

# North Burnett News

Naturally beautiful . . .

News from the North Burnett Regional Council



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## Mayor's Desk by Mayor Cr Rachel Chambers

Question 6 in the "10 Hardest Questions to answer in Local Government". **Custodians: Are we building and maintaining the community infrastructure needed to meet current and future needs?**

In a word, no, and I was more than happy to leave it there for this week, as this answer is complicated. Alas I have pushed myself to forge on.

Let's first be clear as to what we are talking about. Community Infrastructure generally consists of the buildings and spaces that provide services and activities. Community halls, swimming pools, roads, parks, water treatment plants, footpaths, aerodromes, waste disposal and all the pipes that go under the ground, these are all examples of community infrastructure. In the North Burnett we currently have \$836 000 000 (that's million) dollars of infrastructure to care for – and that's without building any more.

So the question is in two parts – current and future needs.

Current needs: Local Governments capacity to fund new infrastructure or maintain existing infrastructure is constrained by its general revenue raising capacity. As I've stated many times previously, with only 7000ish ratepayers to support \$830M of assets, we are substantially underfunded. We rely on State and Federal funding grants which are competitive and not guaranteed year to year to make up some of the shortfall. Much of our infrastructure is ageing and failing and we are now getting to the crossroads of decision making as to whether we should keep maintaining it, upgrading it, replacing it or removing it because we just can't continue paying for this huge asset base. The older assets are often not as energy efficient

and have higher operating costs than new technology and construction techniques available today. Based on current demand a question I have for you, is do we need all the assets we have? If we could start again, which ones would we keep? Can we change the use of some which will then better support our community today? Which leads me to the next point.

Future needs: Much of our infrastructure was built in a different era, with different social needs. Many councils are now developing integrated approaches which merge activities of previous multiple infrastructure. Some are innovating by combining energy, water and waste and some are building multipurpose community hubs. There is a lot of research and great ideas for greenfield projects but not so much for older regions with many legacy assets and in particular there is limited capacity to retro-fit these structures. I can assure you that if we were to sit down and plan the region out now, we wouldn't have the majority of infrastructure we own. Given that we have the 5th largest road network in QLD we could surely improve on the efficiency of that system at least! Not to mention the amount of meeting places we have and separated sporting and community facilities. Shared infrastructure is the way of the future. That being said, we have to work with what we've got.

What we are working towards is a livable community where community needs are addressed in the most cost effective manner. This conversation has only just begun and will need all of us to work together in earnest on effective solutions.

Talk soon,  
 Rachel.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council's next **General Meeting will be held in Biggenden on Wednesday, 16 May** commencing 9am, followed by Council's **Standing Committee Meetings in Eidsvold on Wednesday, 6 June** 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

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION STRATEGY

Over Seventy (70) local businesses/residents attended the Economic Development and Innovation Strategy

consultation sessions held across the North Burnett region recently.

North Burnett Regional Council Mayor Cr Rachel Chambers advised that with so much opportunity available for our region through the digital revolution, growing export markets, emerging agricultural technology, new industries and jobs, the Strategy would put North Burnett on the front foot, primed for economic growth and productivity.

"Building our region's innovation capacity is an important part of the Strategy. Innovation in technology, communications, finance, governance, infrastructure, and commerce is driving economic growth around the world. We are committed to riding these waves of innovation and delivering local jobs and local benefits for our community," Mayor Chambers said.

"People, community and local business will be central to this Strategy. Real and enduring community benefits are the ultimate objective of economic development, and community input will ensure our Strategy hits the mark. We welcome the ideas and feedback of our entire community."

For those who could not attend the recent workshops to

### POSITIONS VACANT & TENDERS / EOI

Position Vacant - **Land Protection Officer**  
 Permanent Full-Time, Mt Perry/Monto(Neg)  
 Position Closes: 5.00pm Thursday, 17 May 2018

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  
 call into one of Council's Customer Service Centres / Libraries.

### FLOOD RESTORATION UPDATE

Over the next fortnight, flood restoration works will be concentrated in the following locations:

- Biggenden** - Deep Creek Rd, Farrells Rd, Wateranga Rd
- Eidsvold** - Glengool Rd
- Gayndah** - Aberdeens Rd, Gahan's Rd, Taylors Rd
- Monto** - Foleys Gully Rd, Mahoon Creek Rd, Old Rawbelle Rd, Yarrol Rd, Harrami Rd, Dingley Dell Rd, Camboon Rd, Green Tree Rd, Taylor's Rd, Deem's Rd
- Mt Perry** - Branch Creek Rd
- Mundubbera** - Green Tree Rd, Taylor's Rd, Deem's Rd



Yenda Benyenda Rd, Gayndah 'under construction'.

Council acknowledges the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) funding is a joint Commonwealth and State Government program.

have their say; an online survey is available on Council's website and Facebook page. Hard copies of the survey can also be obtained from Customer Service Centres throughout the region.

**Surveys close 21 May 2018**

Council expects to share a draft Economic Development and Innovation Strategy in June 2018.

For further information or assistance accessing or completing surveys please contact Council's Economic Development Team on 1300 696 272 (1300 MY NBRC) or via email [admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au).



Economic Development and Innovation Strategy Consultation Session in Monto on 17 April 2018.

### 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 February 2017.

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.

### 1080 COORDINATED BAITING PROGRAM 22-25 May 2018

North Burnett Regional Council is conducting a coordinated Wild Dog and Feral Pig Baiting Program, during May 2018.

To take advantage of this baiting program all participants must pre-register with Council before close of business on Wednesday 16 May 2018.

**Landholders are required to supply their own meat (cut to size) for this baiting program.**

DATE	TOWN	LOCATION
Tue 22 May	Mundubbera	Durong/Hawkwood Rd—Lohses Yards
	Monto	Hurdle Gully Rd (Bill Avis' Yards)
Wed 23 May	Eidsvold	Kerwee/Hollywell Rd Cnr
	Gayndah	Brian Pastures Rd
Thu 24 May	Eidsvold	Eidsvold/Theodore Rd (Wathonga turnoff)
	Biggenden	Bull Pen, Isis Highway
Fri 25 May	Mt Perry	Briggs Yards
	Gayndah	Mt Perry & 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.

M Pitt / CEO

### NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL

## PROUDLY SUPPORTING OUR RURAL SHOWS IN 2018



**THE NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE BEST QUALITY SERVICE TO OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.**

**NBRC offers a range of services including:**  
 Family friendly libraries,  
 Qld Government Agency Services (Mundubbera & Eidsvold offices only) including Vehicle registrations, Births Deaths and Marriages etc  
 Centrelink Services (Gayndah, Mundubbera and Biggenden Centres only)  
 Animal Control Services and Advice  
 Public Transport Services

**Eidsvold Show  
 Sunday, 6 May 2018**

**Mundubbera Show, Friday 11 &  
 Saturday, 12 May 2018**