

Longreach Disaster Coordination Centre Now Open



Longreach now has a dedicated, fit-for-purpose space to support disaster response and planning - right behind the Longreach Library, with convenient access via Magpie Lane.

Officially opened on 29 August 2025, the new Longreach Disaster Coordination Centre transforms a previously underutilised area into a modern, flexible facility tailored to the unique needs of western Queensland. Designed to bring agencies together quickly and efficiently, the Centre offers reliable infrastructure, inclusive amenities, and easy access for emergency crews, support teams, and community members alike.

Located just a short walk from Eagle Street, the Centre is ideally positioned to keep disaster coordination close to the heart of town. This proximity ensures that support services remain accessible to local businesses and residents when it matters most whether during a flood, bushfire, or other emergency event.

The building has been thoughtfully designed with accessibility at its core. Step-free entry, wide internal spaces,



The large open space has been named the Brolga Room with the two smaller spaces named the Kookaburra Room and the Kestrel Room.

and inclusive amenities ensure that everyone regardless of mobility can safely and comfortably use the facility. This commitment to inclusivity reflects Council's broader goal of making public infrastructure work for all members of the community.

Importantly, the Centre is not just for emergencies. Outside of disaster events, the space is available for community bookings, offering a versatile venue for meetings, workshops, training sessions, and other local events.

This dual-purpose approach ensures the Centre remains a valuable community asset year-round, helping to build resilience and connection across the region.

The project is also a celebration of local capability. Over 90% of project costs were invested in local businesses, reinforcing Council's commitment to supporting the regional economy. Council extends its sincere thanks to Neuendorf Constructions, along with all subcontractors and suppliers, for their outstanding work and dedication to

quality. Their efforts have delivered a facility that Longreach can be proud of built by locals, for locals.

The opening of the Disaster Coordination Centre marks a significant step forward in Longreach Regional Council's ongoing efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience. It provides a centralised hub where emergency services, Council staff, and support organisations can collaborate effectively, ensuring a coordinated response when challenges arise.

Whether it's a flood warning, a bushfire threat, or a community recovery effort, the Centre is ready to serve as the backbone of Longreach's disaster management strategy. And when it's not in use for emergencies, it stands ready to support the community in other ways bringing people together, hosting events, and offering a safe, accessible space for all.

To enquire about hiring the Disaster Coordination Centre for community use, please contact Longreach Regional Council.





Rayner's *Rundown* – with Mayor Tony Rayner

I'd like to start by thanking Deputy Mayor Leonie Nunn for filling in for me as Acting Mayor while I enjoyed some time off for a couple of weeks in September. Cr Nunn is a proactive and engaged Deputy Mayor, she makes a big contribution to our region, and I appreciate her support and counsel in our respective roles.

I was pleased to join fellow Councillors in officially opening the new multipurpose room at the back of the Longreach Library. The space has been designed to meet disaster coordination standards, with secure access, strong communications, and the ability to host multi-agency operations. At other times, it will be available as a community meeting room. This addition makes the Longreach Library an even more versatile, modern facility right in the heart of town.

Young people in Longreach recently had the chance to spend a full day learning skateboard skills with the Chiggy's Skateboarding team. Students from Our Lady's Catholic Primary School took part in sessions that combined fun with skill development, building both confidence and ability as they picked up new tricks. An after-school workshop gave even more keen skaters the chance to join in.

The event showed how active learning can bring the community together. We're grateful to Chiggy's Skateboarding for doing such a great job with the program.

This month, the Longreach Fire Brigade carried out a training exercise at the Aquatic Centre, refilling the 50-metre pool with 750,000 litres of water as part of their drill. Their efforts not only provided valuable practice for firefighters but also prepared the pool for the season ahead. We thank the brigade for their continued support of our community.

The Aquatic Centre reopened in September after its winter maintenance program, which included new coping tiles, resealing, acid cleaning, fresh diving platforms, and slip-resistant areas. From October, residents across the region can take advantage of a 50% discount on entry to all four of our town pools – Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka. This now brings the Longreach Pool in line with the discount already offered elsewhere in our region.

Congratulations to the winners of our annual Garden Competition, announced in this edition. Your creativity, hard work, and pride in place have truly brightened our community. From flourishing vegetable

patches to vibrant flowerbeds, each garden reflects the personal touch of its owner and the spirit of care that makes our towns so welcoming.

The competition is about more than just neat lawns and colourful displays. It celebrates the effort that residents put into making their homes and streets more attractive, sustainable, and enjoyable for everyone. Well-kept gardens lift our neighbourhoods, encourage others to get involved, and show visitors the pride we take in our region.

Thank you to all who entered this year and to everyone who makes the competition possible. Every garden tells a story, and together they create a living showcase of community spirit.

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

September 2025 Council Meeting

Council met for its Ordinary Meeting at the Council Chambers in Longreach on 18 September. Among other matters, the meeting:

- Received reports from the Acting Mayor and CEO
- Agreed to commence a Major Amendment to the Longreach Region Planning Scheme
- Received the minutes and recommendations of the Land and Pest Advisory Committee
- Adopted a suite of improved childcare policies
- Approved the replacement of a vehicle for the Isisford SES
- Received various Director reports, including a Project Management update
- Considered the following community funding applications:

Community Donations - Individuals

Individual	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Abigail Marsh	Girls Rugby League State Championships	\$350
Cooper Mullen	Wanderers Australia Rugby League Tour	\$1000
Courtney Cripps	Australian Barrel Horse Association Barrel Racing National Finals	\$500
Nate Fuller	Cricket State Championships	\$350
Total		\$2,200

Community Donations - Sponsorship

Organisation	Event/Project Activity	Grant Approved
Longreach Jockey Club	Longreach Cup Saturday 27th September 2025	Financial \$10,000.00

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.



Acting Mayor Leonie Nunn says thank you to Graham Moffat for his family's assistance during flood events for the past 70 years.



Councillors visited the Longreach Arts and Crafts Centre to view the new pottery kiln which was jointly funded by a grant from Council, and the trivia fundraising night.

Celebrating the Beauty of Our Community: 'My Garden' Competition 2025

This year's My Garden Competition may have seen fewer entries than in previous years, but what we lacked in numbers, we more than made up for in quality.

The passion, creativity, and dedication shown by those who entered was nothing short of inspiring. Each garden was a unique reflection of its owner, contributing to the vibrant and colourful tapestry of our towns.

Gardens were judged across five categories, with careful consideration given to design, plant health, creativity, and overall visual impact. From small but vibrant gardens to expansive and immaculately maintained landscapes, the standard was exceptionally high.

This year we introduced a new award for 2025 – the Judges' Choice. This special category celebrates a garden that was not entered in the competition but nonetheless caught the judges' attention during their travels throughout our towns. Judged solely from the outside, this award acknowledges those hidden gems that contribute quietly yet powerfully to the beautification of our community. It's a reminder that many residents, even without entering the competition, play an important role in making our neighbourhoods more vibrant and welcoming.

Champion Garden

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who entered and shared their beautiful green spaces with us. Your hard work and love for gardening enrich our towns in countless ways. Congratulations to all the winners – and to every gardener who continues to nurture beauty just outside their door.

2025 WINNERS

Best Small Town Garden

Lucy Spencer

Best Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Lucy Spencer

Best Flower Garden

Mackenzie Stewart

Best Container Garden

Mackenzie Stewart

Best Rural Garden

Erica Marsh

Champion Garden

Erika Marsh

Judges Choice

Johanna Parsons

Events & Marketing Coordinator
Liz Turner, Winner of Best
Flower Garden and Best
Container Garden, Mackenzie
Stewart and Cr Tracy Hatch



Cr Tracy Hatch and Winner Best Small Town Garden and Best Fruit & Vegetable Garden, Lucy Spencer.



Water Restrictions – Ilfracombe Level Three

Longreach Regional Council wishes to advise that Level Three Water Restrictions will apply effective as of Wednesday 1st October 2025 to all properties connected to the Ilfracombe Water Supply system until further notice.

Information on watering times can be found on the Council website: www.longreach.qld.gov.au.

Summer Pool Hours

With the warmer months upon us, our community pools are ready for summer!

Longreach Memorial Pool and Aquatic Centre (1 October – 31 March)

- ◇ Monday to Friday - 6:00am to 11:00am and 2:00pm to 7:00pm
- ◇ Saturday - 8:00am to 6:00pm
- ◇ Sunday & Public holidays - 10:00am to 6:00pm

Ilfracombe Pool & Artesian Spa (1 October – 31 March)

- ◇ Monday to Friday - 3:30pm to 6:15pm
- ◇ Saturday - 1:00pm to 5:45pm
- ◇ Sunday - 9:00am to 12:00pm and 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Isisford Pool (20 September to 24 April)

- ◇ Open 7 days per week 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Yaraka

- ◇ For access, please call the pool attendant using the number displayed on the pool gate.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHS

Longreach Library Receives STEM Kit Donation

During the National Science Week 2025 Travelling Launch attended by Mayor Tony Rayner, he was delighted to accept a donation of a new STEM kit for the Longreach Library.

The kit includes:

- ◇ a Discovery Guide from the Queensland Museum
- ◇ information on STEM careers
- ◇ Tobbie the Robot offering our community hands-on ways to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

This exciting addition will support interactive programs at the library and help spark the imagination of children and young people interested in how science shapes the world around us.

Swooping Season

Spring marks the start of magpie swooping season across Queensland.

Between August and October, nesting magpies can become protective parents, swooping to defend their young.

While it can be startling, only a small number of birds actually swoop and usually within about 50 metres of their nest.

If you're walking or cycling during this time:

- ◇ Avoid known nesting areas where possible.
- ◇ Dismount and walk your bike if magpies are nearby.
- ◇ Wear a hat and sunglasses for extra protection.
- ◇ Never provoke or harm the birds as it often makes them more defensive.

Magpie swooping season is short-lived, and once chicks have fledged, the adults settle down again.

Staying alert and giving them space helps keep both people and wildlife safe.



Dying to Know Day

COMMUNITY

On Friday, 29 August, we gathered at the Longreach Arts and Cultural Centre to share stories, wisdom, creativity and connection as part of Dying to Know Day.

Seniors from across the region came together for a meaningful panel discussion before painting tiles inspired by the theme "Secrets I'm Glad I Shared." Each tile became a small masterpiece, woven with colour and life advice such as "Love grows from small things," "Kindness lasts," "Trust your gut," and "Take the photo."

A special thank you to Emma Read from Miniritchi Art Gallery for MCing the day and leading the art activity, Jacen Carpenter from Carpenter Law for his invaluable advice, the Central West Hospital and Health Service Mental Health Team for their contribution, and the Western Queensland Primary Health Network, who partnered with Council to deliver this important community event.



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