



**Longreach  
Regional Council**  
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

# Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

AUGUST 2024 - EDITION 20

## Flowing Forward: \$18.6 Million Boost Secures Longreach's Water Future

**Council is proud to announce a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to secure the future of our community's water supply.**

As part of the Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions (WISER) initiative, \$18.6 million of funding to upgrade to our water infrastructure has been approved, marking a transformative step toward ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply for Longreach and the surrounding areas.

This ambitious project will see the complete rebuilding and raising of the town's five weirs by one metre, with the addition of fish passages to support local ecosystems. New water mains will be installed, and household smart meters will be introduced, all aimed at enhancing water efficiency across the region. These improvements are expected to increase our water storage capacity by 900 megalitres and reduce water loss by 245 megalitres each year.

The project is made possible through a collaborative funding effort, with \$5 million contributed by the Australian Government through the National Water Grid Investment Fund, \$7 million from the Queensland Government, and \$6.6 million over two years from Council's capital program.

The Longreach Water Security for Growth project is about much more than infrastructure; it represents a critical investment in the future of our community. By securing a stable and increased water supply, we are improving the quality of life for our residents,



From left to right: Cr Dale Bignell, Cr Tracy Hatch, Cr Leonie Nunn, Mayor Tony Rayner, Cr Nikky Gay, Cr Tony Emslie, Cr Andrew Watts.

supporting the growth of local industries, and enhancing the appeal of Longreach as a destination for visitors.

Furthermore, the project will provide a welcome economic boost to our region.

Construction is slated to begin in the 2024-25 financial year pending regulatory approval, with careful planning to ensure minimal disruption during the summer wet season. We are committed to keeping the community informed as the project progresses and will provide regular updates on its development.

Mayor Tony Rayner expressed his deep appreciation for the support from both the Australian and Queensland

Governments, highlighting the vital role this investment will play in the future of Longreach.

**"The project will not only increase water storage but also improve efficiency across our water network, ensuring a reliable supply for our growing population and thriving tourism industry.**

**"This project is a testament to what can be achieved when all levels of government work together towards a common goal. We look forward to the positive impact this investment will have on our community for years to come."**

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

Council was thrilled this month to be able to announce an \$18.6 million water infrastructure upgrade under the Water Infrastructure for Sustainable and Efficient Regions (WISER) initiative! This vital project, supported by the Australian and Queensland Governments, will secure Longreach's water future and enhance liveability for our community. As part of the project we're rebuilding and raising the town's five weirs by one metre, adding 900 megalitres of storage, and installing new water mains and household smart meters reducing water loss by 245 megalitres per year.

This project, set to begin this financial year subject to regulatory approval, will create local jobs and future-proof our water supply, ensuring Longreach continues to thrive for residents, industries, and visitors alike. A big thank you to our team and all of our funding partners for their support in making this happen.

It's always pleasing when we announce a program and it becomes oversubscribed - it's a great problem to have! The response to our Active Women and Girls program, which was announced this month, has been overwhelming. It's for women aged 14 and above, beginners through to the experienced athlete, and is completely free. It will run from the start of September through to the end of November 2024, with a recap in February 2025. Officers are working on how to extend the program given the unprecedented demand, but it looks like some late respondents will unfortunately miss out.

Our Seniors Month program was also a hit this month. A big thank you to all the seniors who joined us for morning tea in Isisford park with fresh pancakes. Our seniors enjoyed a morning tea in Longreach with our littlest citizens at the Childcare Centre, a morning of craft activities at the Longreach Arts and Crafts Centre, and a game of Bingo and lunch at the Ilfracombe Recreation Centre. Seniors month is always well supported, and it was great to see a variety of activities in this year's program.

I am always humbled in the presence of our Vietnam Veterans, and I thank all the community members who attended Vietnam Veterans Day this month and showed their support. A big thank you to the RSL sub-branch for the arranging the commemoration in Edkins Park.

Council has started a monthly Small Businesses Update, as part of its participation in the Small Business Friendly program. This is something we're trialling on a monthly basis, going out via email to small businesses in our region. We recently signed the Small Business Friendly Charter, and as part of our commitment, we'd like to share useful information about resources and opportunities designed to support and empower small businesses in our region. You can find out more in this edition of IILY.

If you ever want to know anything at all, reach out to one of us - or contact Council directly on (07) 4658 4111 (24hrs), or via email to [council@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@longreach.qld.gov.au).



COMMUNITY

## Celebrating Seniors Month in Longreach: A Month of Fun and Connection

August in Longreach has been a vibrant celebration of Seniors Month, a time eagerly anticipated by the community. Each week, seniors have been treated to a variety of activities designed to foster connection, exploration, and enjoyment.

The month kicked off with a delightful Pancakes in the Park event in Isisford, where the Isisford P&C provided a delicious spread of pancakes with all the trimmings, accompanied by unlimited coffee and tea. The weather was perfect, with blue skies and pleasant temperatures, making it an ideal setting for a relaxing morning in the park.

Next, seniors visited the Longreach Childcare Centre, where they engaged with the children in a series of fun activities. Highlights included freeze dance, science projects to celebrate Science Week, and plenty of laughter, creating a joyful intergenerational experience.

The Longreach Arts and Craft Centre was the venue for another memorable morning, where seniors participated in craft activities and a "Dying to Know" conversation. This informative session provided a safe space to discuss final arrangements and address any related questions.



The month concluded with the highly anticipated Bingo session at the Ilfracombe Rec Centre. Seniors enjoyed a lively game of Bingo, with several participants leaving with prize packages and smiles, capping off a month full of joy, connection, and conversation.

Seniors Month has been a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together, share experiences, and celebrate the contributions and spirit of our senior citizens.



## Secure your load for a safer road

Driving through town or to our waste facilities it is your responsibility to have your load secured. Having unsecured loads can create debris and litter as well as create a danger to other cars or pedestrians on the road.

Therefore, before driving off secure your load:

- ♦ Tie it down with rope, netting, or straps.
- ♦ Tie large items directly to your vehicle or trailer.
- ♦ Consider covering the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.
- ♦ Don't overload your vehicle or trailer.
- ♦ Always double check!





## Small Business Update delivered monthly

Council has launched a new initiative: a monthly Small Business Update, as part of our commitment to the Small Business Friendly program. This update, sent via email, is designed to provide small businesses in our region with valuable information, resources, and opportunities. Following our recent signing of the Small Business Friendly Charter, we're eager to support and empower our local businesses.

We don't want to bombard readers - we're hoping a monthly update is enough to be useful, without being an annoyance. Small business is the backbone of our economy, and we want to help provide them with the tools and information they need to thrive.

Sign up to the update and view past editions by visiting [longreach.qld.gov.au/newsletter](https://longreach.qld.gov.au/newsletter).

## Longreach Commemorates Vietnam Veterans Day with Respect and Gratitude

Longreach paid tribute to its Vietnam War veterans on Sunday, 18 August 2024, with a solemn and heartfelt service held at Edkins Park. The event, which began at 10 a.m., honoured the sacrifices made by those who served and fell during the Vietnam War.

The service marked the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, a significant and poignant battle fought on 18 August 1966. This day serves as a reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of nearly 60,000 Australians who served over the decade-long conflict in Vietnam.

Attendees gathered at Edkins Park to remember and honour the veterans. The ceremony included moments of reflection and gratitude for the service members who gave their lives and those who returned home forever changed by their experiences.

Following the commemorative service, participants were invited to the Longreach RSL. This gathering provided an opportunity for the community to come together, share stories, and express their appreciation for the veterans' service. The Vietnam Veterans Day service in Longreach was a moving tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who served, ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured by the community.



## Minutes in a Minute

### August 2024 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Ilfracombe on 15 August. Among other matters, the meeting:

- ◇ Received reports from the Mayor and CEO
- ◇ Authorised Councillor representatives to attend the LGAQ Annual Conference and Western Queensland Alliance of Councils Assembly
- ◇ Received the recommendations of the Land and Pest Management Advisory Committee
- ◇ Adopted a new policy outlining Councillor roles in development matters
- ◇ Approved variations in the annual budget following a quarterly review
- ◇ Considered multiple community funding applications.

#### Community Donations - Individual

Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
Aiden Gesler	North West Soccer Team	31/7/2024 – 04/08/2024	\$350.00
Ashton Horston	Kokoda Challenge	13-14 July 2024	\$350.00
Max Bruggemann	Cross Country State Championships	1 June 2024	\$350.00
Sharon Calligaro	Districts Bowls Playoffs	31/8/2024 – 01/09/2024	\$350.00

#### Community Donations - Groups

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Bowls Club Inc.	Bowling green mower	Financial \$4000.00
Yaraka Campdraft and Rodeo Incorporated	Yaraka Campdraft Clinic	Financial \$3,076.00

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



## Australia Day 2025



#### Categories:

- Citizen of the year
- Senior achievement of the year
- Junior achievement of the year
- Community group or event of the year

**Do you know somebody  
deserving? Have you  
attended an  
amazing event? Do  
not wait until the  
last minute.**

**Nominate them today!**

**[LONGREACH.QLD.GOV.AU/AWARDS](https://longreach.qld.gov.au/awards)**





### ♦ Tallundilly Creek Floodway

The Longreach & Isisford Concrete crews are installing a new concrete floodway structure at Tallundilly Creek, Isisford. This project falls under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



### ♦ Longreach Squash Court Facility

The Longreach Squash Court Facility is receiving a facelift. The project includes a brand-new clubhouse, accessible toilets, a modern kitchen, and a fantastic new deck.

The facility will be closed to the public during the renovation period, which is expected to last a few months. The project is supported by the Minor Infrastructure Program.



### ♦ Galah Street Kerb replacement

The work on Galah Street for kerb replacement, pave and seal has started beginning of August. The team is currently in the process of excavating the kerb in preparation for the road base. The project is Government funded through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).



## Emergency Service Card

All rural properties in the Longreach Region should have received a letter from us with a blank emergency services card.

This is to assist Council in its disaster preparations and maintaining the capacity to support local communities including the grazing industry. We are intending to build up a database of local knowledge which will aid Council's situational awareness in a disaster.

Some of the possible natural disaster events which could impact the community include flooding, severe storms, bushfires, animal disease outbreaks and pandemics.

Should you have not received a letter yet or if you would like to send your filled version back, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Craig Neuendorf (Regional Recovery and Resilience Coordinator) either via email [craig.neuendorf@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:craig.neuendorf@longreach.qld.gov.au) or give him a call on 0428 967 989. We appreciate your help and support in this matter.



### Emergency Services Card

#### General Information

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rural Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

UHF Channel: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Occupants (age in brackets): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an RFDS kit? (please circle) Yes No RFDS Box No: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Closest Air Strip

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this airstrip RFDS approved? (please circle) Yes No

Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Landing Direction: \_\_\_\_\_

Length: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Neighbouring Properties

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal information is confidential and will only be used for purposes for which the information is relevant.

The Information Privacy Act 1988 (QLD) (IP Act) authorises us to collect this information.

**Longreach Regional Council**  
Isisford Isisford Longreach Taribel

**Queensland Government**

**get ready**  
QUEENSLAND

**Emergency Services**  
Police, Fire,  
Ambulance -  
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RFDS - 1300 697 337

Ergon - 13 16 70

SES - 132 500

Any further enquiries,  
please contact  
Longreach Regional  
Council - (07) 4658 4111



Download the  
emergencyplus app

## Have you paid your Dog Registration?

Registrations expired 15 August!

**Registration Fees:**  
Desexed Dog: \$35  
Entire Dog: \$70  
Pensioner: \$35 (all dogs)  
[longreach.qld.gov.au/animals](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/animals)



## Rates notices have been issued and are due mid September 2024.

