



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 June
2026 at Longreach Council Chambers,
96 Eagle St, Longreach



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Dear Councillors

**Re: Meeting Notice for Governance Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday
17 June 2026**

Notice is hereby given that the Governance Committee Meeting of the Longreach Regional Council will be held in the Longreach Council Chambers, 96 Eagle Street, Longreach, Qld 4730 on Wednesday 17 June 2026 commencing at 10:30am.

Your attendance at this meeting is requested.

Yours faithfully



Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Enc

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1 Opening of Meeting and Acknowledgment of Country

2 Leave of Absence

3 Declaration of any Prescribed / Declarable Conflicts of Interest by Councillors

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation

That the Committee confirms the Minutes dated 19-20 May 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Appendices

1. Governance Committee Minutes 19-20 May 2026 [**4.1.1** - 9 pages]



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting held on Tuesday 19 May and
Wednesday 20 May 2026 at
96 Eagle St, Longreach



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
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Tuesday 19 May 2026

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LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 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

Deputy Mayor

Cr AC Rayner

Cr LJ Nunn

Cr DJ Bignell

Cr AJ Emslie

Cr NA Gay

Cr TM Hatch

Cr AR Watts

Officers

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Financial Officer

Director of Communities

Director of Works

Acting Director of Organisational Services

Executive Officer of Governance

Financial Controller

Manager of Fleet and Workshops

Business Support Officer - Finance

Brett Walsh

David Wilson

Tanya Johnson

André Pretorius

Simon Kuttner

Sharon Calligaro

Nicole Moulds

Ajith Samarasekera

Liz Woods

Apologies

Director of Organisational Services

Grace Cronin-Jones

2 Leave of Absence

Nil

3 Declaration of any Prescribed / Declarable Conflicts of Interest by Councillors

No declarations were made during this point of the meeting.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Tuesday 19 May 2026

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LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Dale Bignell | Seconded: Cr Tracy Hatch

That the Committee confirms the Minutes dated 15 April 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED 7 / 0

5 Notices of Motion

Nil

6 Deputations

Nil

7 Closed Matters

Moved: Cr Dale Bignell | Seconded: Cr Tracy Hatch

That pursuant to section 254J(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 the meeting be closed at 9:02 am to discuss the following matters, which are considered closed to the public for the reasons indicated.

7.1 PRE BUDGET MEETING

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

7.2 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SUBORDINATE LOCAL LAW NO. 2

This report is considered closed to the public in accordance with section 254J(3) (e), of the Local Government Regulation 2012, as it contains information relating to legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

7.3 COUNCIL TO CEO DELEGATIONS REGISTER

This report is considered closed to the public in accordance with section 254J(3) (e), of the Local Government Regulation 2012, as it contains information relating to legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

CARRIED 7 / 0

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance:

Ajith Samarasekera, Manager of Fleet and Workshops, left the meeting at 10:15am

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10:27 am and resumed at 10:45 am with all those present prior to the adjournment in attendance, with the exception of André Pretorius, Director of Works.

Attendance:

Cr Andrew Watts left the meeting at 11:04am

André Pretorius, Director of Works joined the meeting at 12:36pm

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:37pm and resumed at 1:06pm with all those present prior to the adjournment in attendance, with the exception of David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer; Nicole Moulds, Financial Controller and Liz Woods, Business Support Officer - Finance.

Attendance:

Sharon Calligaro, Executive Officer of Governance; Jeffrey Newton, Manager of Regulatory Services and James Neilson, King and Company joined the meeting at 1:07pm

David Wilson, Chief Financial Officer, joined the meeting at 1:15pm

James Neilson, King and Company left the meeting at 1:58pm

Jeffrey Newton, Manager of Regulatory Services left the meeting at 2:01pm

Tim Fynes-Clinton, King and Company joined the meeting at 2:04pm

Cr Leonie Nunn left the meeting at 2:30pm

Tim Fynes-Clinton, King and Company left the meeting at 2:52pm

Nicole Moulds, Financial Controller and Liz Woods, Business Support Officer - Finance joined the meeting at 2:55pm

Moved: Cr Tracy Hatch Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That the meeting move out of closed session at 3:44 pm, to vote on item 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

CARRIED 5 / 0

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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

7.1 Pre Budget Meeting

Recommendation

Nil

7.2 Proposed Amendments to Subordinate Local Law No 2

Recommendation

That the Committee receives the presentation.

ENDORSED

7.3 Council to CEO Delegations Register

Recommendation

That the Committee receives the presentation.

ENDORSED

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm and resumed the next day at 10:50 am with all those present prior to the adjournment in attendance, with the exception of Nicole Moulds, Financial Controller and Liz Woods, Business Support Officer - Finance.

Cr Leonie Nunn and Cr Andrew Watts joined the meeting at 10:51am

Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That pursuant to section 254J(1) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 the meeting be closed at 10:55 am to discuss the following matters, which are considered closed to the public for the reasons indicated.

7.4 CHILDCARE UPDATE

This report is considered closed to the public 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

Moved: Cr Andrew Watts Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie

That the meeting move out of closed session at 11:25 am, to vote on item 7.4.

CARRIED 7 / 0

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
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7.4 Childcare Update

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Andrew Watts / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That the Committee notes the report on the Longreach Childcare Service

CARRIED 7 / 0

8 General Business

8.1 Richmond - Mayor road trip

Mayor to provide debrief from recent field trip to Richmond Shire and Maxwellton.

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell

That the Committee receives the presentation.

CARRIED 7 / 0

8.2 Kestrel Street Subdivision - Preliminary Layout

Consideration of preliminary layout for the proposed Kestrel Street subdivision, funded by the Queensland Government Residential Activation Fund.

Cr Andrew Watts declared a declarable conflict of interest in Item 8.2 and asked the Committee that he be permitted to remain in the meeting. The nature of the conflict is that Cr Watts is the President of the Longreach Jockey Club which will be potentially impacted by stormwater from the proposed development.

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Leonie Nunn

That Cr Watts be permitted to participate in the discussion and voting on Item 8.2.

CARRIED 6 / 0

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Andrew Watts

That the Committee receives the preliminary design of the proposed Kestrel Street subdivision, as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

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8.3 Community Forum (April) - Feedback

Consideration of the feedback received at the April Community Forums held within the region.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:25pm and resumed at 1:05 pm with all those present prior to the adjournment in attendance.

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Leonie Nunn / Seconded: Cr Tony Emslie
That the Committee receives the report.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Emma Murphy and Adele from NBN joined the meeting at 2:13pm

8.6 NBN Update

Consideration of NBN presentation.

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Tony Emslie / Seconded: Cr Dale Bignell
That the Committee receives the presentation.

CARRIED 7 / 0

Emma Murphy and Adele from NBN left the meeting at 2:42pm

The meeting adjourned for a short recess at 2:43pm and resumed at 2:50pm with all those present prior to the adjournment in attendance.

8.4 Customer Service Requests

Consideration of Customer Service Requests for the previous month.

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Tracy Hatch / Seconded: Cr Nikki Gay
That the Committee receives the Customer Service Request report, as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

8.5 Meetings Action Register

Consideration of actions arising from previous meetings.

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Recommendation

Moved: Cr Nikki Gay / Seconded: Cr Leonie Nunn

That the Committee receive the Meetings Actions Register report, as presented.

CARRIED 7 / 0

8.7 Governance / Briefing Day - discussion

Consideration of the interaction between the Councillor Briefing Session Policy No. 3.7 and the Governance Standing Committee.

Recommendation

A proposal be brought back to the June Council meeting.

ENDORSED

8.8 Land tenure matters

Consideration of an update on land tenure matters.

Recommendation

Moved: Cr Dale Bignell / Seconded: Cr Andrew Watts

That the Committee receives the presentation.

CARRIED 7 / 0

9 Late Items

Nil

10 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at **4:34 pm.**

Minutes Certificate

These minutes are unconfirmed

Cr AC Rayner
Mayor

Brett Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

5 Notices of Motion

None received at time of agenda preparation.

6 Deputations

None received at time of agenda preparation.

7 General Business

7.1 Heritage Strategy

Consideration of Longreach Regional Council Collection Management Plan.

Corporate Plan Alignment

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

Consultation:

Internal	External
Director of Community Services	Queensland Museum

Officer Report

Responsible Officer:

Michelle Ballard (Tourism Coordinator)

Longreach Regional Council Collection Management Plan 2026, formerly referred to as the Ilfracombe Langenbaker Heritage Strategy, which now provides a coordinated framework for the management of all Council-owned museum collections and heritage sites.

Purpose

This report is presented to Council to outline the outcomes of the Longreach Regional Council Collection Management Plan 2026, prepared by Queensland Museum, and to provide an update on the proposed approach for managing the Langenbaker House collection and Council-owned museum collections across the Longreach region.

Background

The Collection Management Plan was prepared by Queensland Museum Senior Museum Development Officer Sophie Price following information gathered through previous site visits, earlier reports including those prepared by GBA and other heritage specialists, and a three-day site inspection undertaken in late January 2026. The document was commissioned by Longreach Regional Council and considers the current condition, significance, storage, display and future management of collections across all Council-owned museum and heritage sites.

The Plan applies to Longreach Powerhouse and Historical Museum, Langenbaker House, Wellshot Centre, Romani Hall Memorial, Oakhampton Cottage, the Bottle and Gun Display, the Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre and the Isisford Bakery. It confirms that these sites collectively hold material of local significance, and in some cases potential state significance, but that a number of collections and buildings require improved conservation, documentation, interpretation and ongoing resourcing.

Key Findings

The Plan finds that while Council holds important museum and heritage collections across the region, many sites are affected by inconsistent housekeeping, limited climate control, incomplete cataloguing, underdeveloped interpretation and insufficient resources for long-term preservation. In relation to Langenbaker House, the report identifies the building as a high safety risk in its current condition and recommends urgent clarification of heritage requirements, removal and assessment of contents where permissible, and determination of Council's long-term management approach for the site.

Proposed Management Approach

In response to the Plan, Council has adopted a staged approach based on short, medium and long-term actions. This approach is intended to provide a practical framework for managing what Council currently holds, assessing future donations, identifying what is significant, and ensuring that collections align with the stories being interpreted at each site.

Short Term Priorities

Short-term priorities focus on immediate risk reduction and achievable improvements. These include addressing housekeeping and pest management, improving environmental controls where possible, clarifying heritage requirements for Langenbaker House, and commencing practical collection rationalisation so that significant items can be identified, documented and managed appropriately. This stage is also intended to support early works that improve display outcomes without requiring major capital investment.

Medium Term Priorities

Medium-term actions include progressing cataloguing and collection documentation projects, improving interpretation plans across key sites, and developing more suitable display and storage arrangements for collections that have been identified as significant. For Langenbaker-related material, this includes planning for the appropriate rehousing, conservation and interpretation of selected items in a controlled display environment.

Long Term Priorities

Long-term priorities relate to strategic planning, policy development, investment in collection storage and exhibition infrastructure, and establishing a sustainable approach to staffing, training and collection governance across the full museum network. This stage will ensure that Council's museum collections are managed consistently and in accordance with best-practice museum standards.

Progress to Date

Council has already commenced several smaller and achievable projects identified as practical first steps. These include utilising the enclosed verandah at the Wellshot Centre to create a dedicated display room associated with the Langenbaker story, undertaking cleaning works at Langenbaker House, and arranging for Queensland Museum staff to identify and earmark suitable items for future display within the Wellshot Centre. These

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early actions are intended to begin stabilising the collection, improving presentation outcomes and progressing implementation of the broader Plan.

Appendices

1. Longreach Regional Council Collection Management Plan, 2026 [**7.1.1** – 49 pages]

Recommendation:

That the Committee receives the Longreach Regional Council Collection Management Plan 2026.

Longreach Regional Council Museums

Collection Management Plan

2026



Sophie Price, Senior Museum Development Officer
Queensland Museum

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1.0 Executive Summary

This Collection Management Plan was commissioned in the 2025/2026 Financial Year by Longreach Regional Council and pertains to Longreach Region Museums sites. There are nine sites that make up Longreach Region Museums:

- Longreach Powerhouse and Historical Museum (Longreach)
- Langenbaker House (Ilfracombe)
- Wellshot Centre (Ilfracombe)
- Folk Museum (Ilfracombe)
- Romani Hall Memorial (Ilfracombe)
- Oakhampton Cottage (Ilfracombe)
- Hilton Bottle & Gun display (Ilfracombe)
- Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre (Isisford)
- Bakery (Isisford)

This Collection Management Plan considers:

- Object-based and archival collections held across the sites both in storage and on display;
- Buildings which display and house the collections;
- Exterior site components related to the collections and collection management, and;
- Policies and procedures relating to the ongoing management and preservation of Longreach Region Museums and collections.

Site audits were completed by Senior Museum Development Officer, Sophie Price, in January 2026.

Overall, sections of the collection housed across all sites is presumed to be of significant quality, on a local and potentially state level. However, the overall collection is in poor condition due to insufficient storage and conservation, which detracts from the significance and value of the collection. The sites are maintained to varying standards, and more significant resources – both human and financial – need to be invested at each location to ensure their survival, increase the quality of visitor experience, and ensure the preservation of the collection for future use.

A series of recommendations are made following assessment of the Longreach Region Museums sites and collections [Section 2.0]. To implement the recommendations in this report, additional financial and human resources are required. Additionally, ongoing training in the fields of collection management and interpretation for staff is a major priority.

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Definitions

The distributed collection managed by Longreach Region Museums is regularly referred to throughout this report. Longreach Museums have not catalogued/accessioned all elements of this collection, and therefore it cannot be considered one whole registered collection. The following terminology is outlined to assist in clarification throughout the report.

When **collection** is used generally in this report it refers to all items at Longreach Museums sites, which are both catalogued and uncatalogued.

When **catalogued collection** is used throughout this report it refers to all items which have been given a registration number and catalogued in a register or database. The catalogued collection will eventually be the only 'collection' existing at Longreach Museum sites that is valued and considered of significance. Currently, only some items from the Longreach Powerhouse Museum are catalogued.

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2.0 Key Recommendations

A summary of key recommendations for further action are listed below in order of priority and cross-referenced to the main body of the report.

2.1 Short term

Recommendation	Urgency
Install/maintain air conditioning (or at minimum, ventilation and air flow) on a permanent basis in all collection and storage spaces to ensure long term preservation of items on display.	High
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for all collection storage and display spaces. Install dataloggers to track humidity levels and pest traps.	High
Review and address repatriation of First Nations items not from the local region. If retaining items, consider the development and implementation of a First Nations cultural safety protocol for items and staff [section 3.1.1]	High
Review hazardous collections (medical items) for any prominent safety hazards [section 3.1.1]	High
Remove and dispose of dangerous/insignificant non-collections items around the exterior of Nogo Cottage to remove health and safety risks to visitors [section 3.1.4]	High
Implement action plan for Langenbaker House to confirm Heritage Listing guidelines, remove and rehouse contents, and determine future management of Langenbaker House and site [section 3.2.4]	High
Consult with Queensland Museum staff and return loaned fossils currently on display in Folk Museum. Remove fossil display from Folk Museum space.	High
Install new security cameras at Bottle & Gun display and implement a regular review of security measures and access to the site [section 3.3.6]	High
Facilitate the relocation of Longreach Historical Society to a suitable, offsite premises, then repurpose and refit donga for collection storage [section 3.1.6]	High
Remove metal caging inside Folk Museum and install a less-invasive protective barrier to improve visitor experience whilst still protecting items on display.	Medium
Refit storage container at LPH for collection storage use [3.1.6]	Medium
Install new display cases at Bottle & Gun display to better present the collection and improve access for cleaning and maintenance by museum staff [section 3.3.6]	Low
Remove items not associated with Powerhouse display out of Generating Complex and into separate part of the museum complex [section 3.1.2]	Low

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2.2 Long term

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop a Collection Policy for Longreach Region Museums which is relevant to all sites, and inclusive of necessary components of a best-practice collection policy [section 4.4] [See project proposal in Section 6.6]	High
Develop a suite of collection management policies, procedures and forms for Longreach Region Museums [section 4.4] [See project proposal in Section 6.6]	High
Develop a new interpretation plan for the Wellshot Centre and curate the internal display spaces to focus on key themes associated with the history of Wellshot Station and the history of Ilfracombe [section 3.3.5] [See project proposal in Section 6.5]	High
Develop a new display in one of the <u>internal rooms</u> of the Wellshot Centre for the Langenbaker House contents [section 3.3.5] [See project proposal in Section 6.3]	High
Develop a revised exhibition plan for Romani Hall Memorial, considering new signage, new display furnishings, and improved lighting and environmental controls. [See project proposal in Section 6.4]	High
Develop a new exhibition plan and implement within the Longreach Powerhouse Museum building [section 3.1.1] [See project proposal in Section 6.1]	Medium
Update interpretive signage to guide visitors through the Powerhouse complex (including workshop space) and share focused content about the powerhouse and its history/use [section 3.1.2] [See project proposal in Section 6.1]	Medium
Implement a cataloguing and rationalisation project across Longreach Region Museums sites: • Longreach Powerhouse Museum [section 3.1.1] • Romani Hall Memorial [section 3.3.2] • Folk Museum [section 3.3.4] • Wellshot Centre [section 3.3.5] • Bottle & Gun display [section 3.3.6]	Medium

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[See project proposal in Section 6.2]	
Curate a new display for the inside of Nogo Cottage [section 3.1.4]	Medium
[See project proposal in Section 6.1]	
Build an open-air shed with a concrete base to protect the machinery from the weather. Inventory and catalogue items that are intended to be accessioned as part of the Longreach Region Museums collection [section 3.1.3]	Medium
Install signage on the exterior of Oakhampton Cottage to interpret the building's history and significance [section 3.3.3]	Low
Review displays and intended purpose of Oakhampton Cottage. Redesign and develop an interpretation plan [section 3.3.3]	Low
Develop and install updated interpretive signage at the Bottle & Gun display [section 3.3.6]	Low
Develop and install a social history narrative display at the Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre [section 3.4]	Low
Develop and install a shearing display at the Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre [section 3.4]	Low
Develop and install interpretive signage on the exterior of the building at the Isisford Bakery [section 3.5]	Low

3.0 Sites: background, building, collections

Implementing the recommendations made in this Collection Management Plan will assist Council in preserving each of these sites and collections to benefit the community and heritage of the Longreach region. If the recommendations are not followed, the integrity and lifespan of each collection and site will be at great risk.

3.1 Longreach Powerhouse & Historical Museum

There are various sections to the Longreach Powerhouse and Historical Museum. These include the former Longreach Powerhouse Generating Complex, a local history collection inside the museum display space, and displays of agricultural and road maintenance machinery used in the development of Queensland's central west. There are also display areas such as the Blacksmith Saddler and Nogo Cottage. The land on which the Powerhouse and Museum is located is Heritage Listed (Place ID 601541).

Each of the display spaces are investigated in further detail below to identify opportunities for improvement to collection management, displays, and visitor experience.



Figure 1: Longreach Powerhouse & Historical Museum

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3.1.1 Museum display space

A collection of local history items is housed in the former Office of the Central West Regional Electricity Board (built in 1966) (referred to as museum display space). The collection comprises memorabilia from the early colonial settlement of the region, as well as items from the School of Arts Museum, a collection of office equipment from local businesses, and items from the region's early school years. This building is the main entrance to the museum complex, and the visitor information desk is in the entrance room.

The collection of social history items on display are generally in good condition, mostly exhibited within glass cases or on open display/ plinths. Frames and photographic items are generally displayed on walls. The items are clean and displays well-maintained.



Figures 2-6: Museum displays

Each room has a general theme, although the interpretation is lacking and visitors may find narratives unclear. There is a surplus of many generic items – typewriters, phones, etc. – that do not have strong significance to the local region, themes presented, or a clear narrative to their display. There are some items on display that are likely to have a higher significance – for instance, the ceremonial items used during Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Longreach in 1970, and the items from the former School of Arts building. However, these significant items are overshadowed by the miscellaneous generic materials that are more representative than rare, and do not have strong significance or relevance to the local community.

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There is a selection of medical equipment on display in one of the rooms, as well as a small display of First Nations items. The medical display has some bottles and other receptacles with liquid inside; these should be carefully checked to ensure no hazardous chemicals/leakage is occurring.

The First Nations items should be researched to identify their provenance, if not known. The current display identifies several items to be from outside of the Longreach region, with some from as far as the Northern Territory. These items should be considered for repatriation to their communities. In particular, the breastplates should be taken off display until their provenance is identified and consultation with the owners of the items is conducted. Breastplates can be complex and contentious items for some First Nations communities; the display of items such as these should be carefully considered.



Figures 7 & 8: Medical and First Nations collections on display

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There is air conditioning in the building, however it is generally turned off during off season and when the museum closes. It is recommended that consistent climate control – with a focus on both temperature and humidity – be regularly maintained within the space to ensure the longevity of the collection. Pest traps should be installed and regular pest inspections undertaken.

The museum space is prime for redevelopment. There is a fantastic opportunity to reconfigure and curate the museum spaces to tell important, relevant stories reflective of the region and its history. Development of focused themes will allow for a range of significant stories to be featured that align with the collection and tell the stories of the region and community.

Cataloguing is also a necessity for this site. A partial cataloguing project has previously been undertaken on the museum items, but this was never completed. Given the extent of the items on display, it is essential to formally catalogue and record the provenance of the collection.

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted. Install dataloggers to track humidity levels and pest traps.	High
Maintain air conditioning on a permanent basis to ensure long term preservation of items on display.	High
Review and address repatriation of First Nations items not from the local region. If retaining items, consider the development and implementation of a First Nations cultural safety protocol for items and staff.	High
Review hazardous collections (medical items) for any prominent safety hazards. If deemed to be unsafe, remove from display and collection.	High
Implement a cataloguing and rationalisation project. Inventory, assess, research and catalogue the items into a new collection management system. [See project proposal in Section 6.2]	Medium
Develop a new exhibition plan and implement within the museum building. This involves exhibition development, research and writing of signage, curation of display panels and items. [See project proposal in Section 6.1]	Medium

3.1.2 Powerhouse and workshop

The Generating Complex comprises a series of large interconnected galvanised iron sheds, housing 10 engines (installed between 1948 and 1971), and a unique gas production system that was the first of its kind in Australia. The delivery of power to the town and eventually the outlying areas was a local initiative of the Shire Council and was run under the Longreach Electric Authority. Power was first generated from this site in 1921; the operation was taken over in 1966 by the Central West Regional Electricity Board. The station ceased to operate in September 1985 when the area was linked to the state-wide grid.

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The powerhouse and workshop spaces offer excellent interpretive potential for visitors. At present, the machinery is in good, stable condition for display, especially considering the size and age of some of the equipment. Some interpretive signs provide information on the types of machinery and their use in the powerhouse complex. The floor plan is relatively clear of obstacles and safe for visitors to guide themselves through.



Figures 9 & 10: Powerhouse Generating Complex

Several small changes to the space could improve the visitor experience. Additional signage to direct visitors through the area – whether via the addition of arrows on the floor, or additional cut-out people (see Figures 11 & 12) pointing in various directions – would improve flow.



Figures 11 & 12: Powerhouse Generating Complex 'cut-out people' signage

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The content on the floor – object and signage – should be solely focused on the powerhouse, it's history, and use. It is recommended that items not representative of this story be relocated to different areas of the museum. For instance, miscellaneous items such as TVs and washing machines that are not associated with the powerhouse should be removed from the space (Figures 13 & 14). There are various items from former local businesses in Longreach that collectively could tell a fascinating story about industry and business in the region and its development over the years. These items, scattered without context throughout the powerhouse complex, should also be relocated and curated to form their own independent displays. Items include the 'Solleys' signage, ovens used in the local bakery, the bike and pie van, and steamers/dry cleaners from Irvines store (Figures 15 & 16).



Figures 13-16: Items on display in Powerhouse that are not relevant to narrative

The powerhouse building also contains an array of items related to shearing and station history in the Longreach region. Longreach Region Museums have proposed relocating these items to the Isisford Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre, where there is space for a display about the local shearing history. This proposal is supported and recommended.

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While there is no climate control in this space, the machinery is generally stable and does not require close monitoring of temperature or humidity. If excessive deterioration is noted on any of the items on display, environmental controls within the space should be revisited.

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted.	High
Update interpretive signage to guide visitors through the powerhouse complex (including workshop space) and share focused content about the powerhouse and its history/use. This should include adding additional directional signage to improve the self-guided nature of this display. [See project proposal in Section 6.1]	Medium
Remove items not associated with the powerhouse display. These include: • Signage and associated items from local businesses • Miscellaneous social history items not relevant to powerhouse story (washing machines, TVs, tools, etc.) Shearing items (for relocation to Isisford)	Low

3.1.3 Exterior machinery display space

Beside Nogo Cottage and behind the Powerhouse complex is a large, uncovered space where various agricultural and road maintenance machinery sit. The items are generally considered to have been used in the development of the central west. The items are not regularly maintained or monitored. Longreach Region Museums should consider whether the items have a significant level of significance to remain on site, or whether it would be appropriate to donate the items to the Ilfracombe Historical Society to add to Machinery Mile. If retained at the Powerhouse Museum, a shade and weather cover (e.g. open-air shed) should be installed to protect the items from the weather.



Figures 17 & 18: External machinery displays

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Recommendation	Urgency
Build an open-air shed with a concrete base to protect the machinery from the weather. Inventory and catalogue items that are intended to be accessioned as part of the Longreach Region Museums collection.	Medium

3.1.4 Nogo Cottage

The site also includes Nogo Cottage, part of the original homestead of Nogo Station, built in 1918 and which currently depicts family living conditions in western Queensland circa 1938-1950.

Nogo Cottage is in good condition, however better housekeeping procedures would improve the visitor experience and ongoing maintenance of the collection on display. The displayed items are in generally good condition but require ongoing maintenance and cleaning to ensure their condition does not deteriorate. If no additional ventilation or environmental monitoring (air conditioning) can be installed in the building, then regular monitoring and maintenance of the items is essential to ensure they are not deteriorating at a rapid rate.



Figure 19: Nogo Cottage

Interpretive signage detailing the history of Nogo Cottage is featured outside the structure (see Figures 20 & 21). An update of the signage to refresh design and content would be beneficial to the museum complex.

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Figures 20 & 21: Nogo Cottage interpretive signage

It is also recommended that an interpretation project be undertaken that would review the content and displays inside the Cottage, removing items not relevant to the story presented, and creating a more accessible and interesting living exhibit for visitors to explore. An updated display with focused themes, items, and signage would reinforce the significance of the collection and historic house.



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Figures 22-25: Nogo Cottage internal displays

Outside the Cottage is an array of miscellaneous farm wares and items, not displayed in any cohesive manner. The items – many of them rusted and damaged from wear and tear and environmental impact – are rusted and pose a health and safety hazard to visitors. It is recommended that these areas be cleaned up and dangerous items disposed of, given that they do not correlate with any displays or interpretation, and they are not part of an accessioned collection. If rusted or hazardous items remain on site, barriers should be installed to stop visitors from interacting with the display.



Figures 26 & 27: Nogo Cottage external displays

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Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted. Install dataloggers to track humidity levels and pest traps.	High
Remove and dispose of dangerous/insignificant non-collection items around the exterior or Nogo Cottage to remove health and safety risks to visitors.	High
Curate a new display for the inside of the Cottage, to refocus significant items, remove irrelevant props/items, add interpretive signage and improve the visitor experience by creating an engaging and informative self-guided display. [See project proposal in Section 6.1]	Medium

3.1.5 Blacksmith Saddler

On the museum site is a display area called the Blacksmith Saddler. Inside the corrugated shed, there is a small display of items associated with blacksmithing history in the region. New interpretive signage could be of immense benefit to this space to improve the visitor experience. Given that little ventilation or climate control is available in this space, the items should be regularly monitored, and a housekeeping procedure for cleaning and management should be implemented.



Figures 28 & 29: Blacksmith Saddler display space

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure to ensure care and maintenance of items on display.	High

3.1.6 Storage container

There is an insulated storage container on site being used for storage of props/display equipment, as well as miscellaneous collection or proposed collection items. In its current state, the container is a suitable standard for the storage of items, however certain components are creating unnecessary risk to the ongoing care of the collection.

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Figures 30 & 31: Storage space

The container is secure from dust, pests and wildlife, and is well insulated. The space requires temperature and climate control for it to be an appropriate storage room for collection items. At the very least, ventilation is required to ensure air does not become stagnant and cause damage to items.

The entryway to the space is also not conducive to safe object movement. A ramp (permanent or movable) or steps should be installed to ensure items can be safely moved in or out of the space. The container requires a new door or lock system to ensure easy access to the storage area.

Non-collection items should be removed from the space if prioritising it solely as a collection space, and a housekeeping procedure should be put in place. New shelving would assist in storing and maintaining the collection to a suitable standard.

It is also suggested that the donga currently being used by the Longreach Historical Society is repurposed into an additional collection storage space once the Historical Society have relocated to a new facility offsite. Council's proposal to relocate the Historical Society working space off-site is supported by the author as it aligns with current industry standards. Many regional and council-managed museums are reviewing co-management models and succession planning arrangements with local historical societies. Establishing a clear delineation between the roles, responsibilities and governance of historical societies and council-managed museums is both necessary and appropriate. Providing the Longreach Historical Society with a dedicated, independent premises will reduce the administrative and resourcing burden on Council, while also supporting the organisational autonomy of the Historical Society. Ensuring that management of the collection remains with Longreach Council staff ensures best-practice industry collection safety standards are met and followed.

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Figure 32: Donga currently used by Longreach Historical Society

Recommendation	Urgency
Install air-conditioning or ventilation in the container to ensure temperature is controlled.	High
Facilitate the relocation of Longreach Historical Society from onsite premises to more suitable offsite premises. Once completed, repurpose Longreach Historical Society donga into new collection storage space (with similar refitting, climate control and removal of non-collection items).	High
Refit storage container at LPH for collection storage use: - Remove any non-collection items including furniture, display props, or other miscellaneous items that are not collection related - Install new shelving to consolidate space and ensure items are correctly housed - Create a working space within new collection storage area to process items - Install ramp or stairs to remove entryway hazards - Conduct a facility review to ensure the container is sealed against dirt and pest entry. Install pest traps to track infestations.	Medium
Develop a housekeeping procedure for maintenance and cleanliness of collection storage spaces, including regular pest review and control treatments.	Low

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3.2 Langenbaker House

Langenbaker House was purchased by the then Ilfracombe Shire Council from the estate of Bernard Langenbaker in 1992 and is now owned by Longreach Regional Council (following the amalgamation of the Longreach, Isisford and Ilfracombe Shires in 2008).

Langenbaker House is included on the State Heritage Register (QHR601088) and in the Register of the National Estate (103820). Several reports on Langenbaker House have been completed by museum and heritage professionals since 1993 to review the condition of the house and its contents and provide recommendations for its future management. These reports have informed this Collection Management Plan and contain valuable information about the history of the house and family.

3.2.1 History of Langenbaker House

The history of Langenbaker House will be provided in a concise summary for the purposes of this plan. Previous reports provide a more detailed history, particularly the 1993 Conservation Management Plan prepared by Peter Forrest. Forrest also conducted a series of oral history interviews with surviving members of the Langenbaker family, which record recollections of the house and family activities. The reader should consult Forrest's reports if they require a more detailed understanding of the Langenbaker family history.

Harry Langenbaker and Mary Ann Kahl married in Barcaldine in 1890. Harry was a carrier, and the decision for he and Mary Ann to relocate their home and small family to Ilfracombe in 1899 was likely motivated by the business opportunities that arose from the extension of the Central Queensland Railway to Longreach.¹ Harry and Mary Ann had 11 children, however historical records question the certainty over the birth dates and identity of some of the Langenbaker children.²

The seventh child, Leslie, born in 1904, is reported to have become blind around 1921 after a riding accident and subsequent neurological damage. From this time onwards, the family retained the layout of the furniture in the house to enable Leslie to find his way around without accident.³

Of the Langenbaker children, Bernard, the youngest, spent most time in the house. Born there in 1913, "Bernie" never married and died in the house in 1991. He cared for his mother there, who was the longest occupant of the house, having lived there from 1899 until she died in 1964.

The Langenbaker family were one of the established families in Ilfracombe, and their livelihood exemplifies many of the others of which there is little to no evidence remaining. The house and its family possessions were typical of many carrier families, and the house is thought to be the oldest dwelling surviving in Ilfracombe.⁴

¹ Piddocke 2015

² Refer to Peter Forrest 1993 for further detail.

³ Forrest 1993, 21

⁴ Forrest 2006, 12

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3.2.2 Contents

The contents of the house represent the accumulations of one family over more than 90 years, rather than a snapshot of the house as it was in 1899 when it was relocated to Ilfracombe. The contents evolved over the years; by the time Bernie died in 1991, several more modern items had accumulated in the house, and Bernie's management of the house and its contents was disordered.⁵ Peter Forrest recommended in his 2006 report that the contents be returned to their 'pre-1964' state, and subsequently, the granddaughter of Mary Ann Langenbaker, who had visited the house almost daily between 1940 and 1964, assisted in returning the house and contents to this previous condition.⁶ It appears several of the more modern items were removed from the house at this time. Mary Ann's piano, which had previously been removed from the house at an unspecified time, was also returned to the house.

The contents listed in Forrest's reports were not all located during the inventory prepared by Museum Development Officer Dr Melanie Piddocke in 2015. Piddocke noted that several books, photographs and personal letters had likely been lost or relocated from the house by Longreach Council staff, but these could not be located by Council staff at the time.⁷

3.2.3 Significance

The significance of the house has been fully examined in the two Conservation Management Plans conducted by Peter Forrest, and in the State Heritage Register and Register of the National Estate entries. Should the reader require a full and in-depth understanding of the significance criteria relevant to the site, these resources should be consulted.

To summarise, most of the items in the house are not rare, but are instead representative of common domestic items from the time. It is their association with one family, their connection to the house itself, and their ability to tell a story of domestic life from the late 19th century that enhances their collective significance.

Closed house collections such as this, in which the contents and décor remain unchanged since the time of occupancy, are rare. Piddocke delves into further depth about these kinds of collections in her 2015 Inventory and Condition Report. She notes:

While many historic houses contain furnishings and décor that demonstrate a particular period of its history, in many cases, these furnishings are representative rather than original. Houses that contain the original furnishings and objects representing continuous occupancy by one family over a number of generations are very small in number.⁸

Amongst the examples of other closed house collections in Australia listed by Piddocke, Langenbaker House appears to be unique in capturing the untouched lives of the working class in regional Queensland. The others are generally associated with wealthier families, ranging from middle to upper class.

Piddocke also notes that the objects within Langenbaker House have a higher value because of the extensive work undertaken by Peter Forrest. Forrest conducted oral history interviews of Bernie Langenbaker and other members of the family, which aid in the interpretive value of the house and its contents. Previous recommendations have encouraged Longreach Regional

⁵ Piddocke 2015, 4

⁶ Forrest 2006 4, 29

⁷ Piddocke 2015, 4

⁸ Piddocke 2015, 5

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Council to obtain copies of the original interviews from Peter Forrest; however, it is unclear whether this was ever actioned.

What isn't mentioned in terms of the collection's significance in the previous reports completed by Piddocke and Forrest is the impact that the rearrangement of the contents by Mary Ann Langenbaker's granddaughter had on the authenticity of the presented collection, and the ongoing impacts to the overall significance of the collection due to a lack of cleaning and conservation work over the last 10+ years. The general neglect of the site drastically impacts the significance of the collection.

3.2.4 Recommendations

Longreach Council have opened the house to the public through various arrangements over the years, utilising locals at times as guides to interpret the history of the Langenbaker family and house. In recent years, it has remained closed to the public due to health and safety concerns and lack of staff to supervise the site.

In its current state, the house is deemed a high safety risk. Council has not permitted public visitation for several years due to the health and safety risks posed by the site. The house itself is structurally unsound for public visitation, has extensive pest and wildlife damage and infestations, and is generally in a state of serious neglect. Landscaping around the house has not been maintained, and physical access to enter the house itself is not safe for the public or staff.



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Figures 33-35: External views of Langenbaker House

The interior and contents of the house have also been severely neglected, likely due to the ongoing health and safety concerns of the house. The contents are pest-damaged, covered in dust and other matter, and have not been maintained to an industry conservation or collection management standard. It seems likely that no maintenance or cleaning has been conducted at the site since Dr Melanie Piddocke led a clean of the contents in 2015. The contents will require extensive conservation work if they are to be displayed or stored off-site.



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Figures 36-40: Internal displays at Langenbaker House

Given the extremely poor condition of both the structure and its contents, this report proposes several options for the Council to consider regarding the ongoing care and management of Langenbaker House and collection. The Heritage Listing for Langenbaker House appears to pertain *only* to the house itself, not the contents inside. It is recommended that Council contact the Queensland Government Heritage Register office to enquire as to whether the contents of the house can be relocated off-site.

Once this has been completed, regardless of which option Council chooses (outlined below) regarding the viability of the house itself, it is recommended that the contents be inventoried, and those found to be of suitable standard for acquisition into Longreach Region Museum's collection be retained, cleaned, conserved, housed and displayed offsite. It is also recommended that Council contract a specialist to create a 3D model of Langenbaker House to retain for future interpretation and create a record of the house in its current state, before any further deterioration occurs.

Following these recommendations, Council should select one of the following options:

Option a:

- Council sells Langenbaker House as a Heritage Listed property

Option b:

- Council deregisters Langenbaker House from the Heritage Register and, following its deregistration, sells the house and property as a non-heritage listed asset

Option c:

- Council deregisters Langenbaker House from the Heritage Register, and following its deregistration, deconstructs and disposes of the house materials. Council could then either sell the land as is or utilise it for another purpose.

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If Council does not sell the property as a Heritage Listed asset, or deregister the listing, it is under an obligation to maintain the House to a certain standard as per the heritage listing guidelines. Substantial resources will need to be allocated to the property to maintain and care for the structure and its contents. Careful consideration of all options is recommended and should be considered a high priority for Longreach Regional Council.

Recommendation	Urgency
Contact the Heritage Listing office to confirm whether the contents of Langenbaker House can be relocated off-site.	High
If in line with heritage listing guidelines, remove contents from Langenbaker House. Once removed, inventory items, retain those preferred for acquisition into Council's catalogued collections, then clean/conserv/rehouse items as necessary. Select items should be considered for display in the Wellshot Centre. This should only be done once necessary conservation and cataloguing work has been completed on the collection items. [See project proposal in Section 6.3]	High
Determine an approach based off recommended options (or variations based off Council requirements) to manage the future of the Langenbaker House site.	High

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3.3 Machinery Mile Heritage Precinct

The Machinery Mile Heritage Precinct incorporates Machinery Mile, Romani Hall Memorial, Oakhampton Cottage, Bottle and Gun display, the Wellshot Centre, and the Folk Museum. Some heritage assets in the precinct are owned and managed by Longreach Regional Council; the remainder are managed by the Ilfracombe Historical Society.

3.3.1 Machinery Mile

The Lynn Cameron Machinery Mile is in Ilfracombe. It is an open-air museum stretching over a mile long, along the Landsborough Highway. The museum holds an extensive collection of more than 170 pieces of historic machinery, including tractors, graders, ploughs, and earthmoving equipment, many of which were sourced within a 100-mile radius of the town.

While Machinery Mile sits on Council land, management and care of the machinery remains with Ilfracombe Historical Society. Recommendations for any changes to Machinery Mile therefore lie outside of the scope of this report.

3.3.2 Romani Hall Memorial

Background

The Romani Hall Memorial is in Ilfracombe, within the heritage precinct known as Machinery Mile. The hall was opened in June 1999 to commemorate the 2/14th Ilfracombe Light Horse Troop, which served in WWI. The hall primarily contains items associated with the Light Horse Troop. Longreach Regional Council manage both the building and the collections on display inside the building.



Figures 41 & 42: Romani Hall Memorial

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The collection on display includes:

- Memorabilia
- Photographs showing military activities at the Romani area and in New Guinea during WWI and photographs of service members
- Wellshot Roll of Honour 1914-1919
- Documentation, illustration, letters, posters and recruitment propaganda
- WWII and Light Horse Uniforms, badges, medals and hats
- Radios and telephones
- Daily combat rations

The hall and its displays act as a memorial to the participation and loss of members of the Ilfracombe community in WWI. The hall has a strong and continuing connection with the local community as a focal point for remembrance of WWI.

Recommendations

The building is white corrugated iron, a single storey raised on posts. The interior is an open space containing display spaces fronted with floor-to-ceiling metal caging. There are two display sections – one on the right as you enter the building (Figure 42) and one on the left (Figures 43 & 44), where the ‘cases’ are painted a deep blue colour.



Figures 43 & 44: Romani Hall Memorial displays

Romani Hall Memorial is unmanned when open to the public. While the caging protects the items on display from theft, it dramatically reduces the visual appeal of the collection on display and makes items and signage hard to see/read. The dark blue paint and lighting used in the display also restricts the visual appeal and access for visitors. The current light levels are likely causing damage to the items.

There is little interpretation within the two displays to provide context about the collections to visitors. There is also no climate control – temperature or humidity – within the hall, and the items suffer from heat fluctuations during the seasonal changes. Air conditioning or ventilation should be installed in the building as a priority, to provide better environmental conditions for the items.

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A revised display is recommended for this space, to improve visibility, accessibility, and presentation of the collection. During redevelopment of the space, cataloguing should be conducted to formally record the collection items on display into Longreach Museums collection management system.

Recommendation	Urgency
Install air conditioners for climate control in display space.	High
Develop a revised exhibition plan, considering new signage, new display furnishings, and improved lighting and environmental controls.	High
[See project proposal in Section 6.4]	
Catalogue items into Longreach Museums collection management system.	High
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted. Install dataloggers to track humidity levels and pest traps.	High

3.3.3 Oakhampton Cottage

Background

Built in 1907, Oakhampton Cottage offers a glimpse into early outback households. The cottage was built by the selector of 'Oakhampton' and was later sold to 'Lyndon', where it was occupied until 1962. It was then donated by the Counsell family and moved to its current location. Longreach Council manages both the building and the collections on display.



Figure 45: Oakhampton Cottage

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Recommendations

It is suggested that the cottage presents typical station hand's married quarters, which were common on large stations before WWII, though this information is not presented at the site itself through any significant interpretation. The cottage is furnished with a range of period furniture and household goods, most of which are unprovenanced and donated by the local community.

Oakhampton Cottage's displays are in poor condition and offer limited interpretive value to visitors. The items on display are not provenanced to the Cottage or its former location, are not catalogued, are generally in very poor condition, and exhibit very little context relevant to the site.

The Cottage is unmanned when open to the public, and not all rooms are opened for visitors to enter. There are no protective elements between visitors and the items.



Figure 46: Oakhampton Cottage interior displays

It is recommended that the purpose of Oakhampton Cottage be considered by Longreach Museums, and a revised interpretive plan be developed. If the Cottage is to remain open to the public as is, improvement of housekeeping procedures is essential to ensure a clean space for visitors to peruse. At present, the displayed items are considered of very low significance and poor condition and would not be recommended for accession into a formal Longreach Museums collection, particularly given their lack of provenance. They should be retained as non-collection items or disposed of.

Regardless of the items on display, the site requires signage to interpret the space for visitors. If it indeed is meant to represent a typical station hand's quarters, then it needs to be curated as such, rather than its current miscellaneous display.

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Figures 47 & 48: Oakhampton Cottage interior displays

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted.	High
Install signage on the exterior of the building to interpret the building's history and significance.	Low
Review displays and intended purpose of building. Redesign and develop an interpretation plan to better present a realistic recreation of a station hand's quarters from the era represented.	Low

3.3.4 Folk Museum

Background

Housed in a replica of an early station residence is the Folk Museum. The museum was opened in 1969 by Ilfracombe Historical Society. The building and collections are now managed by Longreach Regional Council. The museum interior is a single open space showcasing the daily lives of pioneering families through a range of social history items and interpretive panels. The displays focus on themes such as 'women at work', 'women in communication', and 'children'.

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Figures 49-52: Folk Museum and displays

Recommendations

In the centre of the museum space is a fossil display. The display holds items on loan from Queensland Museum. The display contents is a stark contrast to the remainder of the social history displays in the museum and physically blocks part of the social history display. The fossils should be relocated from this space as it currently disrupts both the narrative and the physical access to the displays for visitors. The fossils have been on long term loan from Queensland Museum and are due for return.

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Figures 53 & 54: Folk Museum fossil displays

The items and signage in the social history displays are well curated. However, visual access to the displays is hindered by floor to ceiling metal cages installed in front of the displays. While understandable from a collection safety perspective given the site is unmanned, these metal cages dramatically reduce the visitors ability to see and read the signage and engage with the collection items on display.

Less invasive barrier methods are available to protect items and still maintain good visibility and access at unmanned displays. Alternative display methods should be considered to improve on visitor experience.

There is little environmental control within this space. Whilst better maintained than other areas such as Oakhampton Cottage, air-conditioning or ventilation should be considered a priority, as well as improved housekeeping and cleaning procedures.

Recommendation	Urgency
Consult with Queensland Museum staff and return loaned fossils. Remove fossil display from Folk Museum space.	High
Remove metal caging and install a less-invasive protective barrier to improve visitor experience whilst still protecting items on display.	High
Improve environmental conditions by installing air-conditioning or ventilation into the space.	High
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted. Install dataloggers to track humidity levels and pest traps.	High
Catalogue items into Longreach Museums collection management system.	Medium

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3.3.5 Wellshot Centre

Background

The Wellshot Centre in Ilfracombe serves as both a visitor information hub and a museum dedicated to the legacy of the Wellshot Station. Wellshot Station was once the world's largest sheep station by flock size. The centre offers insight into Australia's wool industry. The displays inside detail the formation and operation of the Wellshot Station, the challenges faced by early settlers, and items from the station's heyday.

The Wellshot Centre includes a former police station and residence, cell block, and relocated Portland boundary rider's hut, set amongst the property's garden and yard. The boundary rider's hut originated from an outstation on Portland Downs station and was relocated to the Wellshot Centre in 2005.

The site was acquired by Longreach Regional Council in the early 2000s and restored as part of the Wellshot Centre development. The Centre opened to the public in 2004. It is managed entirely by Longreach Regional Council.



Figures 55 & 56: Wellshot Centre and boundary rider's hut

Recommendations

The Wellshot Centre building is an excellent display space, but is currently underutilised as an exhibition space. There are some interesting and significant items on display, but these displays lack interpretation to engage the visitor with the objects. A revised interpretation plan and curation of the various spaces would benefit the visitor experience and better present the stories associated with the Centre, like the history of Ilfracombe and the history of Wellshot Station.

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Figures 57 & 58: Wellshot Centre displays

One of the internal rooms should be utilised for the display of the relocated Langenbaker House contents. Suggestions have been made for the closed verandah to be used for this display; however, the light and temperature conditions of this space are unsuitable for object displays. It would be more sustainable and better for object condition if the Langenbaker display was exhibited in one of the internal, climate conditioned rooms.

The rider's hut and cellblock are interesting structural elements. Updated signage on the exterior of these two buildings, sharing for visitors the history of each structure, is recommended.

Recommendation	Urgency
Ensure air-conditioning is utilised for ongoing climate control of display spaces.	High
Develop a new interpretation plan and curate the internal display spaces to focus on key themes associated with the history of Wellshot Station and the history of Ilfracombe. [See project proposal in Section 6.5]	High
Develop a new display in one of the <u>internal rooms</u> for the Langenbaker House contents. [See project proposal in Section 6.3]	High
Develop and implement a housekeeping procedure for the space to ensure regular cleaning and pest treatment is conducted. Install dataloggers to track humidity levels and pest traps.	High
Catalogue items into Longreach Museums collection management system.	Medium

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3.3.6 Bottle & Gun display

Background

Within the Machinery Mile Heritage Precinct is a Bottle and Gun display, collated by brothers Ike and Hilton Jackson. The gun collection consists of 116 weapons and other memorabilia, purchased by Ilfracombe Shire Council from the private collectors in 2008. Hilton's bottle collection began in 1968; over time, he amassed approximately 16,500 bottles, 4,000 buttons and 1,500 marbles, plus other miscellaneous materials. In 2005, Ilfracombe Shire Council bought his collection, and a selection of the bottles were relocated from Hilton's residence to the current display area.

Recommendations

If Council intends to retain the displays, it is recommended that the collection is officially catalogued for record keeping purposes. A housekeeping procedure should be implemented to ensure regular cleaning and maintenance of not only the display areas, but the items themselves. The display cases, while effective, are not easily accessible by museum staff and therefore limit the extent of cleaning and maintenance opportunities. Updated and reprinted interpretation is recommended to improve the visitor experience.

Given the extent of guns on display, and that there has been previous theft attempts of the weaponry, it is recommended that better security measures are implemented at the site, including surveillance cameras.



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Figures 59-62: Hilton Bottle and Gun display

Recommendation	Urgency
Catalogue the collection into the Longreach Museums collection management system.	High
Implement a housekeeping procedure for the bottle and gun display – inclusive of cleaning the display spaces, and regular cleaning and maintenance of the objects on display.	High
Install new security cameras and implement a regular review of security measures and access to the site.	High
Install new display cases to better present the collection and improve access for cleaning and maintenance by museum staff.	Low
Develop and install updated interpretive signage about the history of the collection.	Low

3.4 Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre

Background

The Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre is in Isisford and explores the evolution of nature from 100 million years ago to the present. Displays feature local fauna, flora, reptiles, birds and fossils from the region, as well as interpretation around the formation of the Great Artesian Basin.

Significant displays include a life-sized replica of *Isisfordia Duncani*, who lived around 98 million years ago and was the ancestor of all crocodilians that live on earth today.



Figures 63 & 64: Natural history displays at Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre

Longreach Council have partnered with the University of Queensland to develop an updated display with new research and recently discovered fossils to add to current exhibition. The opening of the display is pending the publication of associated research by University of Queensland academics. It is expected that it will be installed and open by mid-2026.

Recommendations

The interpretive centre displays are in great condition and are well produced with high quality content. The upcoming new displays will breathe new life into the older displays and provide appealing narratives to visitors who frequent the space.

Longreach Region Museums staff have expressed that there is public interest in expanding the social history content within the interpretive centre. The walkway leading from the café on the ground floor to the display space on the upper level provides an excellent space for local content. Along Isisford's main street are interpretive signs with images of historic buildings and their history. Replicating images and content from these signs onto new displays along this walkway would give visitors to the centre an insight into local history, as well as the natural history displays featured in the exhibition.

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Figures 65 & 66: Potential display space for social history content

Behind the interpretive centre there is also space for the relocated shearing and industry related items currently on display at the Longreach Powerhouse Museum. Once relocated here, there is a great opportunity to expand the display and install signage to tell the local shearing industry story.

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and install a social history narrative display along the walkway from ground floor to the upper level.	Low
Develop and install a shearing display using items from the Longreach Powerhouse museum and interpretive signage.	Low

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3.5 Isisford Bakery

Background

Isisford Bakery is a small heritage building in the main street of Isisford. There is no interpretation currently at the site, however there is a small window at the front of the shop with replica baked goods on shelving. Items inside (unseen to the public) include old bakery mixers and other wares.



Figures 67 & 68: Isisford Bakery

Recommendations

A simple improvement to the visitor experience at this site would be to install an interpretive sign on the outside of the building, detailing the history of the building and its prominence on Isisford's street front. Additional interpretive opportunities could be to open the interior of the building for visitation, setting up a display that features the various bakery equipment which sits inside the building. Considerations would include security of the items and building, given that the site would be unmanned when open to the public. Alternative options could be to remove the door on the right-hand side of the building (see Figure 67), set up a display in the space behind the door, and install glass or Perspex into the doorway so that visitors could see the display without entering the building.

For all options, housekeeping and regular cleaning and maintenance of items and the display space itself is recommended to ensure a quality viewing experience for the public.

Recommendation	Urgency
Develop and install interpretive signage on the exterior of the building.	Low
Consider feasibility of display options for interior of bakery and bakery items.	Low

4.0 Policies and Procedures

Longreach Museums have limited policies and procedures to support the management and care of their collection. As such, one of the key recommendations of this report is to review and update a suite of procedural documentation to guide the development, care, and use of the collection across all Longreach Museum sites.

4.1 Collection Policy

There is no overarching collection policy that encompasses all Longreach Region museum and heritage sites.

Longreach Powerhouse Museum has a drafted collection policy from 2021, yet this was never formalised or implemented by Council. This drafted policy has most of the necessary components of a collection policy, including an outline of the organisation's mission, vision, operational guidelines, aims and thematic objectives/collection areas, collecting and collection management principles (acquisition, record keeping, loans, deaccessioning and disposal).

It is essential that the drafted collection policy be reviewed and updated to align with the current objectives of Longreach Region Museums, and that it be broadened to encompass all sites under the remit of Longreach Region Museums (not solely the Powerhouse Museum and collection). A revised collection policy should include all essential components of a collection policy, including:

- Mission statement
- Organisational background
- Collection themes and materials
- Acquisitions
- Management of the collection
- Storage and conservation
- Loans
- Deaccessioning
- Access

4.1.1 Themes

While Longreach Region Museums is a network of museum and heritage sites, there is little continuity in the themes represented at each of the sites. Each site has its own unique personality and purpose; the Folk Museum, for example, focuses on stories associated with women and work in the region, whereas the Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre focuses on the ancient and natural history of the area. Each site has an opportunity to develop its own focused themes to ensure the stories it tells are relevant and representative of the site's objectives.

As the largest and most established site under Council's remit, the Longreach Powerhouse Museum's themes should be a primary focus for Longreach Museums. The drafted collection policy from 2021 outlines two broad thematic areas for the Longreach Powerhouse Museum collection:

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- Powerhouse – period of significance 1921-1985
 - Objects relating to the process of power generation;
 - Objects relating to the distribution of maintenance of power in the town and district from the establishment of the power station in 1921 until its closure in 1985;
 - Engines, generators, etc. used in generation of power, small than those in the Powerstation for comparison;
 - Pumps (water, oil, fuel) similar to those used in the Powerstation for comparison; and
 - Print media (newspaper articles, photographs, poster displays, advertising etc.) relating to the history of the Powerhouse.
- Local history – 1887-ongoing
 - Objects relating to the history of Longreach and the region – Aboriginal occupation, pioneers of the town and district, the everyday home, working lives and dress of the people, special community events, recreation, use of the land, and mechanical items;
 - Photographic items, films, video and other digital media; and
 - Objects including oral and anecdotal histories, newspaper clippings, magazines and books pertaining to the history of Longreach and the Longreach district.

While encompassing a range of collection areas relevant to the region, it is recommended that these themes be reviewed and revised in conjunction with the draft collection policy. In line with industry standards, museums should avoid collecting copies of archival materials (such as newspaper clippings, photocopies, and magazines and books that are not relevant or original to the area). If the museum is actively collecting audio-visual and digital media, procedures for the preservation and ongoing maintenance of such assets need to be carefully considered and implemented. If adequate asset management systems are not utilised, there is a high risk for loss of digital and audio-visual materials.

A core component of a museum's collection policy and strategy is to guide what items are stories should be collected by the institution, and why. Determining more succinct collecting themes will help guide the decision-making process when items are donated or intentionally acquired for the collection. Themes will also support the development of display content and guide the direction of the museum for public programming and outreach opportunities.

Reflecting on the current collections and displays, and drafted collecting themes from the 2021 policy, the following themes are suggested to help guide the future of Longreach Powerhouse Museums collections and interpretation:

- Powerhouse history and function
 - Items associated with the Longreach Powerhouse during its functional years;
 - Items relating to the distribution and maintenance of power in the town and district during the active Powerhouse years (1921-1985);
- Local industry;
- Significant local identities and groups;
- Land use and landscapes;
- Pioneering life in the district;
- Community events (historic and contemporary); and
- Tourism and development in the region.

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4.2 Collection documentation

Only three other documents/forms are in regular use by Longreach Region Museums: a condition report, donation form, and gift agreement. These documents are well formatted and compiled and should be used for all new donations to the collections held by Longreach Council. Additional documentation is required, however, to align with best practice standards for collection documentation, and ensure effective collection management and record-keeping of collection items.

4.3 Cultural protocols

Longreach Museums are custodians of a small collection of items from First Nations communities. Cultural items owned by First Nations people require different collection management practices than non-Indigenous items. It is recommended that Longreach Museums consider the repatriation of items *not* from the local area. For those items that are retained, it is recommended Longreach Museums put in place considered cultural protocols to ensure that cultural safety for both Council staff and the First Nations items held in the collection is prioritised. A Cultural Protocol procedure would detail how best non-Indigenous staff should engage with and handle First Nations items, any specific requirements regarding consultation for said items, and guidance on recording, packing, naming and cataloguing First Nations collections.

4.4 Summary of recommendations

Recommendation	Urgency
Review and rewrite a Collection Policy for Longreach Region Museums which is relevant to all sites, and inclusive of necessary components of a best-practice collection policy. Include clear distinctions on collection themes, and how these will determine decision making around future acquisitions. [See project proposal in Section 6.6]	High
Develop a suite of collection management policies, procedures and forms including: • Acquisition procedure (and associated documentation) • Deaccessioning procedure (and associated documentation) • Housekeeping guideline/s • Collection handling policy (including hazardous materials components) • Disaster preparedness plan • Cultural Protocols for First Nations collections • Due diligence checklist [See project proposal in Section 6.6]	High

5.0 Human Resources

5.1 Staff

Longreach Regional Council have a small museums team. There is currently only one focused full-time role which manages the museums, the Tourism Coordinator position. The Tourism Coordinator role does not solely focus on museums, but also various other assets and areas of business associated with Longreach tourism.

It is recommended that Council progress the proposed business case to employ a full-time position based at the Longreach Powerhouse Museum. A full-time position located here will allow for the proposed and ongoing collection management projects to be undertaken in a timely manner and will ensure safety and maintenance of the site and collection remain a priority. This position would also support the management and maintenance of collections and displays at other sites.

5.2 Volunteers

There are no active volunteers at any sites under the Longreach Museums remit. The various Historical Societies active across the Longreach region, and their volunteers, are not included here.

5.3 Professional Development

It is essential that the professional development of the Longreach Museums team is carefully considered. Staff are active in undertaking collection and display activities, but essential museum standard training should be considered for all staff in a role associated with the museums or heritage sites, particularly the new collection's role proposed for Longreach Powerhouse Museum. It is recommended that training in collection significance, collection management principles, preventative conservation, and exhibition development, are undertaken with priority (as a minimum). Queensland Museum's Museum Development Program can facilitate such training, or if unavailable, can recommend other museum industry professionals to lead necessary training.

6.0 Future planning: project proposals

As part of this report, several future projects have been proposed. The following are projects that the Museum Development Program can provide quotes for to implement alongside Longreach Regional Council. Please contact Sophie Price, Senior Museum Development Officer to discuss formal quotes and project timeframes. The below overviews and estimated costings are general estimations and are not representative of formal quotes. These costings do not include estimated travel costs or associated project costs (e.g. graphic design or printing).

6.1 Longreach Powerhouse Museum exhibition development plan*

Part 1: Powerhouse complex

- Develop and install new interpretive signage in Powerhouse complex about Powerhouse history and machinery on display
- Arrange new directional signage to allow visitors to follow a self-guided tour through the space
- Project would include development of content, printing of interpretive signage, additional curation of items and installation

Estimated costing: 4–7 days (\$3,720 – \$6,510)

Part 2: Museum display

- Develop and install new displays within the museum building (either on a small scale e.g. one room; or a larger scale e.g. all internal spaces).
- Project would include development of content, printing of interpretive signage, curation of items and installation

Estimated costing: 8–15 days (\$7,440 – \$13,950)

Part 3: Nogo Cottage

- Develop and install new interpretive signage in and around Nogo Cottage
- Project would include development of content, printing of interpretive signage, additional curation of items and installation

Estimated costing: 4–7 days (\$3,720 – \$6,510)

Part 4: Local business and industry display in proposed new shed

- Develop, curate and install a new display in the proposed shed to be built on Longreach Powerhouse Museum site
- Include items already at Longreach Powerhouse Museum including items such as the 'Solleys' signage, ovens used in the local bakery, the bike and pie van, and steamers/dry cleaners from Irvines store
- Project would include development of content, printing of interpretive signage, additional curation of items and installation

Estimated costing: 8–15 days (\$7,440 – \$13,950)

**Note these four project parts are not defined to a specific order and can be implemented as individual projects or one large, multi-stage project*

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6.2 Longreach Powerhouse Museum Collection Cataloguing Project

- Undertake an inventory and cataloguing project for social history collection at Longreach Powerhouse Museum (this should include the collection of items in the Nogo Cottage and Blacksmith Saddler)
- Project would include support to inventory, assess and catalogue collection into a collection management system/database
- Project would also include recommendations for rationalisation excess or non-significant items

Estimated costing: 8–15 days (\$7,440 – \$13,950)

6.3 Langenbaker House collection rehousing and display project

- Support Longreach Council to remove contents from Langenbaker House and facilitate the cleaning and rehousing of collection items
- Rationalise and catalogue the items proposed for accession into Longreach collections
- Develop and curate a new display to be exhibited in the Wellshot Centre which utilises and interprets the Langenbaker House collection

Estimated costing: 8–15 days (\$7,440 – \$13,950)

6.4 Romani Hall Memorial exhibition development

- Develop and install new display at Romani Hall Memorial to replace existing exhibition
- Project would include development of content, printing of interpretive signage, additional curation of items and installation, and support in acquiring new display cases

Estimated costing: 8–15 days (\$7,440 – \$13,950)

6.5 Wellshot Centre exhibition development

- Develop and install new displays at Wellshot Centre to improve interpretation of items on display
- Project would include development of content, printing of interpretive signage, additional curation of items and installation, and support in acquiring new display cases

Estimated costing: 8–15 days (\$7,440 – \$13,950)

6.6 Collection Documentation development project

- Develop a suite of collection documentation for Longreach Region Museums, including:
 - Collection Policy
 - Acquisition policy and procedures
 - Deaccessioning policy and procedures
 - Housekeeping guideline/s
 - Collection handling guideline (including hazardous materials components)
 - Disaster preparedness plan
 - Cultural Protocols for First Nations collections

Estimated costing: From 16 days (\$14,880+)

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7.0 Summary

This commissioned Collection Management Plan considers the object and archival collections, buildings, and policies and procedures for the various sites of Longreach Region Museums.

Longreach Region Museums hold significant yet undervalued collections, and the development and support of staff should be prioritised by Longreach Regional Council in order to effectively manage the collections into the future. The recommendations in this report provide Longreach Regional Council with a guide to implement this support and continue to care for the diverse and distributed collections held by Longreach Region Museums. It is imperative that Longreach Regional Council consider implementing the recommendations in this report in a timely manner.

Author details

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8.0 References

Forrest, P. 1993 Langenbaker House Conservation Plan (Volume 1 and 2). Unpublished report prepared for Ilfracombe Shire Council.

Forrest, P. and S. Forrest 2006 The Langenbaker House Ilfracombe: A Revised Conservation Plan. Unpublished report prepared for Ilfracombe Shire Council.

Piddocke, M. 2015 2015 Langenbaker House Contents Inventory and Condition Assessment. Unpublished report prepared for the Longreach Regional Council. Queensland Museum.

7.2 Motions - LGAQ State Conference

Consideration of motions to be submitted for presentation at the LGAQ Annual Conference.

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

Consultation:

Internal	External
Councillors	

Officer Report

Responsible Officer:

Brett Walsh (Chief Executive Officer)

Each year LGAQ calls for notices of motion to be considered and supported at a national level at the Annual Conference held in October.

The Motions Protocol is designed to ensure LGAQ advocacy remains contemporary and reflects current member priorities and provides a clear framework that details the procedures to be followed in preparing for, and dealing with, LGAQ Annual Conference motions.

To help inform your motion considerations, follow these general rules as set out by the LGAQ's Motions Protocol:

- **Statewide Impact:** Motions should relate to a statewide issue or an issue impacting a large portion of the membership.
- **Government Action:** Motions should ask for action from the State or Federal Government.
- **No Cost Shift:** Motions should not result in a responsibility or cost shift to local government.
- **Previous Consideration:** Motions should not relate to a matter considered at a previous Annual Conference in the last five years, unless seeking to alter or update the adopted policy position.
- **Be in the Collective Interest of the Sector:** Motions should not ask for an outcome that advantages one council or cohort of councils to the disadvantage of another.

Importantly, under the Motions Protocol, once passed, a resolution will stay binding on the LGAQ team to progress over a five-year period, unless it can be achieved or resolved earlier.

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Once that five-year period is up, the resolution will be considered expired with members invited to move the motion again at the next Annual Conference should it continue to be a priority.

Submissions close on Monday 27 July 2026.

Appendices

Nil

Recommendation:

That the Committee considers the request and provides any motions for submission to the July Council meeting for endorsement.

7.3 Customer Service Requests

Consideration of Customer Service Requests for the previous month.

Corporate Plan Alignment

Strategy

OUR LEADERSHIP

5.3.1 Deliver quality, timely, and efficient service to prioritise customer needs and outcomes

Consultation:

Internal	External
Relevant officers	Relevant customers

Officer Report

Responsible Officer:

Council officers as assigned by the Customer Service team.

Attached for the information of the committee is a confidential summary of Customer Service Requests over the previous month.

Disclaimer: Please note this report is only current as at 09/06/2026. Staff are continuously working in this space so it can change frequently.

Appendices

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Outstanding CSR Report 09.06.2026 [**7.3.1** - 18 pages]

Recommendation:

That the Committee receives the Customer Service Request report, as presented.

7.4 Meetings Action Register

Consideration of actions arising from previous meetings.

Corporate Plan Alignment

Strategy

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
Relevant Managers ELT	Councillors

Officer Report

Responsible Officer:

Senior staff as assigned in the Action Register

Attached is a confidential summary of the actions arising from previous meetings.

Appendices

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Actions Register June 2026 Gov Meeting [**7.4.1** - 7 pages]

Recommendation:

That the Committee receives the Meetings Actions Register report, as presented.

8 Late Items

Nil

9 Closed Matters

Nil

9.1 Childcare Update

Reasons for Confidentiality

This item is considered confidential pursuant to section 245J (3) (c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as it contains information relating to the local government's budget.

10 Closure of Meeting