

# QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL

## Community Newsletter



Above (left to right): Cr Tony Lander, Mayor Ben Hall, Cr Lyn Barnes, Deputy Mayor Roger Volz and Cr Milan Milosevic

## Mayor's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Quilpie Shire for the opportunity to be your Mayor. It is with the deepest gratitude and pride that I accept this honour.

I have been excited and encouraged by the rapid pace at which we, your elected representatives, have come together and demonstrated our shared commitment to getting on with the job and forging our way forward.

I've recently returned from the Mayoral Induction Conference and training in Brisbane, with all 77 Queensland mayors in attendance. While there, it quickly became apparent that we are an extremely lucky council and shire. The seamless transition our newly elected council has enjoyed is a testament to the unity and dedication of our predecessors and Quilpie Shire Council staff, thank you.

While in Brisbane, our CEO, Justin Hancock and I took the opportunity to meet with several state parliamentarians to discuss our three strategic infrastructure projects: South Comongin Bridge crossing, Eromanga Natural History Museum and the new sewerage treatment plant.

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## Mayor's Message cont.

As part of these meetings, we provided a professional presentation document outlining each of the projects. This document assisted in engaging ministers in productive discussion and gave them a physical takeaway reminder of our meeting and our strategic infrastructure priorities. This was a stroke of genius initiated and produced by our executive team and was very well received by the ministers we met.

Again, I must thank our predecessors and the Quilpie Shire team for their progressive and swift approach to developing and executing our Shire's strategic housing plan. While in Brisbane, the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works, upheld Quilpie Shire as a leader in housing, amongst our mayoral peers.

## Quilpie Cemetery History Project

The Quilpie Visitor Information Centre is working on a new history project for the Quilpie Cemetery. We would like to share the stories of those buried at the cemetery using QR codes on gravestones, linked to a short story of the person.

If you are interested in sharing the story of a family member buried at the Quilpie Cemetery, please contact the Visitor Information Centre for more information on 07 4656 0540 or email [tourism@quilpie.qld.gov.au](mailto:tourism@quilpie.qld.gov.au).

Recent rain events have compounded damage to road infrastructure. This has resulted in an unprecedented workload, with no additional resources for the Quilpie Shire team. I would like to commend the team for their great work so far.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing mayor and councillors. Stuart Mackenzie, thank you for your tireless and forward-thinking leadership and for leaving things in such a great position, truly a tough act to follow. Jenny Hewson, you have been an excellent advocate for the shire, your contributions and service will be forever remembered. As a shire, we are fortunate to be surrounded by the outstanding physical reminders of your combined leadership legacy. Bruce Paulsen, you have been a great community motivator, your time and contributions as councillor are much appreciated.

Thank you everyone and stay Simply Unique!

Kind regards

Ben Hall

Mayor

# Quilpie Cemetery History Project

**Are you interested in being involved?**

**Please contact the Visitor Information  
Centre via [tourism@quilpie.qld.gov.au](mailto:tourism@quilpie.qld.gov.au)**






# Disaster Relief (Flood Damage) Funding

Queensland is the most disaster affected state in Australia. Disaster events often result in large-scale funding packages provided by governments in the form of financial schemes, loans and grants.

These packages are designed to assist impacted communities recover and to repair or rebuild essential infrastructure.

The Queensland Government, via the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) administers two disaster relief and recovery funding programs:

1. Australian Government, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA); and
2. State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA), a wholly state-funded program.

An eligible disaster as defined by the DRFA, is:

1. a natural disaster, or
2. a terrorist act for which a coordinated multi-agency response is required, and state expenditure exceeds the Australian Government Small Disaster Criterion (SDC).

A natural disaster is defined as one, or a combination of the following rapid onset events:

- Bushfire
- Tornado
- Storm surge
- Earthquake
- Cyclone
- Tsunami
- Landslide
- Flood
- Storm
- Meteorite strike

A terrorist act is defined as an action or a series of actions committed in Australia which the Australian Government minister has determined is a terrorist act for the purposes of an eligible disaster under the DRFA, and has advised the state in writing.

## Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA)

REPA assistance provides a safety-net to support local governments and state agencies following eligible disasters through various relief measures, for Quilpie Shire Council this includes:

### Emergency works:

- Emergency works are the urgent activities necessary during and/or following an eligible disaster to temporarily restore an essential public asset to enable it to operate/be operated at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community.
- Emergency Works take place prior to commencing permanent reconstruction works under the REPA measure or prior to, or at the same time as Immediate Reconstruction Works.
- Emergency Works must be completed within three months from the impact of the event, or by exception, from when the essential public asset becomes accessible. Information on asset accessibility must be provided to support works undertaken more than three months from the event impact.
- Detailed emergency work submissions must be prepared and submitted for reimbursement of the eligible costs incurred to temporarily restore eligible essential public assets damaged by an eligible disaster.

### Reconstruction of essential public assets:

- REPA refers to the permanent reconstruction works for an essential public asset that has been directly damaged by an eligible disaster.
- An essential public asset directly damaged by an eligible disaster, or a re-damaged essential public asset may be reconstructed to its pre-disaster function.
- All REPA submissions, including awarded market prices, must be lodged with QRA within nine months (by 31 March) following the financial year in which the disaster occurred (unless otherwise directed by QRA).
- Once REPA submissions have been assessed and approved by QRA, Council release packages of work to prequalified suppliers to undertake and deliver the restoration of assets. This process can often be an extended period and reconstruction works may not commence until 12 months post an event occurring.

## Disaster Relief (Flood Damage) Funding cont.

### How can I work with council to get my road fixed?

Unfortunately, storms can be isolated and widespread and often lead to damage on council and state road networks.

Council has around 1600km of gravel roads spread across an area the size of Tasmania. Because of this, we often do not know about road damage until a considerable time after an event occurs.

To initiate a response from Council, to repair damage to the road network, please call 07 4656 0500 Monday to Friday from 8.00am until 5.00pm or email [admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au).

During periods of rainfall, council actively works to preserve our road network by shutting some unsealed roads and limiting traffic to emergency movements only.

Damage caused due to vehicles travelling on wet roads is not covered through Flood Damage funding.

Since 2021, Council have been successful in claiming \$28.3M in funding towards the restoration of essential assets, these include:

- 2021 Event - \$1M
- 2022 Event - \$3M
- Sept 2022 Event - \$17M
- 2023 Event - \$7.3M
- 2024 Event – to be assessed

## Opera Queensland returning to Quilpie in 2024

Quilpie Shire Council is excited to welcome Opera Queensland back to Quilpie in 2024 with their new show 'Do We Need Another Hero?'

Do We Need Another Hero? is a joyful celebration of songs about bravery and heroism.

From pop to opera, country to classical, this live musical tribute features chart-topping anthems and unique mashups that will have you dancing in your seat.

Hits by The Beatles, David Bowie, John Farnham and more, intertwined with opera classics from composers like Beethoven and Bizet, provide the soundtrack as we search for what it means to be a hero.



**Location:** Baldy Top, Quilpie

**Date:** Saturday 25th May 2024

**Time:** 5:30pm start

For more information on this event and to book tickets visit:

<https://www.visitquilpieshire.com/event/opera-queenslands-do-we-need-another-hero/>

# Using fire pits and braziers in Quilpie Shire

## Can I use a brazier or fire pit?

An above-ground brazier or fire pit may be used as long as their use does not cause a smoke impact to neighbours or fire safety risk to people or property.

If the use of a brazier or fire pit causes a smoke impact to neighbours or fire safety risk to people or property, Council or Queensland Fire and Emergency Services may direct that the fire be put out or otherwise managed to prevent the smoke impact or fire safety risk.

The following advice is provided to help you reduce the risk of causing smoke impacts to neighbours or a fire safety risk to people or property.

## How can I reduce the risk of smoke impacts to neighbours?

**USE SMOKELESS FUEL:** If you live where the neighbouring houses or apartments are very close, fuels such as gas, ethanol and charcoal are great alternatives as they produce little to no smoke. Using smokeless fuel will reduce the smoke impact on neighbours and is also a good option if you have neighbours with health concerns who are sensitive to smoke or fumes.

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**It is against the law to burn treated or painted timber, plastics, rubbish, rubber, paints, fabrics, petrol, oils, solvents, rags, or driftwood as they will release toxic chemicals that are dangerous to your family and neighbours.**

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Only ever burn dry, well-seasoned wood. The dryness of firewood makes a significant difference to the amount of smoke emitted from a fire.

Damp or green wood that has been freshly cut off the tree causes excessive smoke. Wood needs to be dried for upwards of 8 months.

Commercially bought firewood may need further drying out at home. You can usually tell seasoned wood by looking at the ends of cut sections.



Dried wood will have large cracks running across the grain. When you hit two pieces of dry wood together, there should be a loud, hollow cracking sound. A dull, muffled sound indicates that the wood is damp.

Use split timber, without bark, not thicker than 15 centimetres. Split timber has a greater surface area that allows the wood to dry out and become seasoned more quickly.

Softwoods are easier to ignite, burn faster and produce less coal. They are best used for starting the fire.

Hardwoods are harder to ignite, burn slower and produce better coals. Hardwood can lead to higher smoke emissions on lighting or refuelling. Use hardwoods after achieving a good, hot fire with kindling and smaller wood pieces.

Avoid burning highly scented woods (such as camphor) that could cause an odour.

Burn only 100% untreated wood. Burning of CCA-treated wood releases arsenic into the air, your home and into the ash, which if inhaled, is dangerous. Any wood product with a coating such as melamine or formica, painted, stained or varnished wood, MDF, custom wood, chipboard or plywood which has glue and bindings, are also dangerous to burn.

# Using fire pits and braziers in Quilpie Shire cont.

## Store your wood correctly

- To avoid smoke, be sure to keep your firewood dry.
- Buy your wood well in advance, remove the packaging and store it correctly so it dries well.
- Store in an undercover area on pallets or raised on blocks, not on the ground or the wood will absorb moisture and increase the amount of smoke when burnt.
- Split the wood into pieces of about 15cm in width before stacking.
- Stack the wood loosely, or in a crisscrossed manner, to allow air to circulate around the wood.
- Do not cover the wood heap with a tarp as this will trap moisture and prevent air circulation.
- You may wish to purchase a moisture meter to be confident of the dryness of your wood.

## Lighting and maintaining a fire

Smoke comes from a fire that is not burning hot enough. Firstly, check if your brazier or fire pit will allow enough air to the fire. There should be holes around the sides and bottom of the container to draw air through the fire and help avoid smoke.

Never use an old petrol drum or any other chemical container, as there may be chemical residue which will create toxic fumes.

- Build the fire using small kindling wood, loosely crumpled paper and/or firelighters.
- Create a pyramid of kindling in a way that allows air to circulate around the fire. You can expect some smoke when you first start, but it should not last longer than 20 minutes.
- Never use petrol, oil or kerosene to help light the fire. This could cause an explosion.
- Once the fire has started, gradually increase the size of the wood you add. Start with soft woods and progress to hardwood when the fire is well established.
- Once a hot bed of coals has formed you can add larger pieces of dry, clean, seasoned wood.
- Do not smother the fire by adding logs that are too large, no more than two to four kilograms.

- A good fire will be hot and aerated with coals and flames glowing brightly. Dark, smouldering wood and a lot of smoke are signs of poor and incomplete burning and insufficient air flow.

## Check and monitor the amount and direction of smoke

- You are responsible for ensuring that the smoke does not affect others in the community. Monitor the amount of smoke coming from your fire to ensure it is not causing a smoke impact.
- From time to time stand back and check if there is smoke from your fire and where your smoke is going.
- Wind, fog, trees and buildings will all affect where the smoke goes.
- Sometimes on winter evenings atmospheric conditions will trap smoke low to the ground over the whole neighbourhood.
- If you can see that this is happening, or if your smoke is going towards your neighbours' houses, please be courteous and put the fire out.

## How can I reduce fire risk to people and property?

- Fire pits should not exceed 2 metres in height, length or width unless they have a permit from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.
- Never leave your fire unattended. Actively supervise children around fires (visit [kidsafeqld.com.au](http://kidsafeqld.com.au)).
- If anyone is burned, run the affected area under cool running water and call 000.
- Always put the fire out with water. Do not cover the fire or hot coals with sand or dirt.
- Do not let the fire burn overnight.
- Make sure the fire is at least 2.5m away from any flammable materials. Do not place a fire pit or brazier under an overhang. Use an ashtray with portable fire pits and braziers.

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**Never light a fire during a fire ban. Visit [ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://ruralfire.qld.gov.au) for more information.**

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## April Council Meeting Wrap Up

- Council resolved to begin plumbing inspections in 2024-2025 year and will consider a plumbing inspection fee as part of the 2024-2025 Council Budget.
- Subject to funding approval and finalisation, council awarded RFQL13 23-24 Flood Restoration Works – South West Quadrant to APV Contracting for an amount of \$1,566,963.41 excluding GST. The request was for the restoration of essential public asset works on Mt Howitt Road, Boondook Road, Durham Downs Road, Cooma Road, and Telephone Bore Road.
- Council accepted the quotation of Fibreglaze Products Pty Ltd to repair the Eromanga swimming pool for a total sum of \$180,900 excluding GST and resolved to amend the budget for this project to \$600,000 and amend the LRCIP 4A funding for this project to \$600,000.
- Council declined a request received from Geoff Baguley, of Baguley Group, to provide sponsorship toward their participation in the 2024 Variety Bash as it does not align with Council's Community Assistance Policy.
- Council resolved to support Quilpie Sport and Recreation Inc's grant funding application to the Department of Health and Aged Care Play Our Way Program by providing a letter of support and a contribution of in-kind administrative support in relation to the project.
- Council authorised the disposal of the shed located on 49 Boonkai Street (L114 Q6801) to the Quilpie Golf Club for the purpose of housing motorised golf buggies. All associated permits and costs associated with the removal of the shed are the responsibility of the Quilpie Golf Club.
- Council adopted the revised Internet Public Use Policy.
- Council adopted the revised Revenue Policy in accordance with section 193 of Local Government Regulation 2012.
- Council adopted the revised Register of Roads Policy.
- Council endorsed the recommendation of the Local Government Remuneration Commission to apply from 1 July 2024 as follows:
  - Mayor - \$119,393
  - Deputy Mayor - \$68,880
  - Councillor - \$59,695 (a base payment of \$39,796.67 and a meeting fee of \$1,658 per calendar month).
- Council adopted the third quarter update for the 2023-24 Operational Plan.
- Council adopted the Quilpie Shire Advocacy document to be used to secure project funding for key infrastructure projects.
- Council resolved to support an application for the Eromanga Natural History Museum – Stage 3 under the Growing Future Tourism Program – Round 2 and supports that the total application can be up to the value of \$3 million (GST exclusive).
- Council confirmed the date and times of Ordinary Meetings of Council for April to December 2024.
- Council resolved to enter into new annual residential tenancy lease agreement for the new residential property at 16 Donald Street Eromanga with Eromanga Natural History Museum and that Eromanga Natural History Museum surrender the lease at Lot 6 Neal Street, Eromanga. The 2023/24 Schedule of Fees and Charges will be amended to include Rental Income from 16 Donald Street, Eromanga for \$170.00 per week.

### NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024

QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL BOARDROOM

COMMENCING 9:30AM



## Engineering works update

- Council is tidying up, as weather permits, on the recent works on the Quilpie Adavale Red Road.
- Grading of the Adavale Charleville Road has been completed.
- The new removable fence at Bulloo Park is completed. This enables the fence to be removed when the annual show is on.

Council will be carrying out the following works over the next few months:

- Widening of the single lane bitumen seal on the Eulo Road has commenced. The road is being widened to two lanes of bitumen to improve this Council road which connects to Yowah, Eulo, Cunnamulla and New South Wales. This is being funded by the Australian Government.
- Works are underway to replace three more culverts on the Diamantina Developmental Road at the Grey Range. Two sidetracks are in place and speed restrictions apply.
- Maintenance works will be carried out on the Quilpie Thargomindah Road and on the Adavale Blackall Road on behalf of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.
- Earthworks will be carried out on the Eromanga waste transfer station. The concrete works for the retaining walls are completed.
- Concrete works will commence on the Adavale waste transfer station this month.

## Cultural Learner Licence Program for Quilpie

Do you need to do your Learner Licence written test? The Cultural Learner Licence Program is coming to Quilpie on Monday 10 June from 1:30 to 3:30pm.

### What is involved?

A two hour face-to-face program focused on giving constructive, personalised recommendations with full support to guide and assist you, conducted by Murriss on the Move Driving School ([motm.org.au](http://motm.org.au)).

Attendance is FREE to all - 16 years and older.

When you pass, you then visit a Department of Transport customer service centre and pay their fees to get your learner licence.

**Registrations close 5pm, 7th June 2024.**



### Registration:

To register you need a Department of Transport and Main Roads Customer Reference Number, obtained by visiting a Department of Transport customer service centre and providing proof of ID.

Check out the flyer on the next page and register via the QR Code.



# WANT TO GET YOUR LEARNER LICENCE!



**Murri's on the Move**  
are heading your way!

\* **QUILPIE**  
Monday  
10th June

\* **CHARLEVILLE**  
Tuesday 11th  
& Wednesday  
12th June .

\* **CUNNAMULLA**  
Wednesday 12th  
& Thursday 13th  
June

\* **REGISTER NOW**

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0429 924 351  
[clp.motm.org.au](http://clp.motm.org.au)



# Goodbye 3G. Hello to a better network experience.

To help provide you with an improved experience, we're evolving our mobile network. This means that on 30 June 2024 we're switching off our 3G network. Our 4G and 5G networks will be available instead and offer an improved experience, representing the next leap forward in mobile network technology.

**We're here to help you get ready  
for an improved network experience.**

To find out more visit:  
[www.telstra.com/3Gclosure](http://www.telstra.com/3Gclosure)