

ADVOCACY

RESOURCES



Eromanga Oil Refinery, Eromanga

SHARED VISION

Quilpie Shire Council and the Queensland Government share a unified vision for a strong, sustainable and future-focused resources sector that continues to drive prosperity for regional communities and the State. Both parties recognise the vital role that responsible oil and gas development has played, and will continue to play, in supporting Queensland's energy security, economic growth and regional employment. This shared vision is grounded in a commitment to long-term certainty, balanced land use, and the creation of new opportunities that strengthen local industry, enhance community resilience and contribute to Queensland's ongoing success. Together, the State and Council seek to build a future where the resources sector remains a cornerstone of economic stability, innovation and opportunity for Quilpie Shire and Queensland alike.

BACKGROUND

Quilpie Shire has a long and deeply established connection to the oil and gas sector, with exploration commencing in the 1960s and major development occurring throughout the Eromanga region. For more than six decades, the industry has operated successfully within the Channel Country Strategic Environmental Areas and alongside the Shire's nationally recognised organic farming enterprises, which supply food and fibre to Queensland, Australia and global markets. Today, oil and gas remain the Shire's most significant economic driver, contributing \$60.4 million in annual value added, representing 43% of Quilpie's GRP, and generating \$80.9 million in exports, or 46% of the Shire's total. The sector also supports local employment through an estimated \$3.3 million in wages and salaries, injects \$4.9 million into local suppliers, and provides 71% of Council's Rates and Charges revenue, making it essential to the Shire's financial sustainability.

However, uncertainty surrounding the long-term future of exploration and production has begun to affect the community. Between 2023 and 2024, reduced industry activity contributed to a 12% decline in local spending, placing pressure on small businesses and raising concerns about long-term economic resilience. The introduction of the Regional Planning Interests (Lake Eyre Basin) Amendment Regulation 2024 has further constrained future exploration potential, creating additional uncertainty for industry and the community. Without clear direction, the potential reduction or loss of this sector poses significant risks to local businesses, employment, and Council's capacity to deliver essential services.

Despite these challenges, Quilpie's oil and gas production continues to play a vital role in supporting Queensland and national energy markets.

Gas fields in the Shire supply the Diamantina Power Station, which services communities and industrial customers across Mount Isa, Cloncurry and the North West Minerals Province. Quilpie's gas also supports interstate domestic markets in Sydney and Melbourne and contributes to export supply chains, reinforcing the Shire's importance well beyond its geographic boundaries.

Quilpie Shire stands as one of the world's leading sources of Boulder Opal, a gemstone that remained largely unrecognised until the late 20th century. With renewed exploration activity across the Adavale Basin uncovering fresh geological potential, the Shire continues to position itself at the forefront of Queensland's next wave of resource discovery.

DELIVERING THE VISION

- 1) Quilpie Shire Council seeks a long-term commitment from the Queensland Government to develop a comprehensive resources roadmap that clearly outlines the State's commitment to existing operations and future exploration and production opportunities within the Shire.
- 2) Quilpie Shire Council seeks certainty regarding whether the Regional Planning Interests (Lake Eyre Basin) Amendment Regulation 2024 will be reviewed before October 2028, enabling industry and the community to plan with confidence.
- 3) Quilpie Shire Council seeks the establishment of a tripartite partnership (State–Council–Industry) to deliver legacy infrastructure, such as a new artesian water bore for Eromanga, securing community resilience for generations.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

Quilpie Shire Council and the Queensland Government are committed partners in strengthening the mining and resources sector, working together to support long-term economic growth across both the Shire and the State. This partnership is built on a shared understanding of the vital role that responsible resource development plays in regional prosperity, energy security and statewide economic stability. By collaborating on an ambitious long-term agenda, both parties can enable new and expanded opportunities that reinforce the sector's contribution to Queensland's future. A clear and coordinated roadmap will provide the certainty needed to support continued investment, ensure the sustainable development of Quilpie's rich oil and gas resources, and unlock new manufacturing and value-adding opportunities locally and across Queensland.