



**Longreach
Regional Council**
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

SEPTEMBER 2024 - EDITION 21

My Garden

August saw us host our second 'My Garden' Competition with judging taking place on gardens across the Region. The quality of the gardens this year was outstanding, with incredible diversity and creativity on display.

It's truly inspiring to see what our gardeners have achieved, especially given the challenges of our harsh outback conditions.

Maintaining a beautiful garden in the West isn't always easy, gardens are often a reflection of their creators, and we've been fortunate to experience the unique personalities behind these gardens. From meticulously planned layouts to stunning tomato crops, vibrant flower beds, and pristine spaces, each garden is a winner in its own right.

We are excited to announce the proud winners! A huge congratulations to all participants.

2024 Garden Competition Winners:

- ♦ **Best Use of Native Plants:** Muddy Duck Tourist Park
- ♦ **Best Corporate/Community Garden:** Ilfracombe Caravan Park
- ♦ **Highly Commended:** Mitchell Grass Retreat
- ♦ **Best Vegetable Garden:** Gray Gilliland
- ♦ **Highly Commended:** Ilfracombe State School
- ♦ **Best Flower Garden:** Robert Anderson
- ♦ **Highly Commended:** Mackenzie Stewart
- ♦ **Best Rural Garden:** Erika Marsh, 'Rio' Station
- ♦ **Best Town Garden:** Elizabeth & Peter Clark
- ♦ **Highly Commended:** Jacob & Elissa Balke, Deborah Briskey
- ♦ **Champion Garden:** Erika Marsh, 'Rio' Station

A huge thank you to everyone who entered and shared their beautiful spaces with us! We look forward to seeing these gardens and maybe some new ones in next year's competition.



Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Rayner's Rundown

– with Mayor Tony Rayner



It was great to host Mayors and CEOs from across the Central West in Longreach this month for the RAPAD board meeting. RAPAD is our Regional Organisation of Councils, consisting of seven councils of the Central West. The meeting received updates from Water

Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland, the RAPAD Power Grid initiative, Western Queensland Public Health Network, Central West Hospital and Health Service, Outback Queensland Tourism Association, Tourism and Events Queensland, Department of Environment, Science and Innovation, and the Department of Resources.

The Central West Qld Pest Management Group, Outback Regional Roads and Transport Group, and RAPAD Water and Sewerage Alliance group meetings were also held in Longreach this month. We also held the inaugural CUC RAPAD Country University Centre board meeting. This will be a great initiative and I look forward to sharing more with you soon.

We travelled to Mt Isa for the annual Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) Assembly. The gathering brings together 24 councils from across Western Qld, providing a valuable platform to engage with experts and government representatives. The focus on infrastructure readiness, connectivity, and housing underscored the need for collaborative efforts to ensure our communities are well-equipped to face the challenges ahead.

There was an emphasis on future-ready infrastructure, particularly in light of the evolving demands on our road and water networks. Additionally, there were discussions on housing and the implications of the upcoming Brisbane 2032 Olympics for our region. The insights gained from these discussions will be instrumental as we continue to advocate for our priorities in the lead up to the state election in October.

Council offered up an exciting School Holiday Program in September, packed with a variety of activities for children aged 5 to 17. Highlights included a sports extravaganza, nature play, skatepark activities, a footy fun day, woodworking, and even an online fishing competition! A big thank you to our dedicated staff and everyone in the community who supported them to deliver this program.

Council has adopted a new Economic Development Charter and will soon be launching new supports for small businesses in our region. The charter outlines our approach to economic development and seeks to balance the different roles of Council, the community, and business. Also this month, we adopted our new small business friendly grants policy, which will be launching soon. Small business is the backbone of our economy, and we want to help provide the tools and information they need to thrive.

If you want to know more about anything we're doing, please find out directly from Council rather than anywhere else. Our team will gladly field any enquiry you make and connect you to the right person. Call us, or email us, check our website, follow our socials, or read this newsletter.

Overgrown land

Overgrown properties and unsightly premises can be both a nuisance and a danger to your neighbours and the community. Property owners and residents need to maintain their properties to prevent reptile harbourage, protect visual amenity, and reduce fire hazard. Apart from being unsightly, overgrown areas can attract snakes and other undesirable pests that have a detrimental impact on our environment, such as feral cats.

What is overgrown land?

Council considers a property to be 'overgrown' when there is an excess of vegetation, primarily long grass, on a property which has become unsightly and detracts from the visual amenity of the community or attracts reptiles, vermin and feral species.

Ratepayers and residents must ensure that private properties are not becoming overgrown. To allow our staff and contractors to keep the nature strips and lanes mowed, please remove all items that prevent access to the area. If you believe that a yard is

overgrown or contains objects or materials that may harbour reptiles or cause a visual nuisance, you may report this to Council. Our Regulatory Services Officers conduct periodic inspections and issue compliance notices for overgrown properties.

Where land is found to be overgrown, a courtesy letter is sent to the property owner requesting the problem be rectified within a suitable timeframe. Where no action is taken, a compliance notice requiring the problem to be rectified is sent. Failure to comply with the notice will result in Council issuing a works entry notice, stipulating a timeframe when Council will enter and carry out the required work, with the costs incurred being charged to the identified responsible person for the property (either the owner or occupier). Fines may also be issued for repeated or serious offences.

Residents who are unable to maintain their property are encouraged to contact Council's Regulatory Services team on (07) 4658 4111 for further advice.

Saving Water Tips

Residents are being encouraged to be water wise to assist in reducing water wastage. Below are some handy hints in being water wise:



General Household Tips

- ♦ To avoid wasting drinking water from a running tap, collect it in a bottle or jug and store it in the fridge until it is cool enough to drink.
- ♦ When you clean your fish tank, use the 'old' nitrogen and phosphorous-rich water on your plants.



Dishwasher Tips

- ♦ Look for dishwashers that have a National Water Conservation or WELS Label. The best water rating achieved by dishwashers is 5 star.
- ♦ Only use the dishwasher when you have a full load.
- ♦ Use the rinse-hold setting on the dishwasher, if it has one, rather than rinsing dishes under the tap.
- ♦ Catch running water whilst waiting for it to warm up. Use it to water plants, rinse dishes or wash fruit and vegetables.
- ♦ If you have a leaking tap, replace the washer or other components as required. Dripping taps can waste 30 – 200 litres of water per day.

Bathroom Tips

- ♦ Only fill the tub with as much water as needed. Use less for kids and pets.
- ♦ Check the temperature as you fill. Adding extra water to get the correct temperature after the bath is at the right level is wasteful.
- ♦ Regularly check your plug for leaks and replace as necessary.
- ♦ Bucket used bath water onto the garden, or use it to wash your car. Check that soaps and detergents in the water won't harm garden plants.
- ♦ Use a bucket to collect water while waiting for the shower to get hot.
- ♦ Leaking toilet cisterns waste litres of water each day. Check for leaks by putting a few drops of food dye in the cistern. If you have a leak, coloured water will appear in the bowl before the toilet has been flushed.

It's all about the name!

We're excited to find fresh and inspiring names for two key community spaces.

Longreach Skate Park

The Longreach skate park facility plan was adopted by Council this month. The plan details Council's vision for future improvements of the facility. This includes the proposed additions of a pump track, playground equipment, dog park, gardens, half basketball court and shading. We are searching for a dynamic and memorable name that embodies the energy and creativity of the community.

Refurbished back section of the Longreach Library

This newly updated area will serve as a workshop space, conference and meeting room and Disaster Coordination Centre. We're looking for a name that reflects its crucial role in community safety and preparedness.

Send your creative entries to liz.turner@longreach.qld.gov.au. We look forward to reading your inspiring ideas.



Minutes in a Minute

September 2024 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 19 September. Among other matters, the meeting:

- Received reports from the Mayor and CEO;
- Carried a motion moved by the Deputy Mayor to introduce discounts for the hire of halls and facilities.
- Adopted a new Economic Development Charter, and a new Small Business Friendly Grants policy.
- Adopted revisions to the Local Disaster management Plan, and a new Local Resilience Action Plan.
- Approved the Longreach Recreational Precinct Facility Plan, incorporating the Skate Park.
- Approved the acquisition and sale of land for Overdue Rates and Charges.
- Considered multiple community funding applications.

Community Donations - Individual

Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
Charlii Beard	Rugby League	11-15 September 2024	\$350.00
James Walker	Cross country	12-14 July 2024	\$350.00
Lachlan Pitt	Football (Soccer)	1-4 August 2024	\$350.00
Malcolm Strong	Australian Honours Ensemble Program	25 - 28 September 2024	\$350.00
Xander Flanagan and Jozette Jones	Track and Field Team	11-14 October 2024	\$350.00 each

Community Donations - Groups

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Ilfracombe Sport and Recreation Association	Ilfracombe Community Halloween Party	Financial \$1,721.85 In-Kind \$250.00
Isisford Racing Club Inc	Isisford Races Ross Cup 2024	Financial \$5,000.00
Longreach Jockey Club	2024 Longreach Cup	Financial \$5,000.00
Yaraka Sports and Progress Association Incorporated	Melbourne Cup Luncheon 2024	Financial \$1,450.0 In-Kind \$200.00

Our Council meetings are always open to the public, and you can find the full agenda and minutes online at: longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes.

COMMUNITY

Community Spotlight:

The Hidden Risks of Cyber Attacks

Cyber-attacks are often thought to target only large organisations, but they can and do affect local businesses and individuals as well. Here's a recent example from our community that underscores the importance of staying vigilant.

A local business owner recently faced a serious cyber incident. The owner sent an invoice via their accounting software one morning for a significant amount. By the due date, the funds hadn't arrived. When the business owner followed up with the customer, the customer revealed they had paid the invoice on the day it was received. Confusion arose when the business owner discovered that the payment had been made to a bank account different from their own.

Upon investigation, it was found that the invoice's bank details had been altered before it reached the customer, who received it only in the afternoon the day it had been sent in the morning. The altered details led the customer to unknowingly transfer funds to a fraudulent account. Despite contacting the bank, the customer received little help, as the funds had been directed to what appeared to be a valid account, which was then closed.

This troubling situation illustrates the sophistication of modern cyber-attacks. While the exact method of compromise—whether a hacked email account or an intercepted communication—is unclear, the consequences are evident. The business owner and customer had to adapt their processes, including avoiding listing bank details on invoices and verifying payment details by phone.

As technology advances, so do the tactics of cyber criminals. The rise in cyber-attacks, compounded by emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, increases risks for everyone. To safeguard yourself and your business, be cautious with email links, be selective about who you allow to access your computer remotely and stay informed about evolving threats.

If you've encountered a cyber-crime or have insights to share, please reach out. Your experiences can help our community better understand these threats and develop effective prevention strategies.



24/25

Projects in Focus

♦ Beersheba Pump Reconnection

The Beersheba pump is now reconnected and the fountain is back to its former glory. Along with the recently completed shade shelter, Beersheba Place is the perfect place for a relaxing walk.



Did you know?



Following our 'Dying to Know' session during Seniors Week, did you know that funeral services are provided by the Council. We are here to support you during the difficult time of losing a loved one, assisting with every aspect of funeral planning, whether you choose burial, cremation, or ashes interment.

Our services include:

- ♦ Meeting with family members to arrange the funeral service
- ♦ Supplying the coffin
- ♦ Organising the plaque
- ♦ Arranging newspaper and radio advertisements
- ♦ Registering the death with Births, Deaths, and Marriages and ordering the death certificate
- ♦ Liaising with the church representatives or funeral celebrant



You can also reserve a plot in any of our cemeteries by contacting our Administration Office on 4658 4111. Plots can be reserved for a single burial, a double burial, or a single burial with ashes interment. You can also reserve plots side by side.

Please remember, there is no right or wrong way to plan a funeral. You have the freedom to choose what feels right for you and best honours your loved one's memory.

OUT OF THE BLUES

Shandy



Marilyn

Brandy



Mini Marilyn

DATE Monday 14th October 2024

Scan to book tickets



6PM | \$10 PP Entry

Longreach Civic Centre

BYO Nibbles and Drinks



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**COMPULSORY
EVENT FOR
COUNCIL STAFF**

**Longreach Regional
Council Staff development
Day.**

**All Council Offices,
Libraries and Childcare
Centre will be closed.**

**BIG
DAY
IN
2024**

8.00AM - FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2024

Learn how to get ready for severe weather

Get Ready Queensland, the state's leading resilience building program, will host a pop-up at Central West Rural, Longreach between 9.00am and 12.00pm, Saturday 12 October to share tips and resources on preparing property and livestock for disasters.

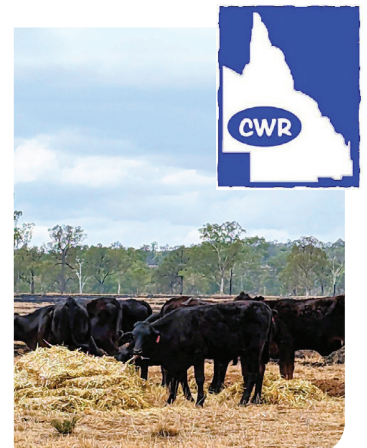
Come and chat to the team and local emergency services about staying safe this summer, check out emergency items for rural properties, and take home a copy

of the new Get Ready Queensland Livestock Severe Weather Emergency Plan.

Designed to help primary producers prepare their property, livestock and business for severe weather, the Get Ready Queensland Livestock Severe Weather Emergency Plan has been developed in collaboration with Longreach and other regional councils, as well as industry, Queensland's Department of

Agriculture and Fisheries, and Rural Aid. Make sure you stop by and say hi!

- ♦ **Disaster resilience pop-up - Get Ready Queensland Week 2024**
- ♦ **Central West Rural, 18 Swan Street, Longreach**
- ♦ **Saturday 12 October 2024**
- ♦ **9.00am - 12.00pm**



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