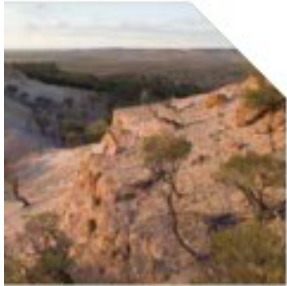
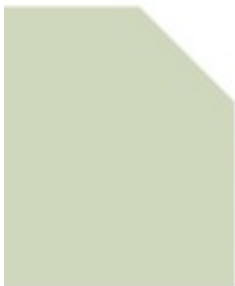


Connecting Council and Community



Longreach Regional Council **AGENDA**

Of the Governance Committee - Round Table Meeting held on Monday 28 September 2026
at Longreach Council Chambers, 96 Eagle St Longreach.



**Delivering
excellent service**



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

**LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA**

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1 Opening of Meeting and Acknowledgment of Country

2 Leave of Absence

3 Declaration of any Material Personal Interest / Conflicts of Interest by Councillors

4 General Business

4.1 Strategic Objectives and Priorities for FY28

Consideration of Strategic Objectives and Priorities for FY28.

Officer Report

David Wilson (Chief Financial Officer)

Purpose:

To identify five (5) specific strategic goals for FY28.

Discussion:

Review the strategic outcomes selected at the previous workshop and prioritise the five (5) strategic outcomes to focus on in FY28.

Appendices

1. Strategic Objectives - F Y 28 [**4.1.1** - 13 pages]

Recommendation:

That the Committee notes the report, as presented.

Developing strategic goals for FY28



Objective

The purpose of this session is to set five specific strategic goals for FY28.

The agenda for this workshop is:

- Review and agree upon the strategic outcomes selected in the August workshop.
- Prioritise and select five strategic outcomes to focus on in FY28.
- Define five strategic SMART goals for FY28 based on these outcomes.

The following tables summarise the significant needs and strategic outcomes from the August workshop.



Our Community

We focus on making our region a great place to live.



Corporate Plan Outcome	Significant Needs	Strategic Outcomes
1.1 Council infrastructure and services support liveability and community amenity.	• Safety. • Equitable access to facilities and adequate accessible pathways. • Events and facilities that bring people together. • Shade and water. • Partnerships with other organisations to create opportunities.	• Improved project delivery. • Disability access. • Housing.
1.2 Council recognizes cultural heritage and supports inclusion of all peoples.	• Museums. • Storyboards in communities recognising heritage through public art. • Wayfinding.	• Storyboards for significant sites and wayfinding signs. • Developing museums. • Styling tourism in each town for certain types of visitors.
1.3 The region's natural environment is managed, maintained and protected.	• Weed control, • Feral pest animal controls. • Resolving compliance legacy issues in landfills, waste management etc. • Maintaining healthy waterways.	• Increased weed control efforts and partnerships.



Our Economy

We make it easy for people to invest
and do business in the region.



Corporate Plan Outcome	Significant needs	Strategic outcomes
2.1 Collaborative engagement with stakeholders to maximise economic opportunities.	- Supporting industry and local business through red tape reduction. - Advocate, bring in support partners, help navigate regulatory requirements, develop networks and business to business communication. - Land development, industrial development.	- Support businesses to reach potential. - Land development. - Policy development and advocacy plan.
2.2 Council infrastructure and services support local industries and growth opportunities.		



Our Services

We strive to deliver our core services
to a consistently high standard.



Corporate Plan Outcome	Significant needs	Strategic outcomes
3.1 A secure water supply that is resilient against climate factors.	• Quality water supply in all towns. • Servicing strategy.	• All water treatment plants are effective, but Isisford is the priority. • Improving infrastructure over a ten-year period in line with the servicing strategy.
3.2 Sustainable infrastructure and services that represent value for money, are environmentally responsible, and are responsive to community needs.	• Sewage treatment effluents. • Maintain Proterra. • Roads, water, waste providing adequate services while compliant. • Recycling.	• Ensure environmental obligations are being met. • Investigation of possible improved environmental outcomes.
3.3 Construct high-quality transport infrastructure in partnership with external agencies.	• Ongoing maintenance. • Sealing of unsealed roads. • Strategic review including deprioritising some roads. • Betterment plan.	• Staged footpath program. • Review and prioritising roads. • Maintaining standard of roads.



Our Finances

We will strategically manage our finances to improve our resilience, to overcome adversity and realise opportunities.



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

Corporate Plan Outcome	Significant needs	Strategic outcomes
4.1 Improved financial performance and strategic financial management.	• More money. • Strong financial position maintained.	• Serious look at efficiencies. • Maintaining cash/expense ratio. • Successful grant bids.



Our Leadership

We will work together as a team to make decisions for the benefit of our Council and our community.



Corporate Plan Outcome	Significant needs	Strategic outcomes
5.1 Council will have a values driven culture.	• Functional, collegiate behaviour. • Consistent values-driven behaviours.	• Continued improvement via training and upskilling.
5.2 Informed and considered decision making based on effective governance practices.	• All voices are heard in a safe, open space, allowing robust conversations. • Up to date policies.	• Cementing round tables into calendars.
5.3 Council delivers a positive customer experience in all service areas.	• Ongoing improvements in addressing CSRs. • Communicating back to people with enquiries. • Personal communication is important. • Continue community forums.	• Prompt, professional responses to CSRs. • Customer engagement strategy.
5.4 Council is resilient to climatic risk factors.	• Water security. • Tree planting.	• Continuous monitoring of climatic risk factors.



Priority ranking – top 5 and why



There are limited resources and time to achieve significant strategic outcomes while also maintaining current services and infrastructure. Select the **five** strategic outcomes that you feel will make the biggest impact to creating public value, note them on the next page and think of why it is more important than the others.

Improved project delivery	Disability access	Housing	Storyboards for significant sites and wayfinding signs	Developing museums
Styling tourism in each town for certain types of visitors	Increased weed control efforts and partnerships	Support businesses to reach potential	Land development	Policy development and advocacy plan
All water treatment plants are effective, but Isisford is the priority	Improving water and waste-water infrastructure over a ten-year period in line with the servicing strategy	Ensure environmental obligations are being met	Investigation of possible improved environmental outcomes	Staged footpath program
Review and prioritise roads	Maintain standard of roads	Serious look at efficiencies	Maintaining cash/expense ratio	Successful grant bids
Continued improvement via training and upskilling	Cementing round tables into calendars	Prompt, professional responses to CSRs	Customer engagement strategy	Continuous monitoring of climatic risk factors



Priority ranking – top 5 and why

Strategic outcome	Why



SMART goals

Once five strategic priorities have been agreed on, we will develop specific goals using the SMART method.

For each project we will define:

Specific – What exactly do we want to accomplish?

Measurable – How will we know when the goal has been achieved?

Achievable – Is the goal realistically achievable with available resources, skills and time?

Relevant – Why is this goal important?

Time bound – When will this be completed?

Example of a SMART goal

“All main streets, parks, swimming pools, council buildings and showgrounds within each town will have footpaths that are wheelchair accessible and will have disability parking by 30 June 2028, though upgrades to existing infrastructure and creating new infrastructure.”

The goal is:

Specific – footpaths that are wheelchair accessible and disability parking.

Measurable – at all main streets, parks, swimming pools, council buildings and showgrounds.

Achievable – can likely be financially achieved from council funds (possible funding) and by council teams or contractors.

Relevant – supports liveability and amenity for the community.

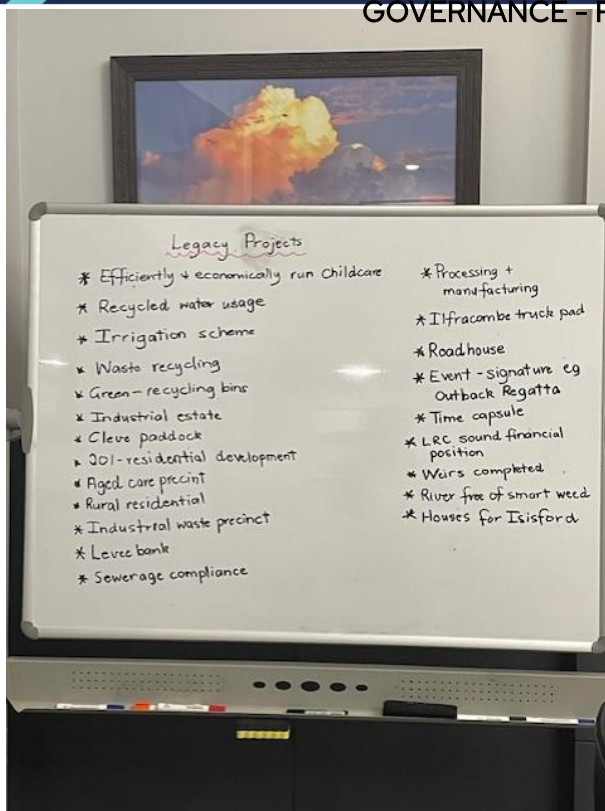
Time-bound – can be achieved by 30 June 2028 if planning commences in FY27.



LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL GOVERNANCE – ROUND TABLE MEETING AGENDA



A photo of the Councillor projects list for reference when considering specific strategic objectives.



SMART goals

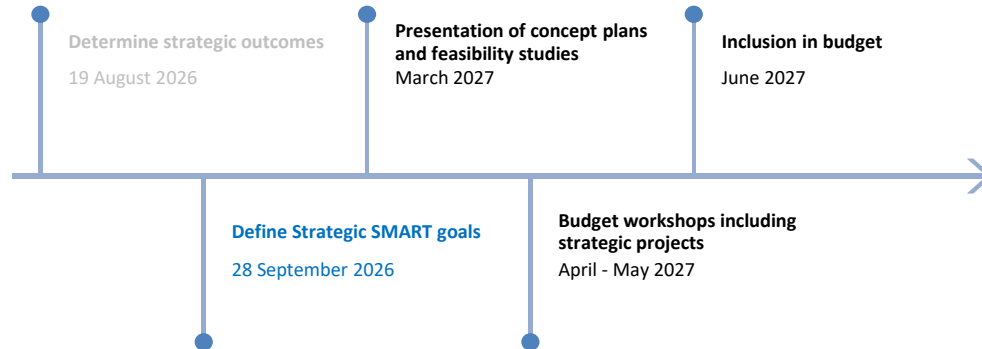
Strategic outcome	SMART goal



Next steps

The ELT and managers will take the five strategic SMART goals and prepare draft plans and feasibility reports for each one. The plans may include concept plans, resource requirements, cost and time estimates.

At the first budget workshop, these draft plans will be presented for discussion and refinement to confirm the scope of work, feasibility and estimated budgets. The estimated timeline below is a proposed timeline for how these workshops fit into the budget process.



4.2 Weirs presentation

Consideration of presentation on Longreach Weirs.

Officer Report

Andre Pretorius (Director of Works)

Purpose:

Provide information on the Longreach Water Security Project.

Appendices

1. Presentation - Weirs - Sept 2026 [**4.2.1** - 53 pages]

Action:

That the Committee receives the presentation.

Longreach Water Security for Growth Project



Presentation to:

National Water Grid
and
Department of Local Government, Water
and Volunteers

Cr Tony Rayner – Mayor
Brett Walsh – Chief Executive Officer
Andre Pretorius – Director of Works



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

September 2026

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we are meeting and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Project Purpose – Water Security

- Plan for the future growth of Longreach – residential, commercial and industrial
 - Increase water storage on Thomson River
- Manage water demand
 - Find water savings – identify leaks, smart meters
 - New water mains (7km)
- Examine alternative water source options
 - Servicing Strategy
 - Wastewater reuse
 - GAB investigation

Project Journey

- Pre 2024 – Feasibility Studies and Concept Designs: Approvals Journey
- April 2024 – Initial Project Proposal: 5 Fish Passages
- March 2025 – Regional Interests Development Approval (RIDA): 3 Fish Passages
- November 2025 – Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID): Zero Fish Passages
- April /May 2026 – Minor RIDA amendment to bring it inline with MID approval

Project summary

1. Construction of 5 replacement weirs on the Thomson River
 - increase height by 1 metre
 - increase storage by 930ML
 - drought proof community

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETING AGENDA



Town Weir, Anabranch 1 and 2



Anabranch 3 and 4



LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL
GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETING AGENDA



Project summary

2. Replacement of 7km of old water mains

- reduce leaks
- water savings
- efficient operations
- improved pressure
- improved water quality

Project summary

3. Installation of 1,600 smart water meters (completed)

- identify leaks in real time (28.3ML since October 2025)
- water savings
- cost savings for consumer
- change consumer behaviour
- updated Water Balance
- capital improvement/renewal planning

Project summary

4. Complete Servicing Strategy

- water reuse scheme
 - future investments required
 - water charging regime
 - forward capital works program
over a 30-year planning horizon
- 

Project summary

5. Environmental offsets

- Remove old infrastructure from river
- Tree planting program
- Nature revegetation area at Apex Park
- Storyboards – native flora and fauna (Lake Eyre Basin Rangers)
- Removal of pest fish (Desert Channels)
- Iningai Park improvements

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GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA



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GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA



LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA



Project summary

6. First Nations collaboration

- Iningai Country
- Cultural Heritage Assessment and monitoring - Bidjara
- Iningai Park improvements

Project Funding

- Australian Government – National Water Grid - \$5m
- Queensland Government - WISER program - \$7m
- Longreach Regional Council - \$3.7m
- Queensland Government - LGGSP - \$4.3m
- Total cost - \$20m

Project Approvals

- RIDA – Regional Interests Development Approval (Qld Govt)
- s51 Regional Planning Interests Act 2014
- Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area (SEA)
- Decision Notice - 19 March 2025

Project Approvals - RIDA

Post-construction		
11.	A Post-construction Monitoring Program must be prepared and implemented for the purpose of: (a) monitoring for scour or erosion in the areas immediately adjacent to and downstream of the weirs following overtopping events; and (b) monitoring for loss and recruitment/reestablishment of riparian vegetation on the banks of the Town Storage; and (c) monitoring the spread of invasive plant species and changes to the composition of native ecosystems on the banks of the Town Storage; and (d) monitoring for impacts to fish species richness, abundance, and distribution over time in relation	Upon completion of the works and continuing thereafter for a period of at least 10 years

Page 4 of 12

Condition number	Condition	Timing for condition
	to the Town Weir and/or associated anabranch weirs.	

Project Approvals - RIDA

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 12. | <p>The Post-construction Monitoring Program must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) be prepared and implemented by appropriately qualified and experienced person(s); and(b) involve the preparation of inspection and monitoring reports by 30 November each year, for the preceding financial year, and submission to the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation where requested; and(c) include an alert and action component, which will enable corrective measures to be taken if:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i excessive erosion, scouring, and/or bank destabilisation is observed; orii excessive loss of riparian vegetation and/or lack of natural recruitment and reestablishment is observed; oriii elevated presence of invasive plant species and/or evidence of environmental weeds out-competing and displacing native species; oriv any evidence of reduced fish species migration or distribution is detected. | <p>Upon completion of the works and continuing thereafter for a period of at least 10 years</p> |
|-----|--|---|

Project Approvals

- MID – Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (Qld Govt)
- s35 Planning Act 2016
- Decision Notice – 10 November 2025

Project Approvals - MID

- 5.
- (a) Following completion of construction of the weirs, prepare a Post-construction Monitoring Program (PCMP). The PCMP must be prepared by an appropriately qualified and experienced person for the purpose of:
 - i. monitoring for scour or erosion in the areas immediately adjacent to and downstream of the weirs following overtopping events
 - ii. monitoring for loss and recruitment/reestablishment of riparian vegetation on the banks of the Town Storage
 - iii. monitoring the spread of invasive plant species and changes to the composition of native ecosystems on the banks of the Town Storage.
 - (b) The PCMP must:
 - i. provide for inspection and monitoring reports at suitable intervals for a period of 10 years
 - ii. be made available to Queensland Government department(s) where requested
 - iii. include alert and action component which will enable corrective measures to be taken if:
 - excessive erosion, scouring, and/or bank destabilisation is observed
 - excessive loss of riparian vegetation and/or lack of natural recruitment and reestablishment is observed
 - elevated presence of invasive plant species and/or evidence of environmental weeds out-competing and displacing native species.
 - (c) Rectify any impacts identified through the PCMP alert and action component of the report.

Project Approvals

- Amend Council's water licence to impound additional water (approved)
- Amend Council's water licence to take additional water (approved)

Ephemeral, braided channels



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GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA



Floodplain - dry



Floodplain - wet



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Anabranch 4



Monday 28 September 2026

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Anabranch 3



Monday 28 September 2026

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Town Weir



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Anabranch 1



Monday 28 September 2026

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GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA

Anabranch 2



Monday 28 September 2026

Isisford Weir Barcoo River

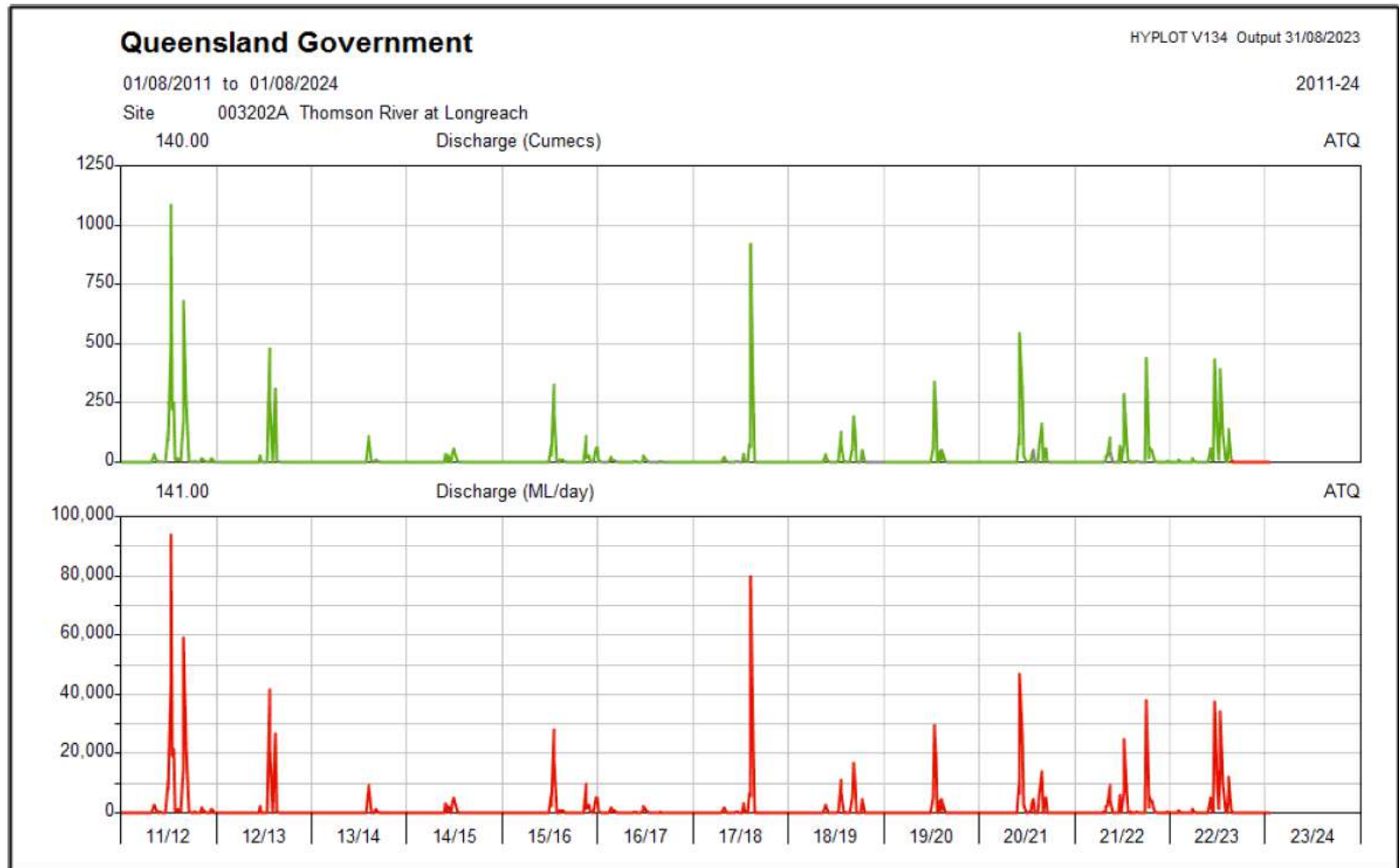
*Completed in 2023
by Longreach Regional Council*



Downstream impacts

- 9 significant flow events in 12 years
- 300-1100 cubic metres per second (cumeecs)
- 26,000 ML of water per day over the weirs
- Impounding will only store extra 930 ML
- Equivalent to less than one hour's flow
- Or 1/28th of daily flow

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GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA



Downstream impacts

- River flows only occur on average for approximately 38% of the time, with the system experiencing no flow for 62% of time
- It is estimated fish can only migrate in flows larger than about 150m³/s
- This occurs approximately 4% to 5% of the time (or approx. 10% of the time of flow)

Downstream impacts

- The most common fish within the Thomson River upstream of the weirs are the Bony Bream, Sleepy Cod, Golden Perch (Yellowbelly) and Australian Smelt. However, the most relevant area for consideration of fish passage is expected to be the location downstream of the Town Weir where a more limited range of species were encountered (per Table 2.1).
- There was a total of 1547 fish surveyed downstream of the Town Weir, within Thomson River (main channel), upstream of Fairmont Weir, and at Oma Waterhole.
- There were 21 fish surveyed downstream of the Town Weir compared to 1233 fish surveyed within Thompson River itself, hence there are minimal fish expected downstream of the weirs compared to fish seen within Thomson River.
- Of the 21 fish surveyed downstream of the Town Weir, 14 were Silver Catfish, 4 were Bony Bream, 2 were Spangled Perch and 1 was a Hyrtl's Catfish.

LONGREACH REGIONAL COUNCIL GOVERNANCE - ROUND TABLE MEETINGAGENDA

Fish Species	Common Name	Fish Size Range	Migration Characteristics
<i>Porochilus argenteus</i>	Silver Catfish	145-230 mm	<i>Porochilus argenteus</i> , commonly known as the silver catfish or silver tandan, exhibits migratory behaviours primarily in response to seasonal flooding in Australia's arid interior regions. These migrations are crucial for accessing breeding habitats and maintaining connectivity between isolated water bodies.
<i>Nematalosa erebi</i>	Bony Bream	14- 280 mm	Reproductive strategy of the species is non-reliant on flow. Usually, one of the first species to colonise newly inundated areas. Migration movements are more driven by spatial/temporal availability of detrital/microalgal food.
<i>Leiopotherapon unicolor</i>	Spangled Perch	90-185 mm	A highly mobile freshwater species native to Australia, renowned for its extensive dispersal capabilities. During flooding events, individuals can travel upstream, downstream, and laterally at rates exceeding 9.4 km per day, with some movements surpassing 300 km. This adaptability enables the species to colonize temporary water bodies, including wheel ruts and shallow overland flows, particularly after rainfall.
<i>Neosilurus hyrtlii</i>	Hyrtl's Catfish	155-290 mm	Data is scarce; however they have been observed migrating upstream during flow events, particularly in autumn following late summer flooding. This movement is thought to be associated with reproduction.

Removal of Fish Passages

- Fish movement will continue to occur through natural and regular flood events, downstream passage over smooth spillway surfaces, and the existing braided channel network of the Thomson River system.
- With these features and the regular flooding, there's less concern about fish movement, as the existing system already supports their movement effectively without needing extra fish passages.

Removal of Fish Passages

- Given the more hydrologically isolated nature of the streams on which Anabranh Weirs 1-4 are located, fish passage structures are considered not to be warranted for these structures as part of the project."
- The species known to inhabit these waterways are not dependent on passage past these specific barriers under all flow conditions to complete their life cycles, providing they can access and reach refuge areas during the dry season

Source: Aquatic ecology assessment done by NGH October 2023

Fish Passage – Impact on Project

- Amendment to designs
 - Raise weirs (current design) by approximately 150mm to allow for fish passages. Approximate 12-month delay; or
 - Lower water level by 150mm (approx.) therefore reducing effective storage.
- Amendment to MID and RIDA approvals
 - Approx. 12 months to allow for stakeholder consultation and design iterations
- Financial impact: **\$2.257Mil** (previously estimated to be \$300K for environmental offsets / fishways)
 - Excavation and Earthworks: \$717,600
 - Materials and Installation: \$1,5410,000
 - Excludes ongoing O&M costs

Environmental Commitment

- 1.64 hectares of vegetation offsets.
- A commitment to plant ten replacement trees for every tree removed.
- Habitat enhancement for aquatic species through increased inundation of suitable fish habitat.
- Net Zero project delivery through carbon offsetting.
- Removal of obsolete river infrastructure at Apex Park.
- Ongoing catchment stewardship and engagement with Traditional Owners, environmental groups and local stakeholders.

Lake Eyre Basin Consultation

2023 Regulatory Impact Statement for Qld LEB

Key themes:

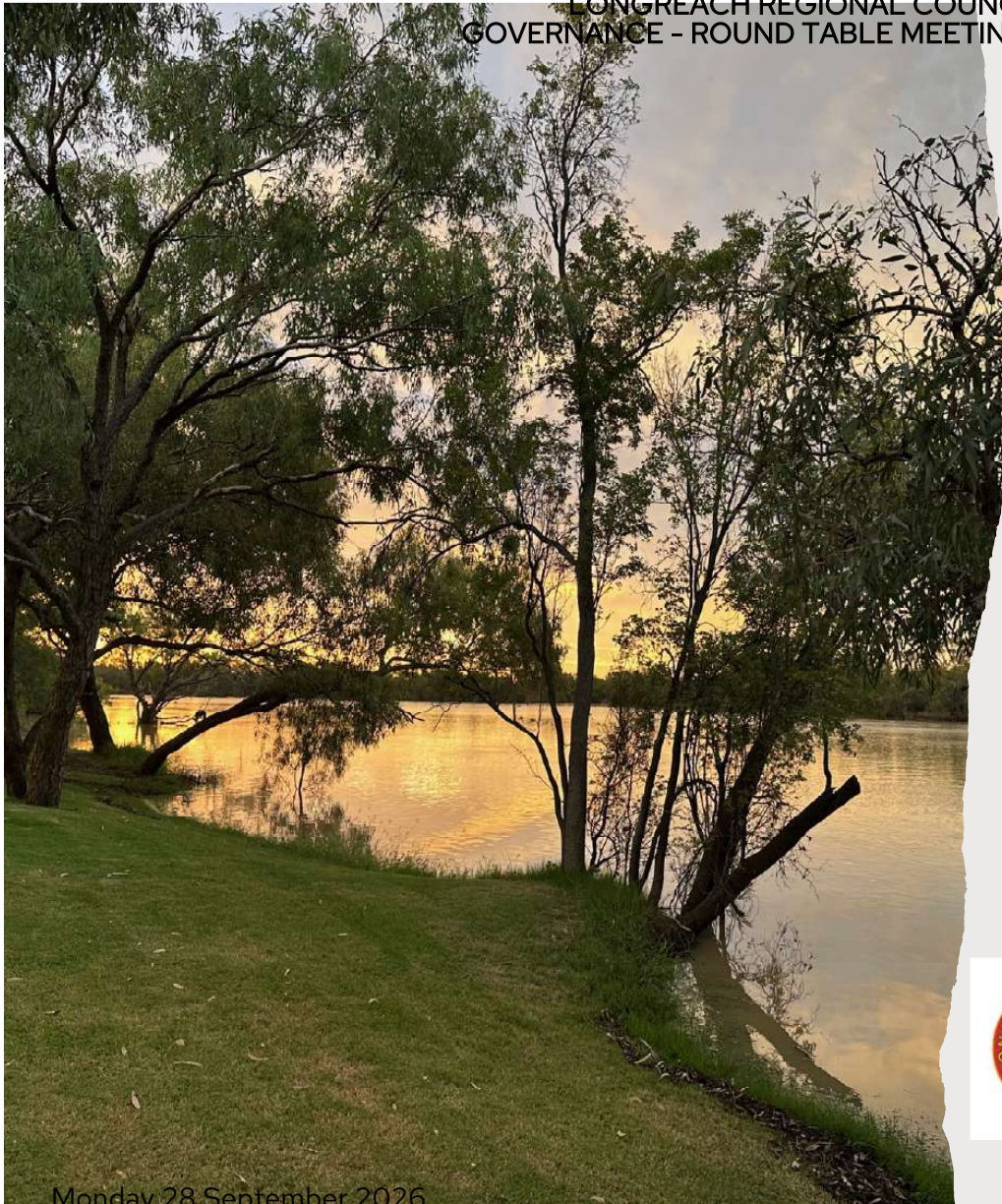
- Environmental threats from oil and gas mining
- Retain flood plains for organic farming
- Maintaining water quality – community & tourism
- Limiting the excessive take of water
- Sustainable economic development
- Protection of riparian vegetation

Lake Eyre Basin Consultation

March 2026

Key themes:

- Retain flood plains for organic grazing
- Limiting the excessive take of water
- Sustainable economic development
- Indigenous participation



Thank you



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

5 Late Items

Nil for this meeting

6 Closure of Meeting