

[www.northburnett.qld.gov.au](http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au) | Phone 1300 696 272  
[www.facebook.com/north.burnett.regional.council](https://www.facebook.com/north.burnett.regional.council)



## Mayor's Desk by Mayor Cr Rachel Chambers

You may remember a few months ago I wrote about attending a parliamentary hearing about forecasting long-term sustainability of local government. Our attendance at this hearing came about after a Queensland Audit Office report found that 24/77 councils in Queensland have forecast deficits for the next ten years, with North Burnett being one of them. We decided to attend the hearing to give our side of the story which basically goes like this: Six councils rolled into one, massive geographic region, limited rate base, no predicted growth and almost \$1 billion dollars in assets to maintain, we will always struggle to achieve a surplus.

Further to this hearing, this week council is now spending two days with the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) being audited on our rating processes. One council from each of these five categories (coastal, resources, rural/regional, rural/remote and SEQ) have been chosen to take part in this audit. We will be providing information on behalf of the rural/regional councils.

QAO will be auditing how we set rates; the process for increasing them; the key drivers for rates and charges within the region; the assumptions we make in calculating, a review of our differential rating categories and our policies and procedures, along with many other aspects.

It's a funny business we are in as Councillors'. As part of our local government legislation we have been charged with levying rates to help meet the costs of providing municipal

services and obviously the audit will be a great tool to help us do this as fairly as possible.

Another part of our legislation states that parliament requires us to abide by the principle of sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services (this issue of "sustainability" is the part the State is trying to work out with their hearing and investigations). And yet another part of our legislation requires us to abide by the principles of democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement.

My issue with all of this is...what happens when those two principles oppose each other?

Our community tells us rates are at the peak of affordability now, so what happens when the State tells us we need to run a sustainable council (under legislation) and we need to increase our rates substantially in order to be in surplus? Who wins? Either the Councillor makes the decision to not put council in surplus (and leaves themselves open to be put into administration) OR the Councillor increases rates (and leaves themselves open to be accused of ignoring the principles of democratic representation). In my opinion no one wins and this is why I'm investing so much time and energy into helping the State see and ideally understand the quandary we have in regional Queensland.

Talk soon, Rachel.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council's next General Meetings will be held in Gayndah on Wednesday, 11 October commencing 9am, followed by Council's Standing Committee Meetings in Biggenden on Wednesday, 01 November commencing 9am. Council Meetings are open to the public.

All members of the public are welcome to attend Council's Public Question Time, held during **Council's General Meeting from 9:30am to 10:30am**. This is an opportunity to bring forth any items that you would like your Councillors to address. Standing Committee Deputations by appointment.

Prior indication of your question is appreciated. Please phone 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC) to discuss with an Executive Support staff member or email [executive.support@northburnett.qld.gov.au](mailto:executive.support@northburnett.qld.gov.au)

### FLYING FOX UPDATE

We are starting to see flying foxes arrive in the region and within the township of Mundubbera so start preparing your backyards now... The following actions can reduce health risks related to flying-foxes: Do not leave your washing out at night—bring it in before dusk; garage or cover your vehicles to ensure flying-fox faeces doesn't affect them; use a pool cover to reduce the risk of contamination; cover or place outdoor furniture under shelter at night; try not to disturb them—disturbing them only makes them noisier and heightens the odours; prune trees and reduce grassy understorey in your backyard to reduce the entry of flying-foxes; and cover all water sources to ensure faeces can not be consumed by domestic animals or humans.

Research has shown people do not catch Hendra Virus from flying-foxes, in fact a human can only catch Hendra from having close contact with an infected horse. Only a small

percentage of flying-foxes are infected with a disease called Australian Bat Lyssavirus. The virus can only be transmitted to humans by bites or scratches from infected bats or saliva into an open wound. If you are scratched or bitten seek medical attention immediately.

Council is currently monitoring the known urban flying fox roosts and may undertake dispersal activities should the need arise. Should flying foxes attempt to roost in trees on your property, Council advises residents that they can undertake non harmful activities to deter them, such as making a loud noise with pots and pans, lawnmowers and so on. This is best attempted early in the morning when flying foxes are returning from feeding during the night. Under no circumstances should dispersal be undertaken during extreme temperatures.

Information on flying foxes can be viewed on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website at <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/> For further information or queries, please contact Council's Environmental Services Department on 1300 696 272.

### AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

North Burnett Regional Council is calling for nominations for the 2018 Australia Day Awards from clubs, organisations, schools and individuals within the North Burnett. North Burnett residents have the opportunity to nominate deserving recipients for the Australia Day Awards throughout the year, ensuring more of our amazing community members are recognised. Nominations can be completed online, see Council's website [www.northburnett.qld.gov.au/australia-day/](http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au/australia-day/), or collect a nomination form from any of Council's libraries or Customer Service Centres.

**Nominations close 4:30pm Friday, 24 Nov**

### 1080 COORDINATED BAITING PROGRAM 10th – 13th Oct 2017

North Burnett Regional Council is conducting a coordinated Wild Dog and Feral Pig Baiting Program, during October 2017.

To take advantage of this baiting program all participants must **pre-register with Council before close of business on Wednesday 4th October 2017**. Landholders are required to supply their own meat (cut to size) for this baiting program.

DATE	TOWN	LOCATION
Tue 10 Oct	Mundubbera	Durong/Hawkwood Rd - Lohses Yards
	Monto	Hurdle Gully Rd ( Bill Avis' Yards)
Wed 11 Oct	Eidsvold	Kerwee/Hollywell Rd Cnr
	Gayndah	Brian Pastures Rd
Thu 12 Oct	Eidsvold	Eidsvold/Theodore Rd (Wathonga turnoff)
	Biggenden	Bull Pen, Isis Highway

Fri 13 Oct	Mt Perry	Briggs Yards
	Gayndah	Mt Perry Rd & Taylors Rd Cnr

For further information, including a list of conditions, please contact Council's Land Protection Officers on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC), email [admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au) or pick up a flyer at your local Council.

### BIOSECURITY PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAMS

Under the *Biosecurity Act (2014)*, Council Officers acting under authorised Biosecurity Programs are permitted to gain access to properties for the purpose of; • Inspecting for biosecurity matter and risks (formerly known as "declared pest" plant/animals). • Mapping or otherwise identifying/confirming the existence and spread of biosecurity matter and risks. • Engaging with land owners/occupiers regarding the management of biosecurity matter and risks. • Ensuring biosecurity matter and risks are being appropriately managed in line with legislative requirements and/or Council's Biosecurity Plan/Programs.

These Biosecurity Programs will be conducted in accordance with approved policies, procedures and legislative requirements.

The Biosecurity Programs are approved to operate for a period of 3 years unless amended by Council resolution. These programs apply to all land (inclusive of that both privately and publically owned) within the North Burnett Region (as defined by Council Boundaries).

Council's authorised Biosecurity Programs include both "Surveillance" and "Prevention and Control" Programs as prescribed under legislation.

These Biosecurity Programs were authorised at the Council Meeting held on 15-02-17.

Council's objective is fundamentally to engage with the community and ensure biosecurity matter and risks are appropriately managed for the greater good of the community, region and state.

**M Pitt  
CEO**

### POSITIONS VACANT

- Nil

### TENDERS / EOI

- Nil

Further information on Positions Vacant or Tenders can be obtained via Council's:

Website: [www.northburnett.qld.gov.au](http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au)

Email: [admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC) or

Administration Centres or Libraries.

### GET READY NORTH BURNETT

**Get Ready Week – 8-15 October 2017**

Get Ready Queensland Week will be held from the 8th through to the 15th of October, 2017.

Get Ready Queensland is about building our resilience to deal with the extreme weather and natural disasters that are a part of living in our state. The week celebrates the resilient nature of Queenslanders. No matter what gets thrown at us, we bounce back!

#### What if.... Get Ready North Burnett!

North Burnett Regional Council strives for safe communities, safe and accessible infrastructure and a safe environment. Above all, it strives for the safety of residents and visitors to our region. While living in the North Burnett has many benefits, including our relative safety from natural or man-made disasters, it is possible our region may face challenges such as storm, flood or fire – for which we must all be prepared.

We encourage our residents to play a part in the Disaster Management planning process by becoming familiar with information on Council's website [www.northburnett.qld.gov.au](http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au) or publications such as the "Get Ready North Burnett" guide to preparing for disasters and emergency situations, and other publications. These resources will help you understand how to reduce the impact of disaster and how to protect lives, homes and property – before and after disaster strikes. It's important to implement your own procedures with friends, family and co-workers in preparation for when a disaster may occur.

Remember! In an Emergency or Life Threatening Situation call Triple Zero '000'.

For further information on Get Ready Week, see the Queensland Government 'Get Ready' website @ [www.getready.qld.gov.au/](http://www.getready.qld.gov.au/)



### STORYTIME & CRAFT @ YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Come along to your local library for storytime and craft sessions for ages 0-5 (with parents).

**Sessions start on Tuesday's @ 10am**

**10 Oct 'Under the sea' 17 Oct 'Outdoors' 24 Oct 'On the farm' 31 Oct 'Space'**

### COLOURING-IN COMPETITION @ YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY



### PICK UP AN ENTRY FORM @ YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

**Entries close 4:30pm Thursday, 26 October**

The competition winner and runner up from each library will receive a prize...