

# Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

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



Councillors and staff met with community at the Yaraka Community Forum recently.

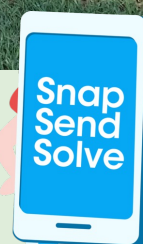
## What's inside

▶ Invasive plants

▶ Minutes in a Minute

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 (07) 4658 4111

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**Longreach  
Regional Council**  
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka



# Rayner's Rundown

– with Mayor Tony Rayner

Hello and welcome to another edition of our newsletter, updating you on the work of Council in the community. It looks as if these updates are reaching most letterboxes around two weeks after our Council meeting. Of course, if ever it doesn't arrive, or arrives late, you can view it online by visiting [longreach.qld.gov.au/newsletter](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/newsletter).

It's been an eventful month. Since our last newsletter, we've welcomed our new Councillor, Cr David Paterson, who took his Declaration of Office in a ceremony on 2 March. Cr Paterson has hit the ground running, with his first Council Meeting taking place this month in the same week as our bi-annual Community Forums, making for a busy start. Thank you to everyone who came to our forums – we enjoy sharing updates with our communities in-person.

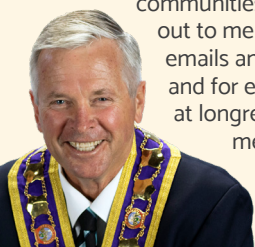
This month we also had the terrible news about the Pride of the Murray. I chaired a meeting of the Local Disaster Management Group to help brief the various state agencies involved. Queensland Police Service were the lead agency in charge, and as usual they've been doing an outstanding job. It was some relief to hear that foul play, thankfully, has been ruled out.

We're also fortunate that throughout the incident there's been no significant risk to public safety or our water supply. Diesel evaporates very quickly, rising to the surface, and our town water is taken from a depth of about six metres. Maritime Safety Queensland responded quickly, considering our distance from the coast, and had containment measures in place the next day. We had a rigorous testing regime in place even prior to this incident, and we've stepped up testing to keep an eye on things as the salvage operation continues.

I visited Brisbane and Canberra recently as part of the Leadership Group of the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC). We had meetings with state and federal ministers all week, to discuss some of the issues that our 22 member councils have in common. One of the top agenda items is housing, and WQAC has been co-developing Local Housing Action Plans for each of its members, including Longreach.

While in Brisbane and Canberra, I also had discussions to progress Council's project to raise the weirs on the Thomson River by one metre. It's our top strategic priority and I never miss an opportunity to promote it with government.

In addition to updating you here, I also have a fortnightly column in the Longreach Leader and spot on Radio 4LG. Between these regular updates, if you or anyone you know have questions about anything happening at Council or in our communities, I encourage you to reach out to me directly. You can find direct emails and phone numbers for me and for each of my fellow Councillors at [longreach.qld.gov.au/elected-members](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/elected-members).



## Pillowcase Program

A volunteer from Australian Red Cross delivered the Pillowcase Program to all the school children at Isisford State School, Ilfracombe State School and to the children in years 3 and 4 at Longreach State School and Our Lady's Catholic School on 8 and 9 March.



The Pillowcase Program is a disaster resilience education program designed to help children prepare psychologically and practically for an emergency or disaster event.

The interactive one-hour workshop was conducted in the classroom and encouraged students to be active participants in their own emergency preparedness. This program will reinforce disaster preparedness learnings which were provided by the Get Ready Queensland team when they visited these schools in 2021. This program has been developed with links to the Australian curriculum with children receiving resources including a pillowcase to decorate and take home to start their own personal emergency kit.

The program was funded by Get Ready Queensland. The cost of flights, accommodation and meals for the volunteer presenter are not met by Get Ready Queensland as this does not fall within their guidelines. These costs are being equally met by Longreach Regional Council and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council.

## Invasive Plants

**Sticky Florestina** and **Parthenium** were plants introduced into Australia through the importation of fodder. Even though Sticky Florestina is not yet a declared prohibited/restricted species, like Parthenium it is toxic to stock and can invade native pastures and timber areas. Both plants have a similar flower, however the Parthenium plant forms a rosette type leaf structure. For more information please visit <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/fact-sheets>

Our Regulatory Services Team can help identify and advise on treating mature or existing plants and follow-up treatment. For more information visit [longreach.qld.gov.au/rural](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/rural) or give us a call on (07) 4658 4111.

### Parthenium



### Sticky Florestina



## Community Forum

Councillors and senior staff toured the region recently for Council's bi-annual Community Forums. The forums are an opportunity for the community to interact directly with Council, hear about the investments being made in each of our communities, and share their ideas for the future of the region.

The March forums are particularly important because of their alignment with budget preparations, and Council's Chief Financial Officer, David Wilson, delivered a comprehensive update on the progress of the 2023-24 Budget. He outlined the process so far, and spoke about the 127 projects worth over \$27 million that Council have to prioritise over the next several years. Council has introduced ten new criteria for prioritising projects, and David explained how these criteria will aid objective decision making as Council prepares its budget.

The forums also heard from the Director of Infrastructure Services and Acting Director of Community & Cultural Services about key projects completed and underway in their respective areas. As always, there was the opportunity for the community to ask questions and share their thoughts on the work of Council. Councillors value these opportunities to discuss matters directly with the public, and encourage the community to share openly with them at any time.

The next round of Community Forums will be held from 11-13 September this year.



## BUDGET PROCESS

Preparation of the budget for the 2023/24 financial year is underway. The process began back in December as Councillors and the CEO decided on what they wanted to achieve with the budget. The focus for this budget is on water security, improving service delivery and remaining resilient in the face of uncertainty.

Putting the budget together is complex and Council uses inputs from the corporate plan, community feedback, service level reviews and asset management plans to achieve the best outcome for the community. Over the next few months, Councillors, the CEO and managers will be conducting several workshops to refine the budget to provide the best value for money for ratepayers in an environment of high inflation. The budget is scheduled to be completed and adopted on the 29th of June 2023.



# Minutes in a Minute

## March 2023 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 16 March. Highlights of the meeting include:

- ♦ Cr Dale Bignell was appointed to Council's Audit and Risk Committee, filling a vacancy left by former Cr Martin.
- ♦ Cr David Paterson was appointed to Council's Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee, replacing Cr Bignell.
- ♦ Nine community members were also appointed to the Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee for a term of two years.
- ♦ Council endorsed the Local Housing Action Plan prepared by the Western Qld Alliance of Councils, which will form part of the Queensland Housing Strategy 2021-2025.
- ♦ Council agreed to provide a concession to the Longreach Bowls Club for water charges which were in excess of the Club's actual usage of water.
- ♦ Council provided in-principle approval for a new storage shed at the Longreach Netball Complex, subject to funding approval.

### Mayoral Donations

Organisation/ Individual	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Jaylie Miller	13-19 year's North West Swimming	\$350.00
Jaylie Miller	13-15 year's North West Netball	\$350.00
Kobe Jackson	13-15 year's North West Netball	\$350.00
Laylah Williamson	13-15 year's North West Netball	\$350.00
Max Bruggemann	13-19 year's North West Swimming	\$350.00

### Community Donations

Organisation/ Name	Event/Activity	Grant Approved
Isisford Barcoo Recreational Fishing Association Inc	Isisford Fishing Competition	\$5,000.00
Isisford Sheep and Wool Show Association	Isisford Sheep and Wool Show	\$5,000.00
Longreach Netball Association	Longreach Netball Coach and Umpire Development Workshops	\$1,050.00
Australian's Stockman's Hall of Fame Crampdraft Association	Australian's Stockman's Hall of Fame National Crampdraft	\$5,000.00

## Spotlight on...

Cr David Paterson is a proud local, having lived in the region his whole life. As an experienced primary producer, Cr Paterson has been a strong regional voice on rural land and pest management matters over the past decade – through his service on Council advisory committees and as a founding member of the Westland baiting syndicate. A graduate of the Longreach Pastoral College, Cr Paterson has also been involved in numerous regional sporting groups, including tennis and polocrosse, and is a founding member and twice president of the Isisford Sheep and Wool Show.



His experience as Deputy Chair of the Wild Dog Advisory Committee, and later as Chair of the merged Rural Lands and Pest Management Advisory Committee, led him to consider nominating for Council. Cr Paterson was elected at the Longreach Regional Council Councillor By-election in 2023 and attended his first Council meeting in March this year.



### ◆ Longreach Showground Audio Upgrade

- Users and visitors will receive the benefit of a more powerful audio system at the Longreach Showground to improve the quality of music and commentary. The project consisted of replacing the existing speakers and amplifier to more powerful alternatives. The project was supported by the federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

### ◆ Civic Centre Internal Painting

- The Longreach Civic Centre is currently receiving a welcome change to its internal appearance. The painting of neutral colours will create a more modern and light atmosphere to the centre which will allow the space to suitably accommodate any event or occasion. The project was supported by the federal Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



### ◆ Kite Street Pave and Seal

- The Construction Crew has started works on the Pave & Seal of Kite Street. This project is supported by the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program which is funded by the federal government.



### ◆ Longreach-Jundah Road Pave and Seal

- The Construction Crew has commenced works on the Longreach Jundah Road. This project is funded under the Minor Works Performance Contract (MWPC) under the Queensland Main Roads Department. The project consists of 8km of pave and seal upgrade and widening, also including culvert replacement.

### ◆ Water and Sewerage

- As part of the maintenance program, the water treatment operators performed cleaning of the launder trays in the clarifier tanks at the Longreach Water Treatment Plant. The clarifiers are part of the water treatment process and by keeping the launders clean, we are able to improve the water quality entering the filters. The cleaning takes place every four months and helps to improve the final water quality when it reaches our households. Due to the height of the clarifiers, a crane is used to access the launders and safely perform the work.

## TOPOLOGY

Topology is an internationally renowned, award-winning arts organisation. They are leaders in the defining aspects of creativity and collaborate across style and art form boundaries. Topology believes that everyone has the power to be creative and supports this through their Creative Academy and Growing Creative Communities programs.



Supported through the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Isisford and Ilfracombe were able to spend a full day workshop with artists from Topology, learning about different instruments, playing, being creative and even writing and performing their own songs. In Isisford it was all about annual fishing competition and in Ilfracombe, the theme was all the animals you can find around town. Both schools will have the chance to perform their original songs at an evening event later in the year when Topology presents their Queensland stories.

## Did you know?

2,662 kilometre of rural roads are the responsibility of our infrastructure team. This is the same distance as travelling to Sydney and back.

## Easter

Saturday 1 April  
Wool Pavilion - Showgrounds  
8.00am - 11.00am

- Craft Corner
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Markets



### TALENT IDENTIFICATION

**TALIQUA CLANCY**

Dual Olympian and Tokyo 2020 Beach Volleyball Silver medalist



**YOU FOR 2032**

Queensland Academy of Sport



Queensland Government

It is time to take the challenge: register online and show Queensland Academy of Sport that you have what it takes!

The #Youfor2032 Talent Identification Program could be your path to success. Whether you're an experienced athlete or just starting out, they want YOU in the quest for the best ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games - sign up today at [qld.gov.au/youfor2032](http://qld.gov.au/youfor2032).

**Sing-up for the testing in Longreach on the 12 April at the Netball Courts at the Longreach Showgrounds from 3.30-5.30pm!**

Visit [qld.gov.au/youfor2032](http://qld.gov.au/youfor2032) for more information on testing location and eligibility.

**ANZAC DAY**

25 April  
2023

Lest we forget  
Dawn and day services in  
all towns.



[longreach.qld.gov.au/events](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/events)



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