

ISAAC NEWS

PURE PEOPLE POWER

ISSUE 71 | JULY 2024



INSIDE

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Growing together,
serving better

PAGE 4

SERVICE DELIVERY AND COMMUNITY GROWTH

Roads, waste and water
security prioritised

PAGE 7

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WHERE TO FIND US

CLERMONT

Cnr Karmoo & Daintree Streets
Clermont QLD 4721

DYSART

Shannon Crescent
Dysart QLD 4745

GLENDEN

Ewan Street
Glenden QLD 4743

MIDDLEMOUNT

Shopping Centre
Middlemount QLD 4746

MORANBAH

Grosvenor Complex,
Batchelor Parade
Moranbah QLD 4744

NEBO

10 Reynolds Street
Nebo QLD 4742

ST. LAWRENCE

36 Macartney Street
St Lawrence QLD 4707



OUR COVER

St Lawrence
Wetlands
Weekend

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All content accurate as of July 2024.



FROM THE

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Isaac is Queensland's largest resource region with a growing renewable energy sector and strong agricultural presence.

We deserve fit-for-purpose road infrastructure that supports heavy industries but, more importantly, our communities' safety.

Many roads across our region were never built to handle the sheer number, size, and weight of vehicles they are now seeing.

That's why the Isaac Regional Council is making concerted efforts to ensure our roads get their fair share of funding.

Our 2024-2025 Budget is making a landmark investment in our roads – the largest since the pandemic.

Our \$55.5 million capital works program for 2024-2025 will allocate 45% of its funds to our unsealed and sealed road network.

As we focus on growing our communities and serving them better, it is important for the community to know that our budget alone cannot cover the issues of our 4,500km stretch of roads.

We're advocating for the Queensland Government to fund over \$10 million in backlog repairs for our roads.

Council will continue to advocate for our five-year Royalties Road Package in ensuring safe and effective transportation for both local communities and industries.

The three key projects from this package include \$48 million for Dysart Middlemount Road, \$235 million for Peak Downs Mine and Saraji Road, and \$110 million Golden Mile Road.

We respectfully request that 2% of the \$13 billion in coal mining royalties generated by our region be reinvested into maintaining and improving our roads for the benefit of our communities, workers, industries, and, in turn, the rest of the State.

Our communities aren't asking for shiny new projects. We simply seek the necessary funding to maintain our critical road infrastructure.

Council remains focused on securing future funding that will provide more equitable investments to enhance safety and support for the hardworking communities and industries of the Isaac region.

MAYOR KELLY VEA VEA

P 07 4846 3524

E kelly.veavea@isaac.qld.gov.au



CONTENTS



EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 4 Clermont Outback Sailing Regatta
- 8 Nebo Cutting Show
- 16 Blue Mountain Campdraft
- 16 Gold and Coal Festival
- 17 Middlemount Race Day
- 24 Mayor's Charity Ball
- 25 Clermont Isolated Parents Association Sports Camp
- 25 Clermont ICPA Sports Camp
- 30 Clermont NAIDOC

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Clermont State High School P&C
- 13 Nebo State School - 150 year celebration

Visit isaac.qld.gov.au/events
Click 'Add an event', complete the simple form and save. Council reserves the right to approve event listings.

Growing together, serving better.

SNAPSHOT

Isaac Regional Council
2024-25 Budget



Deputy Mayor Jane Pickels
Clermont



Cr Terry O'Neill
Glenden and Clermont Rural



Cr Verniece Russell
Dysart



Cr Melissa Westcott
Moranbah



Cr Simon West
Moranbah



Cr Alaina Earl
Moranbah



Cr Rachel Anderson
Middlemount and Moranbah



Cr Viv Coleman
Nebo and Isaac Coast

From our mailboxes to our shopping trolleys, our interest rates continue to rise, and our groceries, petrol, insurance, and electricity bills increase. Council is not immune from the cost pressures facing many families across the region, with considerable increases to Council's electricity, insurance, and fuel bills.

We've done our best to make sure that despite all of these increases we have not passed the full cost on to our hardworking ratepayers.

We've kept our increase to \$5 a week or less for 97% of residential ratepayers.

Although rural land valuations have risen significantly, most of our Isaac rural landowners will experience an increase in their rates of 5% or less.

Councillors have worked closely with the executive leadership team to deliver a budget that ensures we live within our means while we grow together to serve better.

For the first time since the pandemic, we will deliver a record investment in roads with 45 percent of our \$55.5 million capital works program dedicated to our vast network.

This is all about working to maintain key frontline services on which our communities rely and supporting our communities and their futures.

Councillors and officers look forward to working with the community to deliver this investment and to continue our support in maintaining key frontline services during these challenging times.

Mayor Kelly Vea Vea
Isaac Regional Council

Budget Highlights



\$55.5 MILLION
in 110 new and deferred projects



\$25.5 MILLION
in record roads investment



\$12.9 MILLION
water, waste, and wastewater



\$10.1 MILLION
community places and recreation spaces



\$5 a week increase or less
for 97% of residential ratepayers

30% off

30% pensioner discount
for general rates and charges like water, sewerage and waste management



- 1** \$5.5 million budgeted this year on Phillips Creek Bridge replacement construction with the remainder expected in 2025-2026.***
- 2** \$3.5 million for resurfacing 91km of sealed roads including: Barmount Road, Mt Stuart Bedford Weir Road, Alfred Quinn Drive and Queen Elizabeth Drive.
- 3** \$3.5 million to replace 51km of gravel surfaces including: Dooroona Road, Wuthung Road, Turrawulla Road, Laglan Road, Mackenzie River Capella Road and Twin Hills Road.
- 4** \$2.54 million: Cooroora Creek Bridge replacement on Mt Stuart Bedford Weir Road.*
- 5** \$1.56 million to pave and seal 2.5km of Eaglefield Road near Pasha.*
- 6** \$1.46 million to widen, strengthen and rehabilitate 2km of Peak Downs Mine Road.**
- 7** \$1.34 million to construct seven new concrete floodways on unsealed networks near Clermont, including Pioneer Road, Frankfield Road, Craven Road and Hill View Road.**
- 8** Completion expected this next year for the \$10 million Moranbah Community Centre Upgrade.**
- 9** \$700,000 allocated this year to begin fit-outs in Clermont and Moranbah for Isaac Country Universities Centres.**
- 10** \$100,000 for external works at Dysart Library.
- 11** \$2.8 million to deliver the multi-year Nebo Showgrounds Master Plan.*
- 12** \$370,000 to renew pens at J.R. Turner Saleyards and electrical at Clermont Showgrounds.
- 13** \$170,000 for Glenden Pool amenities and grandstand rehabilitation works.
- 14** \$700,000 budgeted to complete the two-year project for new raw water reservoir and raw water main at St Lawrence.**
- 15** \$600,000 budgeted to begin Carmila Water Treatment Plant upgrades.
- 16** \$400,000 to repurpose Dysart Waste Management Facility to Transfer Station from landfill.
- 17** \$550,000 for pavement repairs at Mabbin Road and Barmount Road.
- 18** \$190,000 to construct run off management and drainage structure for Nolan Drive.
- 19** \$1.53 million to widen a narrow section of Dysart-Clermont Road.
- 20** \$500,000 towards the multi-year lighting upgrades at Moranbah's sporting precincts*

*This project is funded by the Australian Government in association with Isaac Regional Council.
 **This project is funded by the Queensland Government in association with Isaac Regional Council.
 ***This project is funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments in association with Isaac Regional Council.

For every \$100 of your rates, we invest ...

\$22.65

Roads, drainage, infrastructure and technical services

This helps to maintain and upgrade our massive 4,500km road network.

The length is like taking two round trips between Clermont and Cooktown.

We also maintain 217km footpaths

**CARMILA | CLAIRVIEW
| CLARKE CREEK
| CLERMONT |
COPPABELLA | DYSART
| FLAGGY ROCK |
GLENDEEN | GREENHILL
| ILBILBIE | KILCUMMIN
| MIDDLEMOUNT |
MACKENZIE RIVER |
MISTAKE CREEK |
MORANBAH | NEBO |
ST LAWRENCE |
VALKYRIE**

\$7.77

Waste

We manage 37,000 tonnes to landfill yearly - that's equivalent to the weight of nearly five draglines.

Also to help empty more than 790,000 bins a year to be transferred to nine waste management facilities.

\$22.87

Council services, support and safety

This keeps Council business running for our 400 employees and to provide the community a range of services such as keeping our library initiatives free like our popular First 5 Forever programs.

It also supports the \$336,000 Isaac Community Grants Program and over \$77,000 Regional Arts and Development Program to assist not-for-profit groups to deliver events and art workshops across the region.

It also assists delivering business support like Shop Isaac to help generate local spending.

It also assists eight State Emergency Service depots and their 60 volunteers.

\$16.76

Community facilities, hubs and compliance

This assists our eight community hubs where we help up to 83,000 customer requests a year.

We also maintain our 19 community facilities and eight pools across our 17 unique communities.

\$7.25

Wastewater

We manage and maintain 7,816 sewage connections and six wastewater treatment plants that services more than 19,000 consumers.

\$12.46

Water

This delivers fresh water to homes and businesses from eight water treatment plants.

We deliver more than 5,100 megalitres of water - equivalent to filling up Sydney Harbour - to over 18,500 consumers.

\$5.12

Parks and recreation

This goes towards the maintenance and upgrades of our 99 parks and playgrounds.

\$5.12

Fleet and workshops

We maintain and upgrade Council's fleet and workshops to ensure delivery of road, infrastructure, park and recreation projects.



BUDGET FOCUSES ON SERVICE DELIVERY AND COMMUNITY GROWTH

About 97% of residential ratepayers will see an increase of \$5 or less per week in their rates bill after the Isaac Regional Council handed down its 2024-2025 Budget on Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

In Mayor Kelly Ve Ve's first budget address, the experienced councillor and community advocate highlighted that maintaining essential services and supporting growing communities are more important than ever as cost-of-living increases.

"We are committed to growing our communities and serving them better while placing a priority on things that matter to our residents, like roads, waste collection, and water security," Mayor Ve Ve said.

Mayor Ve Ve said Council is not immune from the cost pressures facing many families across the region, with considerable increases in costs like electricity, insurance, and fuel.

"We've done our best to make sure that all of these increases have not been passed down to our hardworking ratepayers," Mayor Ve Ve said.

"Although rural land valuations have risen significantly, the majority of our Isaac rural landowners will experience an increase in their rates of 5% or less."

"This budget we have focused on absorbing the cost pressures as best we can so that we can keep the rates increase to less than \$5 a week for most of our residential ratepayers."

Rates fund core operations such as 19 community facilities, eight aquatic facilities, eight water treatment plants, six wastewater treatment plants, nine waste management facilities, 99 parks and playgrounds, and 4,500 km of sealed and unsealed roads.

Visit <https://www.isaac.qld.gov.au/annual-budget> for more information on the Isaac Regional Council 2024-2025 Budget.

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ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITISED IN \$55.5M CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET

Isaac region's vast road network will receive a \$25.5 million injection, marking one of the most significant road investments since COVID.

Isaac Regional Council's 2024-2025 Budget, released today, announced a \$55.5 million in capital expenditure on 110 new or deferred projects, with 45% set to be invested in roads.

Replacing bridges and fixing deteriorating parts of the 4,500 km Isaac network over the next 12 months is a focus for Kelly Veave in her first term as Mayor.

"Our roads are part of the economic and social lifeblood for our industries and communities. With the increased reliance on heavy industries to use these local connections, funding in these areas is vital," Mayor Veave said.

Road budget highlights include:

- \$5.5 million on Phillips Creek Bridge replacement construction with the remainder expected in the 2025-2026 financial year. This project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments in association with Isaac Regional Council.
- \$3.5 million for resurfacing 91km of sealed roads across the region.
- \$3.5 million to replace 51km of gravel surfaces across the region's unsealed road network.
- \$2.54 million for the replacement of Cooroora Creek Bridge on Mt Stuart Bedford Weir Road near Middlemount. This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government in association with Isaac Regional Council.
- \$1.56 million to pave and seal 2.5km of Eaglefield Road near Pasha. This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government in association with Isaac Regional Council.
- \$1.46 million to widen, strengthen, and rehabilitate 2km of Peak Downs Mine Road near Winchester. This project is funded by the Queensland Government in association with Isaac Regional

Council.

- \$1.34 million to construct seven new concrete floodways on unsealed networks near Clermont, including Pioneer Road, Frankfield Road, Craven Road, and Hill View Road. This project is jointly funded by the Queensland Government in association with Isaac Regional Council.

Mayor Veave said the 2024-2025 Budget also complements Council's involvement with Queensland Beef Corridors for the past two years.

"The beef and grains industry in the Isaac region is among the world's best, nurtured right here in the heart of regional Queensland," Mayor Veave said.

"Our agricultural sector consistently contributes \$500 million annually to the state and national economies.

"For our industry to operate safely, it's crucial that our road infrastructure meets the necessary standards.

"That's why we are a member of the Queensland Beef Corridors, advocating alongside like-minded local governments.

"For Isaac alone, this will mean \$194.5 million of joint funding to upgrade three of our agricultural corridors: Clermont Alpha Road, Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road, and May Downs Road, to be delivered over the coming years."

Council's focus is on delivering its core business of maintaining roads, managing waste, and securing water for long-term regional sustainability.

In the 2024-2025 Budget, the Council will invest \$10.1 million to maintain community facilities, hubs, and compliance on pools, parks, and playgrounds. Additionally, \$12.9 million will be spent on securing water, waste, and wastewater assets for the future.

Visit Isaac Regional Council's 2024-2025 Budget and Queensland Beef Corridors for more information.



BUSH SCHOOL CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Despite the enormous psychological toll the beef slump took on rural and regional Australia, the opening of Valkyrie State School in 1974 became a beacon of hope.

The school quickly became the heart of the community, the backbone of education, and Valkyrie's crown jewel of connectedness.

Through droughts, cyclones, floods, bushfires, and even a pandemic, the school has maintained its spirit of resilience and humble beginnings.

This enduring spirit lives on in the past and present students, the dedicated P&C volunteers, teachers, principals, support staff, and those diligent bus drivers who ensured everyone arrived home

safely each week.

For the past five decades, Valkyrie State School has been a testament to the pioneering spirit of those who came here as part of the Brigalow scheme to pursue their dreams.

It also stands as a testament to the enduring community bonds that have strengthened over 50 years.

The Valkyrie State School story is an integral part of the Isaac story. Here's to 50 more years of resilience, community, and education.

Congratulations to everyone who has played a role in preserving the history of this area for future generations and to the organisers of the anniversary in June 2024.

In a collaborative effort, our community is embarking on a mission to give our winged neighbours, the little red flying fox, a better address.

A community-led planting initiative is underway at Hoods Lagoon. We're rollign up our sleeves and strategically planting trees in an effort to relocate our tiny flyers away from the park and nearby houses.

We appreciate the ecological role flying foxes play, but let's be real, we also acknowledge the challenges they pose when roosting in close proximity to human dwellings. Our goal is to strike a balance that benefits both the flying foxes and our community. It's all about harmony—flying foxes, trees, and us!



**FLYING FOXES and
OUR COMMUNITY**

For more information of flying fox management visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au/Flying-Foxes

**ISAAC
REGION**



ST LAWRENCE WETLANDS WEEKEND

Around 3,000 revellers had an absolutely crab-ulous foodie, culture, art and nature adventure at the award-winning three-day St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend.

Popular television personality Costa Georgiadis, Queensland's food ambassador and professional chef Matt Golinski, Australia's most loved First Nations dancer Patrick Thaiday, chart topper Jeremy Marou from Busby Marou, Golden Guitar winner Brad Butcher and rising country star Loren Ryan were some of the biggest drawcards.

The event is proudly brought to the region by Isaac Regional Council in partnership with the Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation, community, industry and government partners.

St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend held on the first weekend of the June school holidays is supported by the Australian Government

through Festivals Australia and the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and features on the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar.

Council would also like to acknowledge the event's major partners: Reef Catchments, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Squadron Energy, Lotus Creek Wind Farm, Jayco Mackay, Kinetic, King River Australian Meat Exports, Saltire, Mackay Isaac Tourism, Regional Arts Development Fund, Iberdrola and Zenviron. Event supporters: Australian Prawn Farms (Illbilbie), Goanna Brewing, Reef Guardian Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health, Birdlife Capricornia, Sarina Landcare, Queensland Trust for Nature, Turtle Watch, Fitzroy Basin Association, Swift River Distillery and Ergon Energy.







nothing permanent
the touch of love.
knowing that you know
the most difficult thing

nothing
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NEBO BUSH POET'S SMOKO

Est. 2001

THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF AUSSIE DROVERS LIVE
ON IN THE YARNS WE SPIN...

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, 1 September 2024

A FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Everyone welcome - whether you're an old hand,
dabbling or just love a yarn



For more information on registration,
call **1300 472 227** (1300 ISAACS)