

Burke Shire Council NEWSLETTER



EDITION 66 : August 2026

A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

As we reach the halfway point of 2026, it is a great opportunity to reflect on what has already been a busy and productive year for Council. Since the new year commenced, all at Council have been busy, as they were last year, continuing with laying strong foundations for the future of our Shire. Whether advocating for our community, progressing major projects or continuing to deliver the essential services our residents rely on every day, Councillors and staff have been united in their efforts to ensure the Shire continues as a great place to live, work and play.

The start of this year marked a major transition for our organisation. In February, we farewelled our long-serving Chief Executive Officer, Dan McKinlay, who after many years of dedicated service to Burke Shire Council has retired to the coast.

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A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

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On behalf of Council and our community, I thank Dan for his commitment, professionalism and leadership throughout his tenure and wish him all the best for his well-earned retirement.

At the same time, Council was pleased to welcome Zac Revere into the role of Chief Executive Officer. Zac, his partner Jade and their young family have moved to Burketown from the Gold Coast. The Revere family will now be able to enjoy coastal living without the traffic and bustle of their former location. Be sure to say hello when you see them out and about.

Together with Councillors and our dedicated staff, Zac has set about, building on the foundation left by Dan, to keep strengthening our internal governance, improving organisational capability and progressing key projects across the Shire. His focus is on building, in his own words, a "lean, mean fighting machine"-an organisation that is efficient, financially responsible and relentlessly focused on delivering the very best outcomes for the Burke Shire community. A focus, I am sure you will agree, that will be welcomed by all, in the face of current global and national challenges.

Over the past six months, Council has continued to advocate strongly on behalf of Burke Shire at every opportunity. Elected members and our staff have represented our community at regional, state and national forums, meeting with government ministers, Members of Parliament, neighbouring councils and key stakeholders to ensure the unique needs of remote communities like ours remain firmly on the agenda. Whether it has been securing investment in critical infrastructure, advocating for disaster funding, improving regional aviation, addressing housing challenges or progressing long-term economic opportunities, we have taken every

opportunity to seek awareness, support and investment. There has been plenty happening here at home. It has been wonderful to see our community come together through events such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day, the Gregory Canoe Race, Annual Gregory Downs Jockey Club's Saddles and Paddles Races, May Mates Day, the Gregory Campdraft and Burketown Campdraft. I'd like to acknowledge the significant work that goes on behind the scenes to make these events the success they are. Thank you to the committees, volunteers and Council staff who put in the hard yards before, during and after – your efforts



Mayor Ernie Camp, CEO Zac Revere and Carpentaria Shire Council CEO Anne Andrews joined forces in Canberra to advocate for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), ensuring the voices of remote Queensland communities were heard.

A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

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are much appreciated by those who attend and enjoy the fruits of your labour. These occasions really do strengthen community spirit.

From Burketown through to Gregory and across our regional road network, we are seeing major investment being translated into construction on the ground. The Burketown Airport Reconstruction has reached another significant milestone, with the interim runway successfully brought into service and reconstruction of the main runway well underway. This project will deliver a stronger, more resilient airport that continues to serve as a vital transport and emergency services lifeline for our community. I am pleased to report this project is ahead of schedule and on budget, which means we'll be prepared to have the main runway fully operational ahead of the 2026 wet season.

We're also seeing substantial progress on our road infrastructure program. Works on Floraville Road continue to advance ahead of schedule, with more than a quarter of the project now complete, while construction is continuing on Gregory-Lawn Hill Road, including the installation of new concrete flood protection mattresses. Additional DRFA reconstruction projects have commenced across the network, ensuring we continue rebuilding and strengthening critical transport links that connect our communities, pastoral industry and visitors alike. Across the Shire we continue investing in parks, public spaces, housing initiatives, essential infrastructure and community facilities while progressing planning for future projects that will support Burke Shire for decades to come. Every project, whether large or small, contributes to our broader vision of creating a more liveable, resilient and prosperous community.

The second half of the year is shaping up to be just as

busy across the whole spectrum of Council's team. Nowhere is that more evident than in the development of Council's 2026–27 Budget, which reflects both our long-term vision and the priorities of our community. This year we asked residents to contribute to the budget considerations through an online survey and I thank all respondents for their input.

On 14 July 2026, Council adopted the 2026–27 Budget and Operational Plan. This budget represents a roadmap for the future of Burke Shire and a reflection of the careful planning and responsible decision-making that has guided Council over recent years. I am incredibly pleased to report that this year's budget delivers another strong operating surplus, exceeding the previous financial year's result and again, it places Council in a strong financial position. Achieving this while continuing to invest in major infrastructure, community facilities and essential services demonstrates that financial responsibility and community investment are not competing priorities - they are complementary. Council has the good fortune to have an excellent finance team guiding and managing our business activities and this strong financial management provides the confidence to continue delivering for our community today while preparing for tomorrow.

Importantly, this budget has been shaped by our community. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the "Your Budget, Your Say" survey. Through the survey, residents sent a clear message about the priorities that matter most: maintaining and improving existing roads, water and sewer infrastructure, drainage, housing and community facilities ranked well ahead of new initiatives. Additionally, that feedback reinforced something we have long understood - when the fundamentals are strong, our community is stronger - families have

A MESSAGE FROM *the Mayor*

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greater confidence, businesses have greater certainty and Burke Shire becomes a more attractive place to live, work and play.

Council took onboard that clear message and you will see that reflected throughout this budget. Investment has been directed towards the infrastructure and services that residents and businesses rely upon every day. Council has worked hard to ensure this budget focuses on delivering practical outcomes that will benefit both today's residents and secure the future for generations ahead. One of the greatest financial challenges facing Burke Shire over the coming decade is the forecast reduction in mining-related revenue following the closure of Century Mine. Current long-term modelling identifies a reduction of more than \$12 million in rates revenue across the next ten years - a challenge that cannot simply be ignored or left for future councils to solve.

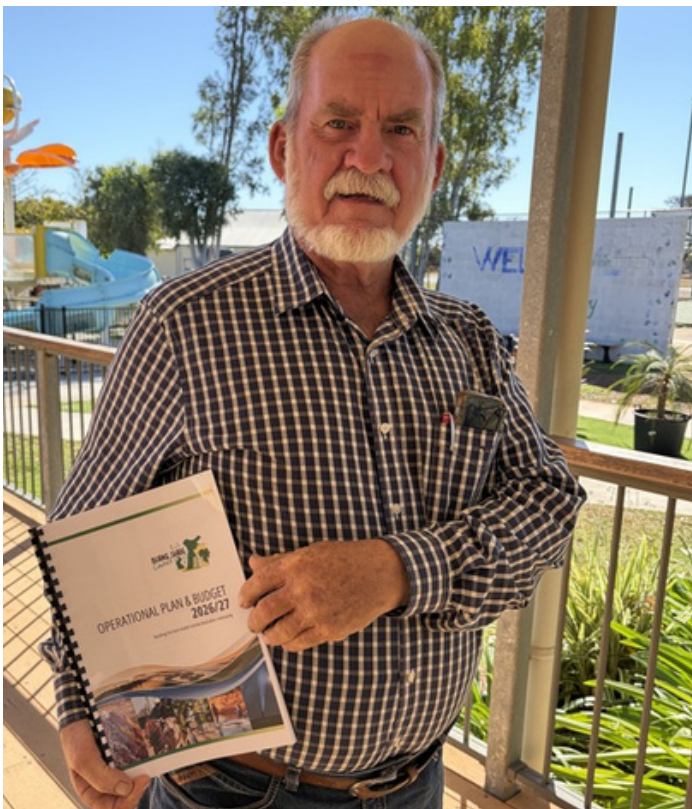
That is why this budget officially launches Council's 10 for 10 Initiative. The objective is simple but critically important: to build \$10 million in unrestricted strategic reserves over the next decade, creating the financial resilience needed to support future investment and protect essential services. While grants will always remain a vital source of funding for a remote council like ours, long-term sustainability requires us to strengthen our own financial capacity so that we are not solely reliant on external funding opportunities.

The reality is that every kilometre of road we seal, every playground we build, every water main we replace and every community facility we deliver also creates an ongoing responsibility to maintain those assets. Building infrastructure is only half the job; ensuring we can afford to maintain it for decades to come is the other half. Through the 10 for 10 Initiative, Council is making a commitment to future generations by ensuring that the investments we make today remain assets our children and grandchildren can continue to rely upon tomorrow.

This is why I believe the 2026–27 Budget is a good budget which balances investment with responsibility, responds directly to the priorities of our community, and strengthens the organisation for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is a budget that looks beyond the next twelve months and even beyond this term of Council.

With so much work happening across the Shire, please follow traffic signage, drive carefully through worksites and give way to heavy machinery and trucks. We want everyone to either be safe in their workspace or arrive safe at their destination.

There are several events in the coming months – Order of the Outback Ball and the Gregory CWA Family Fun Day and Horse Sports. I hope you take the opportunity to support these events and the volunteers who work hard to make them a success.

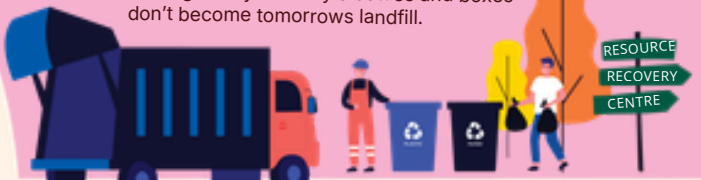


Councils are your every day

A handy guide to what your local council is responsible for – and what it isn't.



Councils look after our **PLACES AND SPACES**, keeping the swings swinging, the slides slippery, and the laughter loud.



Councils take care of **MANAGING WASTE**, making sure yesterday's bottles and boxes don't become tomorrow's landfill.



WATER AND SEWAGE

The majority of councils manage our **WATER AND SEWAGE**, keeping it flowing where we need it, clean when we use it, and ready for whatever the weather brings.



Councils look after our **LOCAL ROADS**, patching the potholes, fixing the cracks, and keeping us moving from here to there.



Councils focus on **PLANNING**. Thinking ahead so the roads, pipes, parks, and places we rely on are ready not just for today, but for what comes next.



It's the **STATE GOVERNMENT'S** job to look after things like state-owned roads, schools, hospitals, emergency services, policing and the justice system.



Meanwhile, the **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** is in charge of managing the economy, trade, defence, immigration, social services, foreign affairs and more.

Councils are the tier of government closest to our lives. They make today happen, while planning for tomorrow. Councils step in to fill gaps whenever there is community need.



This is called cost shifting, and it impacts you because councils have to do more with less to ensure your community is provided for.

To learn more about how council supports you visit lgaq.asn.au/everyday.



BUDGET UPDATE

Burke Shire Council Adopts Record \$211 Million Budget for 2026–27

Burke Shire Council has adopted its 2026–27 Budget and Operational Plan, delivering a record \$211 million program that will continue investing in roads, airports, community infrastructure and essential services while strengthening Council's long-term financial sustainability. The budget includes approximately \$139 million in operating expenditure and almost \$69 million in capital works, reflecting Council's continued success in securing State and Federal Government funding for projects across the Shire.

Investing in Infrastructure

Major works will continue throughout 2026–27, including reconstruction of Burketown Airport, regional road upgrades, disaster recovery and betterment projects, heavy vehicle rest areas, flood level indicators and continued improvements to infrastructure in Gregory.

Council will also invest in future projects, including Stage 2 of the Burketown Airport Road Upgrade, Gregory Bore improvements, community park upgrades and further development of its Shovel Ready Projects Program.

Building Financial Resilience

While the budget delivers one of Council's largest infrastructure programs, it also focuses on maintaining strong financial management.

Council has adopted an estimated operating surplus of approximately \$1.35 million, with no new borrowings, ensuring investment in essential infrastructure can continue without placing unnecessary pressure on future budgets.

A key initiative within this year's budget is the launch of Council's 10 for 10 Initiative, which aims to build \$10 million in unrestricted strategic reserves over the next decade. The initiative has been developed to help offset the forecast decline in mining-related rates revenue following the closure of Century Mine and strengthen Council's long-term financial sustainability.

Planning for a More Resilient Future

The budget also supports Council's ongoing Local Resilience Action Plan, which identifies 32 priority projects designed to improve the Shire's resilience to future natural disasters. Projects such as Doomadgee Road causeway upgrades, Gregory stormwater improvements, planning for a regional medical evacuation helipad and continued advocacy for further sealing of the Savannah Way will help strengthen critical infrastructure across the region.

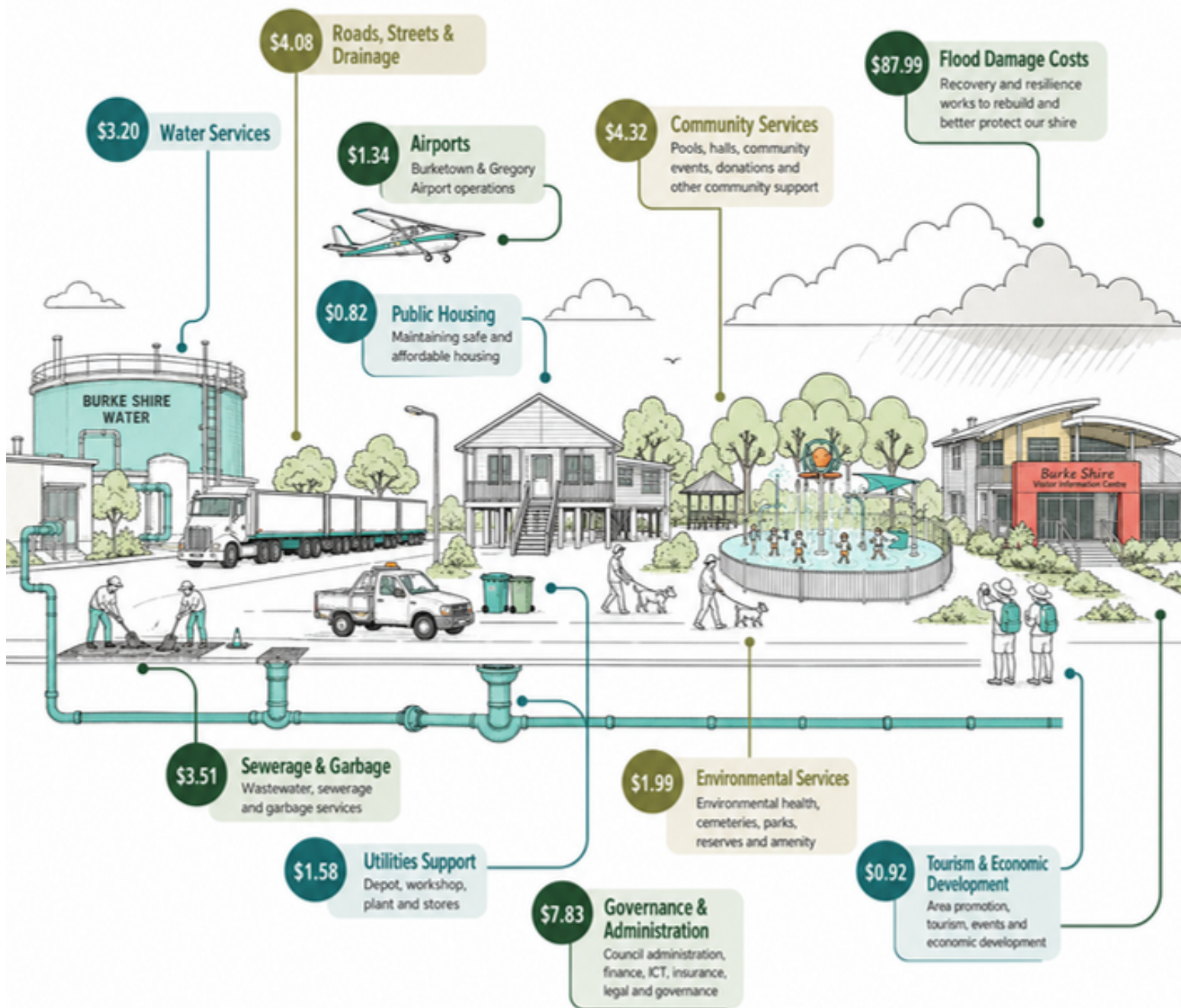
Community Priorities

Earlier this year, residents shared their priorities through Council's Your Budget, Your Say survey, with strong support for maintaining and improving essential infrastructure. As a result, the 2026–27 Budget prioritises investment in roads, airports, water, drainage and community facilities.

General rates will increase by 3.5% for the 2026–27 financial year. Council has worked to keep the increase as low as possible while maintaining service delivery and continuing to invest in community infrastructure. Pensioners will continue to receive Council's concession of up to \$500 per year, in addition to the Queensland Government concession.

BUDGET UPDATE

FOR EVERY \$100 IN GENERAL RATES - WHERE YOUR RATES GO.



PROJECTS UPDATE

Burketown Airport Upgrade Project

Once complete, the upgraded airport infrastructure including raised runway, taxiway and apron surfaces will provide improved reliability, safety, and resilience for the Burketown community. The project will strengthen air access for residents, visitors, contractors, essential services, and emergency response agencies, including aviation-based medical and disaster response operations. It also supports long-term economic activity by maintaining reliable air connectivity for the region.

As the project works continue several major milestones have been met, such as:

- Changeover to the interim runway completed.
- Flights landed safely on the new interim runway alignment.
- Main runway and apron excavation underway.
- Clear-and-grub and ground surface treatments progressing on the main runway flanks.
- Triple blend subgrade treatment trial completed, with proof rolling scheduled as part of the next stage of quality checks.

The next portion of works will continue to focus on main runway reconstruction, apron excavation, embankment placement and compaction, and ongoing ground surface treatments. Council will continue working closely with Northlane, Durack Civil and aviation stakeholders to ensure the project is delivered safely, efficiently and to the required standard. This portion is expected to be delivered by late October.



PROJECTS UPDATE

First Landing on Burketown's Temporary Airstrip

With construction works continuing at the Burketown Airport, a temporary airstrip has been established to ensure the community remains connected by air while upgrades are underway.

Marking an important milestone, local pilot Harry Sleigh had the honour of being the first pilot to land and take off from the new temporary runway. The arrival was welcomed by representatives from the construction team, with the first passenger to disembark greeted by Durack Civil supervisor, Gary Schneider.

Burke Shire Council thanks Harry for sharing these memorable photos, capturing the beginning of an important chapter in the airport upgrade project and highlighting the strong community spirit behind this significant infrastructure milestone.



Gregory Water Treatment Plant Clarifier Replacement



Gregory Water Treatment Plant Upgrade involves the installation of a new Clarifier into the Gregory Water Treatment Plant with associated pipework, pumps, electrical and SCADA implementation. The project also involves the installation of a UV system and upgrading the raw water intake with new raw water pumps.

The clarifier is used to remove sediment from the raw water which will mean that the raw water supply can be utilised for more of the year, providing a better delivery of water to the community. The UV system will improve the water quality safety providing a back up to the chlorination process.

Works are expected to be completed by October.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Doomadgee East Road Reconstruction Project

This section of the road starts from Wills Development Road turn off and continues to the west in 30km length. Once completed, the reconstructed Doomadgee East Road will improve year-round access, road safety and travel reliability. The new pavement will support local residents, school transport, freight movement, pastoral operations, tourism and emergency response, while also helping to reduce future maintenance demands on Council's road network.

As the project works continue several major milestones have been met such as:

- Topsoil stripping and profiling completed across active work fronts.
- Subgrade stabilisation progressing between CH30078 and CH28800.
- Clear-and-grub works continuing between approximately CH30000 and CH23000.

The next phase of works will focus on importing pavement gravels, continuing lime stabilisation and proof rolls, importing base layer gravels for approximately 1.2 km of pavement, and sealing the first 1.2 km of completed pavement.

The works are expected to be completed by November 2026.



New Toilets at Gregory

The Gregory community is very grateful to the Burke Shire Council, Gregory Downs Jockey Club and Gregory District Sporting Association for funding six new toilet cubicles at the Sports Ground.

This improvement was much appreciated at recent events.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Floraville Road Stages 4A, 5, 6 & 7 Upgrade Project

This section of Floraville Road stretches from Armraynald pit to the township of Burketown. The Floraville Road Upgrade represents an important investment in Burke Shire's future. Once complete, the road will provide safer and more reliable access for local communities, pastoral operations, freight transport, tourism and emergency services. Improved pavement strength and drainage will enhance flood resilience, reduce maintenance costs and support regional economic growth for many years to come.

As the project works continue several major milestones have been met such as:

- Overall project completion increased to 27.18%.
- Zones 1–4 (out of 16 zones) have now been completed.
- Zone 3 spray seal completed.
- CH24075 cattle grid installed.
- Zone 8 excavation, embankment and ground surface treatments completed.
- Zone 8 in-situ lime stabilization underway.
- More than 54,700 tons of pavement base and over 26,000 tons of subbase delivered.

The works are expected to be completed by November 2026.



Tim O'Leary Health Clinic (Gregory CWA)



On the 2nd July our community said farewell to RFDS's Dr. Jay Short. Cath and Ruby representing the Gregory CWA and Health Clinic presented Jay with a small gift of appreciation. Jay will be missed by all his patients and many friends he has made at Gregory.

The clinic group recently purchased two computer monitors for the examination rooms. Dr Jay is seen using his monitor at a recent clinic. The RFDS staff are grateful for this improvement.

New blinds were also purchased and thanks to Peter Goldstein for helping us with the installation.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Burketown Rodeo Grounds Amenities Upgrade

Exciting progress is underway on the Burketown Rodeo Grounds Amenities Upgrade project, which will deliver new and improved public facilities for the community and visitors.

The project will replace the existing outdated amenities with modern, accessible toilet and shower facilities designed to meet current standards and better support local events, tourism activity, and increased demand

The construction contract has now been executed with the preferred supplier, marking a key milestone in moving the project into the delivery phase. A perimeter survey will be undertaken shortly to confirm the final placement of the new building on site. Construction works are expected to commence with preliminary activities in July/August, with the project scheduled for completion in December this year.



Barbed Wire Workshop

The "Rust & Roses" Barbed Wire Workshop was delivered by Megan Myles, who travelled more than 1,000 kilometres from Charters Towers to share her unique skills and creative techniques.

The workshop was a great success, attracting more than 20 participants across three sessions. Funding for the event was provided through the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF).

Working with rusty barbed wire presented some challenges, but with protective gloves and aprons provided, participants worked safely and confidently throughout the workshop.

Inspired by their new skills, participants are excited to continue exploring barbed wire art and are already looking forward to taking part in future creative projects.

COMMUNITY *Events*

Grey Legends Stay Connected

Funding received through the Age-Friendly Community Development Grant has enabled seniors from both Gregory and Burketown to participate in a diverse range of activities designed to build skills, encourage social connection, and provide valuable information.

This year's excursion saw the group travel by bus to Hells Gate for a relaxing lunch, great company, and live music, making for a memorable day out.

Workshops have included leathercraft, sourdough making, and photography, while information sessions covered important topics such as artificial intelligence (AI), spam and scam awareness, and online safety.

A highlight of the program was the roadshow delivered by Age and Disability Advocacy (ADA) and Services Australia. Seniors received practical information about their rights, available benefits and services, and guidance on accessing and using MyGov, helping them feel more confident navigating government services.

The program has provided wonderful opportunities for learning, friendship and community connection, and has been warmly embraced by Burke Shire's senior residents. It continues to demonstrate the value of creating opportunities that support active, informed and connected ageing.



COMMUNITY Events

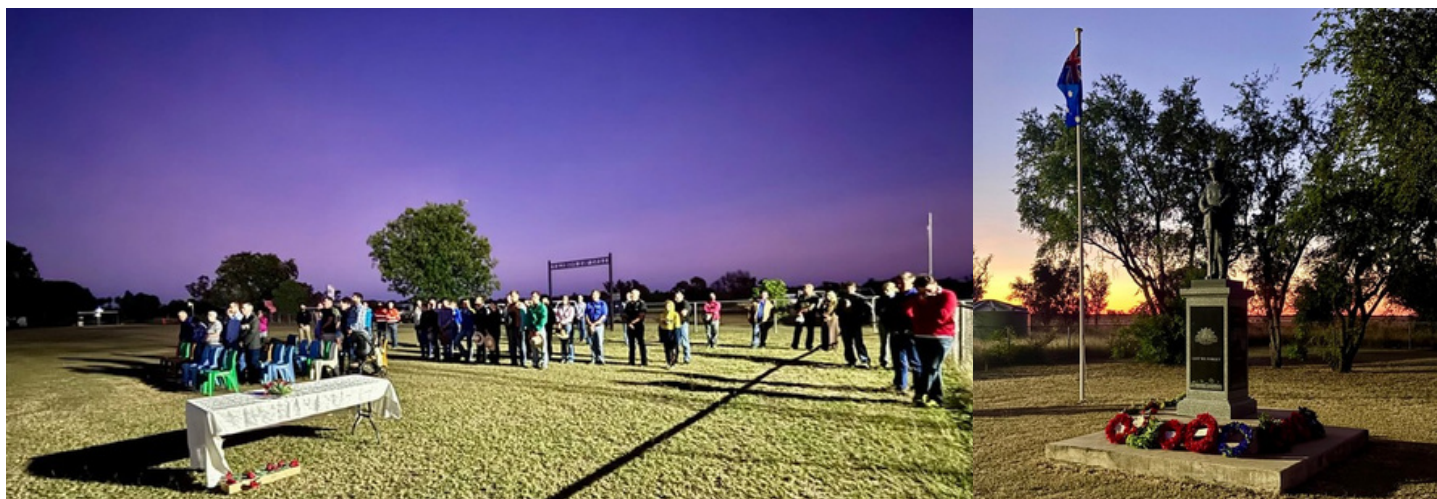
Anzac Day at Gregory

Over 50 people attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Gregory.

Vietnam veteran, Mr. John Nelson once again attend the service. It's moving for our community to hear John recite The Ode and see him place a wreath for his fellow Vietnam veterans.

The address concerned an ordinary country bloke, John Makim. He was an original Anzac who was wounded when he landed at Gallipoli on April 25th, 1915. Wooden boxes made by John were on display.

At the conclusion of the service the Gregory Downs Jockey Club provided breakfast in the hall.

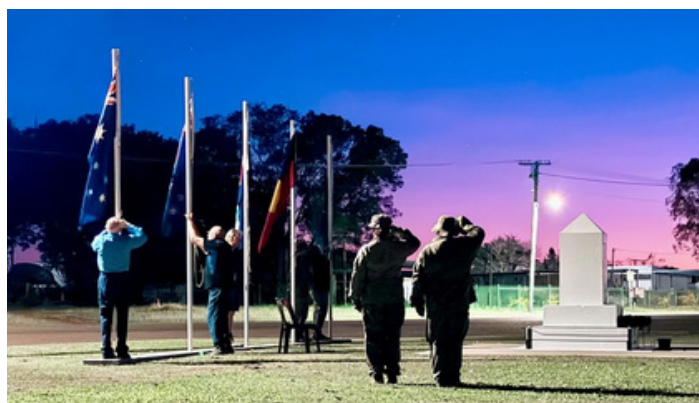


Anzac Day Dawn Service Burketown

A large crowd gathered for the Anzac Day Dawn Service, creating a moving and reflective atmosphere. As the dawn broke, there was a haunting sense of remembrance as we paused to honour the courage, sacrifice, and hardships endured by the men and women who served in times of war.

The presence of Indigenous soldiers from the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (FNQR), added great significance to the service. We were especially grateful that they travelled hundreds of kilometres to join us and help make our Dawn Service so memorable.

Following the service, everyone enjoyed a free community breakfast, generously prepared by local volunteers. Our guest speaker, Sergeant Rapson, shared her personal journey of joining the Australian Army and spoke about what military service has meant to her. Her heartfelt address was both inspiring and deeply appreciated by all who attended.



COMMUNITY Events

Childcare & Family Hub

Our Childcare & Family Hub continues to be a strong, steady meeting place for families across the Burke Shire Region. We're proud to offer a space where children can learn, families can connect, and culture is celebrated every day.

Highlights Term 2

Our educators have been focusing on play-based learning, with a strong emphasis on Country- based learning, Story telling and Social and Emotional development which is helping children build their confidence, friendships and resilience.

Children have especially enjoyed this term our outdoor learning sessions, Excursion to Tirranna Roadhouse to meet all the new baby animals and our hands-on sensory activities using natural materials from around the region.

Programs

- Playgroups (Mums & Bubs) Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:30am to 11:30am
- Childcare Thursdays & Fridays 9:30am to 2:30pm
- Afterschool Activities Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30pm to 4:30pm

What's Coming Up

- Hub end of term family BBQ
- Rodeo Theme Disco
- New co-facilitated playgroup sessions
- On Country Excursions

A Shout Out To Our Sponsors who have come on board again this term

VMR helping with our solar upgrade, Northlane who have sponsored our Family Hub Bus, AIDWRA with cash contributions to go towards our events. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Remote life brings unique challenges, but it also brings strong community spirit. Our Hub is here for every family - whether you need early learning, parenting support, a friendly chat, or a safe place for our children to grow and thrive. Your contributions help us to continue to provide valuable services to our families in need.



COMMUNITY *Events*

Exciting Changes Ahead for the Burketown Information Centre!

Big things are happening in the heart of our community. The iconic, heritage listed Information Centre is getting a major upgrade designed to boost local tourism, support regional businesses, and unlock new economic opportunities for the Burke Shire. The beautiful building has sat empty for over a year, but Council is officially moving forward with an innovative, phased plan to reactivate the space. The goal is to transform this prime asset into a modern, self sufficient tourism hub while freeing up the rest of the facility for a business or service.

Phase 1: A Automated Information Hub

Work has started for Stage One of the reopening, which focuses on creating a streamlined, unstaffed Information Hub in the left front room. Over the next four weeks, Council teams will be carrying out essential repairs, structural safety compliance checks, and a deep clean of the



premises. We are also using this opportunity to roll out a fun, fresh energy across the Shire with the Happy Croc. Keep an eye out for custom crocodile themed signage popping up at the Centre to welcome visitors and create great photo opportunities.

Inside the new hub, you can expect:

- **Heritage Displays:** Rejuvenated display cabinets showcasing local artifacts and historical items that truly capture the unique essence of our region.
- **One Touch Business Connectivity:** A comprehensive regional brochure stand paired with a hardwired, direct dial telephone counter. Visitors can call local tour operators or businesses instantly with a single press of a button.
- **Smart Information Access:** A dedicated interactive voicemail menu that lets travellers and remote callers transfer themselves directly to their chosen tour operator or service.

The information centre will be opened each morning and closed each night by council staff, while new security cameras will provide a level of security for the displays.

COMMUNITY Events

Phase 2: Unleashing the Building's Commercial Potential

By condensing the visitor information hub into one dedicated, secure room, the remaining footprint of the building will then become available for lease. Phase two will focus on prepping the main retail floor, kitchen, bathroom, and storage spaces for a fresh commercial tenancy. A separate office suite will be isolated and transformed into a flexible, short term hot desk workspace. Businesses, agencies, and travelling organisations will be able to lease this space on a short term basis, helping Council offset the building's operational costs.

Run Your Dream Business: EOI Now Open!

Do you have a vision for a thriving business? Council has officially opened an Expression of Interest campaign to find an enthusiastic operator to lease the main commercial space for a minimum of 5 months of the year duration the peak visitor season (late May to early October). This setup is ideal for local residents or self sufficient travellers, such as Grey Nomads, who want to enjoy our gorgeous winter sun while building up their travel funds. Whether your dream is to open a boutique cafe, an arts and crafts collective, a regional hardware outlet, a tourism venture, or a dedicated community classroom, this versatile building is ready for your ideas. Check out the official EOI notice below for full details on how to get involved. The EOI campaign will run alongside our building preparations.

Expression of Interest

ESCAPE THE WINTER AND RUN YOUR DREAM BUSINESS IN SUNNY BURKETOWN!

The Burke Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest for an enthusiastic operator to run a business or service out of our prime, heritage listed Information Centre right next to the water park from late May to early October. This location features a versatile retail floor, kitchen, bathroom, office, and storage, making it the perfect opportunity for a local resident or a self sufficient "Grey Nomad" traveller looking to fill a gap in our community, as Burketown is in great need of various services and products. EOIs to be sent to sholland@burke.qld.gov.au



commercial tenancy, please contact Shelly Holland, Community, Economic Development & Communications Manager, via email at sholland@burke.qld.gov.au.

COMMUNITY Events

Saddles and Paddles Races – 2026

The biggest crowd ever enjoyed at wonderful day of racing at Gregory in May. The weather was glorious and the track received the tick of approval by Racing Qld.

Six races were keenly contested. Due to jockey shortages the club assisted with the travel of three jockeys which made the racing very competitive.

Fashions of the Field, children's events, dinner in the hall and live music added to a great day.

Mention must be made of the Gregory Gift Footrace for men and women. This event now has a great following with twelve runners starting from the race barriers. Prior to the races, runners were auctioned and the club was pleased to donate \$3,000 to the Tim O'Leary Health Clinic from the proceeds. Thanks to all who contributed.

The club was pleased to welcome Racing Queensland's Acting CEO, Lachlan Murray who saw bush racing at its best.

After the event president, John Clarke thanked sponsors and volunteers stating that the event could not proceed without the wonderful support of so many.



BRODIE & CO QTIS MAIDEN PLATE (800 METRES)

YES MA - Trainer: S Royes Jockey: D. Sparks

CLEMMENTS ELECTRICAL/ BRODIE HARDWARE BENCHMARK 50 (1000 METRES)

EXOLENT CHOICE - Trainer: S. Royes Jockey: J. Babarovich

MITECH / GOS CONSTRUCTIONS BENCHMARK 60 (1150 METRES)

ZAVABOOM - Trainer: E. Morton Jockey: F. Edwards

CUSTOM STEEL FAB/KEVIN MALONE MEMORIAL BENCHMARK 50 (1300 METRES)

THREEFOLD - Trainer: T. Parry Jockey: C. Whitely

BURKE SHIRE CUP OPEN HANDICAP (1300 METRES)

REVVED UP READY - Trainer: S. Royes Jockey: J. Babarovich

LOHMAN CONTRACTING BENCHMARK 60 HANDICAP (1500 METRES)

ZOUHOPE - Trainer: S. Royes Jockey: D. Sparks



COMMUNITY *Events*



COMMUNITY Events

Moungibi Magawas Ladies Lead the Way

The Moungibi Magawas ladies Rugby League team have once again shown what footy in remote communities is all about — heart, grit, and unstoppable team spirit. Despite the ladies travelling from the NW and Gulf of Carpentaria regions to play, and the challenges that come with trying to get the numbers and not training side by side each week, our women continue to step up and represent the Gulf with pride.

This past fortnight, the team delivered a strong performance in the first of the two Gulf Cluster meets in Normanton with a win against Mornington Island 28-8 and a loss to Normanton Stingers 32-6, showcasing fast ball movement, tough defence, and a growing confidence across the field. Senior players led with experience while our younger athletes brought energy and speed, proving the future of women's footy in the Gulf is bright.

A huge thank you go out to the sponsors, volunteers, families, and supporters who travel long distances, run water, wash jerseys, and cheer from the

sidelines. Footy in the Gulf doesn't happen without you. All the planning and behind the scenes work from our local Rugby League Club committee members, which starts months in advance does not at all get the acknowledgement they deserve. This is all done for the love of the sport and the opportunities this provides our small community. The ladies now turn their focus to the next round, ready to bring that trademark Gulf toughness and teamwork back onto the paddock.

Contributed by Taren Murray-Carr



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location
Grey Legends Get Together	First Wednesday of every month	Burketown
Order of the Outback Ball	Saturday, 22 August 2026	Burketown
Gregory Horse Sports & Family Fun Day	Saturday, 26 September 2026	Gregory

COMMUNITY

Burketown Fitness Sessions

The Burketown Fitness Session ran from February to June 2026 and people of different ages, backgrounds and fitness levels came together with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to improving their health and wellbeing. Gathered on the outdoor court and footy field, the participants reflected the spirit of unity, inclusiveness, togetherness and encouragement that makes community fitness programs so valuable.

The smiles and relaxed expressions of participants demonstrated that wellness is about much more than exercise – it is also about building meaningful connections, encouraging one another, and creating a sense of belonging. These sessions inspired healthier lifestyles and motivated participants to make physical activity a regular part of their daily routine.

The fitness sessions were funded through the TRACC (Tackling Regional Adversity through Connected Communities) program, a suicide prevention and mental health resilience initiative, and were delivered by personal trainer Taren Murray. Due to the strong community response and excellent attendance, Burke Shire Council has engaged Taren to deliver a follow-on fitness program. Taren has also been working with local seniors, providing tailored fitness and exercise programs designed to meet their individual needs and abilities.

The sessions promoted physical health by improving strength, endurance, flexibility and overall fitness. Beyond the physical benefits, they also supported mental wellbeing by reducing stress, encouraging positive attitudes towards healthy living, and creating opportunities for social interaction. Exercising together helped build friendships, strengthen community connections, foster camaraderie, and encourage participants to stay motivated.

Sessions like these also strengthened the community by bringing people together with a common purpose. Encouragement and active participation in the fitness sessions helped build healthier, more vibrant individuals while creating opportunities to celebrate fitness progress and promote a culture of care and support. They also fostered a supportive environment where everyone felt welcome regardless of age, ability or experience.

These sessions remind us that "Health is Wealth"—investing in health and wellbeing creates happier, stronger and more connected communities.

Contributed by Patrice Caneo



COMMUNITY

A Day of Mateship and Community Spirit

More than 100 people came together in Burketown on 8 May to celebrate Mates Day, enjoying a fantastic afternoon of friendship, fun and community spirit.

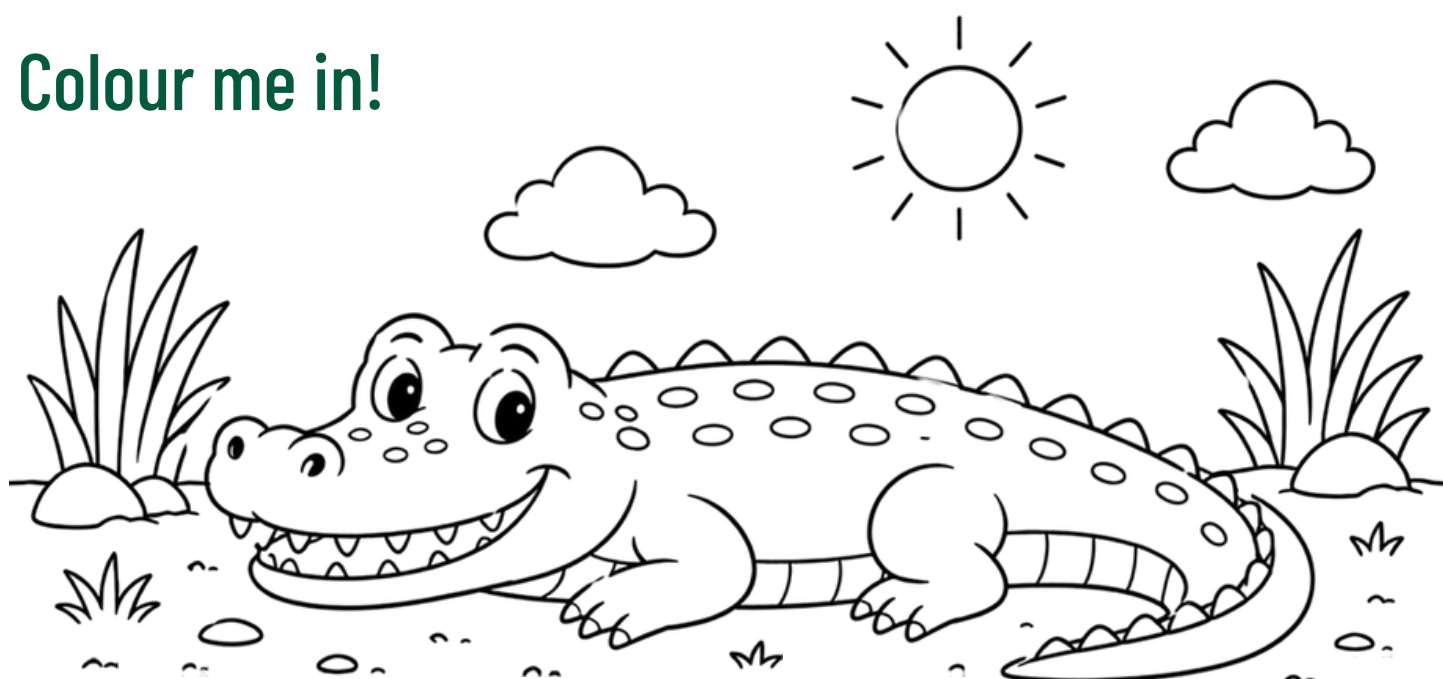
Entertainment was provided by DMC Boys, the rock-reggae band from Doomadgee, while children kept cool and entertained in the splash park. The Durack team fired up the BBQ, with community members lending a hand to serve the food, making the event a true community collaboration.

One of the day's biggest highlights was the tug-of-war competition between the Durack team and the Burketown locals. After a closely fought contest, Durack claimed bragging rights with a 2-1 victory. The children also had the chance to test their strength in their own tug-of-war competition, with every participant receiving a prize in recognition of their enthusiasm and effort.

Events like Mates Day are a great reminder of the strong community spirit that makes Burke Shire such a special place, bringing people together to connect, have fun and create lasting memories.



Colour me in!



GET COOKING

Creamy Cherabin with Coconut Rice

Contributed by Ethan Walden

Serves: 4-6 people

Prep Time: 15 mins | **Cook Time:** 25 mins

Ingredients

Coconut Rice

- 2 cups jasmine rice
- 1 can (400ml) coconut milk
- 1½ cups water
- 1 tsp salt

Creamy Diced Cherabin

- 1 kg cherabin meat, diced into bite-sized pieces
- 200 g bacon, diced
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 small brown onion, finely diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup chicken stock
- 300 ml thickened cream
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp paprika
- ½ tsp cracked black pepper
- Salt to taste
- Juice of ½ lemon or lime
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley (optional)

Method

Step 1 - Cook the Coconut Rice

1. Rinse the rice well.
2. Add rice, coconut milk, water and salt to a saucepan.
3. Bring to a gentle boil.
4. Reduce to low heat, cover and cook for 15 minutes.
5. Remove from heat and rest for 10 minutes before fluffing.

Step 2 - Cook the Bacon

1. Heat a large frying pan over medium-high heat.
2. Cook the diced bacon until golden and slightly crispy.
3. Remove about half the bacon and reserve for garnish if desired.



Step 3 - Cook the Cherabin

1. Season the diced cherabin with paprika, pepper and a small pinch of salt.
2. Add butter to the bacon fat remaining in the pan.
3. Add the cherabin and cook for only 2–3 minutes, stirring regularly.
4. Remove and set aside. Do not overcook or it will become tough.

Step 4 - Make the Sauce

1. In the same pan, cook the onion until soft.
2. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds.
3. Pour in the chicken stock and simmer for 2 minutes.
4. Add the cream and parmesan.
5. Simmer gently until the sauce thickens slightly.
6. Stir through the lemon or lime juice.

Step 5 - Finish the Dish

1. Return the cherabin and remaining bacon to the sauce.
2. Simmer gently for 1 minute only.
3. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Serve

Spoon a generous bed of coconut rice into bowls and top with the creamy diced cherabin mixture.

Optional Addition (Highly Recommended)

crack 3–4 eggs into the sauce just before adding the cherabin back. Stir gently until they form silky ribbons through the cream sauce. It makes the dish richer and stretches it further if you're feeding a crowd. This version will comfortably feed 4 hungry adults and has a great balance of sweet coconut rice, smoky bacon, garlic cream sauce, and tender chunks of cherabin.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Information On Our website

Burke Shire Council Website

www.burke.qld.gov.au

You can find information on:

Current Tenders

Council Meetings

Employment Opportunities

Public Notices

Service Information

Council Meeting Dates

Burke Shire Council meetings are held monthly on a Wednesday in the Council Chambers at the Nijinda Durlga and are scheduled to commence at 9.00am.

Meeting dates for the next 5 months are as follows:

August	Monday 31
September	Wednesday 23
October	Wednesday 28
November	Wednesday 18
December	Friday 12

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Get Snapping!



Spot an issue in the Shire?

Take a photo with the Snap Send Solve app to let us know.

The app allows you to mark the exact location of the issue, take a photo and provide any further information in a few simple steps. Then:

- Council will be notified
- Your report will be assigned
- Reported issue is resolved
- You will be notified.