



Celebrating Excellence at the Young Achievers Dinner

The spirit of achievement and community pride was on full display at our very first Young Achievers Dinner, an evening dedicated to recognising the exceptional accomplishments of our region's young people.

The evening was not about trophies or prizes, but about acknowledging the accomplishments and goals achieved by these hardworking and often unsung young champions.

More than 40 Young Achievers were in attendance, accompanied by proud parents, families, and supporters who gathered to celebrate their hard work, dedication, and success.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow achievers, share personal stories, and reflect on the values of talent,



courtesy of John Palmer

perseverance, and passion that drive these remarkable young individuals to excel in their chosen fields.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed an atmosphere of inspiration and celebration, highlighted by a powerful and encouraging address from guest speaker Jodie Browning. Drawing on her own achievements and lived experiences, Jodie delivered a powerful speech that not only encouraged our youth to strive for their best with what they have in front of them, and to never give up despite the obstacles in your way.

Not only did we recognise the accomplishments of our youth, but also the invaluable support of the families, teachers, and mentors who have guided them along the way.

The Young Achievers Dinner served as a reminder that the future of our region is bright, filled with motivated and talented individuals ready to make their mark on the world.

Congratulations to all our Young Achievers - your dedication, determination, and enthusiasm continue to inspire our community.

Merry Christmas

Council staff and Councillors wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy festive season!



CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN PERIOD

OFFICES INCLUDING LONGREACH LIBRARY

Closed December 22nd • Reopen January 5th

CHILDCARE SERVICE

Closed December 22nd • Reopen January 12th

ILFRACOMBE POST OFFICE & VISITOR CENTRE

Closed public holidays only.





Rayner's *Rundown* - with Mayor Tony Rayner



It was an honour to attend the Young Achievers Dinner in November, organised by Council to honour the outstanding accomplishments of our community's young people over the last twelve months. It was a great turnout and a great way to recognise our young people and their sporting, cultural, and academic achievements. The guest speakers were outstanding - thank you so much to Jodie Browning, Rob Carr, and John Palmer. It was great to secure guest speakers from within our community to inspire our young people.

A big thank you to everyone around our region who helped commemorate Remembrance Day. I was honoured to be asked to give the commemorative address in Longreach at Edkins Park. My experience walking the Kokoda track earlier this year has given me an even deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women in conflicts across the globe. It was good to see a strong turnout for the event, which becomes more important with each passing year.

November also saw our Community Forums take place in each community, and our Monthly Council meeting held in

Isisford. Thank you to everyone who came to a forum - we had good discussions with engaged locals about the work of Council and the future of our region.

Councillors really value the conversations we have with community, whether they're at one of these forums or when we're approached directly - which you can do at any time.

If you have any questions or want to talk about something that's important to you, all you ever have to do is pick up the phone. Our phone numbers and email addresses are published on the website at longreach.qld.gov.au/councillors.

The latest round of our Small Business Friendly Grant, the Innovation & Diversification Round, is now open. It's the first round of this financial year, and it's designed to support the widest possible range of eligible projects. Whether you're thinking about renovating your shopfront, need new tools or equipment, or want to add a feature to your website, the Innovation & Diversification Round can help make it happen.

You can apply for up to \$2,000 in matched funding for projects that bring fresh ideas and improvements to your business. It's open to all businesses which employ under 20 people in the Longreach Regional Council area. Applications close 12 January 2026, and you can visit longreach.qld.gov.au/economy or call Council for more information.

Christmas will soon be upon us again and I sincerely hope that, however you choose to spend it, you enjoy the holiday season.

A reminder that Council's offices will be closed for Christmas from 19 December, reopening on 5 January. Our after-hours messaging service will be ready to assist you and field any urgent enquiries, alerting the on-call staff if necessary.

We'll be back with another edition of ILY next year. As always, I'm happy to answer questions or share more about what Council is doing. Get in touch with me or any of your Councillors by visiting longreach.qld.gov.au/councillors. Alternatively, reach out to Council on (07) 4658 4111 or via email to council@longreach.qld.gov.au.



Minutes in a Minute November 2025 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Isisford on 20 November. Among other matters, the meeting:

- Received reports from the Mayor and CEO;
- Adopted Council's 2024-25 Annual Report, including the audited financial statements;
- Approved two Material Change of Use Development Applications;
- Adopted two policies that had undergone biennial review;
- Received a report from the Audit and Risk Committee;
- Approved the creation of a No Standing zone in Jabiru Street;
- Approved the establishment of time-limited parking on sections of Main Street in Ilfracombe;
- Received various Director reports, including a Project Management update; and,
- Considered the following community funding applications:

Community Donations - Individuals

| Individual | Event/Project Activity | Grant Approved |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Max Bruggemann | Australian All School National Championships | \$500 |
| Total | | \$500.00 |

Community Grant

| Organisation | Event/Project Activity | Grant Approved |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Longreach Cricket Association | Flicx pitch | Financial \$5,000.00 |

Community Sponsorship

| Organisation | Event/Project Activity | Grant Approved |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Lions Club of Longreach | Lions Christmas Street Party - Sat 29th Nov 2025 | Financial \$4,494.78 In-Kind \$1,080.00 |
| Total | | \$5,574.78 |

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.

Australia Day Celebrations in the Region

26th Jan 2026



Nominations now open until 5pm, 5th January 2026.

Nomination forms can be found on the Council website or at your local council office.

Full program available on the Longreach Regional Council website.

www.longreach.qld.gov.au/Community/Events/Australia-Day

For more information please contact (07) 4658 4111.

Longreach Community Commemorates Remembrance Day



The Longreach community came together on Remembrance Day to honour the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Community members and local school students stood side by side in quiet reflection, ensuring the legacy of those who served lives on.

The service featured heartfelt blessings from Reverend Jenny Potter and Pastor Steve Ballin, and a commemorative address by Mayor Tony Rayner, who shared reflections from his recent visit to the Kokoda Track and Bomana War Cemetery. His words highlighted the courage and sacrifice of Australian soldiers and the importance of remembrance and unity.

Special thanks were given to the Longreach Scouts for their flag and cenotaph duties and the recitation of the ODE, and to Lachlan Rich and the Combined Schools Band for their beautiful performance of the national anthems.

This year also marked a farewell to Malcolm Strong, who played The Last Post for the final time. Since 2019, Malcolm has performed at services across Longreach and Ilfracombe, including the memorable 2020 service streamed during COVID restrictions. His music kept the spirit of remembrance alive during challenging times.

The Longreach Regional Council and RSL Sub-Branch thank Malcolm for his years of dedication and wish him well in the future. A heartfelt thank you to all who attended and made the commemorations truly special. Lest We Forget.



Digital Water Meter Longreach Update

Council's plumbing team has been hard at work completing Stage 1 of the Digital Water Meter installation across Longreach and are on track to have 800 meters installed before Christmas 2025!

What residents can do now...

You can now sign up to Council's Water Portal to:

- Monitor your water consumption
- Receive early leak detection alerts
- Get notifications for unusually high usage.

 **Sign up today!**
waterportal.longreach.qld.gov.au

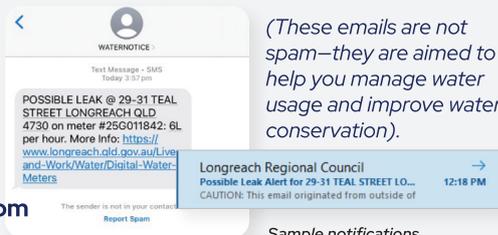
Why sign up?

Once registered, you'll receive automatic potential leak alerts, you can set your own notifications and preferred contact method (email/SMS). For residents not signed up to the portal, the system will send monthly alerts for significant leaks only.

What will alerts look like?

SMS alerts: appear as **'WATERNOTICE'**

Email alerts: sent from longreachregionalcouncil@aqualus.com



Real Savings

The system is already working! Council has approved a number of property owners, tenants, and real estate agents who have signed up. One property owner has saved 9.7KL (9,744L) per day after fixing a faulty float on their evaporative air-conditioner. Without detection, they could have lost over 2,300KL this financial year—almost an Olympic pool of water! The leak was found after the system detected a continuous water flow over 48 hours.

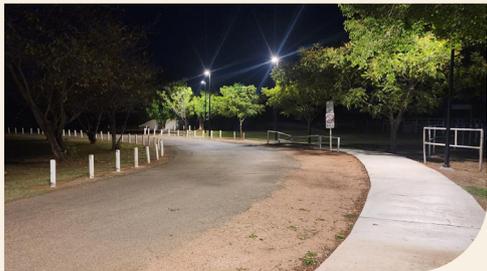
Customer testimony

"I am incredibly grateful for this new system - it is evident that without it we would all be unaware of the issue until it's too late. I'd be happy to attest to its effectiveness."



◆ Longreach Showgrounds Accessibility Improvements

Upgrades between Sandpiper Street and the Bar & Kitchen are almost complete. New footpaths and lighting are in, and sealed accessible parking on Sandpiper Street is ready. Final touches to the carpark line-marking and final concrete-to-road joins are happening next.



Council Meeting Dates 2026

| Date | Meeting Type | Place | Time |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| 22/01/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |
| 19/02/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Ilfracombe | 9:00am |
| 19/03/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |
| 16/04/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Isisford | 9:00am |
| 21/05/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |
| 18/06/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |
| 16/07/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Town Hall, Yaraka | 9:30am |
| 20/08/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Ilfracombe | 9:00am |
| 17/09/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |
| 15/10/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |
| 19/11/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Isisford | 9:00am |
| 10/12/2026 | Ordinary Meeting | Council Chambers, Longreach | 9:00am |

A copy of the agenda is generally available from the Monday prior to the meeting via Council's website at www.longreach.qld.gov.au/meetings-agendas-minutes. Alternatively, contact Council on (07) 4658 4111 for further information.

Parkrun

Adrian and Lynette made the trip from Brisbane for a very special reason - Adrian reached an incredible milestone: his 600th Parkrun, completed right here at the Old Thomson River Road Parkrun in Longreach!

Adrian's Parkrun journey is nothing short of inspiring. He has run at 172 different locations, including six overseas countries, and has claimed first place 227 times - including right here in Longreach. To top it off, after finishing first, Adrian volunteered as our token hand-out person. And with the temperature hitting 28°C, this was the hottest Parkrun he's ever completed!

Parkrun truly is a global phenomenon - even our CEO, Brett Walsh, recently joined a Parkrun at Southwark while visiting London. The best part, you only need to sign up once, and then you can take part in a Parkrun anywhere in the world.



L to R: Kelli, Lynette, Adrian & Tony



Colourful Fun at Qantas Park

Families now have a vibrant new reason to visit Qantas Park! A giant Snakes and Ladders game has been installed for everyone to enjoy. Simply download a free digital dice app on your phone, and you're ready to play - perfect for kids and grown-ups alike.

This playful addition was created by Cam Scale, the talented artist behind the striking mural on the Swan Street toilet block. Cam recently visited Longreach to begin work on a stunning new mural for the Library apex. However, due to the extreme heat affecting the paint, we've decided to postpone this project until cooler weather arrives. This ensures the mural will be completed to the highest standard.

We're excited to welcome Cam back next year to finish the Library mural - another beautiful feature that will add colour and vibrancy to our community spaces.

Small Business Friendly Grant



Round 1 - Innovation and Diversification



- Upgrade your shopfront or equipment
- Launch a new service or go digital
- Improve efficiency or sustainability
- Get expert advice or partner up locally

Applications close 12 January
Visit longreach.qld.gov.au/economy for more info