

Celebrating Seniors Month in Our Community

Seniors Month was a wonderful opportunity to recognise, celebrate and thank the older residents who contribute so much to the life of our community.

Across the month, locals came together throughout the region to enjoy a varied program of activities designed to encourage connection, wellbeing and fun.

The celebrations included social morning teas, bingo, craft activities, student performances, and dinner, giving seniors the chance to catch up with friends, meet new people and discover local services and supports. The events created a relaxed

and welcoming space where stories were shared, laughter was heard, and community connections were strengthened.

A highlight of the month was seeing people of all ages come together to acknowledge the knowledge, experience and generosity of our senior residents. Whether through volunteering, caring for family members, supporting local groups or simply being a friendly face in the neighbourhood, seniors play an important role in shaping the community we are proud to call home.

Seniors Month also serves as a reminder of the importance of staying socially

connected. Regular opportunities to participate in community life can help reduce isolation, support confidence and promote healthy, active ageing. Events such as these provide a meaningful way for residents to remain involved, valued and celebrated.

Thank you to everyone who attended, assisted, volunteered or helped promote the activities. Your support ensured the month was enjoyable and inclusive for all involved. We look forward to continuing to build on these connections and celebrating the achievements, stories and contributions of our seniors throughout the year.



Rates Notices have now been issued.

To receive the 10% discount, please pay by 17 September 2026.



Rayner's Rundown - with Mayor Tony Rayner

It was an honour to attend Vietnam Veterans Day in Longreach this month. Between 1962 and 1973 around 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam. During this time, 523 lost their lives, and 2,400 were wounded.

Vietnam Veterans' Day is commemorated annually on 18 August, which is the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. This year, in addition to paying tribute to all Vietnam Veterans, we marked the 60th anniversary of that famous battle.

I had the pleasure of officially launching 'The Long Reach of Service' a new Memoir by David Muir AM last weekend. It was great to celebrate David's remarkable life of service, from growing up in outback Queensland to his significant contribution to organisations including Crime Stoppers Queensland and Foodbank Queensland. The book captures not just one person's story, but a wider story of service, leadership, and commitment to community.

The book launch was held at the Qantas Founders Museum and hosted by the Flying Arts Alliance. At the launch I was able to

connect with Everal Compton AO, who many of you will remember was instrumental in the establishment of the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame. At 94 years young, he retains a strong connection to our region and it was good to catch up with him. It was especially fitting to launch it at the Qantas Founders Museum, given the strong connection between Longreach, service, and Queensland history. I'd encourage people who enjoy Queensland stories, memoirs, or accounts of community service to look out for David's book.

It's great to see progress being made on our water mains replacement program, with work continuing to renew ageing underground pipes and improve the reliability of the local water network. This is the kind of work people do not always see once it is finished, but it is essential to keeping basic services strong for the long term. Replacing older mains helps reduce the risk of leaks and breaks, improves water pressure, and gives Council a more dependable network to manage into the future.

At the end of the month, the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Mayor and I attended the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils

Assembly. The WQAC brings together 25 local governments across Western Queensland, covering a vast part of the State and giving our communities a stronger shared voice. Each year, the assembly gives councils the chance to speak directly with State and Federal decision-makers about the issues that matter most to our region, including roads, housing, connectivity, water security, and long-term sustainability.

These conversations are important because the challenges faced in Western Queensland are often different in scale, distance, and cost from those faced elsewhere. Working together through the WQAC helps make sure those realities are understood when funding, policy, and service decisions are being made.

My thanks again to everyone across the region who continues to work together, support one another, and keep us moving forward with purpose. 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. Alternatively, reach out to Council on (07) 4658 4111 or via email to council@longreach.qld.gov.au.



Minutes in a Minute August 2026 Council Meeting

Council met for its August Meeting at the Ilfracombe Council Chambers on 20 August. Among other matters, the meeting:

- ♦ Received reports from the Mayor and CEO
- ♦ Adopted the quarterly budget review
- ♦ Approved a Development Application for a Material Change of Use in Longreach
- ♦ Approved an application for works on Council owned land
- ♦ Adopted policies in the Finance and Communities directorates
- ♦ Received reports and recommendations from various Committee meetings
- ♦ Received various Director reports, including a Project Management update
- ♦ Considered the following community funding applications:

Community Grant - Individual

Organisation/Name	Event/Activity	Grant Approved
Cameron Suttleworth	State Touch Football Trials 10-14 June 2026	\$350
Abigail Marsh	Girls Rugby League State Championships 19-23 August 2026	\$350
Abigail Marsh	Girls Touch Football State Championships 12-16 August 2026	\$350
Annika Jackson, Isabella McDonald	Creative Generation Show 13-18 July 2026	\$350 each
		Total \$1,750.00

Community Grant - Organisation

Organisation/Name	Event/Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Golf Club	100 year anniversary	Financial \$4,918.00 In-kind \$0.00
Longreach Jockey Club	Longreach Cup, 26 September 2026	Financial \$10,000.00 In-kind \$0.00
		Total \$14,918.00

Our monthly 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

Councillor's Corner

Nikki's News



As a first-term Councillor, now halfway through our term, I wanted to clarify the role of a Councillor and what the community can reasonably expect from their elected representatives.

I have found the role interesting, challenging and rewarding, while drawing on my extensive State Government experience across three departments in which I have been employed.

One of the biggest misconceptions is the level of control Councillors have over Council's day-to-day operations. Councillors do not run the operational side of Council or direct day-to-day decisions.

Our role is primarily at a higher, strategic level. Collectively, Councillors set Council's direction, priorities, policies and budgets and make decisions on matters formally brought before Council.

We listen to residents, raise concerns, ask questions, seek information and advocate for action. However, individual Councillors cannot direct Council employees or overturn operational decisions. The CEO is responsible for Council's day-to-day management, with many decisions made by officers under delegated authority.

For me, being a Councillor is about listening, advocating strongly and working collectively to make decisions that positively shape the future of our region.

Council Staff Awards Day

On Friday 7 August, Council staff came together to celebrate the annual Staff Awards Day, a special occasion dedicated to recognising the hard work, dedication and team spirit of employees across the organisation.

The event provided an opportunity to acknowledge staff achievements, celebrate milestones and reflect on the important role Council employees play in supporting our community every day. From delivering essential services to helping achieve long-term community goals, the awards highlighted the commitment and care shown by staff in all areas of Council.

Staff Awards Day is also a valued chance for the whole team to connect, share stories and recognise the people who help make Council a supportive and effective workplace. Congratulations to all award recipients and thank you to every staff member for the contribution you make to our region.



Mr Cedric Hunt – who was awarded 35 years of Service and the honour of cutting the cake.



Mrs Tanya Scott (Director of Communities) and Winner Mr Warren Cotterill (Parks and Gardens Supervisor).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

★ LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION AND FUTURE FOCUS:

Winner – Warren Cotterill (Parks and Gardens Supervisor)

Runner-up – David Wilson (Chief Financial Officer)

★ PERFORMANCE AND VALUE:

Winner – Andrew Goodman (Workshop Supervisor)

Runner-up – Jeffrey Newton (Manager of Regulatory Services)

★ RESPECT AND FAIRNESS IN ACTION:

Winner – Cherie Faggotter (Senior People and Culture Business Partner)

Runner-up – Elissa Balke (People and Culture Business Partner)

★ SAFETY AND WELLBEING EXCELLENCE:

Winner – Peter Ballard (Sealed Network Team Leader)

Runner-up – Rebecca Fleming (Senior Safety Business Partner)

★ TEAMWORK AND CAPABILITY:

Winner – Warren Cotterill (Parks and Gardens Supervisor)

Runner-up – Vanessa Dawson (Childcare Centre Manager)

New laws for e-scooters and e-bikes

From 1 July 2026:

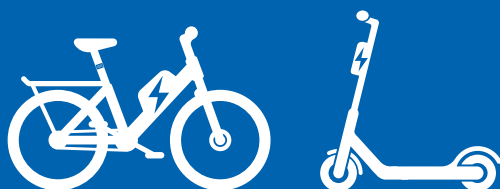
- Police can seize and destroy illegal devices
- Parents will be fined for under 16s riding illegally
- Devices faster than 25km/h will be banned
- 12km/h speed limit on footpaths and when passing pedestrians on shared paths
- RBTs will enforce drink riding. 0.05 BAC applies
- Increased fines of more than \$500

From 31 August 2026:

- Riders must be aged 16+ and licensed (minimum Learner) from 31 August 2026. Exemptions apply.



Scan for details of all the new rules and fines



Q | e-scooters and e-bikes QLD

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Community Honour Vietnam Veterans

COMMUNITY

The community gathered at this year's Vietnam Veterans' Day service to honour the service and sacrifice of Australians who served in the Vietnam War.

Held on 18 August, the commemoration marked 60 years since the Battle of Long Tan and recognised those who served, were wounded, lost their lives, and the families who supported them. Veterans, families, students and residents came together for a wreath-laying ceremony and reflection. The service acknowledged the courage, mateship and endurance of Vietnam veterans. Thanks to the Longreach Scouts Group and Rusty Gielis for helping ensure a respectful and dignified occasion.

One Larger Bin for Isisford Households

Council will soon begin rolling out a change to kerbside waste collection arrangements in Isisford, moving eligible households from two small 120L bins to one large 240L wheelie bin.

The change will bring Isisford into line with Council's standard residential service, which provides one 240L wheelie bin collected weekly from the kerbside. There is no change to Isisford's weekly collection day. Moving to one larger bin will offer the same overall capacity in a simpler format, while supporting a more efficient kerbside collection service for Isisford.

A reminder to please not place prohibited items in wheelie bins, including hot ashes, liquids, syringes, oils, paints, solvents, rechargeable batteries, timber, building materials or asbestos.

Projects in Focus

Solar Project

Council's Solar Project is continuing to progress, with new solar systems being delivered across a number of Council facilities in Longreach, Ilfracombe and Isisford.

Roof anchors have now been installed at relevant sites, with solar installation works currently completed at Ilfracombe Post Office and progressing at the Isisford Swimming Pool. Further installations will continue for the Longreach Swimming Pool, Civic Centre and Ilfracombe Swimming Pool. The project will help reduce Council's ongoing electricity costs and improve the energy efficiency of key community facilities.



New Animal Management Facility

Construction is now underway on Council's new Animal Management Facility at the Longreach Depot via Kite Street.

The new purpose-built facility will provide a safer, more functional and fit-for-purpose environment for the care and management of animals, while also improving working conditions and operational capability for Council staff.

The project represents a significant investment in Council's community infrastructure and is being delivered with funding support through the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland Program. Council's existing animal management facility will continue to operate as normal until the new facility is completed and ready for use.

Hazard Mitigation Burns Coming Up

To help protect our community, on behalf of the Longreach Regional Council, the Ilfracombe Rural Fire Brigade will be carrying out planned burns throughout August and September.

These burns reduce fuel loads and help safeguard local properties, roads, and grazing areas.

You may notice smoke around:

- ◇ Ilfracombe-Isisford Road
- ◇ Macsland Stock Route
- ◇ Watyakan Creek
- ◇ Dingo Creek
- ◇ Dandaraga Road - Landsborough Highway

Please drive carefully and follow directions from crews on site. Thank you for your support as we work together to keep the region safe.

Dinosaur Experiences

Councillors, Staff and local residents accompanied the Executive Officer of Dinosaur Experiences Australia to the Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre in Isisford in July to discuss future opportunities for the Centre.



L to R: Isisford Residents, Karen Hanna Miller (Executive Officer of Dinosaur Experiences Australia), Cr Bignell, Cr Hatch & Mayor Rayner

Welcoming New Citizens to Our Region

Council was delighted to welcome two new Australian citizens to our region at a ceremony held at the Civic Centre in July, marking a special milestone in their journeys and enriching the fabric of our local community.

Becoming an Australian citizen is a significant achievement, reflecting a commitment to our shared values, community spirit, and way of life. We are proud that they have chosen to call our region home and look forward to the contributions they will make through their involvement in community life.

Mayor Rayner congratulated the new citizens, noting that the region is strengthened by the diverse experiences, skills, and perspectives that new residents bring.

On behalf of Council and the wider community, we extend our sincere congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest citizens. We are proud to have them as part of our community and look forward to sharing in their future achievements.



Mayor Rayner and Mrs Kimberlee Saunders



Mrs Sandra Warren and Mayor Rayner