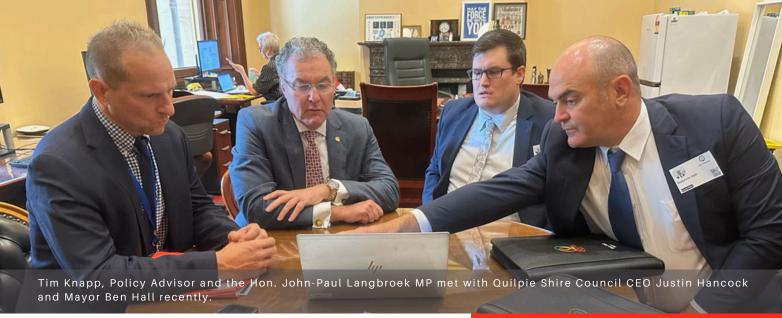


QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Newsletter



Mayor's Message

February was a significant and productive month as we've hit the ground running in 2025. With the new State Government now fully operational after its first 100 days, we seized the opportunity to meet with key ministers to advocate for our Shire's top priorities.

These include the South Comongin Crossing, the Sewerage Treatment Plant, the Eromanga Natural History Museum, and the Rural Residential Estate project. We also discussed broader regional issues such as quarry operations, opal mining, gas and oil development, regional flight costs, and tourism.

The reception we received was warm and encouraging, with ministers and their advisors well briefed on our key concerns. I was joined by Cr Barnes and CEO Hancock in these discussions, and we also attended a Queensland Resources Council (QRC) presentation at the invitation of Assistant MP Trevor Watts.

This event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with QRC CEO Jeanette Hewson and Minister Dale Last. The presentation reinforced the critical role the resources sector will continue to play in our state's economic future, which was reassuring for our region.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING WRAP UP

NEW FOOTPATH COMPLETED

WORKPLACE WELLBEING

INVITATION TO QUOTE

WHAT'S ON IN QUILPIE SHIRE

NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025
QUILPIE SHIRE COUNCIL BOARDROOM
50 BROLGA STREET, QUILPIE
COMMENCING 9:30AM

Mayor's Message, continued

We also highlighted our Shire's leadership in addressing housing challenges and reiterated the importance of sealing the road to Adavale, our last but not least shire-bound community

These projects are not just infrastructure improvements - they are vital to the economic and social fabric of our region, both now and in the years to come. I extend my gratitude to the State Government for their ongoing support and investment in these initiatives.

Back home, I had the privilege of visiting Eromanga to tour the reverse osmosis plant or "RO" as it is officially known, which supplies treated water to the community. Walking through the facility gave me a deeper understanding of its complexity and the dedication of the staff who keep it running. It's a remarkable piece of engineering and a testament to the hard work that goes into delivering such a critical resource.

Council crews have also been hard at work across the Shire. I'd like to give a special shoutout to the concrete crew for completing the Jabiru Street footpath, connecting Chipu Street with Gyrica Street.

This project is a small but important step in making our community more accessible and liveable for everyone. These efforts often go unnoticed or just seen as a matter of course, so thank you to the team for your commitment.

As we move further into 2025, I'm excited about the milestones we've already achieved and those on the horizon.

With so much progress underway, I'm particularly looking forward to engaging with our communities about what's next for the Quilpie Shire. We have an open book of opportunities ahead, and I assure you that my fellow councillors and I are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions.

Prayers for rain out to all on the land, us townies do it tough with you all.

Stay safe, everyone, and keep it simply unique.

MAYOR BEN HALL







MID-MARCH COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY: creating a shared vision

At Quilpie Shire Council, we're committed to listening to you - our community - because your voice matters.

We want to hear what's important to you, how you feel about the services we provide, and where you think we should focus our efforts.

That's why we're conducting a Community Satisfaction Survey: to better understand your needs, priorities, and how we can continue to improve.

Your feedback will help shape the future of our Shire, ensuring we're working together to create a community that thrives. An online version will be available on our website at www.quilpie.qld.gov.au, or paper copies can be picked up at Quilpie Shire Council's customer service desk.

By entering your name and contact details when you complete the survey, you'll go into the draw to win one of two \$250 local shopping vouchers.

WHY LEAVE TOWN GIFT CARDS: SUPPORTING LOCAL SHOPPING

Why Leave Town Gift Cards are designed to encourage local spending and can only be used at participating businesses within the Quilpie Shire.

These cards can only be used at participating local businesses within the program, ensuring your support stays right here in the community.

The core purpose of the Why Leave Town Gift Card is to keep money circulating within the local community by supporting participating businesses in Quilpie.

Joining the Quilpie Shire Gift Card Program is free for all businesses in the area, making it easy for everyone to get involved. This initiative is a 'Support Local' effort brought to you by the Quilpie Shire Council, helping to strengthen the local economy and community.

Where can I spend my card? Quilpie Hardware and Tyre Service, Quilpie Home Appliances, Paulsen Bros Friendly Grocer - Quilpie, Elles Newsagency, Quilpie Shire Council, Imperial Hotel Motel Quilpie, Quilpie Licensed Post Office, Outback Hair Studio, Gilby & Tonkin, The Old Empire Café, Re-store, Adavale Hotel, Eromanga Natural History Museum, All About Aquatics, The Brick Hotel, Elegant Emu

Purchase digital cards at: whyleavetown.com/community/quilpie/



(07) 4656 0500



admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au



www.quilpie.qld.gov.au



50 Brolga Street / PO Box 57 Quilpie Qld 4480





February Council Meeting Wrap Up

- Council resolved to apply to the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund Round 3 (2025-2026) for the sealing of key low-lying sections of Old Charleville Road and Napoleon Road to establish a flood-resilient alternative detour between Quilpie and Toompine when the South Comongin crossing is closed due to flooding. Council will contribute \$99,750 (10%) and the Disaster Ready Fund \$897,750 (90%) should our application be successful.
- · Council has agreed to partner with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University in a joint collaboration to support a application under the Australian Research Council Linkage Project. This project aims to explore opportunities for establishing a long-term, impactful partnership centred on sustainability, waste recycling, and the circular economy. The anticipated outcome is the development of innovative solutions that deliver both environmental and community benefits, fostering a more sustainable future. Council will contribute \$10,000 towards the project over the next three years.
- The Quilpie Cultural Society successfully applied for \$3,000 in funding from Council's community grant program to support the employment of an Arts Development Officer. This role is crucial to fostering an active creative and cultural life in the Shire through liaison with the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), accessing funding opportunities, administration of the grants process and marketing and promotion of activities.

- A Mining Lease Notice No. 4000480 was received by Council for a proposed mining lease located forty-six kilometres west of Eromanga on Mt Margaret Station intended to be used for an opal mine. Council did not have any objection to this lease proposal.
- A land access request for land situated on Common Reserve behind L85/SP153664 Sommerfield Road Quilpie was not approved by Council as the intended use was not consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated - Reserve for Camping or Water purposes or Council's Depasturage Policy.
- Council has awarded Project Management Services for the Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (REPA) for flooding events 21/11/24 to 10/12/24 to Proterra Group. The scope of services includes the provision of qualified Project Management and Engineering personnel to manage the REPA works. Projects and project management under REPA are fully funded externally with no impact on the Council budget for works under this scheme.
- A flood damage package of works, being 2024
 Big Creek Road Package for the
 Reconstruction of Essential Public Asset Works
 on Duck Creek Road, Wareo Road and Big
 Creek Road was awarded to S.A Travers & S.L
 Travers for the amount \$1,791,204.95 incl GST.
 Works should commence on the roads in this
 area in the very near future.

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February Council Meeting Wrap Up, continued

- Under the fleet replacement program, Council resolved to award the supply and delivery of a CF Moto Uforce 1000cc ATV to JP Motorcycles, for the sum of \$20,518.18 (ex GST). This unit will replace one of the older Can-am side-by-side units.
- Council awarded the supply and delivery of a Vacuum Suction Truck to RDO Equipment for an Isuzu FSR 140-240 with a VSK70-800 Unit for the amount of \$328,093.55 (ex GST). This equipment purchase was specifically allocated in the 2024/25 budget allocation of \$2,413M for plant replacement.
- An application to purchase a Council house was received from the Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Council endorsed the sale of 30 Boonkai Street, Quilpie (Lot 306 Q6801) to The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba for \$255,00.00 (inc. GST).
- Council also supported an application to lease 57 Galah Street, Quilpie to The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba for the purpose of staff accommodation (St Finbarr's School). These housing decisions will help assist the school to provide suitable accommodation to meet their staffing needs into the future.
- The first edition of a 'Welcome to Quilpie Shire' booklet has been approved for publication, in both print and online. The booklet will share useful information to new members of the community about the services, facilities and many business in and around the

- Shire. The booklet will be developed as a 'living document' and will be updated regularly to include new and changing information.
- Council held a special meeting held on 20
 February, during which the tender for
 Concrete Floodway Replacements was
 awarded to Culverts Works Pty Ltd for
 \$825,280.00 (inc. GST). Under this funding,
 work will focus on restoring damaged
 floodways on Tobermory Road and Ray Road,
 which have been adversely affected over time.
- Also during the Special Meeting, Council approved a Development Application for a Material Change of Use to establish a "Transport Depot" (Aircraft Storage) on land situated at 87 Sommerfield Road, Quilpie, formally described as Lot 83 on SP153664, subject to conditions and general advice. Council looks forward to working with businesses to help them grow and improve their capabilities into the future.



New Footpath Completed on Jabiru Street

Council work crews have recently completed a new concrete footpath along Jabiru Street, between Duckamurra Street and Buln Buln Street.

This section is the final stage of a multi-year project that has progressively extended the footpath network from Chipu Street to Gyrica Street. As part of Council's Footpath Masterplan, this pathway provides a vital connection for pedestrians, improving accessibility and safety for the Quilpie community.

Residents are reminded to keep footpaths clear and avoid parking vehicles in driveways where they could potentially block pedestrian access. Ensuring pathways remain unobstructed helps improve safety and accessibility for all users, including children, seniors, and people with mobility aids.

We appreciate the community's cooperation and patience during construction and looks forward to further improvements to local infrastructure.

Thanks for your continued support as we make our towns even better places to live.



Attention Dog Owners!

If you no longer have your dog, whether you have rehomed them, they have passed away, or you have moved to a new address, please ensure that you advise the Council Administration Office so records can be amended accordingly.

If your dog is no longer in your care please notify Council Administration Office as soon as possible. This will ensure that we have updated accurate records.

Phone: 07 4656 0500

Email: admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au







2025 Toompine Easter Gunshoot

Why not spend your Easter Saturday and Sunday in good company and a great atmosphere at the Toompine Day/Night Clay Target Shoot.

Participate in the competition or sit back and watch the self proclaimed outback professionals of the Clay Target Shooting world. With food and drinks available all weekend, you'll be well looked after.

Bring your swag and stay the night as there are free showers and plenty of camping spots. It's going to be a great couple of days out and we look forward to seeing you there on Easter weekend, Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th April 2025.

Travel Tips

Check before you travel

If you are planning to travel, make sure you keep up to date with road conditions and closures through Quilpie's Disaster Dashboard at www.dashboard.quilpie.qld.gov.au/

The disaster dashboard includes information about river heights, road conditions and closures, power and phone outages, as well as helpful contacts. You can also check council's Facebook page for updates.

Travel Tips, continued

Report a damaged road

Residents can also assist by lodging a customer request to report road damage. Customer requests can be lodged by phone, in person, in writing, by email or via Council's website.

Proposed Development

Make a submission from 21 February 2025 to 14 March 2025 Child Care Centre (449m² GFA)

Where: Buln Buln Street, Quilpie

On: Lot 1 SP319651

Approval sought: Development Permit for Material

Change of Use

Application ref: DA05 24-25

You may obtain a copy of the application and make a submission to:

Quilpie Shire Council PO Box 57, Quilpie Qld 4480 admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au (07) 4656 0500 www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

Public notification requirements are in accordance with the *Planning Act 2016*



Workplace Wellbeing valued and supported

The annual Quilpie Shire Council Staff Wellbeing Week was held this month, allowing our employees to take time to prioritise their health and wellbeing.

As with previous years, there were high participation rates with staff accessing health checks including podiatrist appointments, hearing checks, blood pressure and blood glucose checks.

Employees were able to attend in-person sessions with Council's Employee Assistance Program provider, and group sessions were available for staff that have interest in quitting smoking or improving their sleep.

Acknowledging the importance that hobbies & social inclusion can have in wellbeing, interested staff attended a come & try session at the Quilpie Sporting Clays, come & try sessions of Aqua Pole and aqua exercise, and representatives of the Quilpie Cultural Society addressed staff to promote the various workshops on offer throughout the year.

All staff attended a complete fitness workout at the Quilpie gym which focused on aerobic exercise, strength and flexibility.

Employees were also able to attend one-on-one appointments with superannuation and salary packaging consultants.

Staff Wellbeing Week also saw the launch of our Quilpie Shire Council custom Trademutt Shirts. Our custom shirts have been designed by our staff, for our staff. You'll see our staff wearing

their custom shirts each Friday to start and continue conversations around mental health.

Our custom design is inspired by the rich elements of the Quilpie Shire. Our natural landscapes are represented with beautiful sunsets, trees, rivers, windmills and our colourful opals. Our natural wildlife is also represented with brolgas and emus. Our custom design really is simply unique! See the design on the next page.









Upcoming training opportunities

Council provides staff with a variety of training opportunities throughout the year including Forklift & Plant Operator tickets.

If you would like to join in on training opportunities as they arise, please contact our Human Resources team at hr@quilpie.qld.gov.au or phone 07 4656 0500.

QSC Lifeblood Donation team

Did you know that one blood donation can save up to 3 lives? And that 1 in 3 Aussies will need blood or blood products in their lifetime, but only 1 in 30 people donate?

Quilpie Shire Council staff are coming together to donate in 2025 and we'd like you to join us!

If you'd like to donate blood when you travel to an area that has a blood donation centre (eg Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Brisbane) and you'd like to contribute to our QSC team tally, please contact Manager Human Resources, Maree Radnedge at hr@quilpie.qld.gov.au or 07 4656 0500. Together we can make a difference!

Positions Vacant



Together, we're Australia's Lifeblood.

INVITATION TO QUOTE

RFQM 16 24-25

Treatment and Control of Pests



To supply a service for the treatment and control of pests on Council properties, including sewerage manholes. Quotations should include pest control measures that will be undertaken and availability for interim services if required, between two (2) major treatments programs, programmed over a two (2) year period. Treatment will need to be undertaken in either July or August of each year (2025- 2026).

To arrange inspection please contact Council on (07) 4656 0500.

Closing Date: Tuesday 15 April 2025

Lodgement: Quotations are to be marked

RFQM 16 24-25 Treatment and Controls of Pests

Lodgement Address: Quilpie Shire Council

50 Brolga Street Quilpie Qld 4480

Post Quotations to: Chief Executive Officer

PO Box 57 Quilpie Qld 4480

and mark envelope RFQM 16 24-25

Email Quotations

to:

admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au

NOTE: Quotations can be accepted via email or mail before the closing

date

Quotation Documents: Quotation documents can be obtained by contacting the Quilpie Shire

Council on:

Phone: (07) 4656 0500

Email: admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au

Website: www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

Contact Officer: Mrs Toni Bonsey

05/02/2025

Justin Hancock (07) 4656 0500

Chief Executive Officer www.quilpie.qld.gov.au

Smoking – Be Informed and Take Control of Your Health

Understanding the risks of smoking is the first step toward making positive changes for your health and future. While the facts about smoking can be concerning, they also highlight the incredible benefits of quitting. Here's what you should know:

- Smoking is linked to 22 life-shortening diseases, but being smoke free can significantly reduce your risk.
- Every cigarette shortens your life by about 20 minutes, but every smoke you don't have adds time back to your life.



- Every four years of smoking takes one year off your life, but quitting can help you regain those years.
- 50% of smokers who don't quit will die from smoking-related diseases, but quitting now can put you on the path to a healthier future.
- 85% of lung cancer cases are related to smoking, but quitting reduces your risk over time.
- Lung cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer worldwide, but early detection and quitting can save lives.
- 80% of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD or 'lung disease') cases are related to smoking, but quitting can stop its onset and improve your quality of life.
- Lung disease is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide, but being smokefree is the most effective way to protect your lungs.
- We lose 45 Australians to lung disease and lung cancer every day, but you
 have the power to change your story.
- It takes about 5 minutes to smoke a cigarette. At 20 cigarettes a day, that's 22 days a year spent smoking. Imagine what you could do with that time instead!
- If you stop smoking a pack a day, you could save approximately \$45,000 over three years. That's money you could spend on things that truly matter to you.
- Nicotine is the addictive substance in tobacco smoke. Without it, smoking would hold as much appeal as blowing bubbles. You have the power to break free from its grip.

Take the First Step Toward a Healthier Future

The risks of smoking might feel distant, but quitting now can help you avoid paying the price later. You're currently on a "buy now, pay later" plan, but you have the opportunity to switch to a "quit now, and thrive later" approach.

Quitting smoking is one of the best decisions you can make for your health, your wallet, and your future.

Every step you take toward quitting is a step toward a longer, happier, and healthier life. You don't have to do it alone—support is available to help you succeed.



Smoking and Stress: Break the Cycle and Find Calm

While smoking might feel like a quick way to relieve stress, research shows that smokers often experience higher stress levels than non-smokers. The good news? Quitting smoking can actually reduce your stress and help you feel more balanced and in control.

Here's how it works:

- The temporary lift in mood that smokers feel is actually just the relief of nicotine withdrawal. When you smoke, your brain's craving for nicotine is satisfied, but this cycle keeps you trapped in a pattern of stress and dependency.
- Smoking triggers your body's fightor-flight response, increasing your heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing rate. Over time, this puts extra stress on your body, making it harder to relax and feel at ease.

Quitting Smoking: A Path to True Calm

When you quit smoking, you break free from this cycle. Over time, your body begins to heal, and your stress levels naturally decrease. Instead of relying on cigarettes to manage stress, you'll discover healthier, more effective ways to cope.

Imagine feeling calmer, more in control, and less weighed down by the constant need for a cigarette.

Quitting smoking isn't just about improving your physical health—it's about reclaiming your mental and emotional well-being too.

You don't have to face this journey alone. Support is available to help you every step of the way. Take the first step toward a calmer, healthier, and more peaceful life today.

Making Informed Decisions About Smoking: The Importance of Lung Function Testing

How well are your lungs really performing? Relying on "I feel okay" isn't the most reliable measure. Do you find yourself getting out of breath more easily than others your age? Do you have a persistent cough or find yourself frequently battling chest infections? These could be signs that your lung health needs attention.

If you've been smoking for a long time, it's crucial to take your lung health seriously. Lung function testing provides valuable data to help you make informed decisions about your health and future. Don't wait—consider getting your lungs checked properly today.



Spirometry: Understanding Your Lung Health

Spirometry is a common and effective test used to assess how well your lungs are functioning. It measures the amount of air you can breathe in, the amount you can exhale, and how quickly you can exhale. This test helps diagnose conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other breathing-related issues.



Spirometry: Understanding Your Lung Health

Spirometry is a common and effective test used to assess how well your lungs are functioning. It measures the amount of air you can breathe in, the amount you can exhale, and how quickly you can exhale. This test helps diagnose conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other breathing-related issues.

At the Quilpie GP Clinic, our practice nurse can perform this valuable test in just about 15 minutes. The results provide accurate and important information about your lung health, including the presence of any lung-limiting diseases.

National Lung Cancer Screening Program

Starting in July 2025, after years of development, the National Lung Cancer Screening Program will be available to all eligible individuals. This initiative recognizes that early detection saves lives. If you are between the ages of 50 and 70 and have been smoking for 30+ years, you will be eligible for a specialized CT scan of your lungs to check for signs of lung cancer. This scan will require a trip to Roma or Toowoomba.

We're Here to Support You

At Quilpie General Practice, we are committed to helping you on your journey to quit smoking and improve your overall health. Our goal is to support you in living a longer, healthier, and happier life.

WHAT'S ON @ QUILPIE LIBRARY

MARCH 2025

TUES 10:30 AM

WRIGGLE & RHYME

Story time, songs, craft & play for Under 5's & their grown-ups! Will be held at the Supper Room on March 11th & 18th

05/03 6:30 PM

BOOK CLUB

Join us for a discussion of our current book club pick, The True Story of Butterfish by Nick Earls. New members welcome!

08/08 -09/03 9-3 PM

DIGITAL & YOU PROGRAM LAUNCH WEEKEND

Unlock your creativity & boost your digital skills! Come along to find out more about upcoming FREE digital skills workshops!

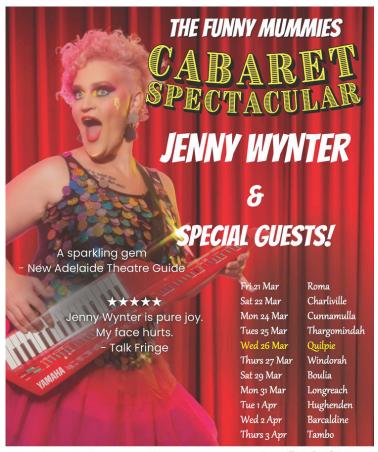
21/03 10:00 AM

WORLD POETRY DAY MORNING TEA

Bring a poem to share & take part in some themed activities over a cuppa!



For more information, pop in to see us, call 4656 0550 or email library@quilpie.qld.gov.au



Quilpie Shire Hall Wednesday 26th March Doors Open 6.30pm BYO - Drinks & Nibbles







Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all #AccelerateAction.



On March 8 2024 Women everywhere will celebrate International Women's Day 2025

The Quilpie Shire Council invites you to enjoy a light morning tea and chat on the lawn in front of the QSC Administration Building on Friday 7th March @ 10.00am

Empower, inspire, and uplift women everywhere



DIGITAL AND YOU







FREE digital workshops at EROMANGA

Unlock your creativity and boost your digital skills. Join us to try a variety of practical and fun mini workshops – book today!





Digital and You app

Eventbrite

SATURDAY 22 MARCH 2025

10.00am – 12.00am DIGITAL BASICS FO BUSY PEOPLE Boost your digital tech knowledge and skills

12PM – 1.15pm BAKING BYTES WITH Q&A

Treat yourself to a bite-sized blend of 3D design, baking, and digital storytelling

1.30pm - 2.45pm POCKET CINEMA BASICS

Create engaging videos with your mobile phone

3pm – 4.30pm CREATE YOUR OWN ACRYLIC KEYCHAIN Create you own unique keychain

SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

8am - 9.30pm BAKING BYTES

Treat yourself to a bite-sized blend of 3D design, baking, and digital storytelling

10.00am - 11.30am DIGITAL BOOK CREATION

Combine digital tools, storytelling and design

11.45m - 12.30am DESIGN AND PERSONALISE - Part 1

Create your own digital design to print on a t-shirt or tote

1.00pm - 2.30pm DESIGN AND PERSONALISE - Part 2

Create your own digital design to print on a t-shirt or tote

2pm - 3pm INTRODUCTION TO CHATGPT

Learn how this clever AI assistant helps with daily tasks and more!

BOOKINGS:

Eventbrite at **Eromanga-digital.eventbrite.com.au** or through the Digital and You app **digitalandyou.com.au/app**



STATE LIBRARY
QUEENSLAND

