor Rayner said the project's success reflected something deeper than technology or infrastructure.

"Water is the livelihood of our community, and management of that is very much part of it," he said.

"If we can better manage that resource, that is a really critical tool for us."

For more information, visit [telstra.com.au/business-enterprise](http://telstra.com.au/business-enterprise) and [taggle.com](http://taggle.com).

*Inside Water Newsletter  
January 2026*

Longreach Regional  
Council Staff.

dealing with mountains  
of paperwork, not to  
mention funerals.

Just a note of  
appreciation for all the  
services we receive. For  
our tidy progressive  
home town.

Those who work  
in the hot sun, those  
in vehicle maintenance,  
street sweeper, rubbish  
collection, and those

Best Wishes for Christmas  
and the New Year !

Thank you all.  
May you have a  
blessed Christmas

Kathy & Kerry  
Mac Donalds.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
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## **11.2 Chief Executive Officer's Council Report**

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Chief Executive Officer.

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer:**

*Brett Walsh (Chief Executive Officer)*

Following is a summary of activities undertaken for the period to 15 January 2026:

#### **Strategic Leadership**

- Attend RAPAD CEO's meeting
- Attend RAPAD Board meeting
- Complete professional development course
- Attend Longreach Depot breakup
- Attend Isisford staff breakup
- Strategic meetings with Councillors
- Strategic meetings with ELT

#### **Operational Management**

- Local Disaster Management Group moved to ALERT
- Attend District Disaster Management Group meeting
- Approve contract for desilting and enlargement of Murray MacMillan Dam
- Approve contract for installation of Longreach Water Mains
- Tenders for Kestrel Street land development now open
- Conduct an inspection of Council facilities in Isisford
- Negotiate Longreach saleyards rail project
- Discuss options for tyres recycling

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

- Meet with SES regional officers re SES Annual Report
- Meet with local residents re local laws matters
- Meet with TMR District Director re roads matters
- Attend meeting with Qld Rail re Rail Trails opportunities
- Attend Longreach Airport Security Committee meeting
- Meet with proponents of a touring art exhibition
- Discuss with pharmacists changes to Commonwealth grant funding arrangements
- Attend the State Environment Functional Recovery and Resilience Group meeting
- Meet with a landholder re potential development in Longreach
- Meet with a landholder re options for land development
- Meet with QRA liaison officer
- Meet with new Acting Inspector of Qld Fire and Rescue

#### **Appendices**

Nil

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**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Chief Executive Officer's Council report, as presented.*

## **11.3 Buffel Grass Position**

Consideration of the Buffel Grass Position Paper presented by Desert Channels Qld.

### **Council Action**

Decide

### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Human Rights Act 2019*

### **Relevant Excerpts from Legislation**

#### ***Local Government Act 2009***

S4 – Local government principles underpin this Act

(2) (a) Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest

(2) (d) Good governance of, and by, local government

#### ***Human Rights Act 2019***

S21 – Freedom of expression

(1) every person has the right to hold an opinion with interference.

(2) every person has the right to freedom of expression...

S24 – Property rights

(2) a person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property

### **Policy Considerations**

Nil

### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

Strategy

#### **OUR ECONOMY**

2.1.1 Advocate to and partner with regional organisations, industry stakeholders, and governments to support emerging economic development opportunities

2.2.4 Provide logistical support services to the agricultural economy

### **Consultation:**

Internal	External
Councillors, ELT, Manager of Regulatory Services	Desert Channels Qld

### **Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter**

Nil

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer:**

*Brett Walsh (Chief Executive Officer)*

## **LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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### **Purpose:**

Desert Channels Qld has presented Council with a position paper in response to a proposal to the Australian Government to declare Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) as a Weed of National Significance (WONS).

Buffel Grass is a declared weed for management in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Council wishes to formalise its position on this matter.

### **Discussion:**

The attached Paper outlines the issues and DCQ's Position and Recommendations.

### **DCQ Primary Position statements**

- DCQ does not support a listing of Buffel grass as a WoNs.
- DCQ would not support a WoNS listing of Buffel grass that limits existing Buffel grass management for grazing purposes, or places heavy restrictions on grazing industry use.
- DCQ would not support a WoNS listing of Buffel grass that prevents land managers from appropriately managing Buffel grass.
- DCQ recognises that Buffel grass is and can be a threat to high value conservation areas and would be a willing partner with those organisations who are managing Buffel Grass in these areas.
- DCQ supports the continued investment of resources and coordinated efforts to manage priority WoNS threats (eg. Prickly Acacia and Parkinsonia) in the Desert Channels region.

### **DCQ Secondary Position statements**

- DCQ does not support management of Buffel grass that allows Buffel grass to develop into a monoculture that harms biodiversity and creates economic liability for pastoralists.
- DCQ supports the re-establishment of Mitchell grass pastures, which are a native 3P pasture (perennial, productive, palatable) alternative to Buffel grass in much of Western Queensland.
- DCQ supports programmes and incentives that encourage the transition or diversification of Buffel grass pasture to Mitchell grass pasture in partnership with community, landholders, government, Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.

It is recommended that Longreach Regional Council adopts a short and clear statement on this matter.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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**Implications**

**Budget**

Comments:		
Revenue:	nil	n/a
Expenditure:	nil	n/a
Net Result:	nil	n/a

**Strategic Risk**

This matter has been assessed against Council's Strategic Risk Register to determine the likelihood and consequence of any strategic risk to Council arising from this recommendation.

Strategic Risk:	Environmental (external influences)	Comments:
Likelihood:	Unlikely	
Consequence:	Minor	
Rating:		

**Environmental**

Buffel Grass was introduced into Australia as a livestock feed and has spread throughout the Council region. It is not practical or economically feasible to manage the grass.

**Asset Management**

n/a

**Other Implications**

Buffel Grass has provided considerable economic benefit and wealth to the livestock industry.

**Human Rights**

Right:	Comments:
Freedom of expression	Council's position does not infringe these human rights.
Property rights	

**Appendices**

1. DCQ Buffel grass Position Paper FINAL [11.3.1 - 6 pages]

**Recommendation:**

*That Council does not support the proposal to declare Buffel Grass as a Weed of National Significance (WONS) due to the considerable economic benefit that Buffel Grass provides to the Australian livestock industry and to the Longreach region.*



# Desert Channels Queensland

## Position Paper

### BUFFEL GRASS *Cenchrus ciliaris*

**July 2025**

Desert Channels Queensland Inc (DCQ) is a community-based organisation working with landholders on the sustainable management of their land and water resources. Our goal is to have thriving communities with productive industries supported by a healthy environment.

**DCQ** position papers are for general information only. They are not intended to be, and should not be, relied on as a substitute for specialist advice. While every effort is taken to ensure the information is accurate, **DCQ** makes no representations and gives no warranties that this information is correct, current, complete, reliable or suitable for any purpose. We disclaim all responsibility and liability for any direct or indirect loss, damage, cost or expense whatsoever in the use of, or reliance upon, this information.

## Should Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) be listed or not listed as a Weed of National Significance?

### The Issue

- **Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) is being considered for listing as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) in Australia.**
- **Buffel grass is a non-native** but 3P grass (perennial, productive, palatable) that was introduced into Australia from Africa and Asia for stock grazing and to stabilise overgrazed and eroded soils.
- **Buffel grass has been shown to transform ecology**, outcompete native grasses, burn hot fires, spread rapidly, and change vegetation density and the character of Australia's arid landscapes.
- Buffel grass is now recognised as a **serious environmental weed**.
- In non-pastoral lands and **areas of high conservation** there is value in controlling Buffel grass to reduce spread and maintain biodiversity.
- This report summarises the **key management issues for Buffel grass** and the historical evidence of its impact on natural resource systems (soil, pasture, waterways and biodiversity), particularly in the Desert Channels region.
- **DCQ does not support a listing of Buffel grass as a WoNs.**
- **DCQ recognises that Buffel grass is and can be a threat to high value conservation areas** and would be a willing partner with those organisations who are managing Buffel Grass in these areas.



Figure 1. Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*).  
Photo: Mark Marathon,  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cenchrus\\_ciliaris.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cenchrus_ciliaris.jpg).



Figure 2. Distribution of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) (black dots) in Australia based on records in  
<http://www.ala.org.au/>.

Source: Scott JK, 2014

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## Background

In 2018, there were 2,295 introduced and invasive plants in Australia of which 80 were invasive and 2,215 were introduced (“Introduced and invasive species | Australia state of the environment 2021,” n.d.). Although often referred to as an “invasive species”, Buffel grass was introduced somewhere between 1930 and 1960, perhaps inadvertently, but later planted as a hardy perennial grass, including in Central Queensland. The primary purpose was livestock feed, and to reduce bare ground and erosion due to drought and overgrazing. Now, in semi-arid and arid regions of Australia, Buffel grass is regarded as an invasive species of environmental concern, because of its tendency and ability to spread rapidly beyond its intended range. (Grice et al., 2012; Marshall et al., 2012; Scott JK, 2014).

For these reasons, the dense biomass of Buffel grasses means it burns hot fires that kill native trees and shrubs. Buffel grass can also recover rapidly to outcompete native grasses, developing a monoculture that prevents the establishment of local biodiversity. For example, Buffel grass has extensively replaced *Triodia* spinifex hummocks in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Lake Eyre Basin, and Brigalow Belt and has been named “devil grass” by some senior Indigenous women due to its detrimental impact on landscape, wildlife and Traditional practices (Grice et al., 2013). Buffel grass is expected to expand its range further south following climatic shifts in arid zones over coming decades (Read et al., 2020).

However, Buffel grass has provided considerable economic benefit to the Australian livestock industry. It is noted for its high nutritional value for sheep and cattle, high drought tolerance, ability to re-establish in degraded pastures and rapid growth response following rain events (Marshall et al., 2012). In 2020, one report estimates that at least 44% of Australia’s beef cattle enterprises are dependent on Buffel grass as a dominant pasture (Read et al., 2020). Buffel grass has also been attributed by politicians and industry leaders for restoring drought-stricken and degraded regions of Western Queensland, providing grass cover that suppresses erosion, and serving as the “backbone” of the Queensland grazing industry (“Buffel Feeds Australia—Bureaucracy Starves It. · AgForce · Advancing Rural Queensland,” n.d.; Hui, 2025).

Managing the integration of Buffel grass into the Desert Channels ecosystem could also be considered. Montesinos (2023) observes that the integration of invasives does not lessen their impact in terms of biodiversity loss, changes in ecosystem function and services. These include changes in nutrient cycling, hydrology, habitat structure, and disturbances. These impacts are real

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and lasting, but so is the naturalisation of numerous non-native species and the need to, at some point, accept them as ‘neo-natives’ (“When will invasive species be considered native?,” 2023).

## Discussion

Buffel grass is widespread in the Desert Channels region, and it is not practical or economically feasible to use herbicides to manage these broad regions. Resources and efforts should be focused on managing current WoNS threats (e.g. Prickly Acacia, Rubber Vine) in the Lake Eyre Basin, where funding and control are already lacking. The removal of weeds across vast areas is costly and can be ineffective long-term without coordinated, targeted efforts and landholder support.

As Buffel grass tends to create a monoculture, there can be a widespread impact on livestock production if it suffers from dieback. Unlike native Mitchell grass (*Astrebla spp.*), Buffel grass cannot withstand inundation (floods) for more than two days before it dies. This implies an inherent weakness in the pastoral reliance on Buffel grass as a feedstock in areas prone to flooding, and highlights some of the problems faced when a plant has the capacity to establish as a monoculture.

Buffel grass must also be considered in its economic, cultural and environmental contexts. The management of Buffel grass in pastoral versus non-pastoral lands must be distinguished. In pastoral lands, the challenges and management of Buffel grass are focused on its value as a reliable source of feed for livestock, especially in drought. In non-pastoral lands, including Areas of Environmental Significance, the impacts of Buffel grass to biodiversity, to landscape modification, fire management risk and cultural Traditional Owner practices are prioritised. Land managers must be given the tools and freedom they need to appropriately manage their natural resources according to local priorities.

## Primary Position statements

- DCQ does not support a listing of Buffel grass as a WoNs.
- DCQ would not support a WoNS listing of Buffel grass that limits existing Buffel grass management for grazing purposes, or places heavy restrictions on grazing industry use.
- DCQ would not support a WoNS listing of Buffel grass that prevents land managers from appropriately managing Buffel grass.
- DCQ recognises that Buffel grass is and can be a threat to high value conservation areas and would be a willing partner with those organisations who are managing Buffel Grass in these areas.

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- DCQ supports the continued investment of resources and coordinated efforts to manage priority WoNS threats (eg. Prickly Acacia and Parkinsonia) in the Desert Channels region.

## Secondary Position statements

- DCQ does not support management of Buffel grass that allows Buffel grass to develop into a monoculture that harms biodiversity and creates economic liability for pastoralists.
- DCQ supports the re-establishment of Mitchell grass pastures, which are a native 3P pasture (perennial, productive, palatable) alternative to Buffel grass in much of Western Queensland.
- DCQ supports programmes and incentives that encourage the transition or diversification of Buffel grass pasture to Mitchell grass pasture in partnership with community, landholders, government, Traditional Owners and other stakeholders.

## DCQ recommends

There is demand from a range of stakeholders to better manage the impacts of Buffel grass. Our focus is minimising its impact in areas where Buffel grass is *not yet* endemic. In non-pastoral lands and areas of high conservation (national parks, conservation reserves, First Nations cultural sites), there is value in controlling Buffel grass to reduce spread and maintain biodiversity and damage to native flora and fauna. Targeted research and landscape scale surveillance continues to be important tools to increase efficiency and drive future investment in management in priority landscapes<sup>10</sup>.

In pastoral lands, where Buffel grass is used as a feedstock, control would not be practical or preferred. However, where it is used for pastures, education around potential risks and problems of Buffel grass is important. There is scope for further post-flood research into the effects of Buffel grass dieback following inundation and their potential for land managers to reseed pastures with a mix of native species, including Mitchell grass. Furthermore, in regions where fire is a risk, management practices should be developed to control the potential impact of hot fires. A known issue that also needs to be addressed is 'Buffel rundown', often occurring after approximately 15 years, likely due to long-term soil fertility decline from increased nutrients being pulled out of soils. These are important and priority land management issues for improving management of Buffel grass in our region.

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DCQ will continue to leverage as much support as possible at all levels of Government and the private sector to increase control and management programs to reduce the existing WoNS infestations (e.g. Prickly Acacia, Parkinsonia) in the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin.

### References

Buffel Feeds Australia—Bureaucracy Starves It. · AgForce · Advancing Rural Queensland [WWW Document], n.d. URL <https://www.agforceqld.org.au/knowledgebase/article/AGF-02329/> (accessed 7.24.25).

Grice, A.C., Friedel, M.H., Marshall, N.A., Van Klinken, R.D., 2012. Tackling contentious invasive plant species: a case study of buffel grass in Australia. *Environ Manage* 49, 285–294. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-011-9781-6>

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Marshall, V.M., Lewis, M.M., Ostendorf, B., 2012. Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) as an invader and threat to biodiversity in arid environments: A review. *Journal of Arid Environments* 78, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2011.11.005>

Read, J.L., Firn, J., Grice, A.C., Murphy, R., Ryan-Colton, E., Schlesinger, C.A., 2020. Ranking buffel: Comparative risk and mitigation costs of key environmental and socio-cultural threats in central Australia. *Ecology and Evolution* 10, 12745–12763. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6724>

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## **12 Organisational Services Report**

### **12.1 Director of Organisational Services Report**

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Director of Organisational Services.

#### **Officer Report**

##### **Responsible Officer:**

Grace Cronin-Jones (Director of Organisational Services)

The following is a summary of activities undertaken for the period to 12 January 2026.

#### **Strategic Leadership**

Key:



Complete



In Progress



Not Started

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
Planning Scheme, Local Law and Delegations Review	C2CEO delegations with ELT for review and comment.	
Local Disaster Management Plan Review	<i>On-going, commencing the hazard and risk assessment review.</i>	
Strategic Land Development Planning	<i>Applications with the NRMMRRD are still progressing.</i>	
Governance Policy Framework	<i>As part of the development of the framework, an internal gap analysis has been initiated of key governance practices within the framework to facilitate informed discussions with the Executive Leadership Team and middle management regarding the assignment of accountability and responsibilities in workflows and governance standards.</i>	
Animal Management Facility	<i>Minor site clean-up activities near Kite Street will begin in the next few months, covering areas such as the vehicle impound lot and storage sheds. The contractor will also prepare and share initial facility designs for the project team to review before construction starts.</i>	
Residential Activation Fund	<i>The RFQ was sent through the vendor panel on 9/1/26 and closes on 27/1/26. The panel will review submissions after the closing date.</i>	

#### **Operational Management**

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- The Council's main office was closed for the Christmas period from 20 December 2025 to 4 January 2026. During this time, the Director of Organisation Services was on leave from 12 December 2025 through 4 January 2026.
- Communicated with the Secretary of the Longreach Sporting Shooters Association regarding potential land for a rifle range in Ilfracombe, followed by preparation of a governance report.
- Planning for the rest of the fiscal year, along with considerations for operational needs in 2026 and potential projects for 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- Establish operational 1-on-1 meetings with team for year and departmental meetings.

### Appendices

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Director of Organisational Services Council report, as presented.*

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## 12.2 Monthly Workplace Health and Safety Report

The Workplace Health and Safety report is presented to Council for consideration. Details include performance commentary, risk management activities, health and safety initiatives, training, injuries and Workers Compensation claims information, as of 12 January 2026.

### Officer Report

#### Responsible Officer:

Grace Cronin-Jones (*Director of Organisational Services*)

#### Positive Indicators

Positive Indicators				
	Hazard/Near Miss Reported	SMS Actions	WHS Initiatives	Inspection compliance for Month
<b>Month Total</b>	1	0	0	100%

#### Safety and Wellbeing Initiatives:

- Work progressed on TNA in SkyTrust to cleanse data.

#### Injury and Workers Compensation Summary.

There were no new workers compensation claims submitted in August 2025.

Compensation Summary 2025-2026 FYTD								
	New Claims this FY	Claims denied	Claims from Prev Yr	Claims closed this FY	Open Claims	Open Claims duties status		
						Unfit for work	Suitable Duties	Return to Full Duties
<b>Employees</b>	1	0	5	0	1	0	0	1

#### Targets and Objectives

Positive (Lead) Performance Indicators					
KPI		Target	YTD	Current	Comments
<b>Number of Toolbox Talks Held per Annum</b> (Increased by >6)		>6	0	0	Moved to the next FY.
<b>ELT Safety Walk Attendance</b>		6	0	0	Moved to the next FY.
<b>Staff Training Percentage</b>		90%	90.86%	100%	All new starters have completed a WHS induction prior to commencement.
<b>Audit findings and activities.</b> Audits conducted and actions identified/completed		Audit	Actions	Comp	Audit actions have been established, and team to commence working through rectifications.
		2	70	61	
Overdue incident reporting		<15%	10%	10%	7 incidents reported for the reporting period.

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Average time to complete incident investigations	<b>&lt;15 days</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>KPI</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>12mth</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>WHS Committee Meeting</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	All scheduled meetings held YTD.
<b>HSR Attendance at Committee Meetings</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	Average of 10 HSR's in attendance at committee meetings YTD.
<b>Management Attendance at Committee Meetings</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	Average of 3 out 5 Management Representative in attendance at committee meeting YTD

**Incident Data**

- Five injury reports were recorded during the period; three required first aid treatment, while two were classified as report-only incidents.
  - Two injuries resulted from hazardous manual handling tasks.
  - One injury was attributed to a slip, trip, or fall hazard.
  - Two reports involved manual handling and slip, trip, or fall hazards.
- One property damage report was received for the period:
  - The incident concerned alleged damage to the window glass of a vehicle owned by a member of the public.
- One hazard was reported for the period:
  - There was an escape from bio-hazardous materials at a sewage treatment station, resulting in worker exposure.

**Safety Management System Action Plan (SMS)**

<b>KPI</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Safety Management System Plan Actions.</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	Five (5) actions have been completed.
<b>Top risks identified and assessed</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	Corporate WHS Risk Register (39 risks) Plant and Equipment Risk Register (21 items of plant assessed with a total of 51 individual risks identified).
<b>Risk register reviews</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	Continual review of Strategic Risk register on a quarterly basis, with commenced renewal of operational risk registers.

**Outcome (Lag) indicators**

<b>KPI</b>		<b>12 mth</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Direct Labour</b>	<b>Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) (12-month Rolling)</b>	<b>9.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>	Unable to access data for this month's report.
	<b>Duration Rate (DR) (12-month Rolling)</b>	<b>9.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

**Notifiable Incident Outcomes**

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KPI	YTD	Month	Comments
<b>Notifiable Incidents</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	Previous notifiable incident has been closed.
<b>Notices issued.</b> (Improvement, Prohibition and Provisional)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Nil

**Appendices**

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council notes the monthly Workplace Health and Safety report for January 2026, as presented.*

## **12.3 Information Report - Organisational Services**

This report provides an update on a range of activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Organisational Services Directorate.

### **Council Action**

Receive

### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

Strategy

#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

- 1.1.4 Enhance the health, safety, and wellbeing of our communities
- 1.3.1 Effectively manage stock routes and reserves for public use while improving natural environmental health
- 1.3.2 Maintain and improve the health of the Thomson and Barcoo River waterways and catchments

#### **OUR ECONOMY**

- 2.1.1 Advocate to and partner with regional organisations, industry stakeholders, and governments to support emerging economic development opportunities
- 2.1.2 Grow the region's importance as service hub to communities beyond our local government area
- 2.2.3 Create a business-friendly environment within Council
- 2.2.4 Provide logistical support services to the agricultural economy

#### **OUR LEADERSHIP**

- 5.1.2 Foster a high-performance team culture through holistic workforce development initiatives
- 5.2.1 Maintain a robust strategic and policy framework that meets statutory requirements, mitigates risks, and drives effective governance practices
- 5.3.1 Deliver quality, timely, and efficient service to prioritise customer needs and outcomes
- 5.4.1 Enhance the region's disaster resilience through robust disaster management and recovery initiatives

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer:**

*Officers in the Organisational Services Directorate*

#### **Economic/Consumer Spending Data (Spendmapp)**

Presented here is data for November 2025:

Total Local Spend was \$12.7M. This is a 4.81% increase from the same time last year.

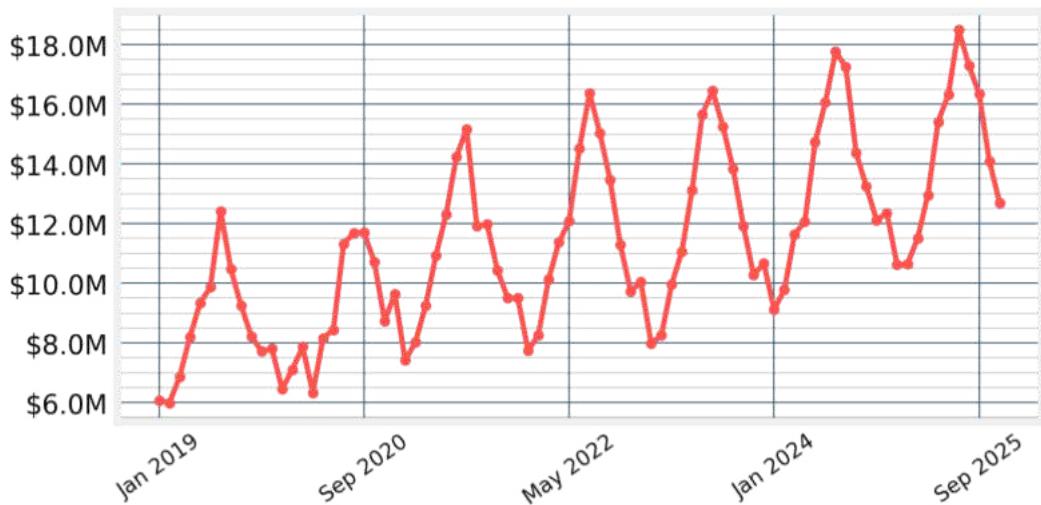
Resident Local Spend was \$9.4M. This is a 8.8% increase from the same time last year.

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Visitor Local Spend was \$3.3M. This is a -5.06% decrease from the same time last year.

### Total Local Spend

The total amount spent with merchants within the Longreach Regional Council LGA.



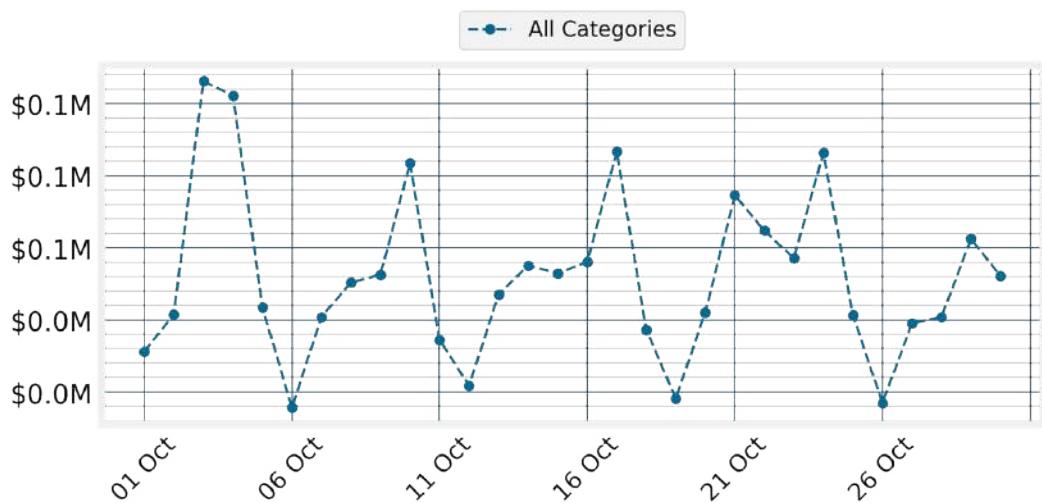
### The Top 3 Suburbs by Resident Escape Spend for November 2025

Resident Escape Spend by destination Suburbs (i.e. where the spending goes to):

Emerald: \$420k      Barcaldine: \$160k      Winton: \$160k

### Night Time Economy for November 2025

The biggest spending night of the month was Saturday 29 November.



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**Human Resources**

<b>Staffing Levels as of 30 November 2025 – Excluding Vacancies</b>						
	Operational	Admin/ Supervisor	Contract	Total	Last Month	30.6.25
Full Time	80.00	51.00	11.00	142.00	143.00	143.00
Permanent Part-Time	3.25	5.01	1.73	9.99	10.53	9.64
Contracted (External)	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
<b>Total Permanent</b>	<b>83.25</b>	<b>57.01</b>	<b>12.73</b>	<b>152.99</b>	<b>154.53</b>	<b>153.64</b>
Temporary Full-Time	2.00	2.00	1.00	5.00	3.00	7.00
Temporary Part-Time	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.55	0.00	1.22
Apprentice	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00
Traineeships	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Casuals	0.80	1.90	0.00	2.70	3.12	3.95
<b>Total Temporary</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>8.12</b>	<b>15.17</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>87.05</b>	<b>63.16</b>	<b>13.73</b>	<b>163.24</b>	<b>162.65</b>	<b>168.81</b>

**List of Vacant Position by Directorate as of 12 January 2026**

**Office of the CEO**

- Nil Vacancies

**Finance Services**

- Nil Vacancies

**Communities**

- Childcare Services Director (Under review)
- Assistant Childcare Services Director – (Under review)
- ECT Kindy Teacher – (Interviewing)
- Part – Time Assistant Educator – Advertised
- Casual Assistant Educator – Advertised
- Temporary Inclusion Support Educator (On Hold)
- Casual Tourism Officer – (On Hold)
- Facilities Coordinator – Advertised
- Parks and Gardens Labourer – Advertised

**Works**

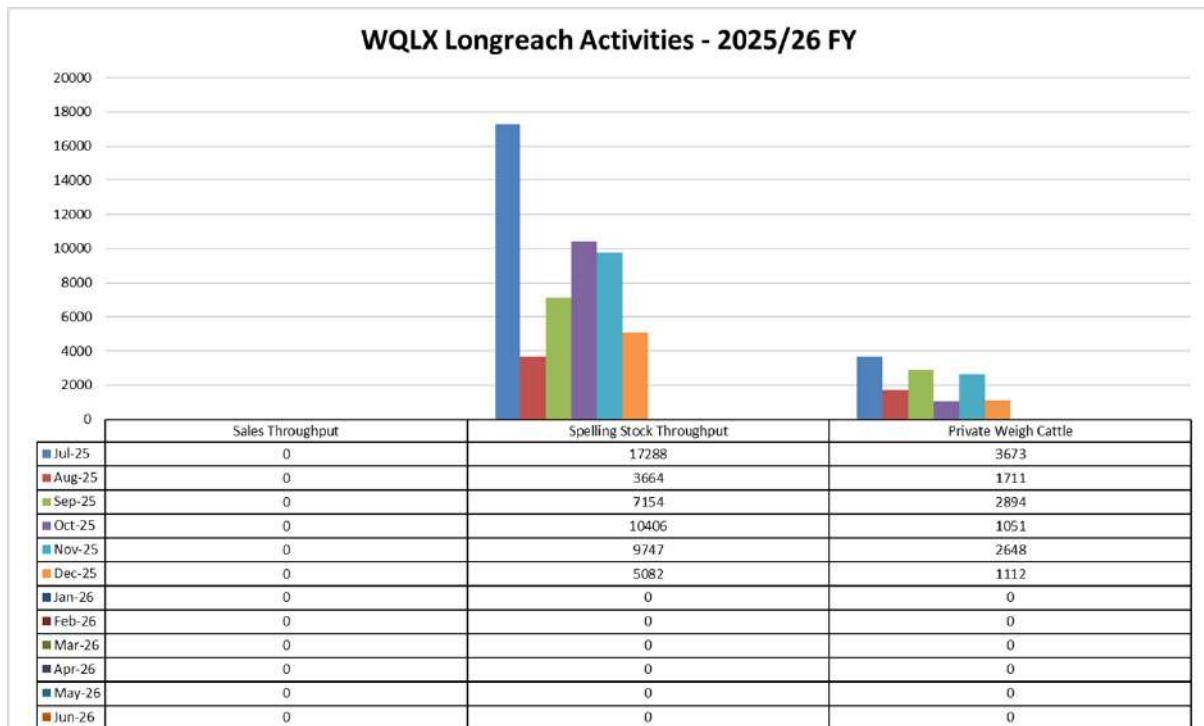
- Cadet Engineer (Fixed Term) (On Hold)
- Concrete Formsetter – Advertised (No Close date)
- Leading Hand Mechanic – Advertised (No Close date)
- Mechanic – Advertised (No Close date)
- Apprentice Mechanic Isisford – (Under Review)
- Works Coordinator – Internal Advertisement
- Longreach Construction Supervisor (Internal Secondment) – Advertised
- Plant Operator- Water Truck (Ilfracombe)- To be advertised
- Utilities Manager – Recruiting Externally

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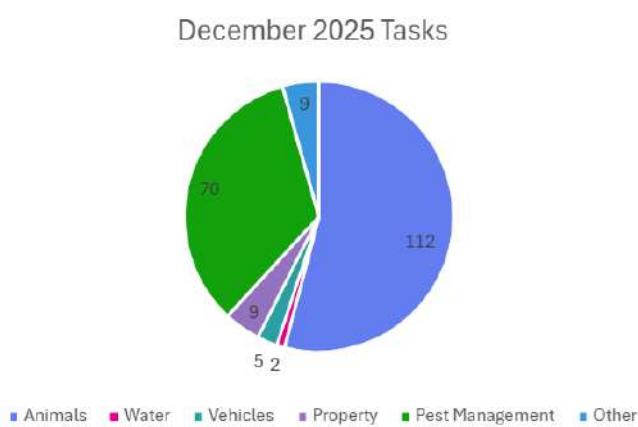
### Organisational Services

- Regulatory Services Officer (Rural Lands) - To be Advertised
- Regulatory Services Officer (Compliance) - To be Advertised
- Senior Safety Business Partner- Recruiting
- Safety Business Partner – Recruiting
- Safety Business Partner (Field) - To be advertised

### Saleyards – Throughput Figures



### Regulatory Services – Compliance



December was a month of mostly regular programming for the Regulatory Services Compliance Team. The team continued to operate over the festive period to ensure community safety matters are responded to. Officers have investigated multiple dog attacks, maintained regular patrolling of townships, monitored compliance with water restrictions, and continued with feral cat trapping programs. Water restrictions for Longreach remained at Level 2, Ilfracombe was on Level 3, and Isisford and Yaraka remain on Level 1 throughout

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December. Water restriction compliance involves monitoring and education, with enforcement action being taken for those serious or repeat offences.

Dog registration renewals are slowing coming through, along with new registrations, due to continued efforts of Compliance Officers. We have 684 dogs registered for the current year, up from 637 dogs registered at the end of November. There are 214 registrations expired and not yet renewed, down from 259 last month. Follow-up contact will persist for unrenewed registrations, and further compliance actions will be implemented as necessary. These actions include site visits and doorknocks to verify the presence of dogs at previously registered addresses, as well as direct communication with registered owners to determine the reasons for non-renewal. Owners will be reminded that annual registration is a requirement under state law. Where warranted, compliance and infringement notices will be issued to ensure adherence to these regulations.

### **Local Law Review Process**

The Local Laws review continues, with Phase 1 (Planning) nearing completion. Work has been commenced on future Phases also to ensure the framework is set up to support the review and allow for a smoother process. Phase 2 (Drafting) will be the focal point for the Review over the next six months.



### **Environmental Health Officer Report: December 2025**

*The Environmental Health Officer is based in Blackall and is shared across Councils in the RAPAD region for food business and other environmental health related matters.*

#### **Other Actions / Tasks:**

- Completed. Cert IV Government Investigations (PSPL10416) (Blackall) Commenced 1 December & Concluded 12th December 2025. Certificate received.

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<b>Public Health and Hygiene Enquiries</b>			
<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Customer</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
December 2025	Community Member	<u>Enquiry</u> Concerns raised in relation to Mobile Personal Appearance Services Licensing  <u>Response</u> Used Only available contact number and Email to request copy of Personal Appearance Services License. Operator Called back and advised they would seek Licensing from resident Local Government. Operator Submitted PAS Application with Council. Organised Final inspection. Followed up on required documents (received).	Inspection conducted, Application Approved & License Issued.
<b>Food Business Licenses, Complaints and Inspections</b>			
<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Customer</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
December 2025	Bakery	New Food Business Inquiry. Application received.	In Progress
December 2025	Restaurant	Operator Inquiry into License Renewal. Communicated with operator and asked admin to organise current licensing.	Ongoing.
<b>Environmental and Waste Management</b>			
<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Customer</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Commercial Operator	Carcass Pit operational compliance with EP Regulations.	On going
December 2025	Recreational Water testing	<b>E-coli testing resources and Information sent to Management.</b> Required to obtain E-coli readings.	In Progress - Ongoing
December 2025	Recreational Water testing	Researched Water testing lab. Found Lab in Brisbane capable of required tests. Shared with Technical Officer for required approvals.	On going
December 2025	Recreational Water testing	6 Samples taken from specific location on the Thomson River. Samples tested for E.coli, Turbidity, Temperature, Dissolved	Completed. Sent to Management.

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		Solids & pH. Results analysed & Report created. 4 <sup>th</sup> Report.	
December 2025	Recreational Water testing	Request sent to Water Monitoring Information Portal: Pesticide Concentrations data in The Thomson River. Historical & Current Data. No reply received.	In Progress
December 2025	Recreational Water testing Data & Catchment Weather Data Analysis	Qld Government Water Monitoring Information Portal. Thomson River, Longreach & Catchment Weather Data Analysis Table and graph report.	In Progress
December 2025	Water Weed Harvester	Information request.	Ongoing.
<b>Local Laws or Other Related Matters</b>			
<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Customer</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Nil		
<b>Stakeholder Engagement/Community Education Projects.</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Group (not-for Profit Organisations) Food Safety Training. Developed</li> <li>General Food Safety Training (For Licensed Food Businesses). Development Stage.</li> </ul>			

**Regulatory Services – Rural Lands**

**Bexley Project**

Ongoing spraying of buffer zones and monitoring of cochineal progress. Further chemical trials are underway, will be sometime before results can be validated. Collaborating with DPI on an application for potential research funding.

**Stock Routes**

Capital Works projects.

Review of Stock Route Network Facilities to identify Capital works projection for the 2025/2026 period.

**Stock Routes & Reserves**

No permits were issued for traveling stock across Council's Stock Route Network in November.

A review of all Stock Routes, Water Facilities and LRC controlled lands to be commenced in the coming weeks.

**Pest Animals**

The Contract Dog Trapper results have shown a recent increase in dog activity. Further reports from properties indicate significant numbers of dogs across the region currently, prompting the continuation of the Wild Animal Control Program for flood impacted properties, along with Landholder concerns with the loss of fencing infrastructure in the flood event

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<b>Division</b>	<b>Scalp Bounty - Dog 25/26 YTD</b>	<b>Contract Dog Trapper 25/26 YTD</b>	<b>Scalp Bounty - Cat 25/26 YTD</b>
1	191	7	-
2	1	73	337
3	14	5	29
4	174	-	357
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>723</b>

Summary of main tasks / issues completed by Rural Lands department during the month:

- Submitted final report and funding acquittal for Australian Pork Limited Feral Pig Management Program – monitoring work will now continue and we will continue to work with participating landholders to plan for future works required to maximise productivity.
- Pest weed spraying – RMPC mapping and reporting
- Review of baiting program in progress
- After-hours on-call roster, shared with Compliance Officers

**Appendices**

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Organisational Services Information Report, as presented.*

## **12.4 Information Report - Planning and Development**

This report provides an update on Development Services that occurred during the month of December.

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer:**

*Alexandria Beatty (Business Support Officer – Organisational Services)*

*Simon Kuttner (Manager of Economics, Planning, and Legal)*

*Tim O’Leary (Principal Planner – Reel Planning)*

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.

### **1. DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT**

- One new application has been received by Council since the last monthly report.
- One application is under assessment, and
- Three applications are currently in their appeal period.

1.1	Council reference:	DA25/26-036
	Application:	Development Permit for a Material change of use for Short-term accommodation (6 cabins)
	Street address:	141 Galah Street, Longreach
	Property description:	Lot 23 on L3571
	Day application was made:	19 December 2025
	Category of assessment:	Code
	Public notification required:	No
	Applicant:	Macdonald Sunshine Pty Ltd ATF Macdonald Superfund
	Status:	Under assessment

An application has been made by Macdonald Sunshine Pty Ltd ATF Macdonald Superfund seeking a Development Permit for a Material change of use for Short-term accommodation (6 cabins) on land at 141 Galah Street, Longreach.

The proposal involves the relocation of 6 cabins onto the site that will be used for short-term accommodation. The cabins include a mix of studio type and 2-bedroom cabins each with a living area, kitchenette, bathroom and veranda. Access to the site is from Galah Street and each cabin will be provided with 1 car parking space.

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The subject site is in the Medium density residential zone wherein the proposal is categorised as Assessable Development that is subject to Code Assessment. The application is currently under assessment.

1.2	Council reference:	DA25/26-030
	Application:	Development Permit for Reconfiguring a Lot (Boundary realignment – 2 lots into 2 lots)
	Street address:	41 Duck Street and 105 Crane Street, Longreach
	Property description:	Lot 1 and 2 on RP910760
	Day application was made:	20 November 2025
	Category of assessment:	Code
	Public notification required:	No
	Applicant:	Smith Bros Pty Ltd & Prue Melissa Harris
	Decision:	Approved 11 December 2025
	Status:	Appeal period
1.3	Council reference:	DA25/26-022
	Application:	Development Permit for Building Work for a Shed
	Street address:	114 Galah Street, Longreach
	Property description:	Lot 1 on RP606521
	Day application was made:	28 October 2025
	Category of assessment:	Code
	Public notification required:	No
	Applicant:	Scott Brothers Construction
	Decision:	Approved 11 December 2025
	Status:	Appeal period
1.4	Council reference:	DA25/26-017
	Application:	Development Permit for Building Work for a Shed
	Street address:	6 St Frances Street, Isisford
	Property description:	Lot 1 on RP608117
	Day application was made:	3 November 2025
	Category of assessment:	Code
	Public notification required:	No
	Applicant:	Patrick Littlewood
	Decision:	Approved 11 December 2025
	Status:	Appeal period

The above applications were decided at the December General Council meeting with decision notices issued to the applicants soon thereafter. The applications are in their appeal periods, which runs for a period of 20 business days. During the appeal period, an appeal can be filed

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with the Planning and Environment Court. The Appeal Period for the applications are expected to finish around 23 January 2026.

## **2. GENERAL PLANNING SERVICES, ENQUIRIES AND ADVICE**

### **2.1 CUSTOMER REQUESTS**

The following customer requests have been received over the past month:

<b>PLANNING ENQUIRIES</b>			
<b>Date received</b>	<b>Customer Details</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
10/12/25	Landowner	<p><u>Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council received an enquiry about providing short-term accommodation from an existing house.</li></ul> <p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The site is in the Low-density residential zone</li><li>• Stays up to 14 consecutive nights is Accepted development (No development application required) where meeting the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Carried out in existing building</li><li>◦ Weather-proof signage identifying the street address of the premises is clearly visible from the road fronting the premises</li><li>◦ Before commencing the use, the Chief Executive Officer of Longreach Regional Council must be given notice of the intention to commencement the short-term accommodation use</li><li>◦ No more than 6 guests at any one time</li><li>◦ The existing number of on-site car parks is retained or increased</li></ul></li><li>• Stays from 15 days to 3 months:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ This is defined as Short-term accommodation</li></ul></li></ul>	Closed

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<b>PLANNING ENQUIRIES</b>			
<b>Date received</b>	<b>Customer Details</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short-term accommodation is subject to Impact assessment in the Low density residential zone</li> <li>○ Impact assessment requires the lodgment of a properly made development application to Council</li> <li>○ Impact assessment is the highest level of assessment and requires public notification and is subject to third party appeal rights</li> <li>○ Council would generally expect Short-term of this nature to be carried out in the Medium density residential zone</li>   <li>• Stays greater than 3 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This would generally be considered the renting of a Dwelling house</li> <li>○ This would not require any further approval.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
10/12/25	Business operator	<p><u>Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council received an enquiry about installing a water bore.</li> </ul> <p><u>Advice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is in the Community facilities zone</li> <li>• A bore is not assessable against the planning scheme however will be assessable development under the Planning Regulation 2017</li> <li>• The assessment manager for this type of application is the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)</li> <li>• Council is not involved in the application process.</li> </ul>	Closed
17/12/25	Potential purchaser	<p><u>Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council received a request for a minimum flood floor level.</li> </ul>	Closed

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<b>PLANNING ENQUIRIES</b>			
<b>Date received</b>	<b>Customer Details</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
		<u>Advice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is in the Township zone</li> <li>• The site is located outside the flood hazard area therefore there is no minimum habitable floor level requirement for the site.</li> </ul>	
09/01/26	Landowner	<u>Request</u> Council received an enquiry about subdivision in the Rural zone.  <u>Advice</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is in the Rural zone</li> <li>• The minimum lot size in the Rural zone is 5,000 hectares</li> <li>• Where the minimum lot size cannot be met it has to comply with Performance Outcome 1 (PO1) of the Reconfiguring a Lot Code</li> <li>• PO1 generally calls for lots to complement the intended character for the zone and to not detract from the productive capacity of rural land</li> <li>• Reconfiguring a lot is subject to Code assessment in the Rural zone</li> <li>• A Code assessable development application will therefore be required to be lodged with Council for assessment</li> <li>• The site is also subject to State interests and any application will require referral to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)</li> <li>• SARA have their own fees and assessment criteria.</li> </ul>	Closed
12/01/26	Business operator	<u>Request</u> Council received an enquiry about upgrading existing infrastructure.  <u>Advice</u>	Closed

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<b>PLANNING ENQUIRIES</b>			
<b>Date received</b>	<b>Customer Details</b>	<b>Details of Enquiry</b>	<b>Status</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is in the Low density residential zone</li> <li>• The like for like replacement of existing infrastructure is not considered a Material Change of Use</li> <li>• No development approval is required.</li> </ul>	
<b>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES</b>			
<b>Date received</b>	<b>Customer details</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Status</b>
Nil			
<b>EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES</b>			
Nil			
<b>SURVEY PLAN ENDORSEMENT</b>			
Nil			

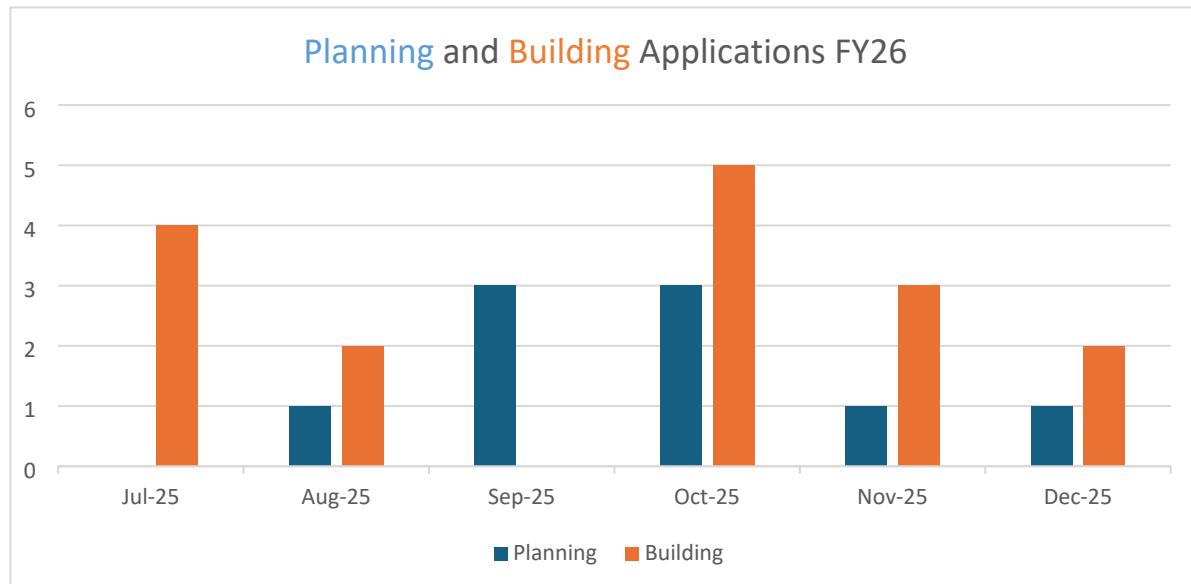
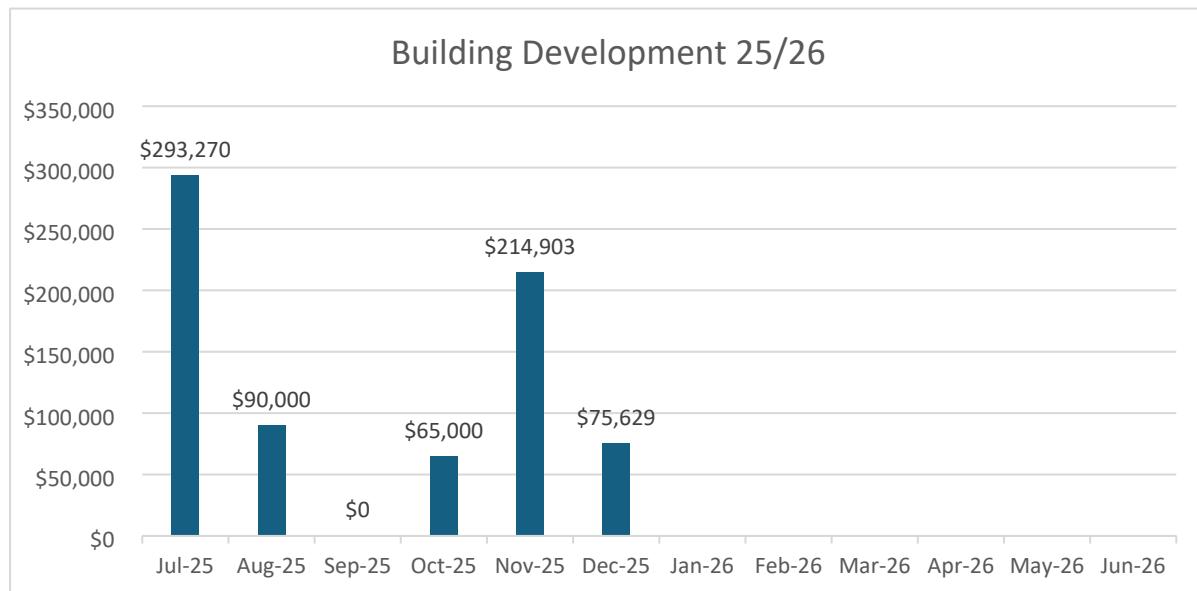
**Development Applications Received**

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Building (Council Certifier)	1	8
Building (Private Certifier)		8
Certificate of Classification		
Change of Classification		
Endorsement of Survey Plan		
Exemption Certificate		1
Material Change of Use (MCU)	1	6
Minor Change (MCU)		
Minor Change (Op Works)		
Building Work (Assessable)		2
Operational Works		
Plumbing & Drainage		5
Reconfiguration of a Lot		1
Siting Variation	1	2
Building Record Searches/ Planning Certificates	5	8
Operational Works – Bore		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>

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**Project Value of Building Applications**

<b>Development</b>			<b>Value of Work</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Development Details</b>		
Carried FWD			\$663,173	
17/12/2025	Building	Bay Car Shed	\$75,629	Isisford
<b>Total for December</b>			<b>\$75,629</b>	
<b>Total for 25/26 Year</b>			<b>\$738,802</b>	



**Appendices**

Nil

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**Recommendation:**

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

## **12.5 DA2526-033 - Siting Variation at 1 Cassowary Street Longreach**

Consideration of a Referral Agency Assessment Application for an alternative siting assessment lodged with Council for the proposed residential use at 1 Cassowary Street, Longreach described as Lot 2 on RP892199.

### **Council Action**

Decide

### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

*Building Act 1975*

*Planning Act 2016*

*Planning Regulation 2017*

*Queensland Development Code*

### **Relevant Excerpts from Legislation**

*The Planning Regulation 2017:*

Schedule 9, Division 2 (Local government as referral agency), Table 3–Design and siting

### **Policy Considerations**

03-08 Councillor Roles in Development Matters Policy

### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

Strategy

#### **OUR ECONOMY**

- 2.1.1 Advocate to and partner with regional organisations, industry stakeholders, and governments to support emerging economic development opportunities
- 2.2.1 Facilitate growth through effective and sustainable land use planning and development
- 2.2.3 Create a business-friendly environment within Council

#### **OUR LEADERSHIP**

- 5.2.1 Maintain a robust strategic and policy framework that meets statutory requirements, mitigates risks, and drives effective governance practices

### **Consultation:**

Internal	External
N/A	GBA Consulting Building Certifier

### **Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter**

Nil

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Officer Report

#### Responsible Officer:

Alexandria Beatty (Business Support Officer - Organisational Services),  
Simon Kuttner (Manager of Economics, Planning, and Legal)

#### Purpose:

This report is submitted alongside the completed Siting Variation Assessment Checklist for the proposed residential development at 1 Cassowary St, identified as Lot 2 on RP892199. An alternative siting assessment is necessitated by the applicant's request to locate the dwelling within the 6-metre setback from the Gull St boundary, as specified in Council's planning scheme. According to the application, the proposed dwelling will be sited along the side road boundary, providing a 5.5 metre setback from Gull St and a 3.5 metre setback from Pigeon Lane.

#### Discussion:

The application concerns a shed for a woodworking space with room to accommodate the storage of timber and associated tools, while acting as a lockable carport for the owner. The shed in its proposed position complies with the required 9m by 9m truncation on the corner of Gull St and Pigeon Lane but requires a relaxation on the Gull St boundary by 500mm.

The application has been assessed against the performance outcomes of the planning scheme by Council's building certifier and is recommended for approval per the attached checklist.

### Implications

#### Strategic Risk

This matter has been assessed against Council's Strategic Risk Register to determine the likelihood and consequence of any strategic risk to Council arising from this recommendation.

Strategic Risk:	N/A	Comments:
Likelihood:	N/A	Nil
Consequence:	N/A	
Rating:	-	

#### Environmental

Per Certifiers report

#### Asset Management

Nil.

#### Other Implications

Nil.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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**Human Rights**

Right:	Comments:
Nil	-

**Appendices**

1. Siting Variation Form Redacted [**12.5.1** - 1 page]
2. Site Plan Redacted [**12.5.2** - 1 page]
3. Siting Variation Assessment ( ID 23507)\_ Redacted [**12.5.3** - 2 pages]

**Recommendation:**

*That Council approves the Referral Agency Assessment Application DA2526-033, as presented.*

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**Referral Agency Assessment Application  
Alternative Siting Assessment**

**Type of Referral – Concurrence Agency Response**

Siting Variation Under Schedule 9, Table 3 of the *Planning Regulations 2017*

**Applicant Details**

Name: [REDACTED]	Mobile Number: [REDACTED]
Postal Address: 163 Ibis St Longreach	Email: [REDACTED]
Telephone Number:	Fax Number:

**Property Details**

Address: 1 Cassowary St Longreach	Lot Number: 2
	Plan Number: RP892199

**Description of Proposal**

Requesting a boundary relaxation.

**Provide details of the intended use of the building/structure e.g. what will be stored within building?**

The shed will have a woodworking space for a retiree with room to accommodate storage of timber and tools. It will also act as a lockable carport for the owner.

**Detail why the building/structure is required to be sited in the proposed location.**

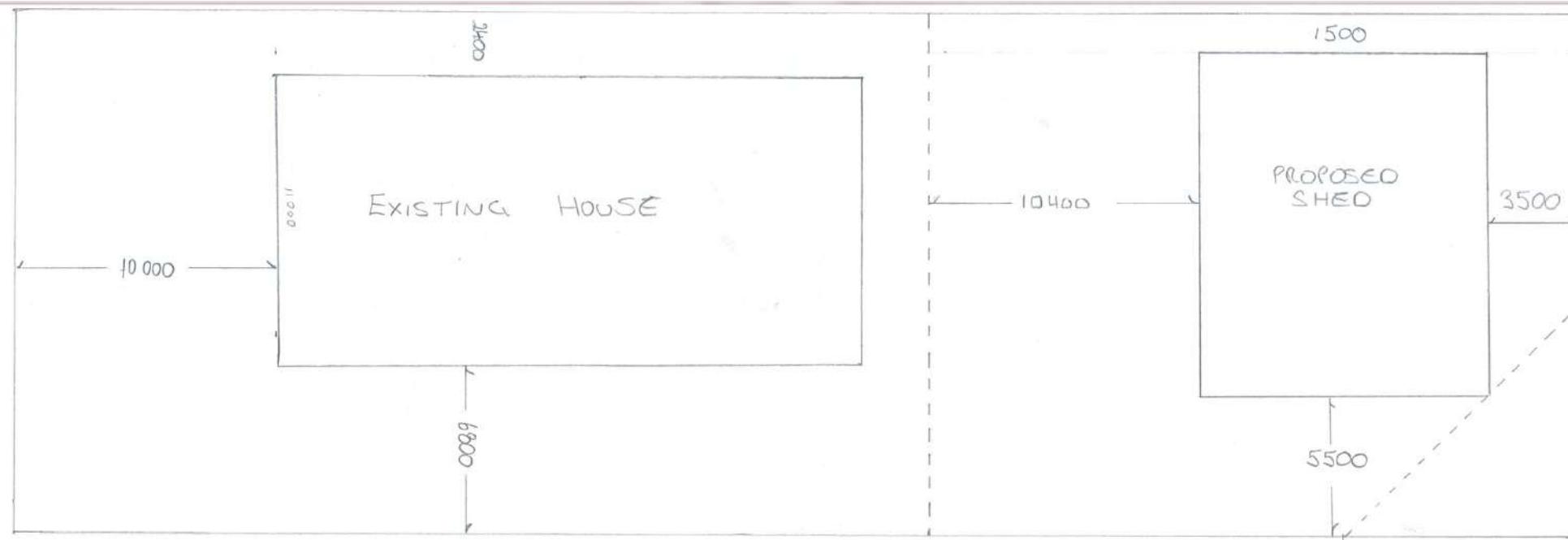
Until meeting with Jason I was unaware of the 9 meter truncation applied to corner blocks. I made the incorrect assumption that because there was an existing shed already there we could rebuild in its place. Putting the shed where I have drawn on the plans accommodates the truncation while not encroaching on the neighbours correct boundary off set. It does however require a relaxation on the Gull St boundary by 500mm and if the Pigeon Lane boundary is considered a road boundary instead of a rear boundary it requires 2500mm.

NB. If sufficient justification is not provided in response to the following questions, it may result in your application being delayed. Please use additional sheets for your responses if required.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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N  
E  
S  
W

1 CASSOWARY ST



GULL STREET

[REDACTED] SHED APPLICATION 1 CASSOWARY

1:200

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**SITING VARIATION ASSESSMENT SHEET**  
**For Single Residential Use**

Address 1 Cassowary Street, Longreach Lot / Plan No: Lot 2 on RP892199

Contact Person [REDACTED] Contact Number [REDACTED]

Relevant Residential Code issues for consideration	Yes	No	Comments/Likely Impact
Does the proposal maintain residential amenity both internal and external to the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal meet the accommodation and associated needs of one family?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal provide for physical access and connection to a constructed road?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gull Street
Is the maximum height of a building or structure higher than 8.5 metres?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the area covered by buildings or roofed structures greater than 50% of the lot?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal provide adequate provision for recreational space?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are the location and design of car parking provision appropriate or is there an alternative location?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal adversely affect the visual character and aesthetics of the nearby area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the height of the proposed buildings or structures compatible with the physical characteristics of the site and its surrounds?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the proposed buildings or structures sited and designed to provide:			
- Space around buildings and structures?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Access to natural light and ventilation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Provision for privacy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Will the proposal affect any existing approved pool fence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Will the proposal comply with the "Deemed to Satisfy" provisions of the BSA for fire separation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal require Build Over/Near Council infrastructure approval?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal encroach into a registered easement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is the proposal shed near and Urban Stormwater Flow Path?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Is a statement required from the owners of the adjoining properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Relevant Residential Code issues for consideration			Comments/Likely Impact	
	Yes	No		
Are further grounds for consideration of the proposal required by the applicant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Summary				
<p>As the applicant has ensured the proposed shed would be located outside of the 9m x 9m corner truncation and is positioned with a better setback than the existing shed it is replacing, I have no objection with the shed being as per the submitted plan- 5.5m from Gull Street &amp; 3.5m from Pigeon Lane.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>				
Can approval be issued? Recommendation:		Yes	No	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Inspector's Name	Jason Burger	Contact Number	[REDACTED]	Date	18/12/2025
Signature					

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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## **12.6 Small Business Friendly Grant - Round 1, FY26**

Consideration of funding applications under the Small Business Friendly Grant Program Round 2 – Innovation and Diversification.

### **Council Action**

Decide

### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

### **Relevant Excerpts from Legislation**

Nil
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### **Policy Considerations**

11-11 Small Business Friendly Grant Policy

### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

Strategy
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#### **OUR ECONOMY**

- 2.1.1 Advocate to and partner with regional organisations, industry stakeholders, and governments to support emerging economic development opportunities
- 2.1.2 Grow the region's importance as service hub to communities beyond our local government area
- 2.2.3 Create a business-friendly environment within Council

### **Consultation:**

Internal	External
Four-person evaluation panel comprised of two staff, two Councillors	Applicants

### **Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter**

Res-2025-06-139

Moved: Cr Nikki Gay / Seconded: Cr Leonie Nunn

*That Council approves the following allocation of funds from the Small Business Friendly Grant Program, pursuant to the Small Business Friendly Grant Policy No. 11.11, as described in the below table:*

Applicant:	Funding Allocated:
Mother Earth Massage	\$1,000.00
Mitchell Grass Retreat	\$2,000.00

*CARRIED 7/0*

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer:**

*Simon Kuttner (Manager of Economics, Planning, and Legal)*

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

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### **Purpose:**

Council's new Small Business Friendly Grant Program aims to support local small businesses through targeted grants, in alignment with the Economic Development Charter.

The grant program consists of two funding rounds per year, and recipients are required to match Council funds with a co-contribution of equal or greater value. Unique guidelines and evaluation criteria are developed for each funding round, allowing the program to respond to a different economic need with each iteration.

Round one for 2025-26 is targeted at Innovation and Diversification, with the aim of encouraging projects that bring fresh ideas, new technologies, and creative approaches to strengthen business and the local economy.

### **Discussion:**

Council has received three applications, totalling \$4,745.00 in Council contributions if fully funded. This is less than the budgeted amount for this funding round.

Ilfracombe Garden Nursery have submitted a project to install an updated Point of Sale (POS) system, to support improved inventory management, reduced transaction times, minimise errors, and provide valuable data for future business decisions.

Ando's Food Barn have submitted a project to acquire a coin operated commercial washing machine, supporting quality laundromat services to visitors and locals alike.

Outback Aqua have submitted a project to adopt Low Earth Orbit internet connectivity in their business, allowing for on-site fault diagnosis in real time and other benefits.

Applications have been evaluated by a panel made up of two officers and two Councillors, and their recommendation is presented for adoption. Applications were assessed against the following weighted criteria:

<b>Innovation (35%)</b>	<b>Feasibility (25%)</b>	<b>Value for Money (20%)</b>	<b>Broader Benefit (10%)</b>	<b>Sustainability (10%)</b>
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**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
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Does the project represent a genuine innovation or diversification for the business? What is the potential positive impact on the business?	Does the project represent a genuine innovation or diversification for the business? What is the potential positive impact on the business?	Is the project budget feasible? Are the costs reasonable and justified?	Will the project benefit the wider community, local supply chains, or create new opportunities for others?	Will the benefits of the project endure beyond the funding period?
---	---	---	--	--

Each panel member scored the applications against the weighted criteria above, resulting in a percentage score for each applicant. These results were combined to establish a final averaged score out of 10 as follows:

<b>Applicant</b>	Panel Member 1	Panel Member 2	Panel Member 3	Panel Member 4	<b>Averaged Score /10</b>
Ilfracombe Garden Nursery	76%	74%	53%	76%	<b>7.0</b>
Ando's Food Barn	55%	85%	57%	80%	<b>6.9</b>
Outback Aqua	69%	65%	58%	71%	<b>6.6</b>

The panel has recommended all applications to receive funding. As Council's contributions are less than the budgeted amount for this funding round, there is no need to reduce the awarded amounts. Council's contributions under the panel's recommendation, if approved, would make up 46% of the total project value in this round, with the balance funded by applicants.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Council Contribution</b>	<b>Business Contribution</b>	<b>Project Value</b>
Ilfracombe Garden Nursery	\$900.00	\$901.00	\$1,801.00
Ando's Food Barn	\$2,000.00	\$2,767.40	\$4,767.40
Outback Aqua	\$1,845.00	\$1,846.60	\$3,691.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,745.00</b>	<b>\$5,515.00</b>	<b>\$10,260.00</b>

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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**Implications**

**Budget**

Comments:		
Revenue:		
Expenditure:	\$4,745.00	From Small Business Friendly budget line
Net Result:	(\$4,745.00)	This is less than the amount budgeted for this program

**Strategic Risk**

This matter has been assessed against Council's Strategic Risk Register to determine the likelihood and consequence of any strategic risk to Council arising from this recommendation.

Strategic Risk:	N/A	Comments:
Likelihood:	n/a	-
Consequence:	n/a	
Rating:	n/a	

**Environmental**

Nil

**Asset Management**

Nil

**Other Implications**

Nil

**Human Rights**

Right:	Comments:
Nil	-

**Appendices**

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council approves the following allocation of funds from the Small Business Friendly Grant Program, pursuant to the Small Business Friendly Grant Policy No. 11.11, as described in the below table:*

Applicant	Funding allocated
Ilfracombe Garden Nursery	\$900.00
Ando's Food Barn	\$2,000.00
Outback Aqua	\$1,845.00

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**13 Finance Report**

**13.1 Chief Financial Officer's Report**

Consideration of the financial statements for the period ending 31 December 2025.

**Council Action**

Receive

**Officer Report**

**Responsible Officer:**

Nicole Moulds, Financial Controller

**Summary**

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

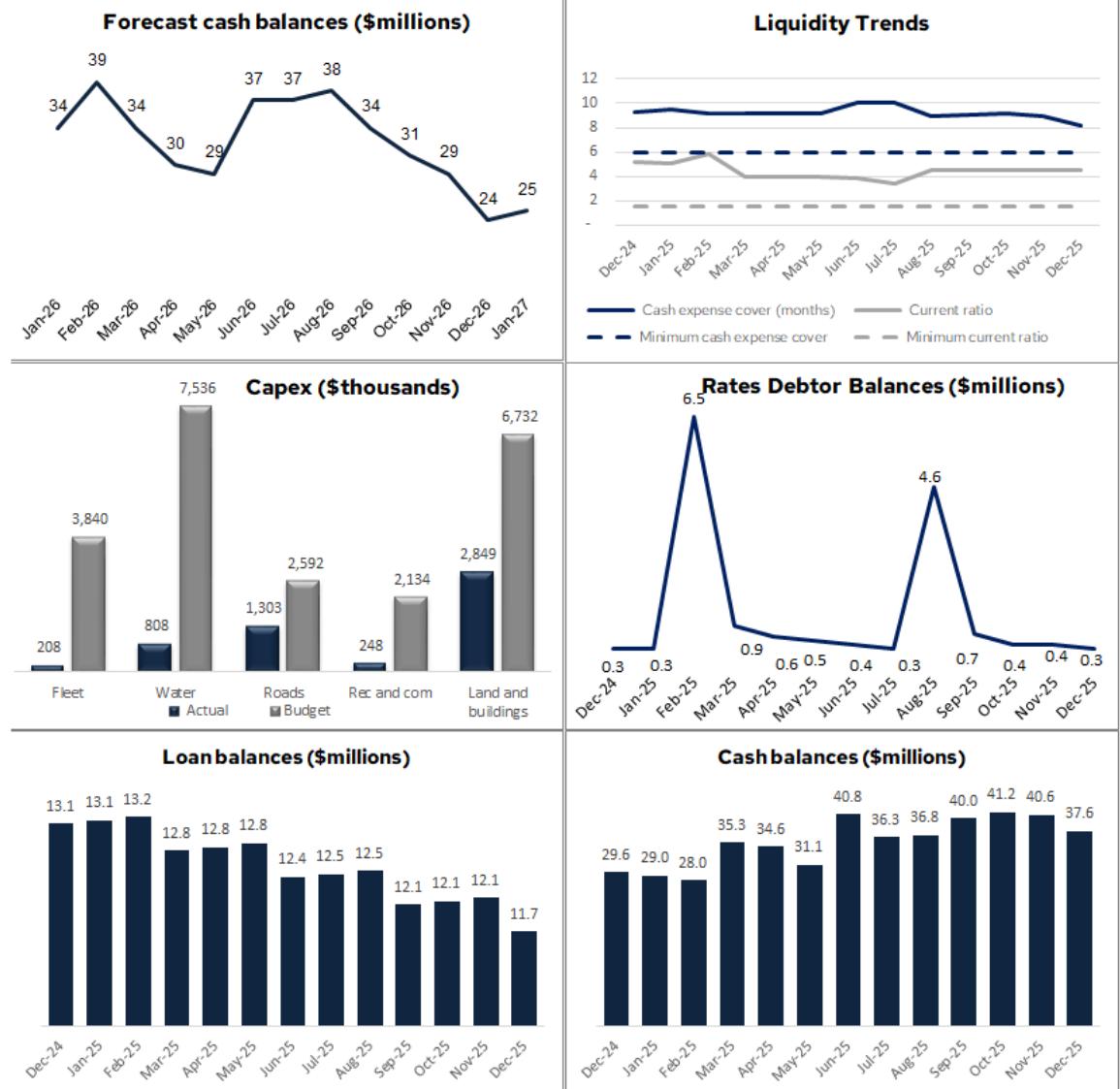
## ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Longreach Regional Council Financial Dashboard

for the month ending Dec 2025

(all amounts in \$millions)

Income statement		YTD	Budget YTD	Variance	Last YTD	Variance
Revenue		\$29.7	\$28.8	\$1.0	\$30.6	(\$0.9)
Expenses		\$27.6	\$28.1	\$0.5	\$23.3	(\$4.2)
Net result		\$2.2	\$0.7	\$1.5	\$7.3	(\$5.1)
Balance sheet		Sept 2025	Jun 2025	Movement	Last YTD	Movement
Total assets		\$453.9	\$456.3	(\$2.4)	\$428.5	\$25.4
Total liabilities		\$25.0	\$29.5	\$4.5	\$21.2	(\$3.8)
Total equity		\$428.9	\$426.7	\$2.2	\$407.3	\$21.6
Cash flow		YTD	Last YTD	Movement	Cash expense cover	
Operating cash flow		(\$0.7)	(\$6.7)	\$6.0	8 months	
Capex		(\$5.8)	(\$9.9)	(\$4.1)	Current ratio	
Other investing cash flow		\$4.1	\$5.9	(\$1.8)	3:1	
Loan repayments		(\$0.7)	(\$1.3)	\$0.6		
Net cash flow		(\$3.2)	(\$12.0)	\$8.8	Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$30.9



### Financial performance

Council has recognised a net surplus of \$2.2 million (budget \$0.7 million).

## **LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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Recoverable works income is higher than budget as the pace of completing contract works was faster than anticipated. This offsets a lower than budgeted capital income results as capital projects remain slower to deliver than budget.

Employee expenses remain 9% below budget due to vacancies.

Overall a satisfactory result YTD.

### **Financial position**

Council's financial position remains sound at the end of December. Current liabilities remains high due to cash received as prepayments for capital works and flood damage repairs.

The total of contract liabilities (prepaid grants were council has an obligation to deliver a project) is \$6.7 million at the end of December. The prepaid grants received are for flood damage, the animal management facility, water mains replacement, the skatepark project and the residential activation fund projects.

The risk that these projects are not delivered by the required milestones is low, although any significant weather events will increase the risk. In many cases, extensions will be available and the risk is monitored monthly by management.

### **Cash flow**

Council's closing cash balance was \$37.6 million (\$30.9 million unrestricted).

The high cash balance includes the \$6.7 million of prepaid grants mentioned previously. The unrestricted cash balance indicates the funds currently untied to specific projects.

Council has now recognised a negative operating cash flow and this is likely to continue until June when the Financial Assistance Grant prepayment is received. The short-term cash flow forecast illustrates the expected reduction in cash towards the end of the financial year until the FA Grant is received in June. Much of the reduction in cash is due to the expected timing of capital project delivery. At the end of December \$5.4 million in capital expenditure was recorded against a full year budget of \$22.2 million.

Forecasts show adequate cash balances over the short and long term.

### **Liquidity**

Council maintains 8 months of cash expense cover. This ratio is higher than the targeted 6 months due to the significant amount of prepaid grants received.

Current ratio is 3:1 (\$3 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities).

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

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### Debtors

Of the outstanding balance, 21% is under payment arrangements, 44% has been referred to Legal, and the remaining 35% relates to other unpaid rates. The next rates notices will be issued in mid-February.

	Current	1 years	2 years	3 years
Outstanding rates	\$150,035	69,212.52	26,721.70	47,698.36
Number of assessments	51	33	12	9

### Risks

Risk description	Controls	Rating
Capital projects are not completed according to the milestones attached to grant funding, causing the withdrawal of grant funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Project progress is monitored monthly by management to identify projects at risk.</li></ul>	Medium
Fraud, corruption, or cyber-attacks cause financial losses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Internal controls are incorporated into business processes and systems configurations.</li><li>Staff trained in fraud prevention.</li><li>Sound procurement processes are in place.</li></ul>	Medium
There are insufficient funds to replace or upgrade key infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Asset management plans are being continually updated to project likely replacements.</li><li>Some cash reserves are available for significant projects.</li></ul>	High

### Appendices

- Finance Report December [13.1.1 - 2 pages]
- Directors Report December [13.1.2 - 2 pages]
- Capital January Report [13.1.3 - 1 page]

#### **Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Chief Financial Officer's Report for the period ending 31 December 2025, as presented.*

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

<b>Statement of financial performance</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Last YTD \$'000</b>	<b>Full year budget \$'000</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Rates, levies and charges	6,350	6,515	6,515	13,030
Fees and charges	1,408	1,269	1,208	2,514
Recoverable works income	6,397	3,435	2,108	6,875
Other revenue	1,049	555	686	1,109
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	10,461	9,365	18,270	27,064
Capital grants, subsidies and income	3,990	7,416	1,698	14,481
Profit on sale of assets	77	226	161	1,258
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>29,733</b>	<b>28,781</b>	<b>30,646</b>	<b>66,331</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee expenses	8,933	9,461	8,445	18,902
Materials and services	13,420	13,463	10,085	26,834
Finance expenses	336	284	345	568
Depreciation	4,887	4,876	4,465	8,725
Other expenses	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>27,576</b>	<b>28,084</b>	<b>23,340</b>	<b>55,028</b>
<b>Net surplus or (deficit)</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>7,306</b>	<b>11,303</b>
<b>Operating deficit</b>				
	2,157	697	7,306	11,303
	(4,068)	(7,642)	(1,858)	(15,739)
<b>Operating deficit</b>	<b>(1,911)</b>	<b>(6,945)</b>	<b>5,447</b>	<b>(4,436)</b>

<b>Statement of financial position</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$'000</b>	<b>Actual June 2025 \$'000</b>	<b>Full year budget \$'000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	37,558	40,728	35,530
Current trade and other receivables	4,481	4,454	3,097
Inventories	1,109	907	1,211
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	9,421	9,768	8,461
Property, plant and equipment	401,356	400,427	420,995
Other non-current assets	-	-	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>453,924</b>	<b>456,283</b>	<b>469,294</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7,220	10,927	2,959
Current borrowings	1,436	1,436	1,332
Current provisions	3,893	3,997	4,095
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	10,272	10,971	9,650
Provisions	2,206	2,212	2,294
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>25,028</b>	<b>29,543</b>	<b>20,330</b>
<b>Net community assets</b>	<b>428,897</b>	<b>426,740</b>	<b>448,964</b>
<b>Community equity</b>			
Asset revaluation reserve	208,175	208,175	217,001
Retained surplus	220,722	218,565	231,963
<b>Total community equity</b>	<b>428,897</b>	<b>426,740</b>	<b>448,964</b>

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

<b>Statement of cash flows</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Full year budget</b>
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from ratepayers and customers	15,525	25,044
Receipts from grants	10,461	22,015
Payments to employees	(8,933)	(18,902)
Payments to suppliers	(17,439)	(24,333)
Interest paid	(293)	(364)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>(679)</b>	<b>3,460</b>
<b>Cash flows from Investing activities</b>		
Receipts from capital grants	3,990	5,161
Receipts from sale of assets	77	651
Payments for capital expenditure	(5,816)	(13,187)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities</b>	<b>(1,748)</b>	<b>(7,375)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Loan repayments	(742)	(1,283)
<b>Net cash outflows from financing activities</b>	<b>(742)</b>	<b>(1,283)</b>
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow)</b>	<b>(3,170)</b>	<b>(5,198)</b>
Opening cash balance	40,728	40,728
<b>Closing cash balance</b>	<b>37,558</b>	<b>35,530</b>

<b>Statement of changes in equity</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>Full year budget</b>
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>		
Opening balance	218,565	220,661
Recognise land sold in prior years	-	-
Net profit or (loss)	2,157	11,302
<b>Closing accumulated surplus</b>	<b>220,721</b>	<b>231,963</b>
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>		
Opening balance	208,175	208,175
Other comprehensive income	-	8,826
<b>Closing asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>208,175</b>	<b>217,001</b>
<b>Total community equity</b>	<b>428,897</b>	<b>448,964</b>

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

**Longreach Regional Council**  
**Program Report**  
for the YTD December 2025

Program	Revenue		Expenses		Net result		
	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	Budget full year
<b>Office of the CEO</b>							
Governance	-	-	(384)	(395)	(384)	(395)	(395)
Elected member expenses	-	-	(305)	(340)	(305)	(340)	(681)
<b>Total Office of the CEO</b>	-	-	(689)	(735)	(689)	(735)	(1,076)
<b>Organisational Services</b>							
Human resources	10	-	(700)	(839)	(690)	(839)	(1,677)
Disaster management and regional coordination	237	57	(144)	(128)	93	(71)	(141)
Economic development	-	-	(80)	(114)	(80)	(114)	(228)
Local laws	176	224	(708)	(858)	(532)	(634)	(1,259)
Land, leased out assets and commercial businesses	72	63	(199)	(205)	(127)	(141)	(283)
Development services	37	27	(85)	(118)	(48)	(91)	(182)
<b>Total Organisational Services</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>(1,916)</b>	<b>(2,261)</b>	<b>(1,384)</b>	<b>(1,889)</b>	<b>(3,770)</b>
<b>Infrastructure Services</b>							
Infrastructure administration	452	-	(495)	(608)	(43)	(608)	(1,217)
Depot and airstrips	-	-	(310)	(361)	(310)	(361)	(721)
Roads, streets and stormwater	439	-	(3,310)	(3,363)	(2,871)	(3,363)	(6,726)
Flood Damage Work	5,804	5,500	(5,752)	(5,500)	52	-	-
Contract works	5,878	3,380	(4,717)	(3,015)	1,162	365	1,175
Fleet management	94	149	1,289	1,006	1,383	1,155	2,449
Sewerage	814	814	(410)	(572)	404	242	485
Waste management	552	560	(434)	(544)	119	16	915
Water	1,761	1,913	(1,786)	(2,158)	(25)	(245)	391
<b>Total Infrastructure Services</b>	<b>15,795</b>	<b>12,316</b>	<b>(15,924)</b>	<b>(15,115)</b>	<b>(129)</b>	<b>(2,799)</b>	<b>(3,250)</b>

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**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

Program	Revenue		Budget		Net result		
	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	YTD	Budget YTD	Budget full year
<b>Community Services</b>							
Child Care	1,337	1,208	(1,252)	(1,563)	85	(355)	(710)
Community development and events	10	-	(128)	(140)	(118)	(140)	(280)
Donations and sponsorship	-	-	(71)	(97)	(71)	(97)	(194)
RADF	28	14	(31)	(29)	(3)	(15)	(21)
Community administration	1	-	(755)	(817)	(754)	(817)	(1,634)
Libraries	35	11	(139)	(123)	(104)	(111)	(222)
Community centres and halls	13	17	(219)	(195)	(207)	(178)	(356)
Council housing	89	14	(166)	(167)	(77)	(153)	(307)
Showgrounds and sporting facilities	16	15	(360)	(370)	(344)	(355)	(710)
Cemeteries	98	80	(129)	(145)	(32)	(65)	(130)
Parks and gardens	5	4	(1,276)	(1,559)	(1,271)	(1,555)	(3,111)
Swimming pools	10	6	(588)	(641)	(578)	(635)	(1,270)
Tourism, museums and VIC	174	141	(589)	(647)	(414)	(506)	(1,081)
<b>Total Community Services</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>(5,703)</b>	<b>(6,494)</b>	<b>(3,887)</b>	<b>(4,982)</b>	<b>(10,026)</b>
<b>Financial Services</b>							
Insurance	-	-	(562)	(562)	(562)	(562)	(810)
Finance	7,305	6,729	(1,325)	(1,439)	5,980	5,290	17,619
LWDEFS	201	211	(176)	(172)	24	39	78
Internal recharges	16	-	(16)	-	-	-	-
Innovation and Business Improvement	-	-	(1,264)	(1,305)	(1,264)	(1,305)	(2,610)
<b>Total Financial Services</b>	<b>7,522</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>(3,343)</b>	<b>(3,479)</b>	<b>4,178</b>	<b>3,462</b>	<b>14,277</b>
<b>Total Council Operating Result</b>	<b>25,665</b>	<b>21,139</b>	<b>(27,576)</b>	<b>(28,084)</b>	<b>(1,910)</b>	<b>(6,945)</b>	<b>(3,845)</b>

**Notes to the program report**

1. Timing of Road Crews with works.
2. Income down due to timing of diesel fuel rebates.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>.Current Budget</b>	<b>.Actual Cost YTD</b>
24/25 Replacement of elevated reservoir & stand at WTP	500,000	-
24/25 Water Treatment plant upgrades	250,000	-
24/25 Electrical Switchboards upgrade at Murray McMillan Dam	230,000	133,549
24/25 Thomson River raising	-	590,866
24/25 Refurbish Ilfracombe sewer pump station	50,000	9,886
24/25 Refurbish Isisford sewer pump station	43,068	-
Fleet Purchases	3,839,662	208,101
25/26 Pave and seal - Isisford (puma) fuel depot	50,000	-
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Longreach Silsoe Rd chainage 13.550 - 17.550 4m )	240,000	232,564
25/26 Grid replacement programme ( All areas )	150,000	6,369
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Stonehenge River Rd chainage 80.970 - 82.070 x 7m	115,500	104,898
25/26 10mm reseal and prep ( Isisford Bimerah Rd Chainage TBC)	100,000	85,243
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Stonehenge River Rd chainage 74.180 - 75.180 x 6m )	90,000	72,954
25/26 Floodway install - Withywine Noonbah Road (1)	60,000	81,647
25/26 Installation of concrete floodway (Withywine Noonbah Rd chainage 35.270 - 35.220)	60,000	66,003
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Tonkoro Rd chainage 31.550 - 31.800 x 6m )	22,500	18,065
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Stonehenge River Rd chainage 107.480 - 107.550 x 7m )	7,500	19,412
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Tonkoro Rd chainage 32.400 - 32.480 x 6m )	7,200	2,047
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Stonehenge River Rd chainage 100.630 - 100.690 x 7m )	6,500	17,206
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Longreach Silsoe Rd chainage 71.590 - 71.650 6m )	5,500	1,848
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Stonehenge River Rd chainage 109.480 - 109.530 x 7m )	5,300	4,518
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Tonkoro Rd chainage 32.670 - 32.860 x 6m )	3,000	25,008
25/26 10mm reseal and prep (Town Streets )	450,000	2,129
25/26 Pavement rehabilitation beside kerb ( Longreach area )	150,000	-
25/26 Storm water pipe upgrade (Pelican Street between Cassowary & Falcon)	145,000	152,479
25/26 10mm reseal and prep ( Squash courts)	37,000	-
25/26 TIDS Reinsate concreate floodway (Ruthven Rd WildHorse Creek chainage TBC)	50,000	44,956
25/26 TIDS 10mm reseal and prep ( Emmet - Yaraka Rd chainage TBC ) (8Km in Length per year)	408,000	393,954
25/26 Longreach Depot - HVAC Replacement (Office)	32,361	-
25/26 Longreach Depot - HVAC Replacement (Workshop)	11,941	-
25/26 Longreach Depot - HVAC Replacement (lunch room)	7,379	-
25/26 Isisford Depot - Signage and eyewash station replacement	11,593	200
25/26 Water mains replacement for Gull St	1,311,732	-
25/26 Pipeline replacement - Ilfracombe Racecourse	30,000	-
25/26 Purchase of trench shoring for excavations deeper than 1.5m (safety requirement)	65,000	-
25/26 Water mains replacement for Rosella St	-	-
25/26 Water mains replacement for Heron St	-	-
25/26 Water mains replacement for Tern St	-	-
25/26 PAC/carbon dosing Isisford	80,000	-
25/26 New river pumps at off-take (1 of 2)	280,000	-
25/26 Thomson River Weir Raising (Town Weir) 26*	1,666,395	12
25/26 Thomson River Weir Raising - Anabranch Weir 1	1,590,561	313
25/26 Thomson River Weir Raising - Anabranch Weir 2	1,482,253	157
25/26 Ilfracombe Mambrains	500,000	-
Repair down stream batter on Tocal Road	70,000	72,861
Reseal floodway on Isisford Yaraka River Rd	45,000	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,259,945</b>	<b>2,347,242</b> 16%

<b>Communities and Project Management</b>	<b>Current Budget.</b>	<b>Actual Cost YTD.</b>
23/24 Refit Back Of Library Into Disaster Management Centre	-	291,233
Isisford Pool - Replace shade structures	-	37,609
Longreach Childcare - Energy Efficiency Improvements	20,000	-
Longreach Childcare - New Shade Structure	20,000	18,852
Cemetery plinth replacements	30,000	25,200
Animal Management facility	1,685,000	7,247
Isisford SES Training Room	89,709	38,109
Council Housing @ Teal Street	3,124,960	2,307,442
25/26 Showground dressing room upgrade - Olympics funding	280,000	-
25/26 Thomson River Pontoon - Olympics funding	120,000	2,180
25/26 Showgrounds accessibility items	100,000	88,661
25/26 Purchase airport land	250,000	-
25/26 Ilfracombe Tennis - Demolish	205,000	-
25/26 Solar power projects	648,000	-
25/26 Qantas Park - Extension on VIC building for storage	30,000	6,932
25/26 Close in Wellshot Centre Verandah	30,000	-
25/26 Longreach Skate park - New playground	1,240,021	36,689
25/26 Longreach skate park - all weather parking (Emu Street)	32,500	29,145
25/26 Longreach Skate park – Basketball half court	49,478	7,818
25/26 Barbecue replacement at Yaraka	18,000	18,987
25/26 Yaraka Pool - Replace fence	60,000	-
25/26 Isisford community hall upgrade (drainage)	25,000	17,783
25/26 Replacement interactive table for Longreach Library	22,715	20,255
25/26 Longreach Childcare - Accessibility & Inclusion	150,000	50,976
25/26 Longreach Childcare - Internal fence around playground	18,000	15,450
25/26 Childcare concrete track	18,000	-
25/26 Cemetery - Additional 1 rows	40,000	43,284
25/26 Cemetery - Repair plinths	50,000	23,551
25/26 New gurney for hearse	18,000	8,730
25/26 WLGG Hudson Fysh Botanical Walkway Solar Lighting (JULY REV)	199,000	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,573,383</b>	<b>3,096,133</b> 36%

## **13.2 Information Report - Finance**

This report provides an update on a range of activities that occurred during the month for the Financial Services Directorate.

### **Council Action**

Receive

### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

#### **OUR FINANCES**

- 4.1.1 Achieve efficiency and reduce risks through contemporary technology, and innovative work processes
- 4.1.2 Mature asset management systems and agreed service levels are used to achieve sustainable outcomes
- 4.1.3 External funding opportunities are maximised to diversify Council's revenue base and to reduce reliance on own source funding
- 4.1.4 Robust budget processes deliver a financially sustainable Council into the future

## **Officer Report**

### **Responsible Officer:**

Officers in the Finance Directorate

### **Purpose:**

The Financial Services Directorate provides a monthly update on strategic issues and improvement projects to improve Council's financial sustainability.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Innovation and Business Improvement**

See the attached dashboard as an appendix to this report.

### **Asset Management**

Project Sunpower – Scope of works for the project has been completed. Tender documents will be ready for distribution in January 2026.

A landfill management plan review has begun, with discussions with custodians completed. Scope of works is being formulated with the plan covering our environmental, repatriation, recycling and future outlooks for each town.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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**Asset Management Projects**

Project	% Completed	Budget Tracking	Comments
Project SunPower	15%		<p>We are currently in the design phase of the project.</p> <p>Meeting was held with custodians to review the location of the solar panels.</p> <p>Tender documents are being prepared</p>

**Asset Management Plans**

Assets	Plan Status	Last Update	Data Reliability
Buildings	Under Review	21/02/2018	Good
Parks & Gardens	Under Review	01/01/2017	Good
Pools	Completed	30/10/2024	Good
Housing	Under Review	19/02/2018	Good
Library	Under Review	15/02/2018	Good
Cemeteries	Under Review	28/02/2019	Good
Childcare	Under Review	24/02/2019	Good
Water	Completed	19/06/2024	Good
Wastewater	Draft V2	08/02/2017	Fair
Roads	Under Review	17/03/2016	Fair
Airports	Under Review	17/03/2016	Fair
Landfill	Under Review		Poor

**Asset Management Risks**

Risk		Inherent Rating	Treatment	Residual Rating
Financial Risks	Underfunding of Asset Maintenance & Renewal	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Long-Term Financial Plans (LTFPs) and Asset Management Plans (AMPs) with whole-of-life costing.</li> <li>- Dedicated asset renewal funds/reserves.</li> <li>- Strategic grant applications and external funding.</li> </ul>	Medium

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

<b>Asset Failure Risks</b>	Aging Infrastructure & Material Degradation	High-Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preventative and predictive maintenance programs.</li> <li>- Regular condition assessments and monitoring.</li> <li>- Timely asset renewal and replacement programs based on criticality.</li> </ul>	Medium
	Environmental Exposure	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of resilient materials and protective coatings.</li> <li>- Strategic asset siting and design to minimize exposure.</li> <li>- Enhanced maintenance for assets in harsh environments.</li> </ul>	Medium
	Design or Construction Flaws	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rigorous quality assurance processes in procurement and construction.</li> <li>- Adherence to robust engineering and construction standards (e.g., Australian Standards).</li> </ul>	Low-Medium
	Operational Overload/Misuse	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear operational guidelines and user training.</li> <li>- Regular monitoring of asset usage and load.</li> <li>- Public awareness campaigns on asset care.</li> </ul>	Low
	Unforeseen Events	Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehensive emergency response and disaster management plans.</li> <li>- Insurance and risk transfer mechanisms.</li> </ul>	Medium-High

**Procurement**

**YTD Percentage of purchase made locally**

<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>51.45%</b>	<b>43.7%</b>

**Contracts awarded in November**

<b>VP Number Request Name</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Value of Contract Exc. GST</b>
Direct Engagement Local Buy Panel LB312 – Engineering and Environmental Consultancy Services	<b>Arup Australia Pty Ltd</b>	<b>\$211,024.00</b>
VP491357 – Murray McMillan Dam Expansion	<b>Moore Civil &amp; Plant Hire Pty Ltd</b>	<b>\$612,508.14</b>

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

Direct Engagement Local Buy Panel LB303 - Sport and Recreational Facilities and Equipment	<b>Trailworx Australia Pty Ltd</b>	<b>\$430,855.84</b>
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**Tenders and RFQ Open and/or not Awarded**

TENDER/RFQ	PLATFORM
VP483515 - Cleaning of Childcare Services Complex	Vendor Panel
VP455449 - Longreach Town Flood Study and Mapping (Infrastructure Request)	Vendor Panel
VP474370 - Longreach Water Mains Upgrade	Vendor Panel
VP462169 - Lease HJ on SP351523 - Longreach Airport	Vendor Panel
VP455458 - Ilfracombe WTP Elevated Reservoir Replacement Design (Infrastructure Request)	Vendor Panel
VP486608 - Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Quarry Supplies	Vendor Panel
VP486615 - Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Wet & Dry Hire	Vendor Panel
VP486635 - Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Trades & Services	Vendor Panel
VP486636 - Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Mechanical Services	Vendor Panel
VP486639 - Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers - Supplies	Vendor Panel
VP487613 - Supply, Cart, Heat & Spray Bitumen	Vendor Panel

**Upcoming Requests for Quote and Tenders**

REQUEST	QUOTE/TENDER
Supply 1x Stabiliser/Reclaimer	Request for Tender
Botanical Walkway Rejuvenation	Request for Quote
Design, Supply and Install Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) Dosing System	Request for Tender

**Suppliers with expenditure >\$200,00 YTD 25-26**

Creditor Name	Sum of Invoice Amount	Services
Neuendorf Constructions	\$3,316,804.16	Construction
Champion Contracting	\$1,935,630.39	Quarry Supplies
Rayners Western Hire Pty Ltd	\$1,554,645.95	Plant and Labour Hire
Moore Civil & Plant Hire Pty Ltd	\$1,180,827.90	Plant and Labour Hire

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
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Tropic Petroleum	\$902,157.80	Fuel and Oil
Boral Asphalt	\$688,728.66	Road Resealing
George Bourne & Associates	\$644,360.41	Consultancy, Project Management
JT Cox Concrete & Precast Pty Ltd	\$607,058.56	Quarry Supplies
LGM Assets	\$562,227.62	Insurance
Ergon Energy Corporation Limited	\$360,912.83	Electricity
OMA Contracting	\$339,280.00	Plant hire
Engeny Australia Pty Ltd	\$326,167.73	Flood Study & Mapping. Project Management
Data Interactive	\$321,725.00	Consultancy, Systems Management
Proterra Group	\$291,485.42	Waste Management
Harris Earthmoving Company	\$275,850.00	Quarry Supplies
Hasting Deering (Australia) Limited	\$258,990.38	Plant
Queensland Local Government Workcare Scheme	\$234,570.44	Workers Compensation
Saunders Electric	\$231,363.74	Electrical
Telstra Limited	\$216,738.57	Telephone and internet

The Pre-Qualified Supplier Panel Tenders were released on 21 November, 2025 on VendorPanel for the following Panels:-

**Mechanical Services**

**Quarry Supplies**

**Supplies**

**Trades & Services**

**Wet & Dry Hire**

The Panels closed on 18 December, 2025 at 2pm. Council is currently in the process of preparing for evaluations of the 5 panels.

**Appendices**

1. January 2026 Council Report Monthly - Innovation Business Support [13.2.1 - 3 pages]

**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Finance Information Report, as presented.*

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Innovation & Business Support – January 2026

**STRATEGY & CULTURE**

Initiative	This Month
Business Improvement	Work was undertaken on planning the schedule for 2026 to complete the remaining 15 current-state business processes and requirements documents to ensure the project plan accounts for other commitments the various teams have planning for the first half of 2026.
Customer Experience	In December, the Customer Service Team focused on the monthly notification process for property owners who are <u>not</u> registered on the Water Portal. These notifications advised owners of potential significant leaks at their property. Following each notification, the team also made a follow-up phone call to explain the reason for the alert and provide additional support given the solution is new to our community.
Innovation	Work commenced in December on developing a CCTV consultation plan to define requirements for a potential expansion of CCTV coverage across the region. In addition, detailed planning began for the upgrade of Council's phone system, with project to commence in early 2026.

**KEY STATS – INNOVATION & BUSINESS SUPPORT TEAM**

IT Requests Logged – December 2025	IT Requests Open as 31 December 2025
<b>74</b>	<b>8</b>
IT Requests Older than 1 Week	Average Close Time - IT Requests
<b>8</b>	<b>16 hours</b>

**Number of Documents Registered in Document Management System – December 2025**

**1,954**

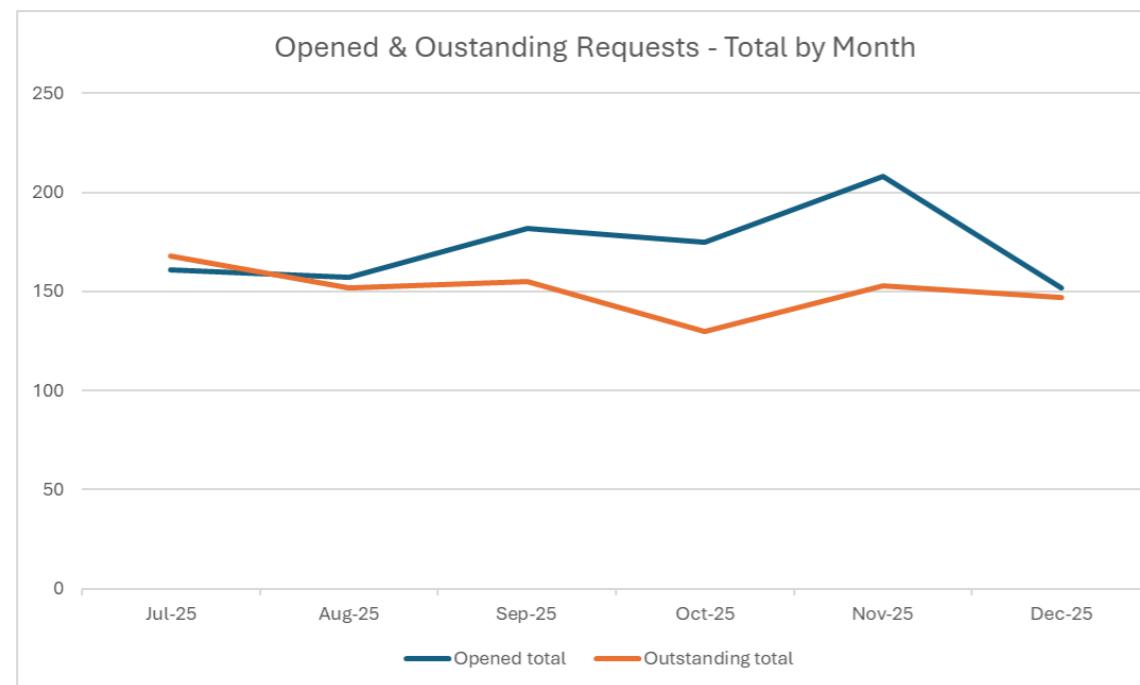
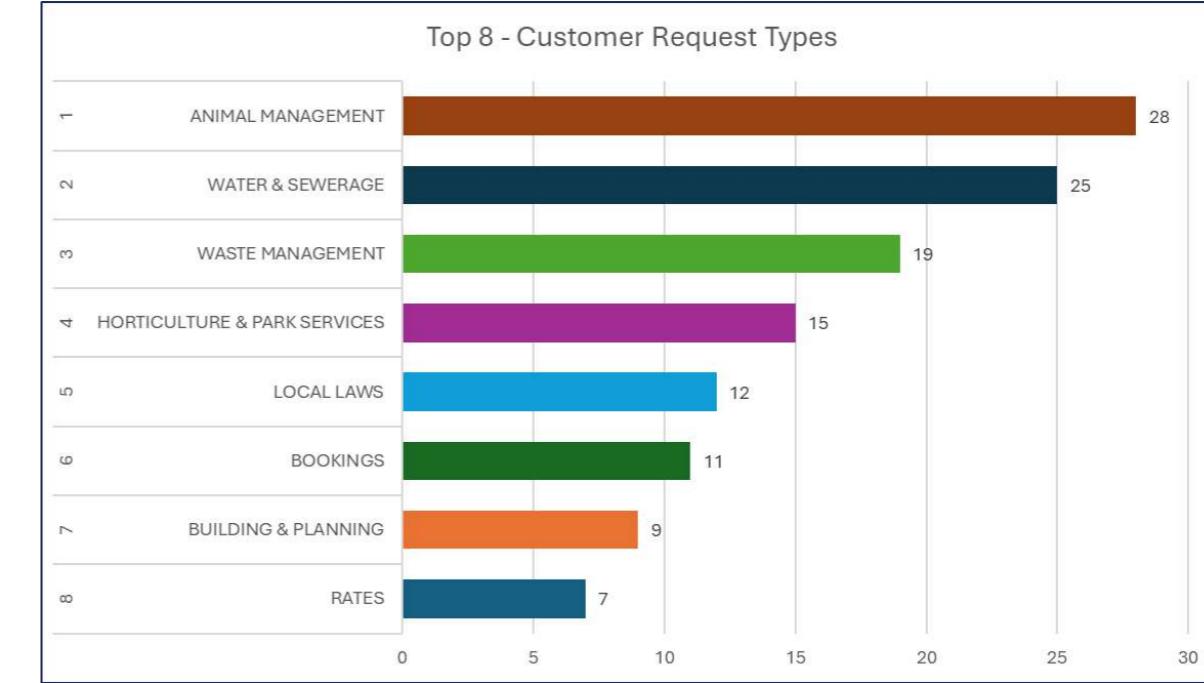
**RISKS**

Risk	Inherent Rating	Treatment	Residual Rating
System Downtime and Service Interruptions	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular maintenance and updates</li> <li>Equipment renewal.</li> <li>Redundancy links for connectivity.</li> <li>Strong service level agreements in place with key vendors.</li> </ul>	Low
Cybersecurity threats	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff education and awareness</li> <li>Specialised Systems to protect user accounts and new applications being installed.</li> <li>Various Council policies, procedures &amp; plans</li> <li>Partnerships with State Government Cyber Security Unit.</li> </ul>	Medium
Misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the responsible use, management, and oversight of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within Longreach Regional Council.</li> <li>Staff training in the use of AI.</li> </ul>	Medium
Poor responsiveness to Customer Requests	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Customer Service Charter.</li> <li>Staff training and education on management of customer requests.</li> <li>Regular performance reporting.</li> <li>Provide appropriate maintenance budgets.</li> <li>The Executive Leadership Team committed to fostering a customer focused culture.</li> </ul>	Medium
Inadequate compliance with the <i>Public Records Act 2023</i> and <i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement and maintain a compliant records management framework aligned with relevant legislation and standards.</li> <li>Provide regular training and support for staff on records management &amp; the management of personal information in accordance with Councils Privacy Policy.</li> <li>Conduct periodic audits and reviews of systems and processes.</li> <li>Implement clear policies and procedures for record creation, storage, retention, and disposal.</li> </ul>	Medium

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Innovation & Business Support – January 2026



Age of Outstanding Requests

Under 1 month	1-2 Months	3-6 Months	7 Months+
70 ↓	45 ↑	21 ↑	11 ↑

**Commentary on Graphs:**

**Top 8 Customer Request Types December 2025**

- Animal management was the most requested service type in December, with the majority of requests relating to:
  - 6 requests relating to wandering dogs
  - 5 dead animal collection requests
  - 5 requests for cat traps
  - 3 barking attacks
  - Other requests relating to dog impounded, barking dogs, surrendered animals, registration and feral species.
- Water & Sewerage was the most requested service type in November, with requests comprising the following categories:
  - 15 water leaks in Longreach
  - 2 digital water meter enquiries
  - 1 water leak in Isisford
  - Other requests related to blocked sewerages, new connections, meter maintenance and drinking water quality.

**Opened by Month & Total Outstanding by Month**

The number of new requests has decreased from 208 in November to 152 in December largely due to the Christmas closure period, however, there were 35 calls to the after hours call centre during the shutdown period. The calls primary related to animal management (impounded, wandering and barking dogs), water leaks and waste requests.

**Age of Outstanding Requests**

The total number of outstanding requests decreased by 3.92% in December, with the majority continuing to fall within the under one month category. The three largest categories of outstanding requests were footpath maintenance (Longreach), dogs barking, and dogs impounded.

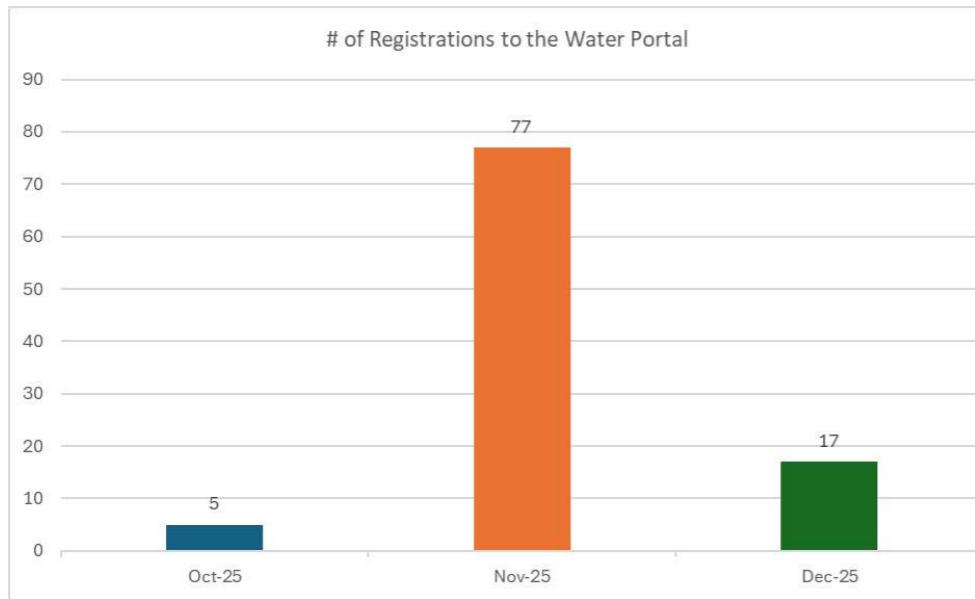
It is important to note that tree trimming and tree and stump removal have dropped out of the top three categories due to a significant effort by the Parks & Gardens Team. This work contributed to a 26.5% increase in closed requests compared to the previous month, supported by a focused effort from the Works Team to resolve some of the more complex requests.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Innovation & Business Support – January 2026

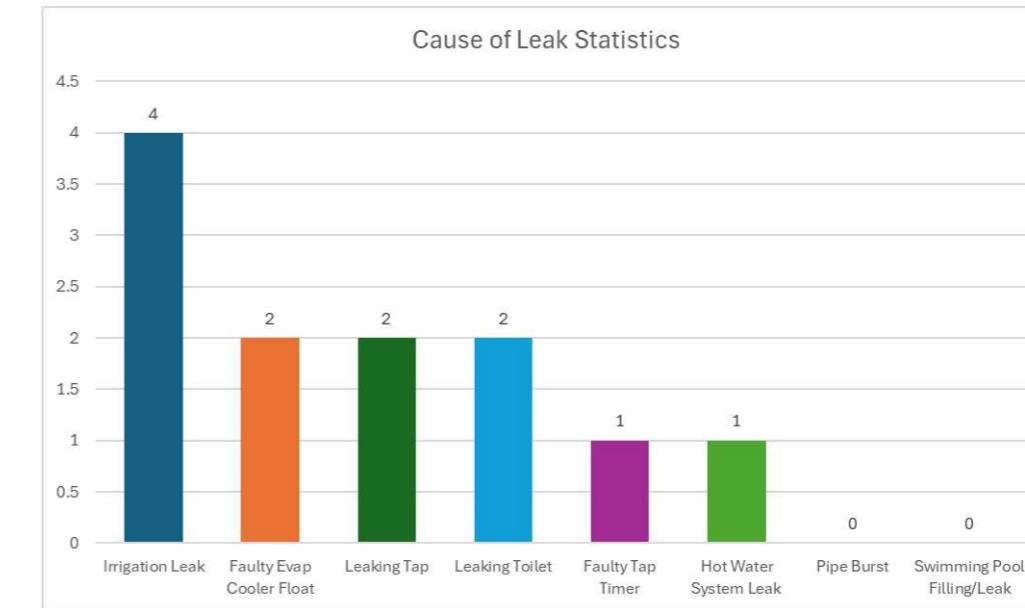
**Number of Registration for the Customer Water Portal**



The chart above shows the number of residents who have registered for the Water Portal by month following the installation of their digital water meters. The portal provides customers with secure access to monitor water usage and set alerts for potential leaks or excessive consumption.

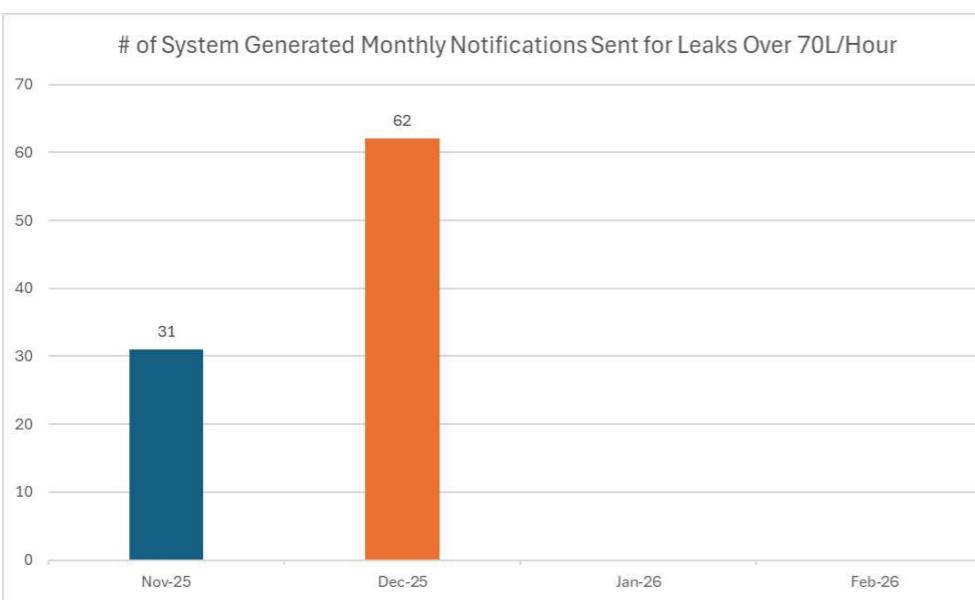
Council encourages all property owners and tenants to sign up for the Water Portal, as leak notifications are issued within two days of a potential leak being detected. This early warning helps conserve water and reduces the risk of excess water charges if leaks are resolved promptly. Residence can register for the Water Portal via the Council website: <https://www.longreach.qld.gov.au/Live-and-Work/Water/Digital-Water-Meters>.

**Leak Cause Statistics**



The chart above shows the key causes of leaks following notification to property owners for leaks exceeding 100 litres per hour, which commenced in December 2025.

Please note that these statistics are provided voluntarily by property owners who choose to call back and advise the reason for the leak. The Customer Service Team requests this information, where possible, because it helps others troubleshoot potential leak sources. This insight is invaluable when assisting property owners—particularly as some leaks are not immediately obvious.



The chart above outlines the number of monthly system-generated notifications sent for leaks exceeding 70 litres per hour. As noted earlier, the Customer Service Team follows up each notification with a phone call to explain the information provided and reassure property owners that the notification is legitimate during this early stage of the project rollout.

## **14 Communities Report**

### **14.1 Project Management Update**

Receive the project management update for the month of December 2025.

#### **Council Action**

Receive

#### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

#### **Relevant Excerpts from Legislation**

Nil

#### **Policy Considerations**

Nil

#### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

Strategy
<b>OUR COMMUNITY</b>
1.1.1 Maintain and enhance public open spaces, parks, gardens, and pathways for community enjoyment, to create a cooling environment, and to improve accessibility
1.1.2 Maintain and enhance community facilities and services to meet the needs and interests of residents

#### **Consultation:**

Internal	External
ELT, Managers and impacted staff occurs weekly.	Contractors for various projects, SES and funding bodies such as for the Games On! Program.

#### **Previous Council Resolutions related to this Matter**

Nil

#### **Officer Report**

##### **Responsible Officer:**

*Joel Perry (Project Manager)*

##### **Purpose:**

This report provides an update on the community projects around the region. Main updates are as follows:

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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- Construction for the Teal Street Housing Project for six new Council houses is now completed. See photos below. Thank you to local builder Neuendorf Constructions for the incredible new builds.
- Design and Construction for the Pump Track at the Longreach Recreational Precinct Development is awarded to Trailworx.
- Internal fencing installed at the Longreach Childcare. Providing a safer playing environment for children of different ages.



**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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Attached are dashboards for projects.

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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**Implications**

**Budget**

Comments:		
Revenue:		
Expenditure:		
Net Result:		See attachments

**Strategic Risk**

This matter has been assessed against Council's Strategic Risk Register to determine the likelihood and consequence of any strategic risk to Council arising from this recommendation.

Strategic Risk:	Service Delivery	Comments:
Likelihood:	Likely	
Consequence:	Insignificant	
Rating:	M6	Construction work will see temporary closure of various facilities. Communication and alternatives provided to public prior to work commencing.

**Environmental**

Nil

**Asset Management**

Changes to existing assets and creation of new will occur. All impacted assets are displayed in the attached Project Dashboard.

**Other Implications**

Nil

**Human Rights**

Right:	Comments:
Nil	

**Appendices**

1. Projects Dashboard [**14.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Major Projects Dashboard [**14.1.2** - 4 pages]

**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Project Management Update Report, as presented.*

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

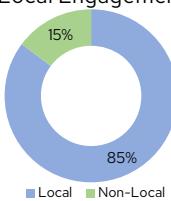


## Longreach Regional Council

Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

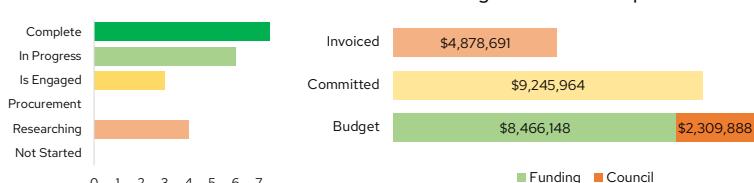
Project	Progress	Funding	Status
MU042 Close in Wellshot Centre Verandah	Contractor engaged. Work to commence early-mid 2026.	Longreach Regional Council	Is Engaged
HC029 Isisford community hall upgrade (drainage)	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
DM016 Isisford SES Training Room	Construction commenced with ongoing delays to progress. Request made for an extension to completion date to funding body. Extension approved to 30 June 2026.	SES Support Grant	In Progress
PK070 Barbecue replacement at Yaraka	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
SP022 Yaraka Pool - Replace fence	Contractor engaged. Work to commence early-mid 2026.	Longreach Regional Council	Is Engaged
LB007 Longreach Disaster Centre Construction	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
LB008 Replacement interactive table for Longreach Library	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
LH013 Teal St housing for six houses over 4 lots	Work completed.	Housing Investment Fund	Complete
CM011 Cemetery - Additional row	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
CM012 Cemetery - Repair plinths	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
CC021 Childcare - Internal fence around playground	Work completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Complete
SF024 Showgrounds accessibility items	Footpath and carpark concrete completed. Lighting now completed. Finishes to road and carpark lines to occur early in the New Year.	Longreach Regional Council	In Progress
PK067 Longreach Recreational Precinct Project	- Playground design now finalised by Kompan Australia. - Tender for construction closed. Awarded to Scott Brothers Construction. Materials now being ordered. - Pump track awarded to Trailworx Australia. - Parking area onsite work completed. Line marking in Mar/Apr.	Growing Regions Program (Round 2)	In Progress
CC019 Longreach Childcare - Accessibility & Inclusion Stage 2	- Mothers Room - Contractor engaged. Dates TBC - Doors replacement - Contractor engaged. Dates TBC. - PA system upgrade - Work completed. - Concrete accessibility improvements - Work in Progress - Extra outdoor shade - Contractor engaged. Dates TBC.	Community Childcare Fund (Round 4)	In Progress
CC022 Childcare concrete track	Onsite work in progress	Longreach Regional Council	In Progress
MU041 Qantas Park - Extension on VIC building for storage	Contractor engaged. Work to commence early 2026.	Longreach Regional Council	Is Engaged
AC001 Animal Management Facility	Contractor engaged and final design now underway. Onsite work to commence early/mid 2026.	Works For Queensland Program	Is Engaged
PK071 Walking Networks	Concept lighting design approved by funding body. Final lighting design now being completed.	Longreach Regional Council	Researching
SF023 Thomson River Pontoon	Design and scope being finalised.	Longreach Regional Council & Games On! Program	Researching
SF022 Showground dressing room upgrade	Design and scope being finalised.	Longreach Regional Council & Games On! Program	Researching
SL006 Solar Power Projects (Project Sunpower)	Design and scope being finalised. Grant application to increase the budget has not been successful.	Longreach Regional Council	Researching

### Local Engagement



### Project Status

### Budget vs Actual Expenditure



# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

## ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



### Project: Teal Street Housing Development

	Status	Completed	7/1/26																								
Purpose:	Construct 6 new Council housing in Longreach. Two houses and four units to be built on Teal St and will be affordable houses for Council workers, with rent capped at 80 per cent of market value.	Recent Deliverables	Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period																								
Project Team:	Executive Sponsors: Brett Walsh, David Wilson and Tanya Johnson Project Manager: Joel Perry	Construction completed.	Official opening.																								
Funding Source:	Funded by the state government's Housing Investment Fund.																										
Stakeholders:	Longreach residents and ratepayers and Longreach Regional Council.																										
Work to be completed by local builder Neuendorf Constructions		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risks</th> <th>Previous status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>Green</td> <td>Green</td> <td>Budget risk is only one identified so far.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time</td> <td>Green</td> <td>Green</td> <td>No risks identified so far. Work on schedule.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget</td> <td>Yellow</td> <td>Yellow</td> <td>Costs will meet budget, but not exceeding Council's 10% allowance.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scope</td> <td>Green</td> <td>Green</td> <td>No risks identified so far.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication</td> <td>Green</td> <td>Green</td> <td>General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description	Overall	Green	Green	Budget risk is only one identified so far.	Time	Green	Green	No risks identified so far. Work on schedule.	Budget	Yellow	Yellow	Costs will meet budget, but not exceeding Council's 10% allowance.	Scope	Green	Green	No risks identified so far.	Communication	Green	Green	General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.
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<p>Site Establishment and footings</p> <p>Install Frames and Trusses</p> <p>Plastering</p> <p>Painting</p> <p>Contract Completion</p> <p>Electrical, plumbing and aircon</p> <p>Landscaping</p>																											

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

## ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Project: Longreach Recreational Precinct Facility Development		Status	In Progress	7/1/26																							
Purpose:	The Longreach Recreational Precinct Upgrade is initiated to address critical gaps in the town's community infrastructure by creating an inclusive, multi-use outdoor space. The project aims to enhance quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. The upgrades are aligned with council's strategic goals to improve liveability, promote health and support community cohesion.		Recent Deliverables	Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period																							
Project Team:	Executive Sponsor: Tanya Johnson & David Wilson Project Manager: Joel Perry		Pump Track work awarded to Trailworx Australia.																								
Funding Source:	90% of budget is committed by the Growing Regions Program and 10% by Longreach Regional Council.																										
Stakeholders:	Longreach residents and ratepayers and Longreach Regional Council.																										
<h3>Budget</h3> <p>Spend to Date</p> <p>Committed Costs</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>\$0 \$500,000 \$1,000,000 \$1,500,000 \$2,000,000 \$2,500,000 \$3,000,000</p> <p>■ Expenditure ■ Growing Regions Program ■ Council Funding</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risks</th> <th>Previous status</th> <th>Current status</th> <th>Status Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Budget risk is only one identified so far.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Nil risk.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Results from tenders and RFO show that committed costs will meet the budget. Project Manager to work closely with contractors to reduce risk of additional future costs. While ensuring scope and quality is not negatively impacted.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scope</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Nil risk.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description	Overall			Budget risk is only one identified so far.	Time			Nil risk.	Budget			Results from tenders and RFO show that committed costs will meet the budget. Project Manager to work closely with contractors to reduce risk of additional future costs. While ensuring scope and quality is not negatively impacted.	Scope			Nil risk.	Communication			General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.	
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Scope			Nil risk.																								
Communication			General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.																								
<p>Agreement signed</p> <p>Milestone 1 Due - Planning</p> <p>Milestone 2 Due - Procurement</p> <p>Milestone 3 Due - Construction Stage 1</p> <p>Milestone 4 Due - Construction Stage 2</p> <p>Official Opening</p> <p>Final Inspection</p> <p>Milestone 5 Due - Construction Stage 3</p> <p>Post-Completion Report</p> <p>Project Funding End Date</p>																											

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

## ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Project: Childcare - Energy Efficiency Improvements Stage 1 & 2		Status	In Progress	7/1/26																						
Purpose:	Upgrade functional aspects of the facility, specifically to accommodate children with mobility issues by upgrading concrete paths to safe and modern standards and replacing old doors with high usage. The project also includes construction of a quiet space for feeding mothers, upgraded sun shades and also upgrade equipment to help to reduce overheads.	Recent Deliverables		Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period																						
Project Team:	Executive Sponsor: Tanya Johnson Project Manager: Joel Perry Acting Childcare Director: Jessica Harvey	Work to extend PA system completed.		Concrete pathway accessibility improvements to continue.																						
Funding Source:	Community Child Care Fund Program and Longreach Regional Council.																									
Stakeholders:	Longreach residents and ratepayers and Longreach Regional Council.																									
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# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL

## ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

Project: Animal Management Facility		Status	Engaged	7/1/26	
Purpose:	Construction of a new Animal Management Facility that is fit for purpose facility designed to support its essential animal and rural lands management services to the community, while improving staff cohesion and retention, reducing operational risks to staff and animals, optimizing service delivery, and prioritising sustainable asset management practices.	Recent Deliverables		Milestones, Tasks, Outcomes to deliver next period	
Project Team:	Executive Sponsor: Grace Cronin-Jones Project Manager: Joel Perry Manager Regulatory Services: Jeffrey Newton	Design process commenced with builder.		Design work to continue.	
Funding Source:	Funded from Works for Queensland.				
Stakeholders:	Longreach residents, ratepayers and Longreach Regional Council.				
<h3>Budget</h3> <p>-\$ \$300,000 \$600,000 \$900,000 \$1,200,000 \$1,500,000 \$1,800,000</p> <p>■ Works for Queensland Funding ■ Expenditure</p>		Risks	Previous status	Current status	Status Description
		Overall	Green	Green	Budget risk is only one identified so far.
		Time	Green	Green	No risks identified so far. Funding ends 30 June 2027.
		Budget	Yellow	Yellow	Costs will meet budget. Project Manager to work closely with contractors to reduce risk of costs exceeding 10% over-budget. While ensuring scope and quality is not negatively impacted.
		Scope	Green	Green	No risks identified so far.
		Communication	Green	Green	General updates provided to stakeholders on project progress.

## **14.2 Information Report - Communities**

This report provides an update on the range of activities that have occurred during the month for the Community Services Directorate.

### **Council Action**

Receive

### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

### **Corporate Plan Alignment**

Corporate Plan Strategy

#### **OUR ECONOMY**

2.2.2 Provide tourism development services to promote the region and grow the visitor economy

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer:**

Officers in the Communities Directorate

#### **Purpose:**

Officers are requested to provide an information update to Council monthly, outlining achievements, challenges, and statistical information for the various functional areas in Council.

### **Library Services**

Longreach - December traditionally sees increased patron activity as community members prepare for the annual holiday closure. Remaining open on the final Saturday prior to Council shutdown was met with considerable appreciation, particularly from working individuals who benefited from extended access to essential services.

During this period, the library served as the designated venue for the Council's Christmas tree competition, contributing to a festive and welcoming environment for patrons and visitors alike.

The month also marked several transitions within our community, including farewells to departing residents and congratulations to young children advancing to preparatory school and daycare. These milestones underscore the library's ongoing role in supporting community development and lifelong learning.

The final First Five Forever session for the year was held on 12 December and was attended by 18 adults, 23 children, and 11 babies, reflecting strong engagement from families within the community.

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Additionally, the weekly Thursday Handicraft group held their end-of-year break-up gathering on 18 December, marking the conclusion of another successful year of creative community participation.

Looking ahead, the library team remains committed to delivering diverse opportunities, educational initiatives, and positive experiences for all members of the community.

**Ilfracombe** - The local daycare has continued to make visits to the library, when possible, with the Library Officer reading stories to the children. These visits have been well received and add to the library's welcoming atmosphere.

Young mothers from the community have also visited the library while off work, taking advantage of the chance to explore the new library space. They have been able to relax and unwind in comfortable chairs, enjoying some well-deserved downtime.

During the school holidays, several children have taken the opportunity to spend time on the library computers, exploring a selection of newly installed games. This has provided an engaging and enjoyable experience for young patrons during their break.

Additionally, the library has provided valuable assistance to customers without access to scanning facilities at home. Staff have been busy scanning documents for these individuals, and this service has been greatly appreciated by those who have made use of it.

### Library Statistics

	Longreach		Ilfracombe		Isisford	
	Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD	Dec	YTD
Loans	434	2467	12	53	0	46
New Members	9	60	1	2	0	2

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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**Swimming Pool Statistics**

	<b>Longreach</b>		<b>Ilfracombe</b>		<b>Isisford</b>		<b>Yaraka</b>	
	<b>Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Adult	689	3448	72	1610	69	215	23	31
Child	969	7265	72	549	71	238	11	16

**Facility Usage**

The following community facilities were utilised in December.

Longreach Civic Centre	Internal Council Meetings and Training, LSODE Awards
Longreach Showgrounds	Group Fitness Sessions, Heart of Australia Bus, Longreach Junior and Senior Cricket, Horse Stabling
Ilfracombe Rec Centre	Darts
Isisford Hall	Barcoo Chat & Craft Sessions, Christian Church
Disaster Coordination Centre	Internal Council Meetings and Training, Childsafe Organisation Laws, Outback QLD Tourism Association, Longreach Jockey Club, Outback Independent Living

**Water Tower Lights**

The water tower lights were lit up in specific colours for the following occasions –

OIL Celebration	Orange
Christmas Lights	Red, Green, White

**Funeral Services**

<b>Longreach Cemetery Funeral Figures – December</b>	
<b>Funeral Type</b>	
Church & Graveside Funeral	
Civic Centre & Graveside Funeral	
Church Service Only	
Graveside Funeral	
LRC Graveside Set Up Only	
Memorial Service	
Cremation	
Internment of Ashes – Private Family	
Plaques Arranged By LRC	3
Undertakers Services Only	1

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

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### Communication Activity – Statistics for December 2025

#### Website:

- 13,497 sessions (12,976 in November)
- After the Home landing page, the most popular pages are:
  - Careers
  - News
  - Services & Facilities
- Most people have found the website through direct search.
- 82% of people use desktops as a device, followed by 16% of mobile devices.
- See attachments for the data.

#### Facebook:

- 4,696 followers (4,572 in November), 66% of our followers are women.
- 29 posts in total December 2025
- Post topics – Careers, Events, Public Notices
- Post with the highest reach of 11,809 Exceptional Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants
- See attachments for the data. – follows, reach, visits

### Community Recovery and Resilience Officer Report

The Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety has provided funding to Longreach Regional Council to employ a Community Recovery and Resilience Officer (CRRO) until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2027.

The CRRO initiative is part of a Community Health and Wellbeing package and will support long-term recovery and resilience of disaster affected communities following the Western Queensland Surface Trough and Associated Rainfall and Flooding, 21 March – 19 May 2025.

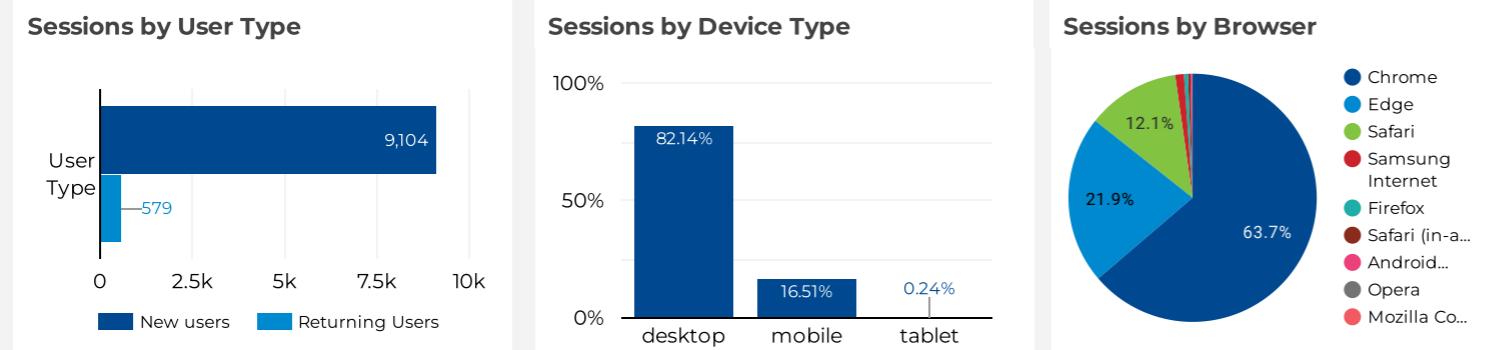
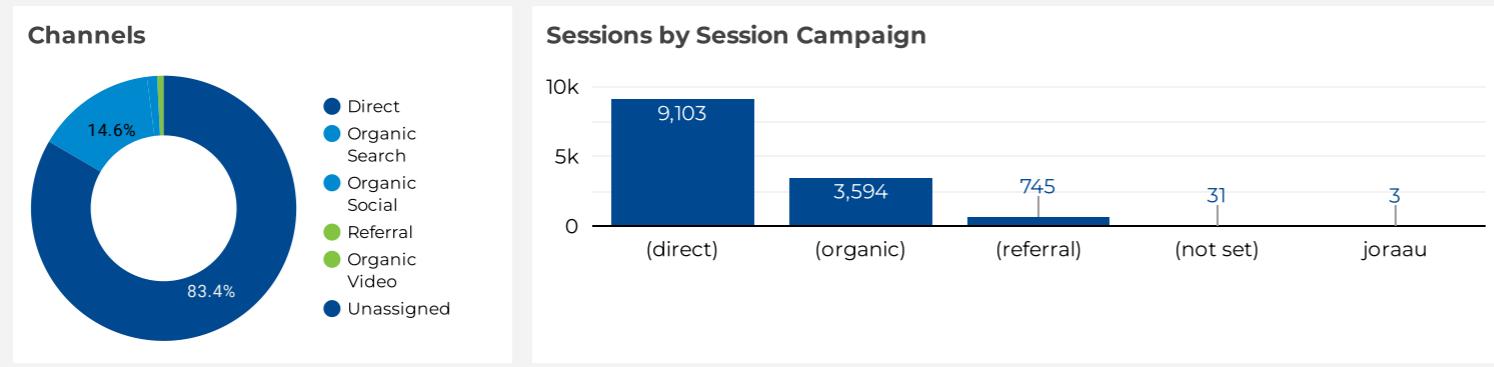
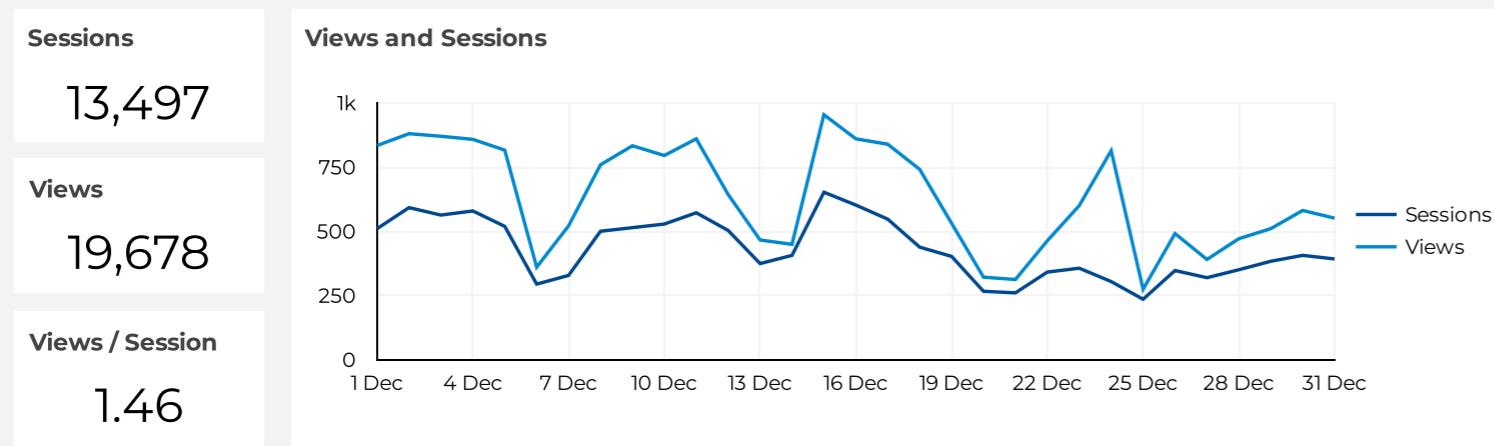
The CRRO will work at the community level in addressing the immediate to medium/long-term needs of the event impacted communities to ensure a locally informed response and long-term sustainability. This position has been filled by the incumbent in the previous 6-month CRO role and will continue the recovery and resilience work that was being done after the 2025 flood event.

### Appendices

1. Longreach Regional Council – Monthly Analytics Snapshot – December 25 [**14.2.1** - 1 page]
2. Facebook Follows December 2025 [**14.2.2** - 1 page]
3. Facebook Reach Decemebr 2025 [**14.2.3** - 1 page]
4. Facebook Visits December 2025 [**14.2.4** - 1 page]
5. December 2025 Tourism Overview - Council Report [**14.2.5** - 12 pages]
6. Experience Longreach Report December 2025 [**14.2.6** - 9 pages]

#### Recommendation:

That Council receives the Communities Information Report, as presented.



### Top 10 Pages

Page path	Views
/Home	5,381
/newsroom	743
/Live-and-Work/Careers/Cur...	668
/Services-and-Facilities/Fun...	616
/Search-Results	446
/Live-and-Work/Roads	430
/Services-and-Facilities/Swi...	346
/About-Council/Council/Our...	324
/Live-and-Work/Careers	284
/Live-and-Work/Water/Wate...	264

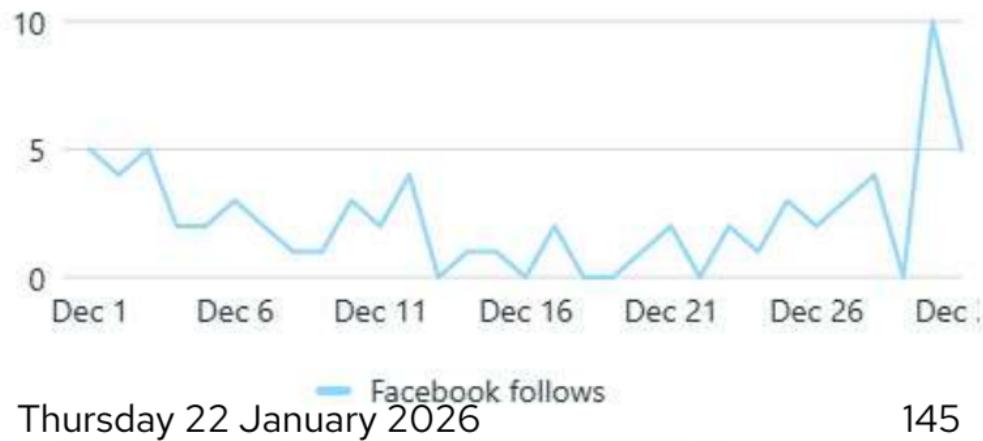
### Top 10 Referral Sources

Session source	Sessions	Views
(direct)	9,103	10,687
google	3,317	7,066
bing	272	602
longreach.admin....	254	403
m.facebook.com	89	121
l.facebook.com	60	112
forms.datainterac...	56	75
lgaq.asn.au	49	76
portal2.docassem...	43	101
barcaldinerc.qld.g...	35	85

## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

Follows 1

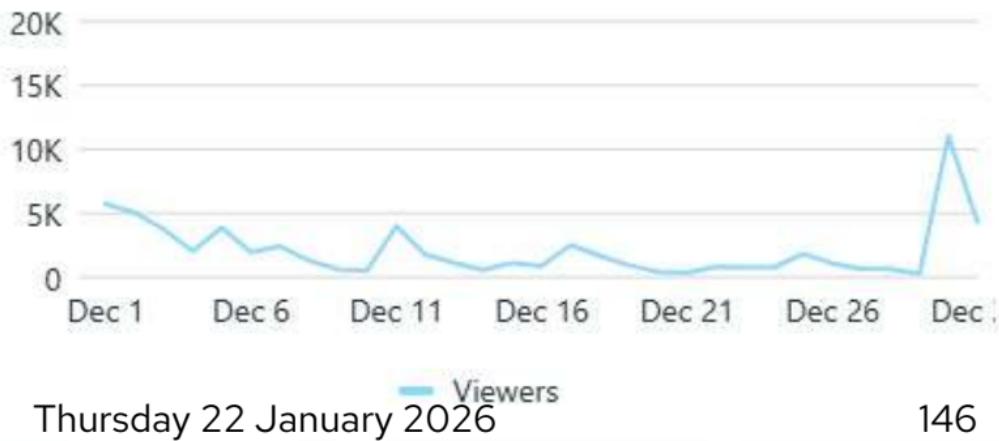
71 ↓ 26.8%



## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Viewers ①

28.0K ↓ 23.8%



## LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

### Visits i

5.8K ↓ 5.4%



Thursday 22 January 2026

147

# DECEMBER 2025



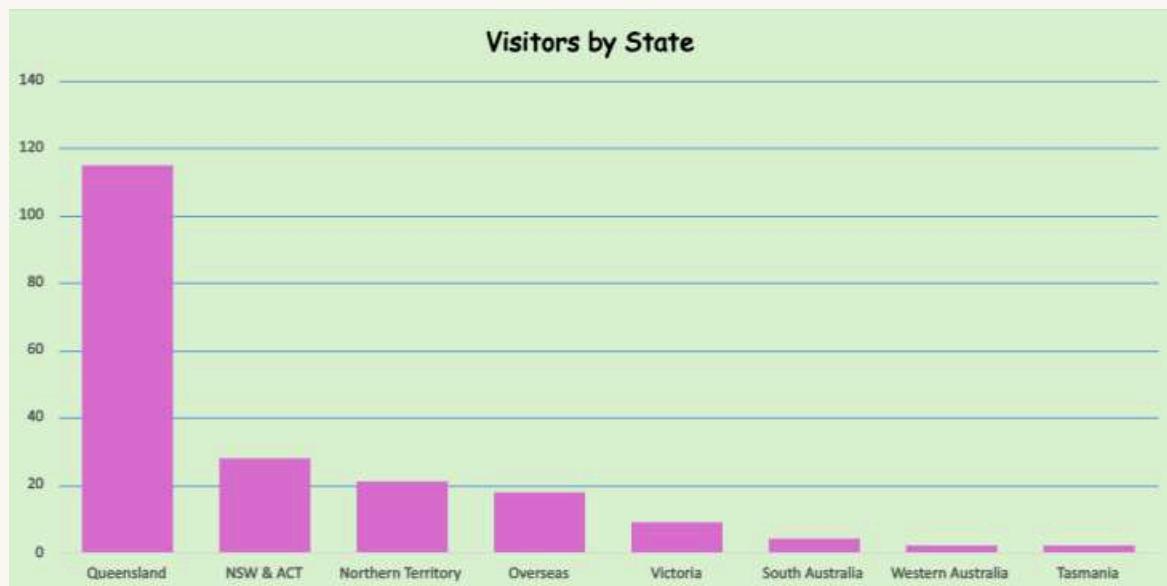
Photo: Thomson River from the air.  
Credit: Qld Helicopters

## Tourism Update

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## VISITORS THROUGH THE CENTRE

Month	VIC 2023	VIC 2024	VIC 2025	UP/DOWN
January	236	151	113	⬇️
February	181	169	137	⬇️
March	596	401	392	⬇️
April	1217	1226	777	⬇️
May	2605	2965	2140	⬇️
June	3847	4267	2979	⬇️
July	5404	5851	4038	⬇️
August	3492	4249	3604	⬇️
September	2499	2360	1448	⬇️
October	1112	884	1034	⬆️
November	341	292	311	⬆️
December	152	80	199	⬆️
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>21,682</b>	<b>22,895</b>	<b>17,165</b>	⬇️



LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## VISITOR ENQUIRIES 2025

	DEC	YTD
Phone Calls	90	2370
Emails	26	627
Info Packs	12	309
Counter Bookings	1	1790
Phone Bookings	5	345

## POWERHOUSE & HISTORICAL MUSEUM

	DEC	YTD
VISITORS	10	2872

The Powerhouse and historical Museum closed for the off-peak season mid-November but we still had several 8.30am beat the heat tours with Outback Aussie Tours the last being in December.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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**ILFRACOMBE POST OFFICE, LIBRARY & COUNCIL HUB**

	DECEMBER	2025 YTD
VISITORS	575	2940



**CAMPING INCOME 2025**

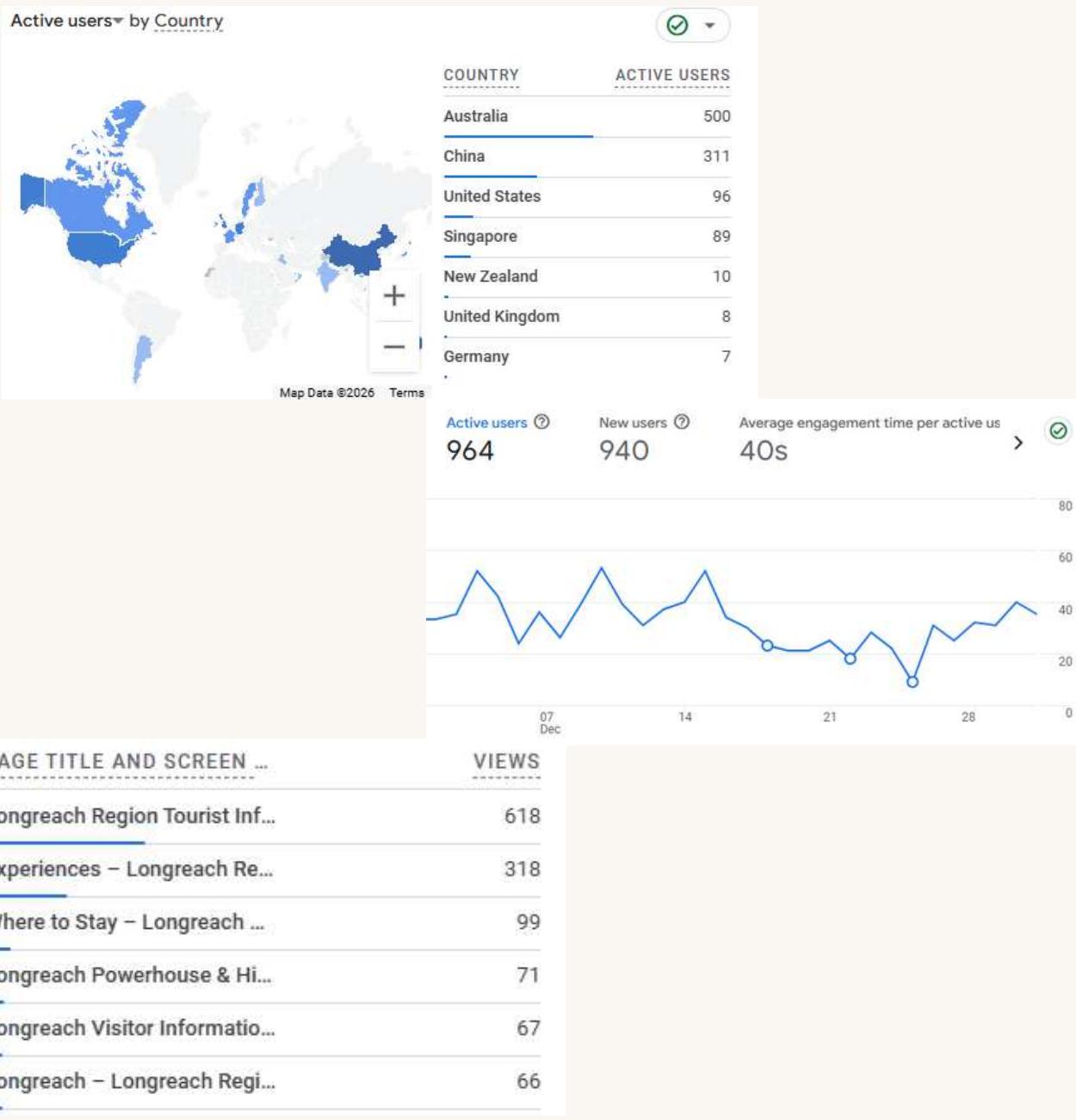
	DECEMBER 2025	2025 YTD
Apex Park	\$275	57,278
Isisford	\$0	20,825
Yaraka	\$0	4,510

# MARKETING AND MEDIA

## WEBSITE

### Key Insights:

- 964 Active Users with 940 new visitors, showing strong discovery of the website.
- Majority of users are from Australia (500), but international interest is noted (USA, China, Singapore, United Kingdom, Germany & New Zealand).
- Visitors are most interested in tourist info, experiences, Powerhouse and accommodation options.



## Decembers Marketing Campaigns

In the following slides below, there are two forms of online marketing for Longreach Tourism.

These two articles target two different demographics; families with children and international tourists from New Zealand.

This first article highlights the education that can be shared to children and adults alike of Australia's rich history in the west, our pioneers and the way of life for those in Outback Queensland through the years.

The second article is written to entice our neighbouring country, New Zealand to embrace all the things Queensland's outback and central west has to offer.

### Family Adventures in Longreach: Learning, Discovery & Outback Connection



### Longreach Queensland | The Ultimate Outback Adventure for New Zealand Travellers



# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



Home News Gear Adventures Inspiration



Subscribe



Review • Travel

## Longreach: Where Family Adventures and Learning Go Hand in Hand

Adventure With a Conscience

Michelle Ballard

08.12.2025



Ready to turn your next family trip into something extraordinary? Head west to Longreach, where the adventure is the lesson, and the outback is your classroom.

In an age where families crave meaningful experiences and flexible learning, Longreach stands out as a beacon for those seeking both adventure and education. Nestled in the heart of Queensland's outback, Longreach is more than a stop on the map—it's a living classroom and a welcoming community for families and home schoolers alike.



### The Road Becomes the Classroom

For many Australian families, especially those embracing home schooling, the journey is as important as the destination. Longreach offers a rare blend: structured learning through its world-class museums and attractions, and unstructured discovery across sweeping landscapes and vibrant local culture. Here, every kilometre tells a story, and every stop is a chance to learn something new.

*Top Educational Experiences:*

- *Qantas Founders Museum:* Step aboard historic aircraft and discover how aviation connected Australia's most remote communities. It's a hands-on lesson in innovation and perseverance.
- *Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame:* Dive into the stories of outback life, pioneering women, Indigenous stockmen, and the evolution of rural industries.
- *Thomson River Cruise:* Experience nature, astronomy, and storytelling under the stars—a lesson in ecology and culture all in one evening.
- *Longreach School of Distance Education:* Tour one of the largest classrooms in the world and see how technology brings education to the bush. Families can observe live lessons and learn about the unique partnership between home and school.

### You might like



Review 18.12.2025

### Your Ocean to Plane to Snow Travel Jumper



Review 15.12.2025

### Longreach, Queensland The Outback Adventure New Zealand Travellers Can't Miss



Review 09.12.2025

### Summer in Queensland's Hinterland, so much more than Gorgeous Beaches For A Family Holiday

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## Home Schooling on the Move

Gone are the days when education was confined to four walls. In Longreach, the open road becomes a mobile classroom. Attractions offer tailored educational resources, and there's no shortage of local experts willing to share their knowledge. Everyday life here is a lesson in resilience, resourcefulness, and connection to the land.

## Community and Connection

One of the unexpected delights of travelling as a family and home schooling on the road is the sense of community that emerges. In Longreach, visitors are welcomed with open arms. Whether joining a sunset river cruise, chatting with locals at the bakery, or attending a community event, families often forge lasting friendships with fellow travellers and locals alike.

## Family-Friendly Fun

Longreach is packed with activities that delight kids and adults. From Cobb & Co Stagecoach rides and outback station visits to scavenger hunts at the Powerhouse & Historical Museum, there's no shortage of ways to make learning fun. The region's wide-open spaces, spectacular sunsets, and endless skies provide the perfect backdrop for family adventures.

## Why Longreach Belongs on Every Family's List

In a world of screens and schedules, Longreach offers something rare: time and space to learn, explore, and simply be together. It's a place where curiosity thrives and education happens naturally—on the road, by the river, and under the outback stars. Whether you stay for a few days or a few weeks, you'll leave with more than just photos—you'll leave with memories, lessons, and a deeper connection to Australia's story.

---

*Ready to turn your next family trip into something extraordinary? Head west to Longreach—where the adventure is the lesson, and the outback is your classroom.*



Sidebar: Homeschooling Tips for Longreach Attractions

### 1. Qantas Founders Museum

- **Aviation & Innovation:** Use the museum's interactive exhibits to spark lessons in science and technology. Encourage kids to compare early aircraft with modern planes, discuss the role of aviation in connecting remote communities, and try the flight simulator for a hands-on STEM activity.
- **History in Action:** Have children research the founders of Qantas and present a short report or creative project about how innovation shaped Australia's outback.

# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## 2. Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame

- **Living History:** Assign a scavenger hunt for artifacts related to Indigenous stockmen, pioneering women, and rural industries. Discuss the importance of resilience and adaptation in outback life.
- **Creative Writing:** After the visit, ask children to write a diary entry from the perspective of a stockman or pioneer child.

## 3. Longreach School of Distance Education

- **Distance Learning Insights:** Take a guided tour and observe a live lesson. Discuss how technology enables education in remote areas and compare it to your own homeschooling setup.
- **Virtual Connections:** Encourage kids to write a letter or email to a student at the school, fostering pen-pal relationships and understanding of rural education.

## 4. Thomson River Cruise

- **Ecology & Astronomy:** Use the cruise as a springboard for lessons in river ecology, local wildlife, and astronomy. Bring along field guides or binoculars for birdwatching and keep a nature journal to record observations.
- **Storytelling:** After the cruise, have children retell the stories they heard or create their own bush poetry inspired by the outback night sky.

## 5. Powerhouse & Historical Museum

- **Engineering & Invention:** Explore vintage machinery and discuss how electricity changed life in the outback. Challenge kids to design their own simple machine or invention that could help people living in remote areas.

## 6. Outback Station Visits

- **Agriculture & Sustainability:** Learn about sheep and cattle farming, water management, and sustainable practices. Have children interview a station worker and create a poster or presentation about life on the land.

### General Tips:

- **Integrate Subjects:** Use each attraction to cover multiple subjects—history, science, geography, and the arts.
- **Project-Based Learning:** Encourage kids to document their journey through photos, drawings, and journals, turning the trip into a comprehensive project.

Community Engagement: Attend local events or markets to learn about regional culture and



# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

Review • Travel

## Longreach, Queensland The Outback Adventure New Zealand Travellers Can't Miss

Michelle Ballard 15.12.2025

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Email](#) [+](#)

**Discover the Heart of the Outback, Just a Flight Away**

For New Zealanders seeking a true-blue Australian adventure, Longreach stands out as the ultimate outback destination. Here's why this iconic Queensland town should top your travel list:



**You might like**



## 1. Authentic Outback, Unfiltered

Longreach is the beating heart of Outback Queensland—a place where the red earth stretches to the horizon, and the pioneering spirit is alive in every encounter. Unlike the crowded tourist hubs, Longreach offers a genuine, immersive experience: meet real stockmen, explore working sheep and cattle stations, and soak up the legendary hospitality that defines rural Australia.



## 2. Easy Access: Direct Qantas Links

Getting to Longreach is straightforward for Kiwi travellers. Qantas offers seamless connections from Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch via Brisbane, with regular onward flights to Longreach. Rex Airlines flies in twice weekly from Townsville. The town's airport is serviced daily, making it a convenient gateway for those eager to swap city life for the wide-open spaces of the outback.

For those who want to meander their way through Queensland, Longreach is accessible by road and rail. The Spirit of the Outback train offers a scenic journey from the coast twice a week. For those who prefer bus travel, the Greyhound Bus service runs daily, providing a convenient and comfortable option for reaching Longreach. Additionally, well-maintained highways make self-driving a popular choice for those seeking an adventurous road trip.

### 3. Outback Icons: History, Heritage, and Adventure

Longreach is home to some of Australia's most celebrated attractions:

- Qantas Founders Museum: Step inside the story of Australia's national airline, walk the wing of a retired jumbo jet, and discover how outback ingenuity shaped global aviation.
- Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame: Dive into the tales of legendary drovers, pioneering women, and Indigenous Australians who forged the nation's rural identity.
- Outback Pioneers Experiences: Ride a Cobb & Co stagecoach, visit historic stations, and enjoy hands-on encounters with the land and its people.
- Outback Aussie Tours: specialise in guided holiday tours throughout Queensland's outback — including longer multi-day overland journeys as well as shorter day trips, cruises and rail experiences.

### 4. Sunset Cruises: Magic on the Thomson River

No visit to Longreach is complete without a sunset cruise on the Thomson River. As the sky blazes with colour, you'll glide past Coolibahs, enjoy live local entertainment, and dine under the stars with a classic camp oven dinner. It's an experience that captures the romance and tranquillity of the outback.

### 5. Warm Welcome

Longreach's community is renowned for its warmth and inclusivity. Whether you're a solo explorer, a couple, or a family, you'll find a sense of belonging here. The town's compact size makes it easy to navigate, and local operators go out of their way to ensure every visitor feels like a mate.

**In summary:** Longreach offers New Zealand travellers an unrivalled blend of authentic outback adventure, iconic attractions, and easy access—all wrapped up in legendary Aussie hospitality. For those ready to trade the familiar for the extraordinary, Longreach is waiting to welcome you.



# LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

## Must-Do Experiences

- **Drover's Sunset Cruise + Smithy's Outback Dinner & Show (Outback Aussie Tours)**  
Glide down the Thomson River at golden hour, then dine under a canopy of stars with live music—the quintessential Longreach night. Approx. 4.5 hours; *return coach transfers available.* • Why it's unmissable: authentic storytelling, camp-oven cuisine, and that big-sky sunset.
- **Qantas Founders Museum: Wing Walk + "Luminescent" Night Show**  
Step onto the wing of a Boeing 747 for a pilot's-eye thrill by day, then return after dark for Luminescent, a projection-mapped sound-and-light spectacular among iconic aircraft.
- **Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame: Live Outback Show**  
Horsemanship, working dogs, and bushcraft scenes bring **pioneer stories** roaring to life—perfect for families and heritage lovers. Pair the show with museum galleries for a deeper dive.
- **Outback Pioneers: Cobb & Co Stagecoach + Nogo Station + Starlight's Cruise**  
Gallop the historic mail route, explore station life on an open-top safari bus, and cap your day with a river-at-sunset cruise. Pioneer-inspired accommodation at The Staging Post completes the vibe. *(Signature experiences run April–October.)*
- **Longreach Birding Tours (with Chris Symmons)**  
Exclusive access to private properties and habitats across the Mitchell Grass Downs. Expect emus, bronzas, wedge-tailed eagles—and, if you're lucky, the elusive **Grey Falcon**.
- **Golden West Tours**  
Join Brett for an air-conditioned bus tour as he shares the history of Longreach, Ilfracombe, and Winton. He'll guide you through local stories, notable locations, and the rich heritage of our region.

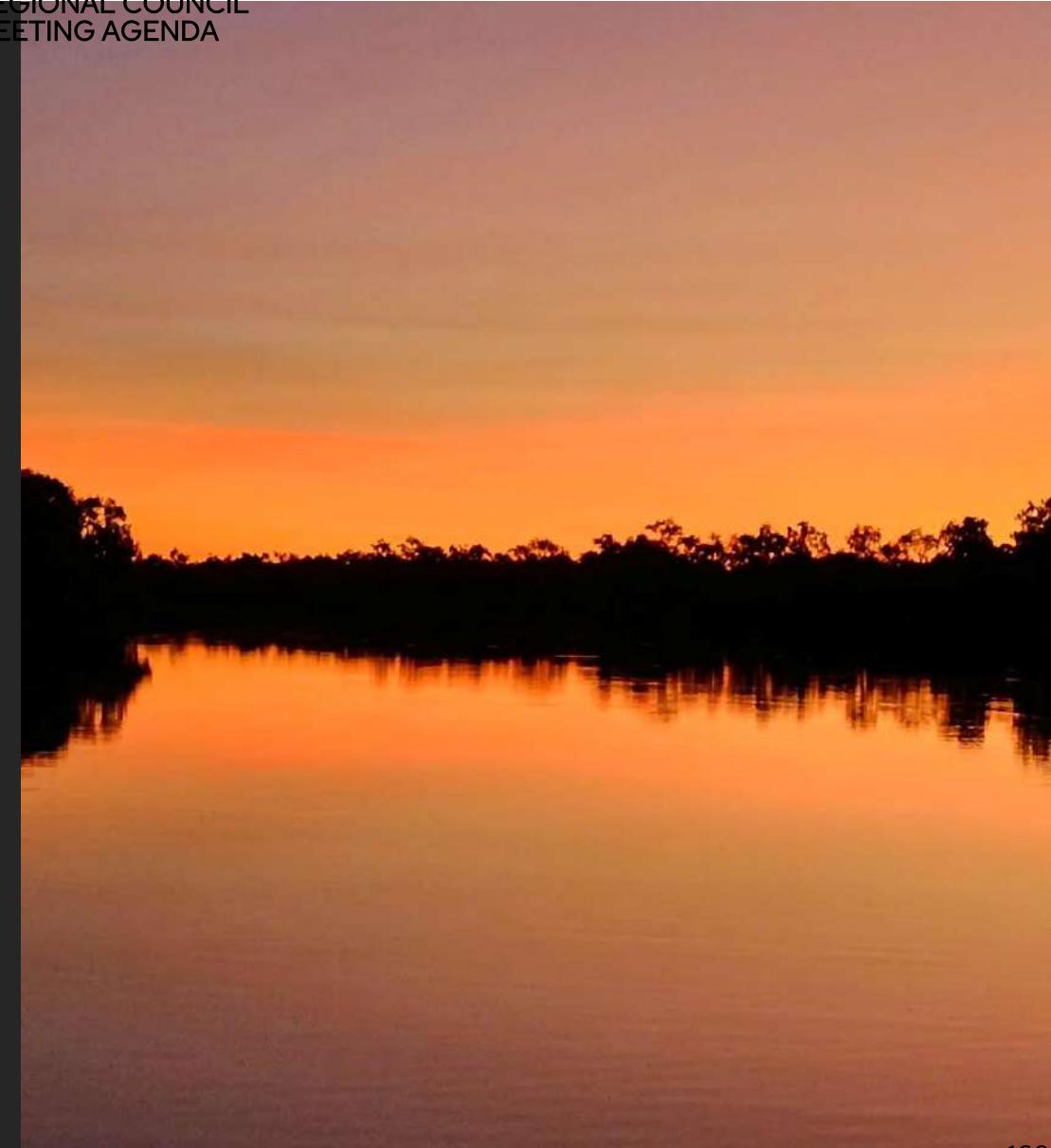
## Practical Tips for Travellers

- **Bookings:** Essential for all museums and tours—contact the Longreach Region Explore Centre, [experience@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:experience@longreach.qld.gov.au)
- **Mobile Coverage:** Limited to the Telstra network, available up to ~30km from towns.
- **Road Conditions:** Check <http://www.131940.qld.gov.au/> and <http://www.racq.com.au/> for updates.

**Accommodation:** Wide range from motels and caravan parks to luxury tents and bush camping. Book ahead, especially in peak season April to September. [www.experiencelongreach.com.au](http://www.experiencelongreach.com.au)



**Experience Longreach Region**  
Marketing Report  
**December 2025**



# By the Numbers



**Followers**  
**8,009**  
+36



**Views**  
**37.1K**  
-56.1%



**Content Interactions**  
**965**  
-32.9%



**Followers**  
**3,005**  
+27



**Views**  
**7.0K**  
-40.7%



**Content Interactions**  
**234**  
-22.5%

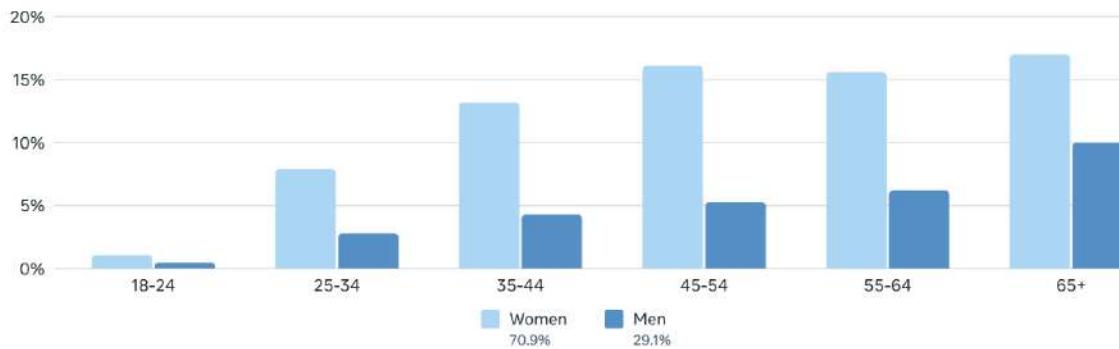
Compared to the previous period.

Views: Number of times content was displayed.

Content Interactions: Number of likes/reactions, comments, shares, saves.

# Facebook Audience

Age & gender 1

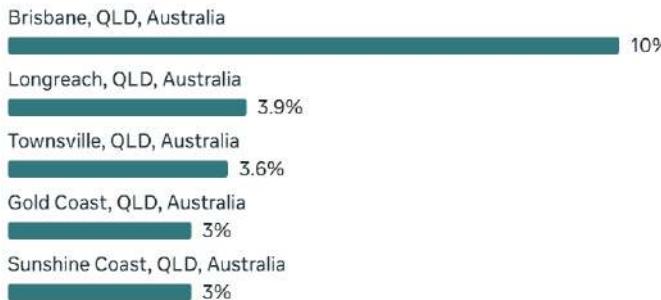


Followers 1

Lifetime

8,009

Top cities



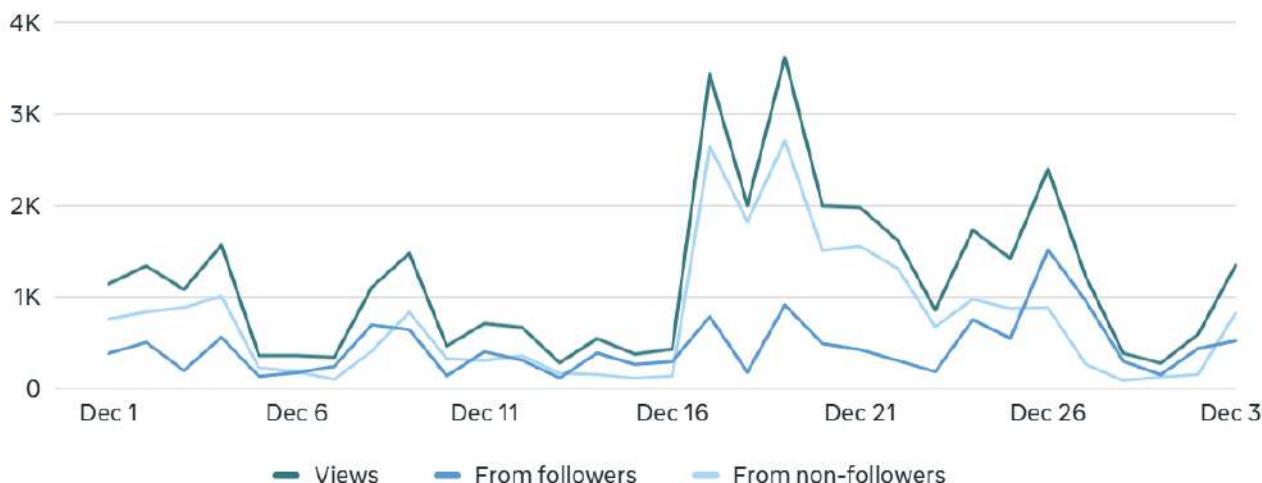
DECEMBER 2025

Thursday 22 January 2026

162

# Facebook Views

Views 1  
**37.1K** ↓ 56.1%



Views breakdown  
Dec 1, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025

**Total**  
**37,148** ↓ 56.1%

**From followers**  
**13,912** ↓ 14.1%

**From non-followers**  
**23,236** ↓ 66%

Viewers 1  
**14,828** ↓ 40.2%

# Facebook Top Posts – December



**Out here, the sunsets  
really do hit...**

Tue Dec 16, 11:00pm

7.9K 235   
13 15



**Slow it down, soak it up  
and see the outback...**

Fri Dec 19, 1:00pm

7.0K 133   
9 8



**Big skies, bold  
colours, and a name...**

Mon Dec 8, 3:00pm

2.5K 85   
2 6



**As you unwrap the  
festive season, start...**

Fri Dec 26, 3:00pm

2.2K 24   
0 3

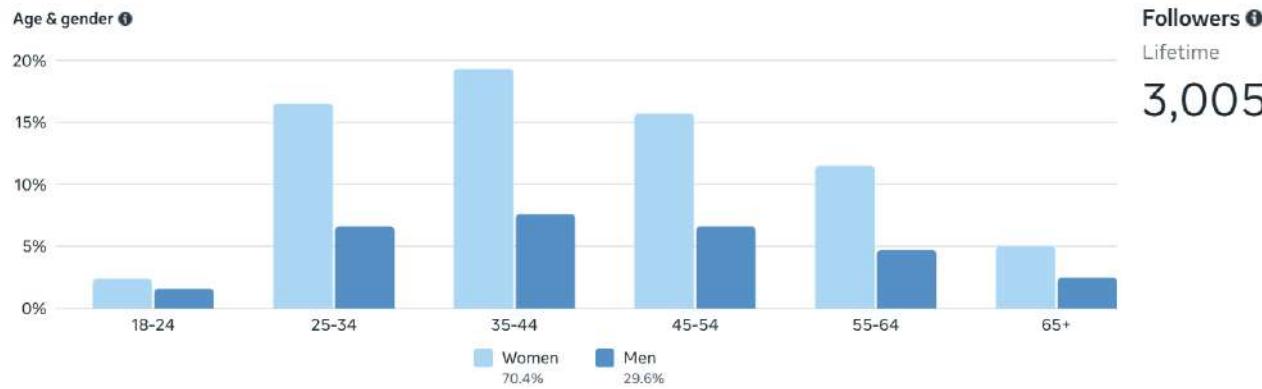


**Here's to 2025 —  
what a year it's been i...**

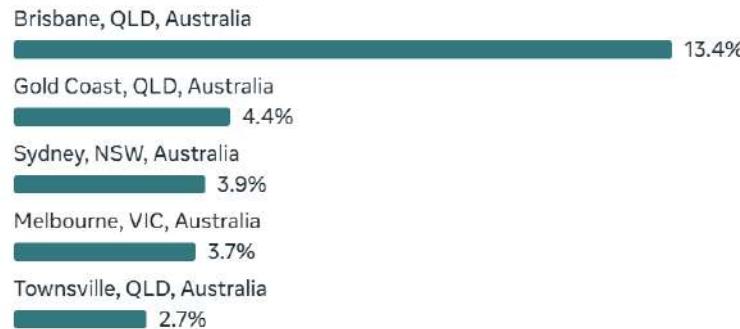
Tue Dec 30, 9:00pm

1.8K 24   
2 2

# Instagram Audience



Top cities



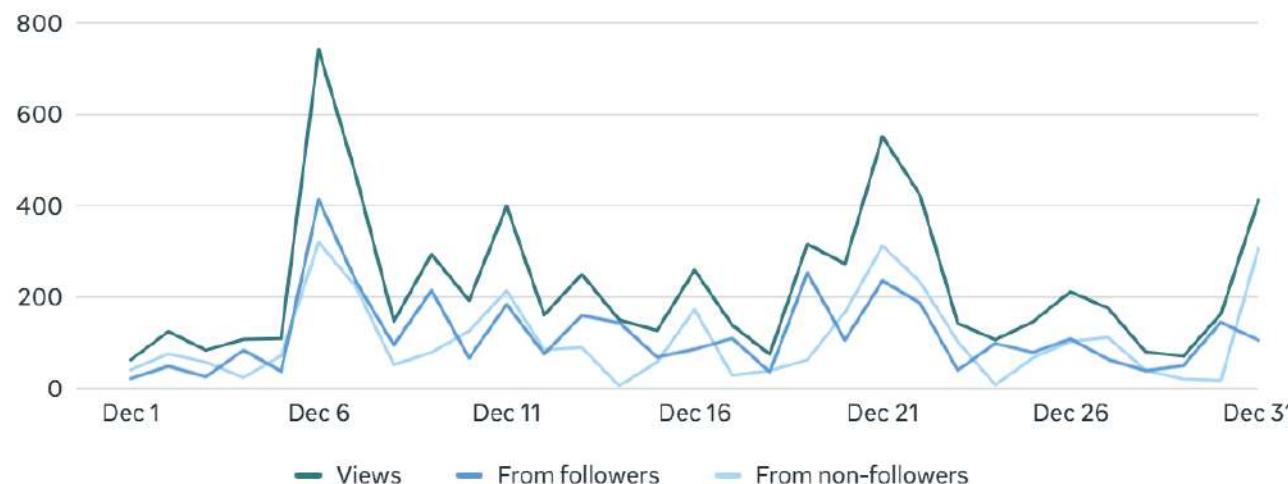
DECEMBER 2025

Thursday 22 January 2026

165

# Instagram Views

Views 1  
**7.0K** ↓ 40.7%



Views breakdown  
Dec 1, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025

**Total**  
**6,961** ↓ 40.7%

**From followers**  
**3,620** ↓ 45.3%

**From non-followers**  
**3,316** ↓ 35.1%

# Instagram Top Posts – December



🥩🔥 Sunset, sizzling  
BBQ, and serious...

Sat Dec 6, 2:04pm

👁 1.3K    ❤ 19  
💬 0    ⚡ 3



If you are looking for a  
sign to visit... this is i...

Sun Dec 21, 8:19pm

👁 2.3K    ❤ 30  
💬 3    ⚡ 2



Slow it down, soak it up  
and see the outback...

Fri Dec 19, 1:00pm

👁 516    ❤ 23  
💬 3    ⚡ 1



🍺 Outback fuel, done  
right 🥗 Granola...

Thu Dec 11, 4:00pm

👁 431    ❤ 12  
💬 1    ⚡ 2



🎈 Here's to 2025 —  
what a year it's been i...

Tue Dec 30, 9:00pm

👁 335    ❤ 15  
💬 0    ⚡ 0

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA



**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**

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### **14.3 Director of Communities Report**

This report provides an update on the activities that have occurred over the previous month for the Director of Communities.

#### **Officer Report**

##### **Responsible Officer:**

*Tanya Johnson (Director of Communities)*

#### **Strategy and Planning**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Update</b>
Community Plans	In progress	CPR Group provided a prospectus. No further action has been taken as yet for budget considerations to be undertaken. An addition to Community Recovery officer resilience plans under review.
Cycling Network	In Progress	The technical assessor has completed the review of the detailed design and has accepted all items. The final detailed design submission is due February 2026.
Tourism Infrastructure	Submitted	Grant application submitted to the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund for Apex Park improvements. Announcement due in February 2026
Showgrounds Development Funding Application	Submitted	No further advice received from rPPP
Childcare Service Review – Astute	Engaged	Astute have been engaged to assist Council Childcare Service.

#### **Strategic Leadership**

- Local Government Annual Review with State Emergency Service (SES)FY24-25
- Review of Resilience plan with Community Resilience Officer (CRO)
- ELT Meeting

#### **Operational Management**

- Site Visits to various project locations
- Meeting with Astute
- Events and RADF review meeting
- RADF Progress meeting with Arts Qld

#### **Financial Management**

- Project reviews for budget considerations FY26-27
- Communities team budget Session FY26-27

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**Workforce Capability**

- HR Partner Meetings
- Communities Managers Meetings
- Various one on one meetings with Communities team members
- Leadership Training/Mentor

**Stakeholder Engagement**

- Tourism assets Tour in Isisford with local representative.

**Appendices**

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Director of Communities Report, as presented.*

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## **15 Works Report**

### **15.1 Information Report - Works**

This report provides an update on the range of activities that have occurred during the month of December 2025 for the Works Directorate.

#### **Council Action**

Receive

#### **Legislation Considerations**

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

### **Officer Report**

#### **Responsible Officer/s:**

Officers in the Works Directorate

#### **Purpose:**

Officers are requested to provide an information update to Council monthly, outlining achievements, challenges, and statistical information for the various functional areas in Council.

#### **Project Status:**

Commenced	
On Hold	
Completed	

#### **Manager of Operations update - current projects underway**

<b>LRC Projects</b>						
<b>Project</b>		<b>% completed</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
Longreach - Rural Roads	Installation of flood monitoring cameras	20%	\$100,000	\$25,000	Quotes for installation and supply of flood monitoring cameras and associated infrastructure received, evaluated and awarded. Procurement process underway. Cameras and associated hardware have arrived. Poles currently have an estimated arrival time of 2-3 months. Expected arrival Feb 2026, installation to follow.  Locations are as follows:	

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four Mile Creek Longreach</li> <li>- Aramac Creek (Crossmoor Road)</li> <li>- Rodney Creek (Ilfracombe Aramac Road)</li> <li>- Aramac Creek (Camoola Park)</li> <li>- Camoola Park (Thomson River)</li> </ul>	
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<b>R2R Projects</b>						
<b>Project</b>		<b>% completed</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
All areas grid replacement	Install Grids	8%	\$150,000	\$10,000	<p>Grids replacement program for this FY has been adopted.</p> <p>Locations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silsoe Road x2</li> <li>Backcreek Road x1</li> <li>Westland Gaza Road x1 (installed)</li> <li>Dandaraga Road x1</li> </ul> <p><i>Locations are subject to change due to unknown grid failures and emergent events which will take priority over current adopted program*</i></p>	

<b>DRFA Project 2024 Event</b>						
<b>Project</b>		<b>% completed</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
Silsoe Road	Heavy formation grade	60%	\$155,000	\$73,000	Project commenced late July.	
La Mancha Access Road	Medium formation grade	65%	\$118,000	\$47,000	Project commenced in November.	
Isisford Bimerah Road	Medium formation grade	30%	\$320,000	\$62,000	Project commenced in late July.	
Silsoe Road	Desilt floodways	50%	\$30,000	\$18,000	Project commenced in August.	

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Dandaraga Road	Medium formation grade	95%	\$30,000	\$29,000	Project commenced in October.	
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<b>RMPC Projects</b>						
<b>Project</b>		<b>% completed</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
RMPC Contract	National Highway & State Road Networks	55%	\$3.1m	\$1,474,510	As per contract	

<b>MWPC Projects</b>						
<b>Project</b>		<b>% completed</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
Thomson Developmental Road – Jundah Road	Pavement rehabilitation and widening	97%	\$5,005,133	\$2,833,097	<p>Project start delayed due to wet weather. Construction of detours commenced May 2025. First 3.6km completed with first seal. Currently carting base course on remaining 3km. Base course completed, 7mm seal completed. New culvert headwall installation currently underway.</p> <p>14mm seal programmed for early February 2026.</p>	

<b>WISER Projects</b>						
<b>Project</b>		<b>% completed</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent to date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
Weirs (Town & Anabranches 1-4)	Weir Design	70%	\$393,419	\$161,432	<p>Design process commenced in May 2025. Currently awaiting 30% design. 30% design received. 30% designed passed on to department for approval. RIDA &amp; MID both received, minor amendments to be made to RIDA. Consultants currently working on 80% weir designs. Council received sheet piling designs for anabranch weirs 1 &amp; 2.</p>	
Longreach Township	Smart Meters	50%	\$1,070,098	\$57,000	Tender awarded. Project to commence in the coming weeks.	

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					Project Control Group has been formed, community messaging distributed 24 <sup>th</sup> July. Awaiting smart meters to arrive, scheduled for end of October, installation of 30% of meters to follow. A portion of the smart meters have arrived, Council staff have currently installed between 300-400 meters throughout Longreach. Project currently on track and meeting milestones. 800 digital meters have been installed in Longreach. Remaining smart meters have been procured to arrive in the new year.	
Longreach Township	Water Mains Replacement	8%	TBC		Tender documents received, currently under review. Tenders being called. Tenders received, currently awaiting evaluation. Tenders have been evaluated, internal staff to appoint chosen contractor in December 25.	
Weirs (Town & Anabranches 1-4)	Cultural Heritage	50%	As per contract	-	Cultural Heritage clearance completed within zoned construction areas of all weirs.	

**Maintenance Graders Locations**

All available maintenance graders will be working on formation grading projects for the 2025/26 FY Flood Damage in conjunction with normal maintenance grading programs.

**Water, Sewer & Waste Update**

<b>Water &amp; Sewer Projects</b>				
<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>% Completed</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
WTP ELR Replacement/Repair	Ilfracombe	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary structural assessment report has been received. Investigation options for the replacement of the tank.</li> <li>• Works carried over to this FY.</li> <li>• Tender process underway.</li> </ul>	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract not awarded. RFQ to be called again in 2025/26.</li> <li>• Awaiting professional consultancy proposal.</li> <li>• Consultant engaged as part of the Water Servicing Strategy</li> </ul>	
Upgrade to Murray McMillan Dam Switchboard	Ilfracombe	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project in current 24/25 budget.</li> <li>• Tender process underway.</li> <li>• Project underway.</li> <li>• Tender awarded. Materials procured, 12-week lead time.</li> <li>• Work commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025, conduit installation at Murray Dam has been completed.</li> <li>• The switchboard installation is part of the broader electrical works, which also include cable line installation and slab footings. The switchboard has a 12-week lead time, and work was scheduled to begin in early July 2025.</li> <li>• Concrete pad and pit surrounds are complete, power/control cabling for the harvest pump installed, and the switchboard is near completion at the manufacturer. Upcoming works include mains cabling, cable support installation, and switchboard installation once delivered.</li> <li>• Switchboard installation completed. Contractors are liaising with Ergon Energy for meter installation.</li> <li>• Awaiting Ergon Energy to install meter and new pole.</li> </ul>	
DRFA Flood Risk Management Program	Longreach	45%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Flood Action Plan feedback period has concluded. 1x submission was received with the suggestion of a levy bank along Watyakan Creek from near the Kangaroo Meat Works to the Thomson Development Road Bypass to help protect the southern areas of town from future flooding.</li> <li>• Technical brief being developed and reviewed in consultation with QRA appointed technical reviewer.</li> <li>• Procurement process for the Longreach Flood Study to commence in early 2025.</li> <li>• QRA has granted an extension for the program until 30/06/2026.</li> <li>• Draft Technical Brief submitted for peer review.</li> <li>• Technical Brief being updated considering comments from peer reviewer.</li> <li>• Procurement process underway.</li> <li>• Quotes being evaluated.</li> <li>• Tender awarded and kick-off meeting completed.</li> <li>• Process underway. Data collection and review.</li> <li>• Consultant in the process of developing a community questionnaire.</li> <li>• Draft Community Questionnaire Survey received.</li> </ul>	
Isisford Sewer Pump Station Upgrade	Isisford	99%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faulty pump identified with insulation resistance below limits</li> </ul>	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAP Plumbing engaged to replace both pumps and install new wet well lead</li> <li>• New pumps installed and connected on 18 August 2025</li> <li>• Effluent shut-off valve installed the week prior</li> <li>• Control system reprogramming planned with Saunders Electrics</li> <li>• Project aligns with broader upgrade scope already awarded to CAP Plumbing.</li> </ul>	
Vegetation Removal Isisford Dam	Isisford	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFQ documents submitted.</li> <li>• Open for tender.</li> <li>• Awaiting finalisation of scope and evaluation.</li> <li>• Tender evaluation completed; contractor awarded.</li> <li>• Works scheduled for January 2026.</li> </ul>	
Murray McMillan Dam Enlargement	Ilfracombe	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey and design works completed.</li> <li>• Tender documents currently being prepared.</li> <li>• Tender evaluated &amp; awarded.</li> <li>• Contractor began works end of December. Current works ongoing.</li> </ul>	

**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 was undertaken, and Customer Service Requests responded to as required across all sites.

**Longreach WTP:**

- Operating normally. Fairmount Weir ran on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Council to look at lifting level 2 water restrictions and implementing level 1 restrictions as per the drought management plan.

**Ilfracombe WTP:**

- Operating normally.
- Blending of RO-treated water is occurring at 10–35%, with plans to increase to 50% to conserve surface water.
- Town is under Level 3 water restrictions.
- RO Plant programmed for service, new MF heads and membranes to be installed. Contractors arrive on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Ilfracombe WTP – Valve Automation:**

- Valve automation components have been purchased; installation coordination with local electrician is pending.
- RFQ to define scope to be developed for the installation and programming of the valves to engage suitable contractor.
- Currently awaiting proposal from consultant.
- Proposal received. Council staff to review.

**Isisford WTP:**

Operating normally.

**Yaraka WTP:**

- Operating normally.

**Sewerage Operations**

**Longreach Pump Stations & STP**

- Routine maintenance continues as required.

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**Ilfracombe Pump Stations & CED Ponds**

- Routine maintenance is ongoing

**Isisford Pump Station & CED Ponds**

- Routine maintenance is ongoing

**Table 1 – Estimated Current Weir/ Dam Levels** (~ approximate level)

Dam	Approx. Current Level (m)	Approx. % Full	DMP Height Full	Comments
Longreach Town Weirs	~ 0.8m	6%	1.3m	Fairmount Weir ran on Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026.
Shannon Dam	~ 9m	62%	14.5m	
Murray McMillan Dam	~ 0m	0%	10.3m	Ilfracombe is currently on level 3 water restrictions.
Isisford Dam	~ 8.5m	78%	11m	
Isisford Weir	~ -1.5m	0%	1.3m	
Yaraka North Dam	~ 9.5m	75%	12.5m	
Yaraka South Dam	~ 10m	80%	12.5m	

**Waste Projects**

Project	Location	% Completed	Comments
Land Parcels	Longreach	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council to consider setting funds aside for the future extension of facility</li> <li>• Council to develop relevant management plans and designs for consideration and approval by DoR.</li> </ul>

**Waste Facilities Update**

**Longreach Waste Recovery Facility**

Proterra Group has been managing the Longreach facility since August 2023 under a 3-year contract. Their responsibilities include site supervision, load inspections, signage maintenance, and hazardous material handling

**Ilfracombe Waste Facility**

- Contractor is conducting routine cleaning of the facility.
- Council is developing a business case to evaluate outsourcing versus self-management of the facility.

**Isisford Waste Facility**

- Council currently managing and covering general waste.

**Yaraka Waste Facility**

- Council staff conduct routine activities.
- Council is developing a business case to determine if we can convert the facility into a Waste Transfer Station.

**Plant & Fleet Update**

**Current projects and operational undertakings underway for 2025/2026**

Nil

**Recommendation:**

*That Council receives the Works Information Report, as presented.*

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**16 Late Items**

Nil for this meeting

**17 Closed Matters**

**17.1 Consideration to Sell land for overdue rates and charges**

**Reasons for Confidentiality**

This report is considered confidential in accordance with section 245J (3) (i) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.

**18 Closure of Meeting**