

# BULLOO BUZZ

Thargomindah

~

Hungerford

~

Noccundra

~

Cameron Corner

Ever  
Changing,  
Always  
Amazing...

***AUGUST 2020***

**BULLOO SHIRE COUNCIL**

**PO Box 46 , Thargomindah QLD 4492**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Bulloo Shire Council is working collectively with Noni McCarthy focusing on establishing a Housing Strategy to further accommodate Bulloo Shire residents both current and new.

*“Council has found lack of housing to be an on going issue which has prohibited new residents moving to the area, we don’t have sufficient housing to establish the growth of the shire, for Bulloo Shire to grow we need residents and families”.*

Lew along with Councillors, Managers, Housing staff, business and government representatives participated in a Housing Strategy Workshop facilitated by Noni McCarthy on Wednesday 19 August 2020.

The aim of the workshop was:

- ◆ To understand the current housing availability and suitability in Thargomindah
- ◆ To investigate future needs and aspiration for the population of the town
- ◆ To initiate a plan for future housing availability

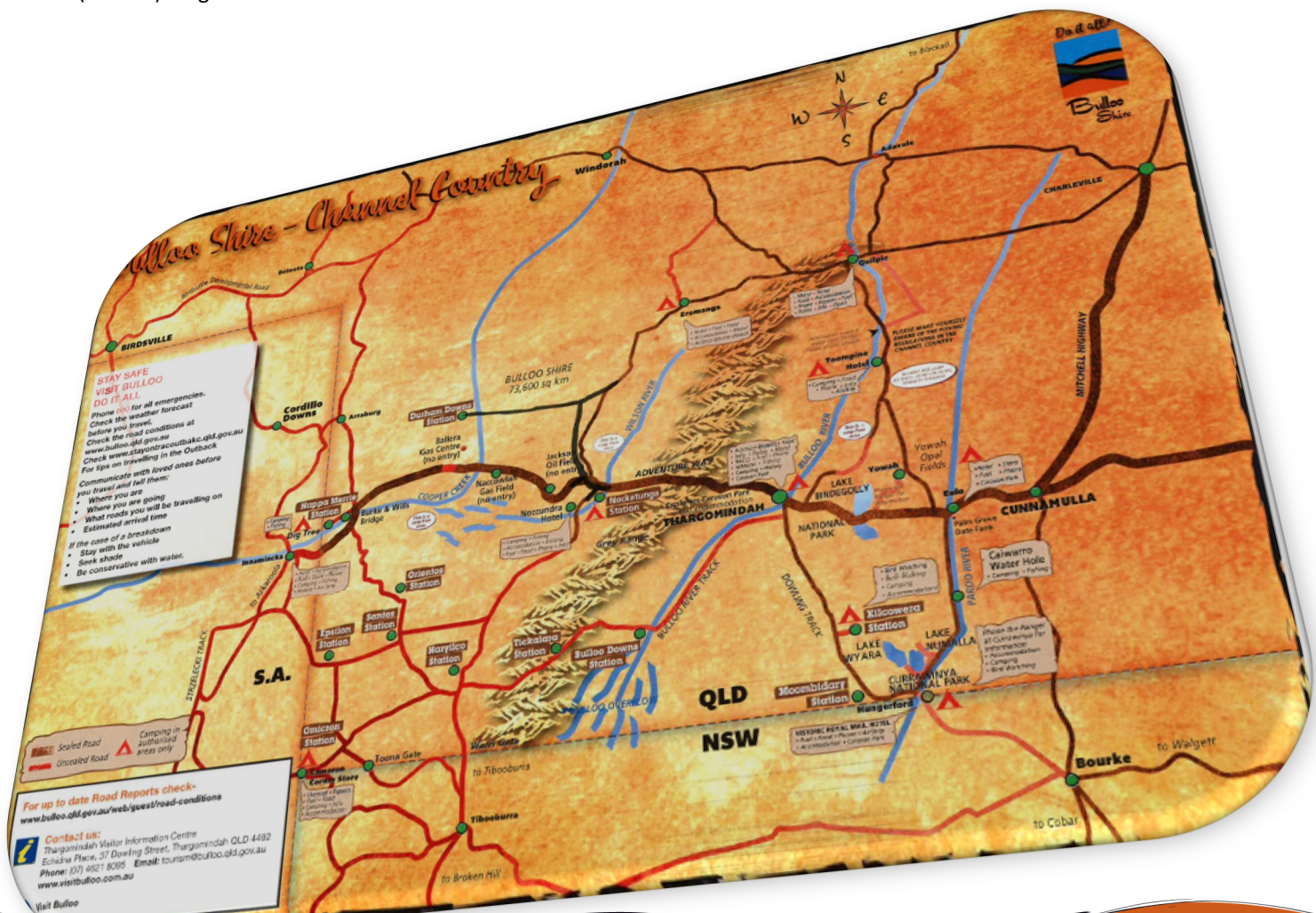
This strategy will also inform the Readiness Assessment for Migrant Placement Project currently underway across the South West. Availability of appropriate housing and employment is key to attracting new families to the shire now and into the future.

As previously mentioned Council is currently working to Construct the Independent Living Units to assist with elderly housing however the next phase needs to be family accommodation.

This is an exciting direction for Bulloo Shire to towards, population growth will increase:

- ◆ Local economy
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Enrolment numbers at the School etc.

John (Tractor) Ferguson



# FROM THE CEO'S DESK



## ***"A couple of things are happening in the BIG Local Government Picture".***

Recently the Mayor and I attended the inaugural meeting of the Western Alliance of Councils. This is an amalgamated body formed to consider the big issues for the bush from North West Qld to Central West Qld and South West Qld. This new Alliance will encompass, 22 shires representing 60 000 people and covers 60% of the State of Queensland. It will also provide a louder voice for the west.

As you would realise our state is South East Corner centric simply because of the larger population and we tend to get forgotten about, out in this country. I believe the forming of this alliance will be a large enough voice that they will need to listen to us. Say 50k of the 60,000 people were voters, that is 50,000 votes that may or may not go to the political party in power and do they want to risk that much of a change when a lot of governments have had small majorities that require them to work with the minor parties, such as the Katter party, to hold Government?

Anne Leahy, Lachlan Millar, David Littleproud, Stirling Hinchliffe, Sen Glen Butcher, Scott Bucholz and James Mc Grath as well as a couple of departmental Directors General attended on the days and this could be considered a strong roll up by the Pollies.

The big issues we will be looking at with this organisation are, the cost of electricity, the connectivity, be it internet or mobile, for the bush, obviously roads, but also water to sustain industry, regionalisation of commerce and industry and employment. We need the big boys to understand that regional is not east coast centric but includes the whole of Queensland and therefore they need to consider the numerous opportunities out in our country.

On a more local front, Council is a member of the South West Regional Economic Development (SWRED) and the SWLGA. For some time, these groups have

been ineffective in their outcomes and have at times been duplicating similar issues.

The member Councils have agreed this needs to cease and subsequently commissioned a report to assess the opportunities that we could consider to make this group more effective. In the end it was decided that we would form a new group that covers all the issues and become a SW Region of Councils.

Similar to what occurs in NWQ, Far North QLD. This organisation will cover all aspects of local Government and Economic Development and will be staffed with a CEO to be located in Brisbane and a Project Officer to be located somewhere in the region. The intent is to make the CEO accessible to Government Ministers and Departments to lobby on our behalf and also to meet with the big end of town with financial institutions and other large production companies to seek diversification of commerce and industry to the region.

You may also have noticed a bit of work going on around the cooling ponds enclosure. We are moving into the second stage of what was the Geothermal project to generate power and cool our water down. However, this became unfeasible and the project became a solar power and water-cooling project.

What you can see at the moment is the construction of 3 large water tanks that will be part of the cooling and holding tanks that will enable us to hold enough water to cover the towns usage for a day if we need to go off line to mend broken mains etc. The water will be sanitised with UV and not Chlorine so it won't affect the quality of the water.

This is a great project and we thank the Government for working with us to maintain the project and create variations on the original scope.

The outcome, I believe will provide a lot more liveability with the heat of our water supply being significantly reduced. It still doesn't change the fact that we still need to manage our water, so we will still be asking you to moderate your usage and not waste water down the new gutters.

Spring is on the way so everyone should plant two trees each and let's cool this place down now the water is going to be cooler.

Lew Rojahn



# HOUSING, ANIMALS & MICROCHIPPING

## Council Housing

Council plan to clad the exterior of another three (3) rental properties this financial year.

This work is expected to begin in roughly 4-5 weeks.

Thank you to the Operations staff who helped unload the cladding materials – Rex Barwick, Brad Chatfield, Nathan Hortin, Michael Beavis and Greg Brown.

## Housing Maintenance

If something requires fixing at your Council rental property, you must complete either the "Form 4 Housing Maintenance Request" form or phone the Council Office on 4621 8000.

Any maintenance requests reported over the phone will be entered into Council's requests system.

If you have submitted a maintenance request but no one has been to your place to fix the issue, please be assured that Council have noted the maintenance request and will organise to have repairs carried out by a qualified tradesman as soon as possible.

If Council is unable to fix the issue or it is something that is very expensive, Council may need to budget for this item. If this is the case, Council's staff will be in contact with you.

## Animals

A reminder to all animal owners that Registration Renewals are due for the 2020-21 financial year for all dogs and Livestock.

Livestock owners are required to complete the application forms that were mailed and return them to the Council office for approval

Dogs in the Bulloo Shire must be registered with the Bulloo Shire Council:

- upon reaching three months of age (12 weeks)
- within 14 days of obtaining your dog (if the dog is older than three months of age) within 14 days of moving into the Bulloo Shire Council area.

Dog registration is a requirement of State legislation outlined in the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

**In Queensland all cats and dogs between 8 and 12 weeks of age, acquired after 1 July 2009, must be implanted with a microchip.**

When you go to register your new dog with Council, you must ensure the dog has a microchip and supply the microchip number (Council officers can

scan for microchips), otherwise you will be unable to register the dog until after the dog has been microchipped.

## Microchipping

On 1 July 2009 the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 was introduced. The Act states that owners must ensure all new dogs and cats acquired are microchipped by an authorised implanter unless the person has a reasonable excuse. Failure to meet the requirements under the Act in regards to microchipping may result in quite substantial fines being incurred.

If you owned a dog or cat that was older than 12 weeks of age at the time of implementation of the Act (1 July 2009) and still own the dog or cat, you don't need to microchip your dog or cat, although it is recommended.

What must I do if I buy or am given a dog or cat?

- If the dog or cat is over the age of 8 weeks you must ensure that the dog or cat is microchipped.
- A certificate and details of the microchip registry company should be provided to you by the person who sold or gave you the animal.
- If you acquire a dog or cat over the age of 8 weeks that is not microchipped, it becomes your responsibility to have the dog or cat microchipped.

It is a requirement under the Act for the owner of a microchipped animal to contact the microchip provider to change details such as a change of address, change of ownership or any change to the status of the animal within 7 days.

What must I do if I sell or give away a dog or cat?

- You must ensure the dog or cat is microchipped if over the age of 8 weeks by an authorised implanter.
- Puppies and kittens – as well as older animals – can still be given away, however each animal must be microchipped if they are older than 8 weeks of age.
- Provide the buyer with number of the microchip and the details of the microchip registry.

Microchipping your dog or cat and having all details current will ensure that if the animal does escape its yard, it will be reunited with its owners as quickly as possible.

Bulloo Shire Council does not currently provide a service to microchip dogs or cats, however Council does engage a local veterinarian to visit Thargomindah yearly to microchip and vaccinate dogs and cats at the owners cost.





# ROADS ROADS ROADS.....IMPROVING BULLOO ROADS



Another busy month for the Roads Services Department, and what a wet month it has been. Everyone has been kept busy with their normal jobs and then add on top of that the extra jobs of doing road runs, checking and closing roads.

**Warri Gate Road** - work is underway with the crew working hard, with a few setbacks from the rain. This project will see 5.27km of new seal near the Noccundra end of Warri Gate Road joining the bitumen together, this is estimated to be finished by October 2020.

**Soil Testing** - Border-Tek is coming out at the end of August to do compaction and soil testing.

**Quilpie Road** - Shoulder work has been in the process, and is due to be completed at the end of this month.

**Other TMR Works** - Ongoing works on floodways and TMR Flood Damage.

**Innamincka Road** - work has begun on the 2.27 km unsealed section and although the job has had a few set backs from Rain, it is

due to be finalised by December 2020 (weather permitting).

The completion of these works will see a sealed road to the South Australian border.

**Maintenance Crew** - Bulloo Shire Council Maintenance Crew had a call out to clear debris from a caravan roll over on Eromanga Road, they have also been busy patching and clearing debris after the rain events we have had recently.

## Coming up in September

- Boodgheree Road Flood Damage Works
- Cardenyabba Creek Culvert Upgrade
- Eulo/Hungerford Resheet
- Bulloo Downs Bridge Repairs and Maintenance.





# RURAL SERVICES



On Thursday 13 August, 5 landholders attended the Property Mapping Workshop in Thargomindah. This program allows landholders to map paddocks, water facilities and infrastructure such as fencing.

We would like to thank AgForce for running this workshop in Thargomindah.



## Bunny Ears (*Opuntia microdasys*)

### Description

Bunny Ears forms a dense shrub 40-60 cm tall, occasionally more, composed of pad-like stems, 6-15 cm long and 4-12 cm broad. There is no central stem and pads always grown in pairs giving the appearance of bunny ears.

It has no spines, but instead has numerous white or yellow (golden) glochids (hair-like prickles), 2-3 cm long in dense clusters; these detach very easily on being touched and can cause considerable skin irritation so the plants must be treated with caution. Flowers are yellow 3 cm wide. Fruits are fleshy globular shape to 3 cm long and red-purple in colour.

### Methods of spread

The main method of spread is from broken segments through people unknowingly giving potted plants away, and being transported on animals, people, vehicles and water.

### Control

All suspected sightings of bunny ears plants must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland, which will work with the relevant person to control the plant.

*Contact Details* Biosecurity Queensland—13 25 23



## Water Agreements

James Theuerkauf and Tay Luckraft are currently updating the water agreements for dams and bores that Council access for road works. Tay will be contacting landholders prior to these visits.

## Noccundra

Wilson River Campground recorded 255 campground registrations during July, 69 of these had pets with them. Council has completed repairs to the airstrip and the road to the campgrounds. Neil also completed Airport Reporting Training during July. The Noccundra caretaker has all relevant COVID-19 requirements in place including increased cleaning regime for public amenities and a register of those camping on the Wilson River.

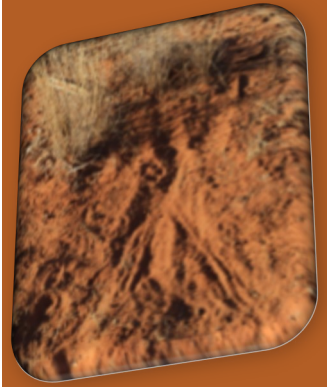




## Wild Dog Management

Trapping assistance was undertaken on Moombidary Station, where landholders have found dog sign and tracks.

Council's RLO has trail cameras operating along with CPEs (Canine Pest Injector) on Wiralla and Yakara Stations following reports of increased tracks including pups.



## Weeds

Council's Rural Lands Officer will commence RMPC spraying during August due to wet conditions at Arcoba (coral cactus) and Orient (castor oil bush).



Inspection of the bug on coral cactus was undertaken on the Blackgate Road, with the cochineal bug well established in this infestation.



Common Prickly Pear has emerged at the same site since the rain, this will be treated with chemical spray as the infestation is not large enough to treat with cactoblastis.

## Creek Doctor

To help landholders in the south west region better understand what they can do to improve the conditions for water on their properties, SQ Landscapes has engaged Peter McAdam AKA 'The Creek Doctor' to travel and consult at sites around Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah, Quilpie and Charleville with the aim of improving landscape hydration and in-stream flows.

Peter is an environmental consultant specialising in fluvial geomorphology, a niche skill set which sees him prepare detailed environmental management plans, compliance activities for new and expanding developments, environmental awareness training and facilitating environmental workshops.

The Creek Doctor will be in the region from 14 to 28 September 2020 and we are hoping to schedule a meeting for Roads staff to attend to gain a better understand of the above issues.



## Hungerford

Improvements to Hungerford Caravan Park during the month include new tiles in the ladies shower and a new laundry door. A constant flow of Queensland tourists are visiting Hungerford, with southern numbers dropping since the NSW border closure was implemented on 8 August 2020. A compliance inspection was also carried out on the Hungerford Airstrip during July.



# Bulloo Shire Council would like to welcome NRG Services to Thargomindah

NRG Services was the successful Tenderer supply the town with cooler water at a flow for the Water Cooling Project in rate of up to 30 litres per second. Thargomindah.

As part of their submission NRG provided assurance that a high local content enabling a high support for local businesses – it is anticipated that several local businesses within the district will receive substantial benefits during the construction period – these will include, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Meals
- ✓ Fuel
- ✓ Tank Supply and Installation
- ✓ Steel Fabrication services
- ✓ other Trade Services as required

NRG have commenced construction works on our additional Water Cooling System which will work in conjunction with our Cooling Ponds.

This project is being partially funded through a Works for Qld grant.

This new water-cooling process will involve the hot bore water to flow through the existing cooling ponds before going to the new cooling water system, which is referred to as a heat exchange unit and will incorporate a cooling tower.

Water temperature will be constantly monitored both as it arrives at the water cooling system (hot) and as it leaves the system (cold) to ensure that the water that enters the town water supply remains below 35°C. If the 'hot' water entering the system is already below 35°C, the secondary system will be bypassed and the water from the cooling ponds will enter the town reticulation system just as it does now.

However, once the 'hot' water exceeds 35°C, the water storage system will automatically be enabled to continuously

supply the town with cooler water at a flow rate of up to 30 litres per second.

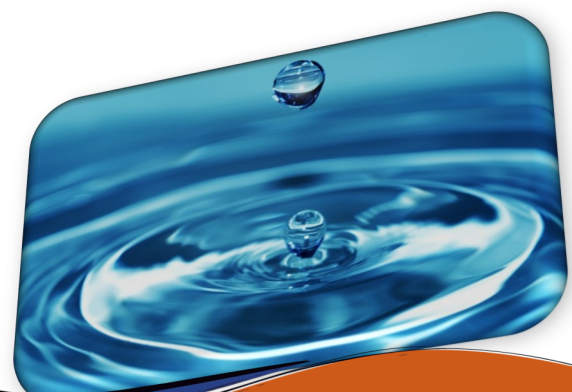
The entire system will be powered by solar throughout the day, and by solar charged batteries during any night time operations, or on the rare occasion that we don't have enough sunlight, this will ensure that running costs are kept to a minimum and it will not have any impact on the current power supply to the area.

The storage tank will also be fitted with UV lamps to ensure the tanks remain free from any biological growth. By using ultra violet lamps the stored water will not need to receive any further treatment, so our natural artesian water will retain the same great taste and all of the same benefits that we all love and enjoy now.

Once this system is operational there will be an electronic visual display placed along the Town Walking Track, near the cooling ponds, which will show how the system is working in real time.

The display will include information such as the current temperature of the bore water entering the system, the current temperature of the water supplying the town, as well as the current flow rate (the amount of water the town is using).

Until this display is up and running, we hope you enjoy watching the construction process while out on your daily walk along the Town Walking Track.





## **NEW PLANT..... *CLEANER GUTTERS*..... WELL DONE TOWN SERVICES**

Council has recently taken possession of a Rosmech Azura MC200 Street Sweeper.

Effective and efficient are the hallmarks of the powerful Azura. It is environmentally friendly and ideal for cleaning streets, lanes, cycle paths, factories, large depots and town squares.

With a maximum driving speed of up to 50 kilometres per hour, it is an intelligent, patented sweeping system with a powerful Euro 5 or Tier 3 diesel engine, and a stainless steel hopper with a gross capacity of two cubic metres.

The streets of Thargomindah are going to look amazing once Pauly starts zipping around in this compact little work horse.



## **GREEN TURF FOR THE JAIL**

Our town beautification program continues with the laying of turf in the Old Jail precinct. A total of 6,000 square metres of Kikuyu turf has been laid on the vacant land between the Explorers Caravan Park and the Old Jail to create an open park area in a bid to reduce the amount of dust blowing throughout the town.

Automated pop up sprinklers will be installed so all watering can be carried out during the night. This project was funded through the Drought Communities Programme.



# Explore



# Bulloo

Thargomindah - Noccundra  
Burke & Wills Dig Tree  
Cameron Corner  
Hungerford

The Visitor Information Centre had a total of 1518 visitors during the month of July. That averages out to be almost 50 visitors each day!

Thargomindah has also been visited by quite a number of professional bird watchers over the last month. We've been told Thargomindah is very popular with 'twitchers' due to good sightings of a variety of birds, Australian Ringneck Parrot (*Barnardi*), the Splendid Fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*) and Crimson Chat (*Epthianura tricolor*), just to name a few.



Some of our visitors are hoping to be selected to return in October to conduct an official bird species survey for Birds Australia which spans over one month.

Faith recently attended the Toowoomba Camping and Travel show, held from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August. At this show, the Bulloo Region and surrounding Shires were well received. There were 1093 people that visited the Bulloo Shire stand over the three days. A number of people that visited the stand have since planned a trip to Thargomindah and have come into the VIC to say hello.



The VIC hosted a family with Trade Travel who are a group travel specialist company. Danielle conducted a tour around Thargomindah. The owners of Trade Travel were very impressed with what we have on offer and are looking into having two nights in Thargomindah instead of one.



Our first hosted bus tour of the year is with CT Travel from Coolum, coming up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020, with Gerda being the Tour Hostess.

Recently, Pete Murray and Dan took a myriad of images and videos. There are so many images that we are yet to sort through them all. There will be some special school holiday videos and Facebook posts that can be used for each period leading up to the school holidays, and getting videos ready to go to air in the new year to boost our presence leading into the tourist season next year.

If you haven't already liked our [Explore Bulloo Facebook Page](#), you're missing out on Bulloo news! Weekly specials, nature posts and things to do in the Bulloo are posted frequently. Search Explore Bulloo and Pop over to give us a like.

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**Aurora**  
your local library network

## FREE ACCESS TO RURAL LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library signed up four tourists to the Tourist Card program, where Queensland tourists can borrow books etc and either return them here or drop them off at another location.

For tourists travelling through outback and regional Queensland, the membership allows free access to Rural library services and collections at more than 60 branches across the state? From Normanton to Birdsville there's an RLQ library wherever you're headed.

Library members can choose from more than 250,000 books, audiobooks, e-books, music, movies and more. The RLQ Tourist Card is a collaboration between the State Library of Queensland (State Library) and local Queensland councils. If you know someone who loves to read and does a lot of travel, why not refer them to this service:

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/free-library-service-queensland-travellers>



### Healthy Body, Happy Mind **Arts and Craft**

Come join in the craft activities at the Library Mondays 11:00am - 1:00pm and Wednesdays 2:-00 - 4:00pm.

At the moment the ladies have been working on Christmas Tree items for the upcoming Christmas Markets.

### Book Exchange

We have received a small book exchange this week and there are a number of new titles on the shelves for you to choose from, come in and have a look or if you are chasing a particular book let me know and I will do my best to find it for you.

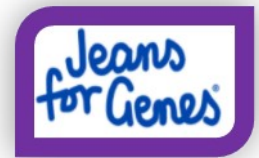
Our magazine collection will include some new titles over the coming months including ABC Organic Gardener, Australian Photography, Australian Yoga Life, Beer and Brewer Magazine, Fishing monthly and Wellbeing Homegrown Homemade, to name a few.

Remember as a library member you have access to Aurora Montage online where it is possible for you to search the State Library Catalogue and reserve books to be delivered to our library for pick up.

If you need any further information on this service, do not hesitate to call into the library.

## Genes for Jeans Day

As a community, we raised \$98.00 thanks to all those who donated to this cause.



## InBody Scan

The body scan is back in use..... InBody scanning is a method of measuring body composition, in particular body fat and muscle mass.

If you would like to have an overall view of your body composition come into the Library and see Gerda or Diane.

They can complete your scan and explain the results.



**Did you know?**

If your licensed plumber is replacing your hot water heater, the plumber **must** submit a Form 4 to the QBCC and provide you with a copy.

You can find more at [qbcc.qld.gov.au](http://qbcc.qld.gov.au)

The logo for the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), featuring a stylized house icon above the letters 'qbcc'.

**Unlicensed Plumbing Notice**

Plumbing work **must** be performed by a licensed plumber.

This includes:

- replacing taps & bathroom fixtures
- work on hot water heaters.

Plumbers are trained to ensure a safe water supply for Queenslanders. Find a licensed plumber online at [qbcc.qld.gov.au](http://qbcc.qld.gov.au)

In Qld it is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform regulated plumbing or drainage work.

The logo for the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), featuring a stylized house icon above the letters 'qbcc'.



# Skin Cancer Clinic

## Thargomindah 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020



A Skin Check Clinic with Dr Jon Outridge has been scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Thargomindah patients are invited to call the Thargomindah clinic on 4655 3361 or the Charleville Base on 4654 1233 to make an appointment.

**Unfortunately, we are unable to book routine appointments for this clinic**



**Royal Flying Doctor Service**  
*The furthest corner. The finest care.*

True's Outreach Clinic



True's Outreach Clinic offers reproductive & sexual health services to all clients at no cost.

Breast health

Menopause advice

Cervical screening

Preconception planning

Contraception options

Sexual health screen

IUD insertion/removal

Your next clinic is visiting:

Next clinic  
**Tuesday  
15 September**

Thargomindah  
**Thargomindah  
Hospital**

For appointments  
**Ph 4655 3361**

[true.org.au/thargomindah](http://true.org.au/thargomindah)



These clinics are funded by the Federal Government. Funding is managed by Checkup with True Relationships and Reproductive Health contracted as the provider of the service delivery in various locations around Queensland. The program is run in co-operation with local service providers.

Clinic, Education, Counselling

[true.org.au](http://true.org.au)



**Dementia  
Australia™**

**1800 100 500**

The National Dementia Helpline is a free service that provides information and advice to:

- people living with dementia
- people concerned about changes to memory and thinking
- people living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI)
- family, friends and carers of people living with dementia
- people who work in health and aged care.



# Customer Satisfaction Survey

## How are we doing?

To help us improve our customer service we would love to hear what is working and what we can do better.

1. Do you reside in the Bulloo Shire?  Yes  No
2. What is your age group:  
 18-24  25-31  35-44  
 45-54  55-64  65+
3. What is your gender?  
 Male  Female
4. How often do you use our customer services? e.g. General enquiries, payments, complaints, private works, road reports  
 Weekly  Monthly  1-2 times a year  
 3-6 times a year  Not at all
5. How do you access our customer service?  
 Phone  Email  Over the counter  
 Direct contact with staff  After hours emergency number
6. What was your customer service request in regard to? eg: roads, tourism, animals, building application, rates, water and sewerage, council programs, information request.

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7. How helpful was our customer service representative?  
 Extremely helpful  Very helpful  Somewhat helpful  
 Not Very helpful  Not at all helpful

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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8. How would you rate the quality of customer service?  
 Very high  High  Neither high nor low  
 Low  Very Low

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Please describe the issues you encountered, if any, in more detail.

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10. On a scale of 1 - 10, how would you rate Bulloo Shire Council's consultation and engagement with the community on key local issues? 1 = Very Poor - 10 = Excellent

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩

Why did you give Council this rating? \_\_\_\_\_

11. On a scale of 1 - 10, how would you rate Council's communications on council operations, key issues, events and programs? 1 = Very Poor - 10 = Excellent

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩

Why did you give Council this rating? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What method would you choose to receive general information from council?

- Website                                       Facebook                                       Newsletter  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

13. On a scale of 1 - 10, how would you rate the quality and range of Council's community spaces eg halls, sporting grounds and facilities, parks and playgrounds, skate parks, walking, running and cycling tracks? 1 = Very Poor - 10 = Excellent

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩

Why did you give Council this rating? \_\_\_\_\_

14. On a scale of 1 - 10, how would you rate Council support of community sporting events, workshops, festivals etc? 1 = Very Poor - 10 = Excellent

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩

Why did you give Council this rating? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you access information from Council's website or Social Media?                       Yes                       No

16. Were you able to find the information you were looking for?                       Yes                       No

17. How can we improve your customer experience with Council?

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15. Do you have any additional comments or feedback for us?

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# Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan

The Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan is now available.

On Monday 27 July 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment - and their partners in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory - welcomed the release of the latest Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan.

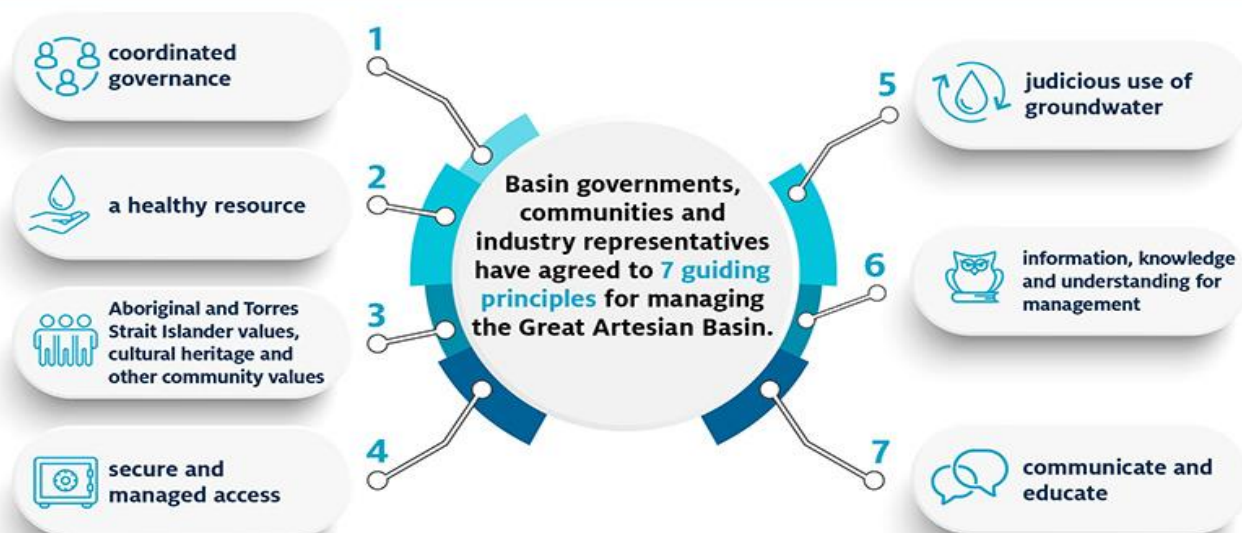
This Plan brings in new technical knowledge, better sustainable water resource management practices, and changing social and political contexts to build on the success of the first Strategic Management Plan of 2000. There is also a focus on aligning Basin management more closely with nationally agreed strategies and frameworks, including the National Water Initiative.

The Plan was developed in consultation with the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee (GABCC), stakeholders, and considered feedback through a public consultation process.

The Plan provides a framework for governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, water users and other stakeholders to achieve economic, environmental, cultural and social outcomes for the Great Artesian Basin (the Basin) and its users.

Implementation of the Plan will assist all parties to identify and respond to the risks, issues, challenges and opportunities associated with use of Basin water.

Basin governments, community and industry representatives agreed to 7 guiding principles. These are used to achieve economic, environmental, cultural and social outcomes for the Basin.



These will help to achieve economic, environmental, cultural and social outcomes.

A new Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee (the Committee) is being established to advise on whole-of-Basin policies and initiatives. The Committee will play a pivotal role on a range of matters that will support the long-term sustainability of the Basin.

The Plan spans 15 years (ending 2034). It will be reviewed every 5 years. A copy of the Plan can be viewed at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/national/great-artesian-basin/strategic-management-plan>





## Gardening Tips

All this garden action can be a little mis-leading because cold days and frosts are still likely for a few more weeks. There's plenty for you to do in the garden during September, mostly tidying up and preparing for planting next month. Start your disease control program on deciduous fruit trees this month.

### 1. PLANTING

In warm temperate and subtropical areas, Australian native plants, evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers can continue to be planted, as well as salad vegetables, herbs and seasonal flowering annuals. Check out what's in stock in your garden centre.

#### • **Seasonal flowers:**

Bloomer pots of spring flowering annuals can still be planted out this month for patches of instant impact colour – pansies, violas, Iceland poppies, cinerarias, calendulas are just a few. In warm areas plant seedlings of bedding begonias, marigolds, impatiens and nasturtiums.

#### • **Woody and perennial herbs:**

"Hard" herbs - rosemary, sage, thyme, bay laurel, oregano, mint\* – may be planted now in warm climates. "Soft" herbs – parsley, basil, coriander, chives, tarragon – may be grown indoors in cooler areas or outdoors in warmer climates.

\*Mint should be grown in a pot to stop it becoming invasive.

#### • **What flowers to plant:**

Potted roses in full leaf can be planted now. It's too late now to plant advanced flowering pots out into the garden but they can be used to add splashes of colour to verandas and decks.

#### • **In warmer areas, plant annual seedlings of:**

- Dianthus
- Gaillardia
- Geum
- Gypsophila
- Honesty
- Impatiens
- Nasturtium
- Petunias
- Statice
- Zinnias

Spring is in the air ...

It's that wonderful time of year when the garden comes to life again after Winter. Deciduous blossom and fruit trees are in full bloom, there are bulb and seasonal flowers aplenty and other trees and shrubs are sprouting bright green new leaves and shoots.

### 2. THE VEGETABLE PATCH:

#### • **Harvest now:**

The last of the winter veggies, including cabbage, kale, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and broccoli should be harvested early in the month. New season's asparagus will be peaking now. Harvest spears when about 15cm tall.

#### • **What to plant now:**

Continue planting certified virus-free strawberry plants and runners. Rhubarb crowns should be planted as soon as possible. It's too cold in southern areas to sow tomato seeds, even under cover. Wait until early October.

#### • **In temperate to warm areas plant:**

- Beetroot
- Carrot
- Chinese cabbage
- Choko
- Kohl rabi
- Tomato
- Pumpkin
- Zucchini

#### **Veggie patch tips for September:**

- Water in newly planted seedlings with a liquid fertiliser for vegetables and herbs or a certified organic fertiliser to give them a good start.
- After sowing seeds, water well to moisten the soil, then wait until shoots appear before watering again.
- Hand pull or hoe out weeds as they appear – they compete for nutrients and moisture and may also harbour pests that could attack your crops.
- Pull out the last of the winter crops and put them into the compost bin if they are disease-free.
- Preparation for spring sowing and planting should be well underway. Keep the soil tilled, weed-free and moist.



# MEDIA RELEASE

28 July 2020

WESTERN QUEENSLAND ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY: LONGREACH 2020

## WESTERN COUNCIL ALLIANCE BACKED BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND READY TO RAMP UP REPUTATION & REPRESENTATION FOR REGION

The creation of the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) has been welcomed by member councils, Federal and State Government representatives as a proactive, timely and constructive initiative which will lead to improved outcomes for Western Queensland, the State and the nation.

Twenty-one councils have made the historic step to unite as the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils. The group held its Inaugural Assembly in Longreach on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 July 2020 with all member councils represented, with the exception of Burke Shire and Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council.

Assembly attendees included two Federal Ministers; a Senator; two State Ministers; the three local members; two Directors General and senior Federal and State departmental officers; President and CEO of the LGAQ; and media.

The Prime Minister also sent a message via video to the Assembly delegates thanking local government elected members for their hard work on the back of dealing with drought, floods and now COVID-19.

The two-day program focussed on long term priorities for the region which will form the basis of a *WQAC 2020 State Election Platform*, and concluded with adoption of the Alliance through a *Memorandum of Agreement*.

“This is a generational opportunity and won’t just benefit our regions. This is the first time we will have a clearly defined group across the West. As a group we are able to make sure government and LGAQ know that this one voice represents what 60% of the state is thinking and what their needs are,” RAPAD Chair Cr Tony Rayner said.

The Alliance unites the 21 councils through their representative bodies: North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC); Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD); and the South West Local Government Association (SWLGA).

“As a group, we already punch well above our weight, and we also face the same issues. By joining forces we can open doors and get our messages out there. When you lobby as a group, or ‘hunt in a pack’ as we’ve heard at the Assembly, you can bring about a lot for your local areas,” SWLGA Chair Cr Samantha O’Toole said.

**Western Queensland’s key industries of agriculture and resources are critical in supporting the State’s economy which, based on current data, are outperforming the rest of the nation.**

With this context in mind, speakers and guest presenters discussed the opportunities and continued potential of Western Queensland:

“As a region we are carrying well above our weight. Our agriculture and resources industries are essential to the State’s economy. In the West we always deliver whatever crisis comes and our ability to keep on working and continue production during this global pandemic is proof of that - without it Queensland would be pretty stuffed right now,” NWQROC Chair, Cr Jack Bawden said.

The next steps for the Alliance will include ramping up their campaign ahead of the 2020 State Election and continuing to build the brand and reputation of the Alliance as the “united voice for all of Western Queensland”.

Find out more at: [www.wqac.com.au/assembly2020-communicue](http://www.wqac.com.au/assembly2020-communicue)

- ENDS -

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Representing: Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, McKinlay, Mount Isa, Richmond; Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Diamantina, Longreach, Winton; Balonne, Bulloo, Maranoa, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie



# QUEENSLAND BORDER CLOSURE

**QLD/NSW BORDER @ Fortville Gate, Toona Gate, Warri Gate, Wompah Gate, Adelaide Gate, Hamilton Gate, Waverly Gate**

**CLOSED** - Please contact - Ph 07 4655 3200 -  
Business hours only  
[www.qld.gov.au/border-pass](http://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass)

**QLD/NSW BORDER @ Hungerford**

**CLOSED** - Please Contact - Ph 07 4655 4088 -  
Business hours only  
[www.qld.gov.au/border-pass](http://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass)

**QLD/SA BORDER @ Innamincka Road, Cameron Corner**

**RESTRICTED** - Effective Monday 31 August  
- Access 8:00am - 4:00pm only - Border pass  
required - [www.covid-19.sa.gov.au](http://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au)

**For further information visit:**  
[www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au)







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