

A New Chapter for Ilfracombe: Post Office and Library Officially Open

The spirit of community was on full display on Monday 28 April as Ilfracombe gathered to celebrate the opening of its new Post Office and Library.

Officially opened by Deputy Mayor Leonie Nunn, the event marked a significant milestone for the town, blending essential services with a welcoming space for learning, connection and everyday life.

Councillors, Staff and Community members enjoyed a relaxed morning tea together following the opening, and the new facility is already proving its value, with the community making the most of the improved amenities.

"This space isn't just about books and mail—it's about keeping our community connected," said Cr Nunn at the ribbon cutting.

"It's a space for the community and visitors to utilise and enjoy."

The addition of a dedicated library area has been warmly welcomed, offering residents young and old a quiet place to read, learn and explore—right in the heart of Ilfracombe. The project also safeguards the continuity of vital postal services in town, supporting local residents and businesses alike.

Whether you're posting a letter, borrowing a book, or simply stopping by for a chat, the new Ilfracombe Post Office and Library is open, inviting and already well-loved.





Rayner's *Rundown* – with Mayor Tony Rayner

I've just returned from a short period of leave, during which I had the privilege of completing the Kokoda Track—a challenging and deeply humbling experience. I want to thank Deputy Mayor Leonie Nunn for stepping in as Acting Mayor during my absence. Your support is always appreciated.

May has been a month full of connecting across our region.

One of the standout events each year is the Festival of Outback Opera, delivered by Opera Queensland. It's a joy to see such world-class talent visiting our part of the world. This year's program brought everything from a feature concert to a touring production, pop-up performances and a Gala Ball here in Longreach. It's an event that's beginning to turn heads nationally, attracting opera lovers from across Australia. That's great news not just for the arts, but for local tourism and hospitality too.

We also held our bi-annual community forums in each of our towns this month. These forums are a cornerstone of our engagement—giving us a chance to share progress, listen to community priorities, and plan for what's ahead. There was a strong sense of unity this time around, no doubt influenced by our shared experience during the March floods. It was encouraging to see how

much progress has been made since the last round of forums, and to hear residents speak with such passion about the future they want to build.

We were fortunate to welcome two Queensland Government ministers to the region in May.

Minister for Primary Industries, Tony Perrett, visited landholders in Yaraka and Jundah affected by recent flood events, and took time to meet with departmental staff in Longreach to acknowledge their contribution to the regional response. He also used his platform to encourage more people to visit the region—something we always welcome.

Later in the month, Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Tim Mander, was in Longreach to announce a \$350,000 funding package under the Government's Game On! program. The Longreach Showgrounds will receive \$280,000 to refurbish dressing rooms, construct accessible changerooms for male and female athletes, and build a new first aid room. A further investment will see a floating pontoon installed on the Thomson River, improving accessibility for rowing and boating. Our long-term ambition is to see the Thomson used as a training venue for the 2032 Olympics—these upgrades are a step in that direction.

Another highlight this month was the official opening of the newly renovated Council office in Ilfracombe, now home to the Ilfracombe Licensed Post Office. This co-location means both services are more accessible and reliably staffed. This project is a tangible example of Council's commitment to Ilfracombe: a practical improvement with real community benefit, made possible through the efforts of staff, contractors, and our dedicated local team.

Finally, I had the honour of speaking at the Small Business Friendly Conference, hosted by the Queensland Small Business Commissioner. It was a great opportunity to share the work both RAPAD and our Council have done to support the small businesses that are the heart of our regional economy. From strategic grant programs to one-on-one support, we recognise the vital role local businesses play in helping our communities grow and thrive.

Thanks again to everyone across the region who continues to work together, support one another, and look 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 at council@longreach.qld.gov.au.

Temporary Closure of the Longreach Memorial Pool and Aquatic Centre

Please be advised that the Longreach Memorial Pool and Aquatic Centre will be closed from Monday, 19 May for a period of two weeks.

During this time, work will commence to replace the coping tiles around the outdoor 50-metre pool. This closure will also provide our dedicated pool staff with a well deserved break.

The heated pool will be available to use from Monday, 2 June 2025.

For those still keen to swim, the Ilfracombe Pool will remain open and operating as usual during this period. Please visit our website for the opening times - www.longreach.qld.gov.au/Services-and-Facilities/Swimming-Pools

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we undertake these improvements, and we look forward to welcoming you back to an upgraded facility soon.

For any enquiries please contact Council on 4658 4111.



**Closed from
Mon 19 May to Mon 2 June 2025.**

The 50m pool and wading pool will remain closed for a further two weeks, however, the heated pool will be available for use

Electronic Water Meter Rollout – Ilfracombe

Longreach Regional Council has started installing around 200 new Electronic Water Meters across Ilfracombe, servicing both residential and commercial properties.

This project will bring many benefits to the community, including:

- ◇ Early Leak Detection
- ◇ More Accurate Billing
- ◇ Improved Customer Service
- ◇ Better Planning for Infrastructure Upgrades

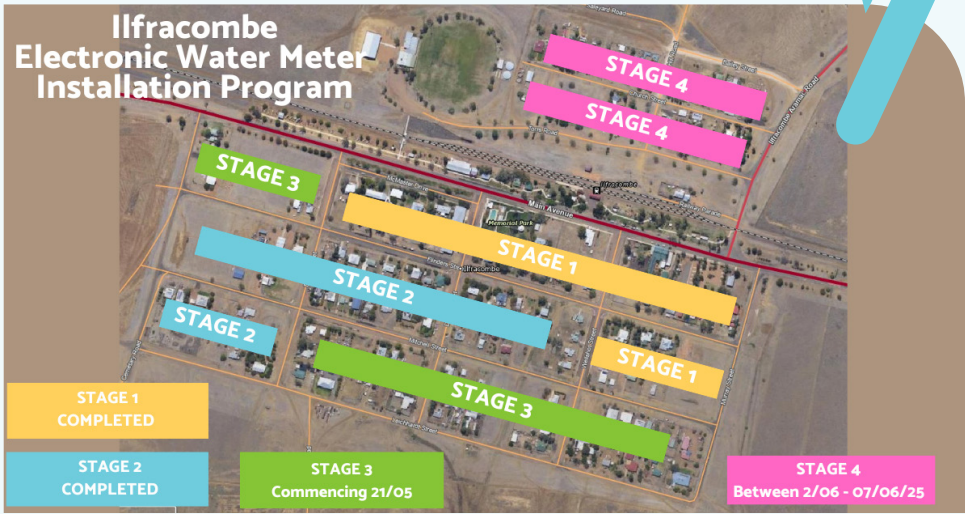
Installation Schedule (in stages):

- ◇ Stage 1: Completed
- ◇ Stage 2: Completed
- ◇ Stage 3: 21-26 May
- ◇ Stage 4: 2-7 June

Please note that while we aim to complete each stage within these timeframes, delays may occur due to unforeseen circumstances or urgent job requirements. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding during this time.

Thank you for your support as we work towards Striving for a climate-resilient water supply for all communities.

COMMUNITY



Minutes in a Minute

May 2025 Council Meeting

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

- ◇ Received reports from the Mayor and CEO;
- ◇ Endorsed the third-quarter review of the 2024-25 Annual Operational Plan;
- ◇ Appointed a new Regional Arts Development Fund Advisory Committee;
- ◇ Received a Project Management update; and,
- ◇ Considered the following community funding applications.

Community Donations - Individuals

Individual	Event/Project Activity	Event Date	Grant Approved
Havanna Elliott	Capricorn Netball Stars Academy	10/05 – 11/05 14/06 – 15/06 23/08 – 24/08	\$350
Hamish Larsen	State Honors Ensemble Program	16/05 – 18/05	\$350
Mia Scott	Netball State Championships	29/05 – 01/06	\$350
Poppy Harris	North West Touch Football Trials	22/04	\$350
Poppy Harris and Lara Palmer	Touch Football State Championships	11/06 – 15/06	\$350 per person
Malcolm Strong	National Youth Wind Ensemble of Scotland	07/07 -21/07	\$1000
Central West Rugby League	47th Battalion Rugby League Competition	07/06 – 08/06	\$2000
Total			\$5,100.00

Community Donations - Groups

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Isisford Golf Club	Isisford Golf Open	Financial \$3,000
Longreach School of Dance	Purchase and install air conditioning in dance studio	Financial \$5000
Great Australian Charity Cattle Drive	Cattle Drive 18th May – 6th Aug	In-kind \$4000

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.

Did you know...

If you're selected to represent the Longreach Regional Council area at a competition or event, you may be eligible for a community donation to help with your costs!

- Competing at a state level in Queensland? You can apply for up to \$350.

- Representing at a national event after success at state level? You could receive up to \$500.

- Heading to a national or international competition? You may be eligible for up to \$1,000.

Applications are due on the first of each month to be assessed and taken to the monthly Council meeting, held on the third Thursday of each month.

This is one way Council supports local talent and helps put our region on the map!

To learn more or to apply, contact Council or visit www.longreach.qld.gov.au/Community/Community-Grants/Community-Donations-Program

♦ Isisford Hall Toilet Upgrade

A recently completed upgrade has occurred at the Isisford Hall to create an all-accessible toilet inside the hall as well as the addition of a change table. Allowing fair and user-friendly facilities for everyone using the town hall.

♦ Sporting Facility Funding

Longreach Showgrounds is receiving \$280,000 to upgrade changerooms for sporting events.

Funding will also go towards building a pontoon in the Thomson River.

A visit from the Minister for Sport and Racing and the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tim Mander on the 11th highlighted the desire to encourage Olympic teams to consider using regional areas for training ahead of the 2032 games.

The funding is through the Games On! Program and is part of the preparations for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland.



Community Engagement Forums

Residents of our four communities participated in the latest round of community engagement forums during May.

The forums commenced with Council presenting an update on Council finances, new projects, and feedback from previous forums.

The community then had the opportunity to ask questions of both Councillors and senior staff about issues affecting their community.

Water security was a major theme of the forums, as a result of Council planning to invest \$20m in water infrastructure over the next two years.

Attendees were also interested in road repairs after the most recent flood event.

Council will now collate all of the issues raised at the forums and provide feedback to each community.

New Banners Installed in Ilfracombe and Isisford

As you drive into Ilfracombe and Isisford, you'll notice the newly installed banners proudly displayed on our banner poles.

These year-round banners add a welcoming touch to our towns and will remain in place throughout the year, except during specific events or periods.

In addition to these banners, special designs will be showcased for key occasions such as Christmas and New Year, Anzac Day, and Australia Day. These event-specific banners will be displayed during their respective times to mark and celebrate these important dates in our community calendar.

Community groups are also welcome to display their own banners advertising upcoming events.



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.

