



**Longreach  
Regional Council**  
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

# Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

OCTOBER 2024 - EDITION 22



COMMUNITY

## Community Forums leave nothing off the table

Council has again been working hard to engage with residents directly through our bi-annual community forums, held across Yaraka, Isisford, Ilfracombe, and Longreach.

These forums provide an opportunity for residents to share their views and help shape the future of our region.

Like earlier in the year, we used a 'world-café' format, which encouraged lively discussions on key aspects of our community's development. With three tables each discussing a different aspect of our region's future.

The format allows participants to join the table that suits them or move between all the tables over the evening depending on their interests. Council finds the format useful in that it allows us to hear from more people than would otherwise come forward in a larger group setting.

From infrastructure and services to social cohesion and economic growth, the feedback gathered during these sessions has been invaluable.

The insights from these forums are already informing our plans and decisions as we continue to work towards a sustainable and thriving region.

For those who couldn't attend the forums, we encourage you to share your thoughts with us at any time. You can contribute your ideas through our website or by reaching out to your Councillors directly.

**Your voice is vital to ensuring that  
we continue to meet the unique needs  
of our diverse community.**

Stay tuned for updates on how we are incorporating your feedback into our plans, and we look forward to your participation in future forums.

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



As October unfolded, our region continued to thrive with exciting developments, community events, and strategic initiatives.

On a community level, a big thank you goes out to the organisers of the Longreach Rodeo and Thomson River Festival. It was wonderful to see such strong local support for this event, which brought our community together for a weekend of celebration. A big congratulations also to the organisers of the Flyers Ball, held at the start of the month. Events like these are vital for maintaining our community spirit, and it's always great to see so many residents getting involved.

We've been working hard to engage with our community directly through our bi-annual community forums, held in Yaraka, Isisford, Ilfracombe, and Longreach. Using a 'world-café' format, residents were able to discuss key aspects of our region's future, and the feedback we received has been invaluable. If you couldn't attend, remember you can still share your thoughts with us anytime via our website or by contacting any of your Councillors directly.

Water security remains a top priority, and with the election looming it was great to secure

a significant commitment from David Crisafulli and Deb Frecklington during their visit to Longreach. They've pledged to match the Miles government's funding for our water security project, along with additional contributions. This is a huge step forward in ensuring the longevity of this critical resource for our community. By the time you read this the election will be over, but whatever the outcome, Council prides itself on being apolitical; working constructively with both sides of the isle.

We had a constructive 'Doing Business with Council' workshop this month, discussing procurement opportunities with local suppliers. We also held our first Quarterly Business Breakfast, a new initiative designed to help local business owners connect with Council and each other. The event gave us an opportunity to share insights from our Economic Development Charter and introduce our new Small Business Friendly Grants Program.

This program offers up to \$2,000 in matched funding to help local businesses develop or upgrade their websites, a valuable tool in today's digital age. Without a local Chamber

of Commerce, events like this are essential for fostering collaboration and innovation among our business community.

Council also held its annual Big Day In, where employees receive training and professional development. It's the one day each year where our whole team gathers in the same place at the same time. Our offices and libraries were closed for the day, and we appreciate your understanding as we use this day to ensure our team is well-prepared to continue delivering high-quality services to the region.

It's never too early to nominate someone for an Australia Day award! Whether it's a friend, neighbour, colleague, or community leader, many individuals and groups make extraordinary contributions to the lives of others. Nominations are now open, and you can find more information at [longreach.qld.gov.au/awards](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/awards).

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information about anything happening in our region, feel free to reach out to me or any of the Councillors directly.

## Longreach Skate Park

Council has made significant strides in enhancing community facilities by adopting the Recreational Precinct Facility Plan (Skate Park) during its September meeting. Following this, a grant application was submitted to the Growing Regions Program to secure possible funding for upgrades to the existing Longreach Skate Park. The exciting proposal will contain the key components of a shaded playground,

fitness elements, pump track, dog park, half basketball court and botanical walkway with accessible pathways. These new features are designed to enhance social inclusion, promote physical activity and improve the town's liveability. This funding application if successful would transform the site into a vibrant community hub, offering high-quality recreational opportunities for locals and the numerous visitors attracted to Longreach.

The emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility and a diverse range of activities will ensure that the area is welcoming for people of all ages and abilities, supporting the town's amenity, liveability and social connections.

Council expects to learn whether its funding application has been successful sometime in the new year.







## Quarterly Business Breakfast breaks down barriers

Council hosted the first edition of its new Quarterly Business Breakfast in October, presenting its new Economic Development Charter and small business supports to the business community. The lack of a regional chamber of commerce is identified in the charter as a challenge, and the new business breakfast series is part of Council's response.

Speaking at the event, officers said that creating an opportunity for networking was one thing Council could do that would otherwise be the work of a business chamber. It is hoped that providing opportunities for businesses to share and learn from each other may lead to better coordination and representation among local businesses.

The breakfast gathering heard all about Council's new Small Business Friendly Grant program, the first round of which is aimed at website development. Council would like more local businesses to have an online presence, and the grant is designed to help businesses achieve this.

Also speaking at the event was Paul Misipeka, Small Business Financial Counsellor for the region. He outlined the services provided by the state government funded program, which offers confidential and impartial advice to businesses who want to improve their financial performance.

In addition to the new Quarterly Business Breakfast, Council also sends a monthly Small Business Update to businesses via email, featuring handpicked information, resources, and funding opportunities relevant to our region. For more information about any of Council's economic development initiatives, visit [longreach.qld.gov.au/economy](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/economy).



## Minutes in a Minute

### October 2024 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 17 October. Among other matters, the meeting:

- ♦ Received reports from the Mayor and CEO
- ♦ Established a 50% locals discount on pool fees in Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka
- ♦ Set Council meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year
- ♦ Received the first quarter report on the 2024-25 Annual Operational Plan
- ♦ Adopted the Quarterly Budget Review
- ♦ Adopted the Longreach Walking Network Plan
- ♦ Considered multiple community funding applications.

#### Community Donations - Individual

Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
Erika Holland, Jaylie Miller, Jozette Jones	13-19 years track and field State Championships	11-14 October 2024	\$350.00 each

#### Community Donations - Groups

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Men's Shed Inc	Longreach Men's Shed Project	Financial \$5,000.00
Longreach School of Distance Education P & C Association	'Star Warts' the Musical	Financial \$5,000.00
Outback Independent Living	Outback Disability Expo	Financial \$4,600.00 In-Kind \$400.00
Our Lady's Parents and Friends	Celebrating 125 years	Financial \$4,600.00 In-Kind \$400.00

#### Sponsorship

Organisation	Event/Project	Event Date	Grant Approved
Opera Queensland	Festival of Outback Opera	13-19 May 2025	Financial \$10,000.00 In-Kind \$176.00

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](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes).



# Christmas magic is in the air!



We invite you to share in the joy of the season with Longreach Regional Council's exciting Christmas festivities this year!

Get into the Christmas spirit with these events.

## A NOT-SO-SILENT NIGHT



**Date:** Tuesday, December 3rd

**Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Edkins Park

## LIGHT UP YOUR COMMUNITY



Enter our 'Dinky Bullen Memorial' Christmas Lights Competition.

**Nomination forms:** available at [www.longreach.qld.gov.au](http://www.longreach.qld.gov.au)

**Nominations close:** Friday, November 29th

**Judging begins:** Monday, December 9th.

## CHRISTMAS TABLE CENTREPIECE COMPETITION



Show off your creativity by entering your festive centrepiece.

**How to enter:** Drop off your centrepiece at your local Council office or library. Please label it with your name, age group and contact number.

Alternatively, you can send a photo to [council@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@longreach.qld.gov.au)

**Entries close:** Friday, November 29th.

We can't wait to see your wonderful creations and celebrate the magic of Christmas together.

## Did you know?

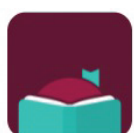


**Your Library membership opens the door to a treasure trove of eResources just waiting to be explored!**

Dive into an incredible selection of audiobooks, ebooks, and magazines—all at your fingertips. Getting started is easy! Simply obtain a membership from any of our three libraries (if you haven't already) and set up your PIN with the help of your friendly Librarian.

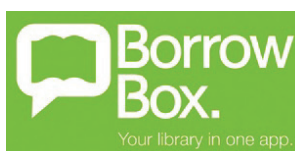
Imagine immersing yourself in bestselling eBooks or enjoying captivating eAudiobooks from your favorite authors, no matter where life takes you. With our user-friendly apps, you can download and enjoy your reads on your phone or smart device anytime, anywhere!

Your local Librarian is here to guide you through this digital adventure and so much more.



**Libby.**

The library reading app



## How many animals can I keep?

The number of animals you can keep is regulated by Councils Local Law. Animals must be kept in a way that does not cause a noise, smell or wandering or nuisance to others. Every community member has the right to live in a peaceful and orderly environment.

Animal	Number allowed without needing a permit	Permit application required
Dog	Detached single dwelling (house) – 2 dogs	Yes - For a third dog
	Multi-residential (unit sharing a wall/floor) – 1 dog	Not available
Cat	Detached single dwelling (house) – 2 cats	For a third cat
	Multi-residential (unit sharing a wall/floor) – 1 cat	Not available
Hens	5 (hens only) no Roosters in any designated town areas	Not available
Horse, donkey, sheep, goat, alpaca, llama or deer	1 only per 4000sqm (1 acre) in the Longreach designated town area  1 only per 1000sqm in the Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka designated town areas	Not available
Cow, bull or steer	Prohibited in any town designated area, unless kept on a Town Common Reserve (except Longreach Town Common)	Not available
Pig	Prohibited in any town area	Not available
Cockatoo, Galah or bird of similar size	2 only on an allotment in any designated town area (unless registered breeder)	Yes – only if breeder
Budgerigar, canary or other bird of similar size	Up to 20 on an allotment in any designated town area (unless a registered breeder)	Yes – only if breeder
Racing pigeons	Up to 20 in any designated town area (unless a registered breeder)	Yes – only if breeder
Rats	Up to 6 rats on an allotment in any designated town area	Not available

### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- ♦ The registration of an animal does not automatically ensure the animal is permitted to be kept on a property.
- ♦ Should Council receive complaints surrounding the number of animals at your residence, an animal nuisance complaint or council finds that there are excess animals at an address, then enforcement action will be undertaken, and you may receive a penalty infringement notice and/or be required to take steps to reduce the number of animals at your property to align with the local law requirements.
- ♦ Some exemptions apply for assistance, service, and rural working dogs (strict requirements need to be met), contact council for further information.