



PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE

Community enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals

JULY 2024



UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 16th July
- 20th August
- 17th September
- 15th October
- 19th November
- 12th December

JOB VACANCIES

- Chief Executive Officer
- Tourism & Events Officer
- Media, Marketing and Communication Officer
- Paveliner Truck Driver
- Local Laws Officer
- Senior Plumbers
- Chief Finance Officer/Accountant
- Multi Skill Labourer Operator

For more info see
[www.paroo.qld.gov.au/
council/employment](http://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/council/employment)

COUNCIL NEWS

Message from the CEO

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to everyone within the region who have been so welcoming in my first few days. I brought a little bit of rain with me, which has been gratefully received by all reports. Thank you to all the staff on Monday for their warm welcome and helping me get settled.

I will be in place as the Interim CEO until the recruitment of a new permanent CEO is completed and the new CEO is onboard. I have previously been at (and will be returning to) Scenic Rim Regional Council for just over 5 years, mainly in the role of General Manager Assets and Environmental Sustainability and prior to that worked at the City of Gold Coast for 9 years. I am married to my very forgiving wife Michelle and have two young girls Lucy (7) and Molly (3), unfortunately due to schooling they have not been able to make the trip out with me. They will be coming for a visit though.

I look forward to joining the Golf Club (sand greens will be a new experience) and playing some rounds with the members and visiting and enjoying the many sites and facilities within the region.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mayor Beresford and the Councillors for this opportunity and look forward to contributing to Council and the community. Appreciate the welcome and look forward to meeting you all during my stay.

Receive the newsletter electronically!

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other important information from Paroo Shire Council straight to your inbox you can sign up via this link
<https://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/newsletter>

Queensland Housing Finance Loan – Regional Trial

The Queensland Government has introduced a two-year trial during which the income eligibility threshold for the Queensland Housing Finance Loan in regional Queensland will increase from \$141,000 to \$201,000 per annum. This will help bridge the gap for regional Queenslanders who struggle to get a home loan because of where they live. More information about Homes for Queenslanders is available on the government's website –
<https://www.housing.qld.gov.au/initiatives/qld-housing-finance-loan-regional-trial>



Congratulations!

CUNNAMULLA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE SHINES WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS!



We are thrilled to announce that the Cunnamulla Visitor Information Centre has recently been honored with two prestigious accolades: the Best of Queensland Award and the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award! These awards are a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing outstanding service and unforgettable experiences to all our visitors. Congratulations to Ian and the team!

Library Update

During June we were excited to receive the 500 000th book from the Indigenous Literacy Foundation delivered for free by Australia Post. A student from Sacred Heart was chosen to go on a bookmark that is to be distributed nationwide. The photo was taken in Cunnamulla Library. Bookmarks will be available at the library and Australia Post.

To celebrate Indigenous Literacy Day and support our wonderful friends at the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, we will be having a Street Stall on Indigenous Literacy Day on Wednesday 4th September, in front of the library. We will also launch our Sunrises and Sunsets of Cunnamulla calendar then too, that is also part of our fundraising for ILF. We would love you all to come along and support this wonderful cause as well as bake something for the stall. Most of the children in Cunnamulla, Eulo and Wyandra have benefited from the FREE books ILF have donated for the past 13 years.

We were also very excited to receive a Seniors Grant of \$2000 to host some events during Seniors Week in October. Our wonderful Yowah library assistant reports that everything is going well at Yowah Library, with lots of tourists visiting as well as locals who have returned from down south.

Pet Friendly Guide to the Paroo Shire

The team at Cunnamulla Visitor Information Centre have been busy putting together a guide of all of the pet friendly places to stay, eat and play! From accommodation and, cafes to activities and pet sitting - they've covered it all! You can find the guide by heading to the Pet Friendly page at cunnamullatourism.com.au or scan the QR code here.



SCAN



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Paroo Shire Council
Budget 2024/2025

Paroo Shire Council adopted its 2024/25 budget at a Special Meeting on Tuesday 25th June, 2024.

In setting the 2024/2025 budget, Council has endeavoured to provide a schedule of works and services that meets community needs whilst keeping any

cost increases to a minimum. The budget supports investment in the future of the Shire through upgrading or replacement of infrastructure that will assist with economic growth and improved liveability.

The budget total of operating and capital expenditure for the coming year is \$54M and includes the following items: -

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Plant (vehicle) Replacements | \$1.5M |
| • Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Projects | \$1.5M |
| • Works for Queensland Projects | \$1.75M |
| • TIDS Road Construction | \$2.1M |
| • Roads to Recovery | \$1.7M |
| • REPA Flood Damage Roadwork | \$22M |
| • Shire Road Maintenance | \$1M |
| • RMPC Main Roads Maintenance | \$2M |

Council will undertake numerous projects with funding provided by the Federal Government through the LRCI Round 4 program and the State Government's Works for Queensland. New projects include –

- Renewal of the Water Security Monitoring System
- Cemetery Improvements (Cunnamulla & Yowah)
- Footpath Upgrades & Roadworks (town streets)

- Masterplan for the Swimming Pool and Stage 1 Upgrade
- Children's Bicycle Training Track
- Upgrades to Council Houses, Airport Fuel Facility & Wyandra Playground

The budget also provides for carry over projects that were not completed prior to 30th June, 2024. These include Eulo improvement works, the Robber's Tree project and continuation of the Cunnamulla Water Main Replacement scheme.

In setting the new budget the Council considered the current cost of living pressures on households as well as the increased cost of Council operations. We were mindful of Council's sustainability and the need to provide the community with a high level of service.

To this end, a 2.5% increase will apply to general rates and the minimum general rate charge. Water charges will remain the same, garbage charges will have a 2.2% increase and a 4.5% increase will apply to sewerage charges.

The 2024/2025 budget for Paroo Shire Council makes provision for extensive works and projects throughout the Shire that will require the employment of local contractors to deliver much of the flood damage repairs to Shire roads in addition to the roadworks that Council employees will undertake.

Councillors consider the new budget will allow the delivery of improved services to the community as well as providing for the Shire's future.



Requests for tenders - management of Cunnamulla Pool

Paroo Shire Council invites tenders from appropriately qualified businesses for the management of the Cunnamulla Swimming Pool on an outsourced basis.

The Swimming Pool Complex consists of a 50-metre pool, Children's paddle pool, amenities blocks, BBQ covered area, and a kiosk. The Council may need to negotiate some additional operation arrangements with the Successful Tenderer.

For more information see website or scan QR code below.



Yowah Opal Festival

Opals, Gems, and more!

3 Day Event in July!

Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st

YOMCSI Community Hall Yowah

Display

**Magnificent Maguire
Opal Collection**

View this rarely seen opal
collection for only \$2

Accommodation

Artesian Water Caravan Park
1 Bluebonnet Blvd, Yowah
Ph: 07 4655 4991

Free Camp Area
Matrix Drive Yowah

Entertainment

MC & Poetry Yarns by Bushy
Music by Trish Hart

Food

Licensed Bar & meals available

Food vans
Donuts
Ice cream truck
The Hungry Miner

Market Stalls

Stall holders welcome!

Paroo Flood Restoration Project Update from Shepherd - July 2024

SHEPHERD have been continuing the delivery of the January 2022, Rain Event works involving restoration of identified damaged road assets and Council Infrastructure to its original condition. This work is almost complete with only a few treatments left to complete in this package within the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) delivery time limit.

Multiple betterment site packages have now been completed on Humbern Road. These constructed betterment sites included stabilised crossings, with two coat bitumen seal treatments which include concrete edge restraints, making the roadway safer and more resilient during future flood events.

The next package of QRA restoration of damages for the September 2022 event has commenced with Council preferred and prequalified contractors being awarded last month.

Delivery of these QRA funded restoration works will commence early July 2024. SHEPHERD Civil Inspectors have commenced site set out of these sites, shire wide in preparation for contractor commencement in coming days.



**Eulo Queen
Opal Centre**

For Further Information or site
bookings please contact
Ben Stoverink - 0427 554 161

Ph: (07) 4655 8400 | 49 Stockyard Street, Cunnamulla 4490