



**Longreach  
Regional Council**  
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka

# Council news

Ilfracombe | Isisford | Longreach | Yaraka

MAR 2025 - EDITION 26

## Council praised for disaster response

Council has received strong praise from senior government officials and disaster management professionals for its effective and coordinated response to the widespread flooding that struck Central West Queensland in late March. The event, driven by exceptionally high rainfall and overland flows, left communities cut off, roads severely damaged, and emergency services stretched across multiple local government areas.

Council's Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) was activated early as reports of isolated properties began to emerge. Initially focused on coordinating essential resupply efforts within the Longreach region, the LDMG soon expanded its scope as the scale of the event grew. With the situation worsening in neighbouring Jundah, Council took on the added responsibility of receiving evacuees from the Barcoo Shire.

**According to several senior emergency officials, Longreach's response has stood out as a model for regional disaster management under pressure.**

An evacuation triage centre was quickly established at the Longreach Library, where evacuees arriving by helicopter and aircraft throughout the night were registered and supported with accommodation, meals, clothing, and access to welfare services. Council staff from across departments were mobilised to manage logistics and provide care for those displaced, with state disaster officials describing Council's response as calm, professional, and highly effective.

As rainfall continued and overland flows surged in from the north and east, attention turned to rising river levels within the Longreach region itself. The Thomson and Barcoo river systems presented serious risks, prompting additional contingency planning and inter-agency collaboration. Council's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) hosted daily briefings, including with the Bureau of Meteorology, which provided advanced satellite imagery, flood



forecasting tools, and hydrology advice. Local landholders and upstream property owners also played a critical role by sharing real-time information, which helped shape response strategies.

In Isisford, the Barcoo River peaked at major flood levels, cutting off from access to the town from the east. Downstream, the impact extended toward Yaraka, where many rural roads have been rendered impassable, isolating residents. The LDCC coordinated resupply efforts to these isolated areas and continues to manage logistics as emergency road repairs are planned and prioritised.

Council has advised property owners not to attempt road repairs using their own equipment, warning that unauthorised works can create underlying structural damage and delay permanent repair efforts.

Throughout the crisis, Council's response drew high-level attention. The region hosted visits from Queensland Premier David Crisafulli, Member for Gregory Sean Dillon, Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Emergency Management Minister Jenny McAllister, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. All acknowledged the professionalism of Council and its staff, with many noting the efficiency and professionalism of the disaster coordination centre.

continued page 2...





# Rayner's Rundown – with Mayor Tony Rayner

The simply unprecedented levels of rainfall experienced by the central west at the end of March, the damage and disruption, the challenge of the response, and the scale of the recovery - will live with our communities for a long time.

We have had incredible support from numerous state agencies, and from all levels of government. I've hosted Premier David Crisafulli, our local member Sean Dillon, Treasurer Jim Chalmers, the Federal Minister for Emergency Management Senator Jenny McAllister, and Prime Minister Albanese himself, who have all pledged their support. Each one of them have been impressed by the calmness and professionalism of our Local Disaster Coordination Centre team. That's one comment that the many senior disaster management professionals I've spoken with have shared. They've all told me that our Local Disaster Coordination Centre has functioned at an extremely high level and is a credit to our team.

I couldn't be prouder. The centre is staffed by Council employees from across our organisation. They now go

back to catching up on their day jobs and getting us back to business as usual. We also got compliments for our rapid response to repairing critical roads. I want to acknowledge the hard work of road crews who worked tirelessly through the event to inspect roads and repair them where conditions allowed.

We still have a long way to go. The widespread impact of this event will be felt by our communities, and communities like them throughout the central west, for a long time to come. While there's a lot of attention and goodwill focused on our communities right now, I urge people to be patient and prepare for a long recovery. Response to a disaster is intense and focused – but recovery poses an even greater challenge. One that communities face long after the sensational pictures and outpouring of sympathy fades into memory. I am ready for that challenge, and I know you are up for it too.

It was great to see Longreach host two major events in the midst of the response. It says something about

our resilience and ability to adapt. I'm talking of course, about the Matt Scott Cup, and the groundbreaking Rural Maternity Summit, with 177 delegates – both of which were very successful. The Maternity Summit also coincided with the opening of the brand-new renal unit at the Longreach Hospital. The renal unit is a huge win for our community, already improving care in our region, and the Maternity Summit is an example of the kind of conferences and events that we're hoping to have more of in our region in years to come. The Meetings Incentives Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) market is a focus for our region going forward, and we've been working with operators on strategies to engage more in this space.

As always, I'm here to answer your questions or share more about what Council is doing.

My contact details are available at [longreach.qld.gov.au/elected-members](http://longreach.qld.gov.au/elected-members). Alternatively, reach out to Council on (07) 4658 4111 or via email at [council@longreach.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@longreach.qld.gov.au).

## Council praised for disaster response

continued from page 1...

The coordination centre was managed by Council's Deputy Local Disaster Coordinator David Wilson (our Chief Financial Officer), supported by a multidisciplinary team drawn from across the organisation. These staff members, many of whom put aside their usual duties for weeks, were responsible for managing a complex range of tasks, from fielding community requests and coordinating emergency supplies to overseeing communications, logistics, and inter-agency coordination.

Council's infrastructure teams were also quick to respond. Road crews conducted inspections and undertook urgent repairs to critical transport routes wherever it was safe to do so. This swift work helped reconnect priority corridors and provided early access for emergency services.

Despite the strong start to recovery, Council emphasises that a long road lies ahead. Damage to roads and public infrastructure is extensive, and the social and economic impact of the floods will



be felt for months, if not years. While the response phase was characterised by urgency and concentrated resources, the recovery phase will require sustained community resilience, long-term planning, and continued support from all levels of government. Council is now working closely with state and federal agencies to promote recovery funding and support, for impacted residents, primary producers, and small businesses.

Council is also working to return to normal operations as quickly as possible, with many staff now balancing recovery responsibilities alongside their regular roles. While challenges remain, the response to date has demonstrated the capacity, professionalism, and determination of Council and the community.

## Road Maintenance Update

COMMUNITY

Council is currently attending to a high number of road-related issues across the region after the recent rain events. We kindly ask for your patience as our teams work to address these as quickly and safely as possible.

If you notice a road issue, please report it through the Snap Send Solve app. This helps us track and prioritise repairs effectively.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

[www.snapsendsolve.com](http://www.snapsendsolve.com)





# Morning Tea Celebrates Local Achievements in Longreach

Longreach Regional Council hosted a special morning tea this week at the Council offices to celebrate the outstanding contributions and achievements of several community members.

Among those recognised was the Longreach Archival and Historical Research Group, honoured for their dedicated work in preserving the history of the Longreach Cemetery.

Also celebrated was Xander Flanagan, a rising star in the local sporting scene, who has recently been accepted into the Wanderers Australia Rugby League Team. His selection is a testament to his hard work, talent, and commitment to the sport.

The morning tea also acknowledged Katherine Oliver, who was recently awarded a Banksia Award for her contributions to the Longreach Girl Guides.

Mayor Tony Rayner congratulated the honourees, saying, "It's important to celebrate the individuals and groups who help make our community stronger, richer, and more connected. Today's morning tea is just a small way of saying thank you."



l to r: Cr Leonie Nunn, Cr Tony Emslie, Mayor Tony Rayner, Barb Huff, Xander Flanagan, Katherine Oliver, Cr Andrew Watts, Cr Dale Bignell, Cr Nikki Gay, Cr Tracy Hatch.

## Did you know...

The public green spaces in our four towns cover an area equivalent to 227 football fields.

In every corner of our region, from parks to quiet community gardens, cemeteries and sporting ovals, these green spaces we enjoy are thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Horticulture Team.

The team's work covers a wide range of responsibilities, including planting, pruning, weeding, and mowing, ensuring that our green spaces remain safe, well-maintained, and vibrant areas for the use and benefit of our communities, tourists, and visitors to our region.

## Pool hours

The Isisford Pool will be closed for the Winter Season from Friday, 25 April 2025 and will reopen on Saturday, 20 September 2025.

For further information, please contact Council on 4658 4111 or [www.longreach.qld.gov.au/Services-and-Facilities/Swimming-Pools](http://www.longreach.qld.gov.au/Services-and-Facilities/Swimming-Pools)



## Minutes in a Minute

### April 2025 Council Meeting

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

- ◇ Received reports from the Mayor and CEO;
- ◇ Agreed to submit an application to the state government Country Roads Connect program;
- ◇ Approved a referral agency siting variation;
- ◇ Received an Project Management update; and,
- ◇ Considered the following community funding applications.

#### Community Donations - Individuals

Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
Quincey Osborne	Netball State Championships Caloundra	29/5 - 1/6/2025	\$350
Maggie Geiger & Lara Jackson	Netball State Championships Brisbane	12/5 - 18/5/2025	\$350 per person
Declan Rich	Track and Field State Championships	11/10 - 14/10/2024	\$350
Jaylie Miller	Netball State Championships	15/5 - 18/5/2025	\$350
Taya Miller	Central West Netball trials Hughenden	7/3 - 8/3/2025	\$350
Taya Miller	Netball State Championships	15/5 - 18/5/2025	\$350
Jimmy & Billy Cowley	State Championship Rugby League trials Gladstone	17/5 - 20/5/2025	\$350 per person
Carrie Woodfield	Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University State Honours Program Rockhampton	28/3 - 30/3/2025	\$350
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>

#### Community Donations - Groups

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Arts and Cultural Association	Purchase a Craft 100L Kiln with Automated Controller	Financial \$5,000

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).

# Disaster Recovery Information

Presenting information from official agencies

- Emergency assistance, financial support, and grants
- Emotional and mental health support
- Housing and legal advice
- Support for farmers and small businesses
- Floodwater safety and health information
- How to donate or volunteer safely



[longreach.qld.gov.au/recovery](https://longreach.qld.gov.au/recovery)



1800 173 349



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## Western Queensland Flood Event

As we navigate the aftermath of the 2025 Western Qld Flood Event, we want to remind you that there are numerous recovery assistance programs available to support those affected. The Longreach Regional Council has established a comprehensive recovery page on our website, where you can find detailed information on the various assistance programs, resources, and support available.

If you need specific information and are unsure where to go, please do not hesitate to reach out to Council for guidance and assistance. Additionally, we will keep our social platforms updated with the latest information, so please stay tuned for further updates.

The Community Recovery Hub is now operating from the former RAPAD Offices at the Masonic Lodge and are open from 9.00am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

**Queensland Housing Finance Loan**

REGIONAL TRIAL



### We're extending the income eligibility of the Queensland Housing Finance Loan

- ▶ Variable or fixed interest rate
- ▶ Minimum deposit of 2% of the purchase price
- ▶ No monthly account keeping fees
- ▶ No lenders mortgage insurance

✳ The 2-year trial is for people living in 45 rural and remote councils, earning less than \$201,000 per annum



Scan the QR code to check your eligibility or contact **1300 654 322** for more information.



## Home loan for regional Queenslanders

The Queensland Government is helping more Queenslanders living in country areas into home ownership so they can stay close to their families, jobs and community.

The Queensland Housing Finance Loan is for people who can afford to buy or build a home but are unable to get a loan through a bank or building society. The Queensland Government has extended the household income eligibility of the existing Queensland Housing Finance Loan to \$201,000 per annum for a 2-year trial, allowing more people in regional Queensland to apply for the loan. This trial is open to eligible people living in 45 councils across Queensland, including our area. Find out more about the Queensland Housing Finance Loan regional trial.

## Community Forums

**7 MAY**

**LONGREACH LIBRARY**  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**13 MAY**

**ILFRACOMBE REC CENTRE**  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**14 MAY**

**YARAKA TOWN HALL**  
12:30 PM - 3:00 PM



**14 MAY**

**ISISFORD TOWN HALL**  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM



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

