


# ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FEDERAL ELECTION 2022





A close-up portrait of a middle-aged man with a slight smile, wearing a dark brown cowboy hat and a dark blue Wrangler button-down shirt. The shirt has a pink 'Wrangler' logo on the collar and a pink ribbon logo with the word 'Wrangler' on the left chest. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

“FEDERAL SUPPORT  
WOULD BE  
**PHENOMENAL**”

BACK REGIONAL AUSTRALIA  
THIS ELECTION



ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND AND WATERS WITHIN THE ISAAC REGION, AND WE RECOGNISE THEIR CONNECTION TO LAND, WATER AND COMMUNITY. COUNCIL ALSO RECOGNISES THOSE WHOSE ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURES WILL LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY FOR FUTURE ELDERS AND LEADERS.

# ABOUT THE ISAAC REGION

HELPING TO ENERGISE THE WORLD.

A REGION THAT FEEDS, POWERS AND BUILDS COMMUNITIES.

## SOCIAL PROFILE

58,673

square kilometres spanning from the coast to the coalfields,



median age 33.5<sub>2</sub>

20,910

permanent resident population<sub>1</sub>

12,150

permanent non-resident population<sub>3</sub>

fly in/fly out & drive in /drive out

17

unique communities

made up of modern mining towns, historical towns, coastal and rural towns. Moranbah is the main service centre, population approx. 8,790,<sub>1</sub>

Established couples and families, 26.5%

Maturing couples and families, 23.3%

Older couples and families, 15.4%

Young families, 10.5%

## ECONOMIC PROFILE

mining is the **largest** industry employer

generating **13,080** jobs in the mining sector,

equating to **60.9%** of total employment in Isaac,<sub>1</sub>


**\$11.92 billion**

contribution to Queensland's gross regional product based on a full-time equivalent population of **33,420**<sub>3</sub>

22

operating metallurgical coal mines,<sub>4</sub>

producing 72% of Qld's metallurgical coal<sub>4</sub>




9

operating thermal coal mines producing 22% of Qld's thermal coal<sub>4</sub>

15

mines in either construction, care and maintenance or advanced stages of approval<sub>4</sub>


the Isaac local government area is a significant contributor to the state and national economies



**\$270.66 million**

agricultural industry output,

this includes sheep, grains and cattle



**\$82 million**

gross value add from sugar cane industry,<sub>5</sub>

14.12% of registered businesses are agriculture,<sub>1</sub>

[1] Queensland Government Statisticians Office - Bowen Basin Population Report 2021 [2] Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, [3] Queensland Government Statisticians Office - Bowen and Galilee Basins non-resident population projections 2021-2025 [4] Department of Resources, Natural Resources Inventory for Queensland, [5] Australian Sugar Milling Council, 2020 [6] QGO.



# A WORD FROM OUR MAYOR

MAYOR ANNE BAKER HAS BEEN THE  
LEADING VOICE OF THE ISAAC REGION FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS



We share a vision to drive economic recovery, empower our communities, businesses and industries as we firmly believe the future is brighter in the Isaac region.

We have powered the nation's economy through these challenging times. Isaac region continues to make a significant economic contribution to Queensland and the Nation.

From our seams of coal which help forge steel and generate electricity, to our top-class beef, grains, cane and aquaculture.

Our region is one of the largest coal and beef producing regions in Australia. Isaac is an energy powerhouse, home to 26 of the 53 operating coal mines in Queensland, with more in the pipeline.

The majority of the coal we produce is metallurgical coal from the Bowen Basin and is the world's premium hard coking coal.

Our industries are diverse and resilient. We seek out innovation to help energise a transformational

future through mining rehabilitation, bio-economies and exporting Isaac's knowledge and skills.

Our enabled infrastructure sets the foundation for future growth and prosperity.

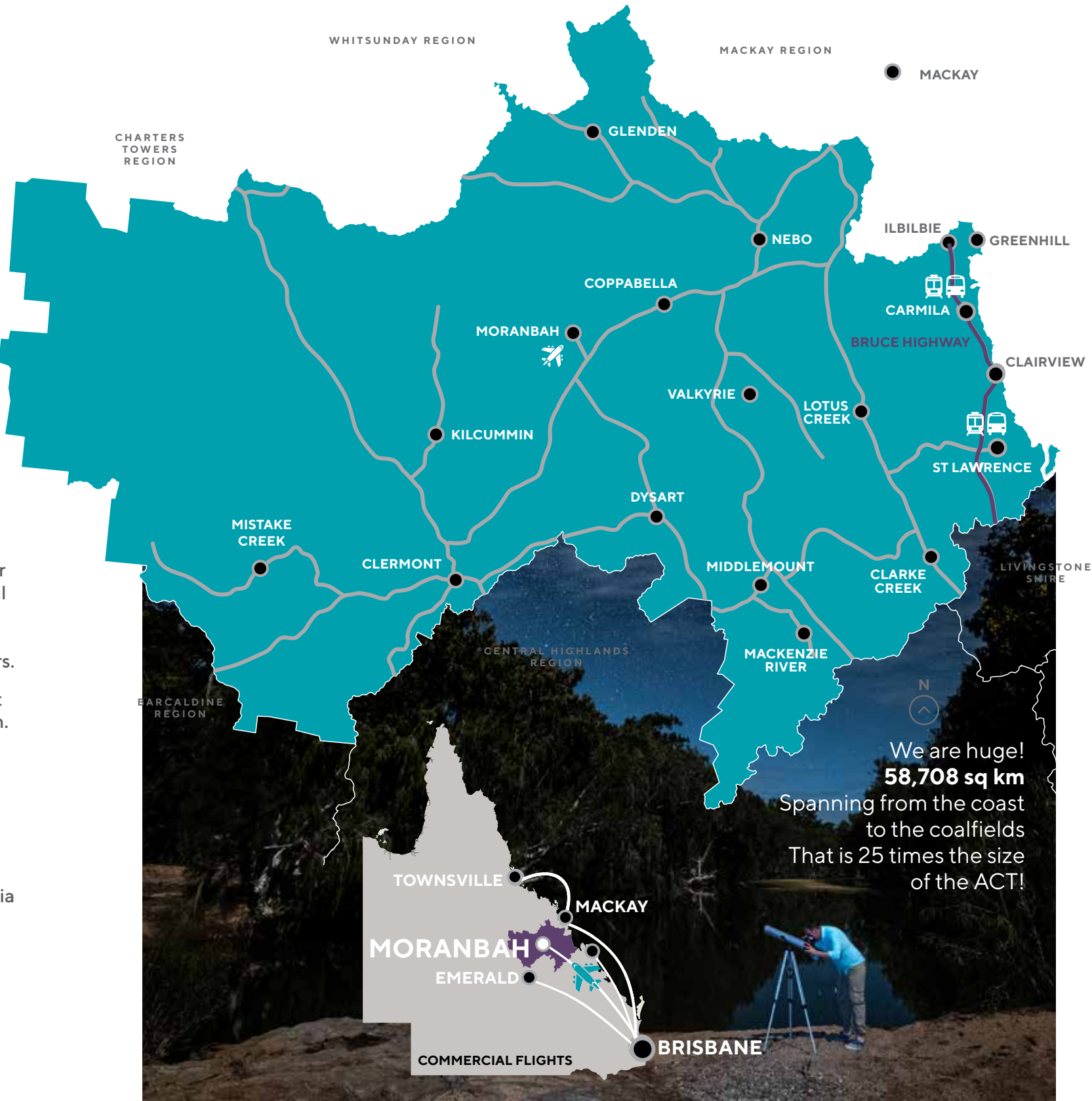
We lead, create and connect our people through our strategic partnerships.

We support and continue our collaboration and meaningful conversations with First Nations peoples, all levels of government and stakeholders.

We have ambitious plans but we cannot do this on our own.

Our 17 unique communities and their socially sustainable futures lie within the outcomes of this federal election. As the resources capital of Queensland, when we succeed, regional Australia succeeds.

  
**Mayor Anne Baker**  
Isaac Regional Council



World class workforce  
and labour markets



Enabled Infrastructure  
supporting regional growth



Diverse and resilient  
industries with global  
connections



Strategic regional  
planning building  
social futures





# OUR PRIORITIES

WE ARE HOME TO ABOUT 50% OF ALL OPERATING COAL MINES, CONTRIBUTING NEARLY \$2 BILLION ANNUALLY OF THE \$5.2 BILLION IN RESOURCES ROYALTIES SHARED IN QUEENSLAND.



## NEBO SHOWGROUNDS MASTERPLAN

**TOTAL PROJECT: \$6.15 MILLION**

The facility hosts the largest one-day rodeo in Australia and is renowned for its bush sport events and facilities as well as social gatherings. Its location makes it accessible to attract visitors from the broader Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday area.

## CLERMONT SENIOR LIVING



**TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS: \$6.221 MILLION**

We are proud to support this Belyando Enterprise Network Inc project and their vision for residents to enjoy their twilight years in their hometown of Clermont.

## ISAAC RESOURCES EXCELLENCE HUB

**STAGE 1: \$2 MILLION**

This is about providing opportunities in the region for our workforce to embrace the changing landscape of the resource sector and providing a future for mining communities.



## UNDER-FUNDED CRITICAL HEALTH SERVICES



**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

The sustained critical shortages in medical, nursing and allied health services across the Isaac region, present an unacceptable risk to its communities. There is an absolute critical need for increased resilience in clinical services planning for hospitals and allied health services to satisfy the demand generated by the permanent resident and permanent non-resident population of the Isaac region.



“LET’S HIGHLIGHT THE RURAL COMMUNITIES”  
BACK REGIONAL AUSTRALIA  
THIS ELECTION



# NEBO SHOWGROUNDS MASTERPLAN

THIS CRITICAL PIECE OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS INDUSTRY,  
COMMUNITY GROUPS AND NEIGHBOURING TOWNSHIPS.

TOTAL PROJECT: \$6.15 MILLION



\$2.8 MILLION

## STAGE1

- infrastructure upgrades
- heavy vehicle access
- general camping upgrades
- car parking



\$3.35 MILLION

## STAGE 2

Upgrades needed for:

- outdoor and undercover arenas
- competitor camping area
- pony club and polocrosse areas
- outdoor amenities



The Nebo Showgrounds is one of Isaac Regional Council's most utilised recreational facilities with several local community user groups and other regular hirers accessing the facility. It's booked out for more than 80 days of the year, attracting 20,000 visitors annually with an estimated local economy return of approximately \$1.2 million.

Its location makes it accessible to attract visitors from the broader Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday area. There is a lot of potential for increased growth in existing activities as well as attraction for a number of other activities.

The need for a strategic 20-year plan will only maximise the potential but also to enable management of the existing facility needs and renewal.

**Nebo Showgrounds  
is home to Australia's  
biggest one-day  
rodeo attracting**

**5,000**

**people** from across  
regional Australia



The showgrounds is hired for **more than**

**80** days of the year

**attracting** more than

**20,000**

people from across  
regional Australia

753

## Nebo's population



The Nebo Showgrounds masterplan is about ensuring a critical piece of community and industry infrastructure is futureproofed.

From the national events it holds like the Nebo Rodeo to its role in supporting the agricultural sector, communities in regional Australia are built on places like the Nebo Showgrounds.



The only way for this to happen is to upgrade and expand this traditional facility for the modern era. We have ambitious plans for Nebo Showgrounds but we cannot do this on our own.

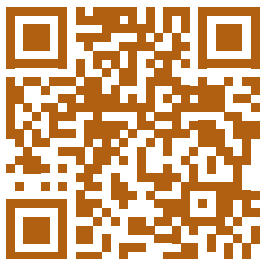
It's so important that  
Canberra backs the  
showgrounds because it  
backs regional Australia.



Nebo is an hour drive west of Mackay



**TO FIND OUT MORE  
SCAN HERE**





CREATING SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES' FUTURES THROUGH ONE  
SOCIAL, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE LOCATION



## THE SCOPE

The proposed hub's scope is to involve the following elements:

- The North Bowen Basin Mines Rescue Station and Training Centre
- A satellite campus of Central Queensland University (with or without other partnering institutions)
- An in-mining-region collaborative hub-and-spoke extension of the Resources Centre of Excellence
- A node in the Cooperative Research Centre community including CRC TIME, CRC Northern Australia and possibly CRC EPIC
- A mining visitors' interpretive and cultural heritage centre; and
- Complementary industry, regulatory and community facilities and activities; and tangible respect for First Nations culture to advance the excellence hub vision

## OUR COMMITMENT

Isaac Regional Council has committed an 8.5ha high exposure site on the Moranbah Access Road near the entrance of Moranbah, the heart of the Bowen Basin and gateway to the Galliee Basin. This is our capital contribution to bring this project to life. Council has also committed a reasonable project planning budget to ensure the necessary initial integrated planning to support the project.

**15** mines in either construction, care and maintenance or advanced stages of approval



What better place to take advantage of the change in industry by putting us in that conversation through this hub. This project will create jobs and develop skills that keep workers and families on the map and living in the Isaac for generations to come. Canberra needs to understand that regional Australia has the ability to be creative, to apply fresh thinking, to find innovative solutions and adapt to rapid change without fear, and with power.

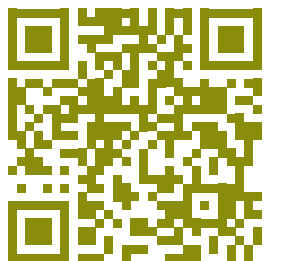


Moranbah is 2.5 hours drive west of Mackay



ISAAC  
REGION

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"WE SEE THE **FUTURE**  
FOR OUR RESOURCE  
COMMUNITIES"  
BACK REGIONAL AUSTRALIA  
THIS ELECTION





# CLERMONT SENIORS LIVING

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THIS BELYANDO ENTERPRISE NETWORK INC PROJECT AND THEIR VISION FOR RESIDENTS TO ENJOY THEIR TWILIGHT YEARS IN THEIR HOMETOWN

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COSTS: \$6.221 MILLION



## MONASH LODGE

\$2.993 MILLION

Internal refurbishment of the existing 20-bed facility and create 12 independent living units plus caretaker's apartment for 24-hour onsite management.

### PROPOSED OPERATING STRUCTURE

Community-owned, leased and managed by provider. Residents to be means tested.



## MONASH GARDENS

\$3.228 MILLION

Development of an additional 12 independent living units on vacant land at the Monash Lodge site in Clermont.

### PROPOSED OPERATING STRUCTURE

Retirement or rental village occupancy based on means testing.



## OUR COMMITMENT

### WHAT WE'LL DO

Isaac Regional Council, as the current owner of the property, continues to work with community groups to reinvigorate Monash Lodge.

The potential outcomes of the Clermont Seniors Living concept in occupying and renewing Monash Lodge presents as a significant cost and social benefit to the community.

We have committed to an in-principle long-term lease agreement with the eligible lessee through a peppercorn rate of \$1 per annum to facilitate and support these critical services within the region.

**2,065**

residents live in

**Clermont..**

and it's one of the most historic towns in northern Australia, as

it was the **1st** inland settlement in the tropics, making it a frontier town in the truest sense of the word.



**25%**

of the population is aged over 60 years

There is an undersupply of

**96**

allocations as at 2021 and then increasing to an undersupply of

**187**

places by 2036.



Monash Lodge is a valuable aged care facility for the Clermont and wider community that was founded and only made available through the generous donations and contributions by the community. The Seniors Living project is a social innovation model that could have far reaching benefits across regional Australia. Aged care is one of the nation's biggest issues and here's a solution for a small rural and regional community.

This project will create jobs during the construction phase, create more health and administrative roles but more importantly, keep residents in their hometown. The closest permanent aged care services in a non-hospital environment is either in Emerald or Mackay. Canberra needs to understand that regional Australia has the ability to be creative, to apply fresh thinking, to find innovative solutions to help its residents remain in their hometowns in their twilight years.



Clermont is 3.5 hours drive west of Mackay

**ISAAC**  
REGION

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# UNDER-FUNDED CRITICAL HEALTH SERVICES



## OUR POLICY POSITION

Council’s advocacy position has formed the view that the critical shortages present an unacceptable risk to its communities.

Instances of mine-related accidents highlight that Council’s previous representations were valid and need to be addressed as a matter of priority.

The current model for allocation of medical professionals to rural and remote communities is inadequate.

Current clinical services planning for hospitals and allied health services does not satisfy demand generated by the true population of its communities (i.e. inclusive of permanent non-resident population).

Provision of resources to Isaac region hospitals is inadequate to meet demands and is not sustainable.

The funding methodology needs to change before there are fatal consequences as a direct result of unavailability of critical care.

Failure to acknowledge the additional strain on government services and facilities in regional and remote communities created by large non-resident populations means these services and facilities are not adequately or equitably funded to support total population demand.

Isaac has local public hospitals in Clermont, Dysart and Moranbah and is supported by additional visiting and allied, aged care and health services.



## 20 allied health services

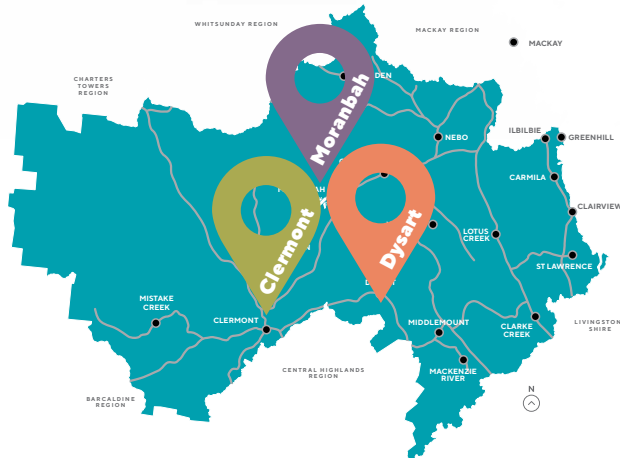
including, occupational health and safety, optical, chiropractic, physiotherapy, speech pathology and dental



There are numerous community support groups available to residents across the region to assist with rural family support, settlement programs, health and wellness programs, counselling, social housing and more.

They include:

- Moranbah and District Support Services (MDSS)
- Emergency and Long Term Accommodation in Moranbah (ELAM)
- Community Housing and Other Services (CHAOS)
- Clermont Health Advisory Network Team and (CHANT)
- Capella Tieri Middlemount (CTM) Links



Clermont, Dysart and Moranbah are multi-purpose health centres



Currently, the provision of medical, hospital and allied health services in the Isaac Region is not sufficient to service the full-time equivalent population.

In December 2019, Council adopted a Medical and Hospital Services Planning advocacy position in relation to critical shortages of medical, nursing and allied health staffing across the Isaac region.

Council’s advocacy position formed the view that the critical shortages experienced presented an unacceptable risk to its communities.

The establishment of the Office of Rural Health by the Queensland Government in late 2019 is the first step in recognising the critical health impacts felt in rural and remote regions, however much more must be done to preserve life and support the needs of our at-risk communities.



TO FIND OUT MORE  
SCAN HERE





# CONTACT US

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For more information on the Isaac region:

📞 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227)

✉ [records@isaac.qld.gov.au](mailto:records@isaac.qld.gov.au)

🌐 <https://isaac.qld.gov.au/advocacy>

You can also connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter:



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