

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

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Positive change through kindness

In a first for Queensland, Balonne Shire Council has coordinated a region-wide take up of the b kinder primary school program, designed to empower young children to be kind, considerate and compassionate.

Students from participating primary schools across the Shire will have access to a series of unique, positive and interactive wellbeing workbooks and online programs. The resources have been put together with advice from teachers and psychologists and are aligned to Australian curriculum.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said Council were proud to support a program that works to reduce bullying, mental health is-

suues and suicide in children with a uniquely positive focus.

“This is a fantastic resource which will provide our children with strategies and tools to build positive resilience and to realise they each have the power to make a positive difference by acting with kindness and compassion,” Mayor O’Toole said.

The program has been developed by the Fly High Billie Foundation, which was set up after the tragic death of 12 year old Billie Kinder. Billie’s mum Danny, dad Dave and older sister Charlie wanted to spread Billie’s incredible way of being. Billie was known for her kindness, compassion and empathy beyond her years. So with a play

on Billie’s initial and surname, her family set up flyhighbillie™ and the b kinder initiative.

Billie’s mum Danny Mayson-Kinder acknowledged Council’s support of the charitable program.

“It’s just fantastic and wonderful to have that support which will allow us to supply these resources to disadvantaged students and schools with restricted funds,” Danny said.

More information about Fly High Billie and the b kinder initiative can be found at <https://flyhighbillie.org/>

Above: Balonne Shire Council CEO Matthew Magin and Mayor Samantha O’Toole viewing the b kinder workbooks.

What's On

St George Cup Races

The St George Jockey Club offers a full racing card, TAB bookies and the much-heralded Fashions of the Field: a terrific day out for locals and visitors alike. Take advantage of our bus service between town and the racetrack.

WHEN: 30 July 2022

WHERE: St George Racecourse

Falling in Love... Again

Dirranbandi's own Chapel of Love is hosting a vow renewal officiated by none other than Elvis! You and the love of your life can recommit with the King, and enjoy high tea afterwards. Elvis will be joined by Buddy Holly in the evening for songs around the campfire. Ticket options available.

WHEN: 6 August 2022

WHERE: Dirranbandi Retreat and Caravan Park (bookings essential)

Mungindi Show

The Mungindi Show is a fun weekend of activities for the whole family. A long list of events include the header-picker demolition derby, wood chop competition and fireworks on Saturday and the Poets' Breakfast, dog high jump and grain shovelling comp on Sunday.

WHEN: 6-7 August 2022

WHERE: Mungindi Showgrounds

2022 Balonne Mayoral Ball

The inaugural Mayoral Ball is taking a glamorous James Bond theme and features the Australian Army Band from Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane. The Ball is a fundraiser for a bursary for CUC Balonne students.

WHEN: 20 August 2022

WHERE: St George Cultural Centre

Dirranbandi Day Out

The Australian Army Band is coming to Dirran! For a day out with music, food, market stalls and a chance to catch up with friends old and new, this is set to be a great day out.

WHEN: Saturday, 21 August 2022

WHERE: Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct

Got a story, event or notice?

Tell us! We can include your information in the newsletter.

Phone: **07 4620 8888**

Email: media@balonne.qld.gov.au

A message from the Mayor

It was a pleasure this week to attend some of our National NAIDOC Week celebrations here in St George, starting with the opening ceremony on Monday.

A good crowd braved the chilly morning air to march along Victoria Street and it was great to see children and young people attending with their families, some of whom took a role in the flag-raising ceremony outside the Council offices.

Our region is fortunate in that it has many champions in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community, and the National NAIDOC Week awards provide recognition of these people in all categories. I congratulate the award winners and thank them for the work they do in our region.

The impacts of the floods earlier in the year are still affecting some businesses and primary producers, and we have some good news in terms of financial assistance now available.

Last week, it was announced that the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has approved extension of the jointly funded Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for the flooding event of 6 – 20 May 2022.

The following relief measures for the Balonne Shire Council region have been activated for primary producers:

- Freight Subsidies
- Disaster Assistance Loans; and
- Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capitol) Loans Scheme

Online links have been provided elsewhere in the Bulletin and I encourage affected primary producers and small business to find out what assistance is available to them as a result of these new activations.

In my role as Mayor, working on the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) during natural disasters has given me the opportunity to build important relationships with government agencies and other support organisations that will help benefit our region in tough times.

It's also given me insights into how government departments use local



information to improve recovery and response processes in the future, to better support regional and rural areas during and after these events.

I strongly urge primary producers who have been impacted by recent flood events to complete the Queensland DAF Agriculture Natural Disaster Impact Survey.

The Department uses local information from impacted businesses and producers to help them plan how to better support regional and rural areas during natural disasters.

With more roads now open throughout the shire, tourism is picking up and we are seeing more travellers coming and staying in our towns to enjoy our country hospitality and unique attractions. I know that our tourism and small business operators are welcoming the increased visitation, as our winter season has been a little tough this year.

A bright note recently was being advised of a local tourist facility receiving an award through Tripadvisor, one of the world's largest online tourism and travel platforms. Our Balonne Shire Visitor Information Centre has received a Traveller's Choice Award. This is a real coup – the award is based on feedback from the travel community and puts us in very good company.

Congratulations and thank you to the staff and volunteers who do an incredible job of promoting our region with genuine enthusiasm and skill.

Samantha O'Toole

St George NAIDOC Week 2022

The St George NAIDOC Week Awards were held on 8 July, following a week of activities and events to celebrate NAIDOC Week.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to learn about and acknowledge the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'.

The St George Award winners are:

Deadly Kindy Kid

Malaya Weribone

Indigenous Primary School Student

Kahlia Duncan

Indigenous Primary Female Sportsperson

Kyannah Hooper

Indigenous Primary Male sportsperson

Rhyder Hooper

Indigenous High School Student

Seamus Lamb

Indigenous High School Female Sportsperson

Kahlela Prince

Indigenous High School Male Sportsperson

Shontayne Prince

Indigenous School Based Apprentice/Trainee

Jessica Parkes

Indigenous Community Person of the Year

Nerissa Webster

Indigenous Employee of the Year

William Taylor

Indigenous Elder/ Senior of the Year

Diana Weribone



Nina Oliver, Diana Weribone and Connor Taylor-Langton raising the flag.



Joy Weatherall shows Emily Webster and Amerlia Davia the ropes at the NAIDOC Week opening ceremony



Mayor Samantha O'Toole officially opened the NAIDOC Week celebrations following a march along Victoria Street.



NAIDOC Week Award winners: William Taylor, Rhyder Hooper, Diana Weribone Kyannah Hooper, Nerissa Waters, Kahlia Duncan, Malaya Weribone Jessica Parkes and Shontayne Prince.

St George schoolgirl receives \$20,000 scholarship



Harding Miller Education Foundation (HMEF) scholarship recipient Mia Anderson (centre) with Cara Varian and Christina Quinn from HMEF

Mia Anderson, a year 9 student from St George State High School, is a recipient of a Harding Miller Education Foundation scholarship worth more than \$20,000.

The scholarships are awarded to girls with high potential, giving them the opportunity to stay in, and excel, at school.

Executive Director of the Harding Miller Education Foundation, Cara Varian says the Foundation's scholarships provide the girls with a new laptop, high speed internet connections, tutoring, career guidance and support to help cover the costs of uniforms, books and school expenses.

"Where these young women have faced barriers, we are offering them a pathway through school and also potentially to university," Ms Varian said.

"These students have the potential to become leaders in their fields and we hope that the scholarship gives them the support they need to understand and achieve that potential."

Mia Anderson said that it will offer real, tangible help.

"Some challenges I face are that my school is a small, rural state school and I live 100 kilometres away. While I enjoy school, I realise we don't have the facilities my friends going to boarding school have," Mia said.

"I spend more than two and a half hours each day just travelling to school, the laptop and 4G will mean I can spend this time travelling to do research or schoolwork."

Ms Varian said Mia is one of 162 scholarship winners across Australia this year.

"We're pleased and proud to support these talented young women. We really want to encourage them to really believe in themselves and know they are capable of anything they put their minds to."

Applications for scholarships for 2023 will open from 13 July and close on 14 September 2022. Girls from Year 8 who think they might qualify should consider applying.

To find out more, get involved or support the Harding Miller Education Foundation visit <http://www.hardingmillereducationfoundation.org.au>

Junior state champ heading to nationals in Tasmania

Jimmy Hillier, a diesel mechanic with Balonne Shire Council, took out top prize at the Queensland State Sheep Show in Cunnamulla earlier this year, in only his second year of competition.

The 22-year-old admitted to some nerves in the lead up to the event, almost pulling out of the competition because of the public speaking element required.

"You have a set amount of time to inspect the animal and then you tell the judges what you think about it. The kind of things you have to look at are the mouth and teeth, the eyes, ears and the fleece, of course.

"It's just by understanding what all those different things mean about the sheep that you're able to work out how to judge it."

Winning first place in the state Agforce Merino Sheep Young Judges competition means Jimmy will be flying to Tasmania in October to compete in the nationals.

"I've never been that far south before so I'm really looking forward to getting down there."



Jimmy Hillier is heading to Tasmania in October to compete in the national junior sheep judging championships.

Balonne Shire Council

2022- 2023 Budget in detail

Council has delivered a budget which focusses on finalising a number of key projects, many of which are made possible through State and Federal funding, and progressing initiatives that provide opportunity and support our local businesses, landholder and contractors.

Among the projects to be completed and initiated are:

- Flood gauges and monitoring cameras across the catchment (Queensland Resilience & Risk Reduction Fund)
- Upgrade of Victoria Street (Federal Local Roads Community Infrastructure funds (LRCIP) and Federal Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program (MDBEDP))
- Balonne Shire beautification project for shop facades and energy efficiency (MDBEDP)
- St George General Aviation Project (Queensland Building Our Regions funding and LRCIP)
- Business Mentoring program (MDBEDP)
- Mungindi River foreshore development (Cross Borders, Works for Queensland and Local Grants & Subsidies Program)
- Mungindi Sculpture Walk (MDBEDP)
- Planning of an industrial development adjacent the St George aerodrome (LRCIP)
- A plan for expansion to the St George cemetery
- Upgrades to the Dirranbandi Rail & River Precinct (MDBEDP)
- Construction of 1 dwelling and 2 duplexes for staff accommodation (Works for Queensland)
- Upgrade of the Audio-Visual equipment in our Cultural Centre Hall and new meeting rooms (LRCIP)

- Upgrade to the Bollon-Mitchell Road (Remote Roads Pilot Upgrade Program)

Another key focus will be our local road network and the need to complete emergent and flood recovery works from the March 2021, November 2021, February-March 2022 and May 2022 rainfall and flood events.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Local Roads

The capital works program for local roads is supplemented by \$1.728m in Federal Government Roads to Recovery program and \$1.040m in Queensland Transport Infrastructure Development funds, with a rolling program out to 2026/2027. The funding will provide for upgrades and renewals to our local road network including \$939,240 on the Jakelwar Goodooga Road. The full program of works is outlined in the Capital Works budget and our Asset Standing Committee is reviewing Asset Management Plans for our local road network.

Plant

A world-wide shortage has delayed the supply of plant and vehicles, increasing the budget with 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rolling into one plant replacement program. The 2021/2022 vehicles ordered in August 2021 are starting to arrive and our Plant Standing Committee is working on a ten-year rolling Asset Management and Replacement program.

Recreation

Projects to be completed include the Hebel Showground Shed and Canteen. This project has been delayed by road closures during flood events and funded by LRCIP (\$209,148). Projects include upgrade to the Dirranbandi Polocrosse viewing area (\$26,000); relocation of river pump at St George Showgrounds (\$50,000) and finalising the remaining Drought Com-



Deputy Mayor Cr Richard Lomman and Mayor Samantha O'Toole with the newly released budget

munity Program funds across the Shire Showgrounds (\$52,190). Rowden Park St George includes a cricket pitch \$20,000 and basketball court \$80,000 (LRCIP) and completion of top dressing of the sports field \$38,472 and a new footpath \$18,000.

The St George Swimming pool will be re-lined \$270,338 (over two financial years \$135,169 per year); the river foreshore projects at St George and Mungindi will be completed. A new toilet block will be constructed at Bollon (\$342,000); improvements to the Thallon Campgrounds funded by Queensland Fishing Infrastructure fund (\$100,000) and other improvements to Thallon Park (\$120,000) (LRCIP). Council will also continue to invest in festive lighting across the Shire. (\$65,000)

Water, Wastewater Projects

The 2022/2023 budget will fund a number of projects to upgrade and renew water mains across the Shire and is subject to a number of funding programs awaiting decision. Council will utilise its reserve funds of \$1.120m to continue to upgrade and re-

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new water assets. Council will also develop a Water Security and Cooling Plan with funding from Building our Regions that will research options to improve water services across the Shire.

The wastewater program is \$358,000 utilising reserved funds for asset management.

Footpaths, Kerbs and Drainage

Stormwater works are being planned for Dirranbandi, St George

and Mungindi (\$480,000) and \$100,000 in kerb replacement and upgrade in Main Street Dirranbandi. Nindigully foreshore footpath will see culverts installed to assist with ongoing silt issues along this popular tourist walk. (\$30,000). Bollon's Walam Creek footpath will also receive \$25,000 in renewals.

OPERATIONAL PROJECTS

Council's Operational Projects Budget for 2022/2023 (excluding flood recovery works) is \$10.324m with grant funding of \$9.381m.

Projects to be delivered include:

- upgrades to Beardmore Dam with Queensland Fishing Infrastructure fund and Works for Queensland
 - Shirewide mental health services (\$69,457 - Rural Remote Council Grant Program)
 - Multicultural program (\$116,200 - Regional Partnerships Queensland)
 - Tourism promotion (\$163,600)
 - Waste management minor projects including signage and trenches (\$112,000)
 - Cultural Burning Weed Management (\$566,000 - Advancing Pest & Weeds Control Solutions)
 - Master Plans for Thallon, Hebel and Victoria & Henry Streets, St George
 - Bush gardens, St George (\$20,500)
 - Business Improvement Scheme and Business Mentoring Program (MD-BEDP)
- In addition to specifically funded projects there are the many council operations supporting community liveability and sustainability such as:
- Tourism and economic initiatives, events, programs, tours and trails
 - Planning Scheme review and public consultation
 - Local Laws review and public consultation; public safety from food licencing to dog registration
 - Website improvement including initiatives to make planning and building development easier
 - Expanded programs and activation of library hub as an event venue, greater integration of the library network, and partnership with the Country University Centre
 - Council events and programs with Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) and Community Grants



Discount Period Extended

10% discount period extended to 60 days for the August levy



Increased Utility Charges

All utility charges up 6%, water cleansing up 14.5% (excluding Mungindi)



River Water Charges

St George Residential and Rural Residential charges for use in excess of 1500KL p.a.



Payment Options Available

No interest payment arrangements can be agreed by contacting Council

- Stronger Indigenous relationships with recognition of native title, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, cultural burning, and consultation
- Active Biosecurity Committee and Wild Dog Advisory Committee revising priorities with the strength of Shire fencing
- Development of youth council and youth engagement partnerships

Road Performance Contracts

Council has a number of Road performance contracts with Queensland Transport & Main Roads with over \$5.7m to be completed in 2022/2023. Council's Road Performance Maintenance Contract with the Queensland Transport & Main Roads will continue with \$4m proposed across the State controlled road network.

RATES & CHARGES – what's changed

Council will offer a 60 day 10% discount period for the August 2022 levy, across all rating categories. This will revert to the standard 30 day period for the February 2023 levy. It is proposed to continue the relief from the accrued interest on outstanding rates for those who enter and honour their payment plans.

Resident/Commercial/Industrial

This year the average residential, industrial and commercial property will not see an increase in general rates (subject to limitations).

Utility charges will increase with water and sewerage up by 6% and cleansing (waste) charges up by 14.5%. The rise in cost represents the move to full cost recovery for the services provided. On average a typical residential property will see an increase of \$120 per annum in their rate notice.

River Water Charges – St George – Residential and Rural Residential

WHAT \$100 OF YOUR RATES WILL PAY FOR IN 2022-23*



ROADS & STREETS \$50.88

Safe, efficient and connected transport networks

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES \$13.72

Enhancing, protecting and sustaining the environment



COMMUNITY \$20.85

Providing safe spaces and programs to connect, engage and learn

PLANT/MACHINERY \$12.50

Maintaining a fleet to deliver our capital and maintenance programs



BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT \$0.76

Effective town planning and infrastructure design to support the shire's needs

EMERGENCY SERVICES \$1.29

Protecting and serving our communities during disaster events



*Excludes service charges and State Government emergency levy

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Council has adopted a scale of excess charges on water allocations for river water in St George. This will impact those properties that use in excess of allocation 1500KL per annum.

Rural

Rural categories will continue to move to a single rural rate by 2025/26. Rural categories may see a movement in their general rate according to the seven year rural rating strategy.

Limitations

Council has applied a 20% limitation across all rating categories. This means that any property that did experience a significant increase in their land valuation in the 2020/2021 revaluation may experience an increase in their general rate of up to 20% for 2022/2023.

If you disagree with your land valuation contact the Valuer General to dispute the valuation.

Mungindi

Residents in Mungindi will see changes to waste utility charges in line with Moree Plains Shire Council plus 5% administration fee across all categories. Water charges will remain the same for Mungindi as previous years.

Concessions

Pensioners will continue to receive a maximum concession of \$170 per annum for qualifying properties. Community Rates Support will be applied for eligible community and sporting groups.

Fact sheets on all rating changes can be viewed on Council's website at www.balonne.qld.gov.au/rates

Budget Snapshot 2023- 2023

Balonne Shire Council adopted a modest budget and revised rating strategy for the 2022-23 financial year, with a focus on balancing long term financial sustainability and continuing to deliver services to our communities.

The proposed budget has a net recurrent deficit result of \$1.693m excluding capital revenue. The nine-year forecast indicates net surplus results from recurrent operations as we work towards financial sustainability.

To our ratepayers and all who live, work and play in the Balonne Shire we appreciate your support, patience and co-operation as we seek to improve our local road network and complete flood recovery works.

Council will continue to stimulate the economy, where it can, to create work and jobs as we roll out the funding programs.

Our first priority will be to focus on disaster recovery initiatives to support our local businesses, landholders and residents.

As is the case for many businesses and individuals within the Shire, Council will continue to be impacted by increasing prices in materials, global sup-

ply chain delays, COVID restrictions and ongoing flooding and rainfall events across the Shire over an extended period. Our budget has been formulated taking these outside influences and challenges into consideration.

Council has continued to review its rating strategies across all rating categories and will not raise the general rate in the dollar across all categories, except those moving through the single rural rate strategy.

In the 2022-23 financial year Council will apply a 20% limitation across all rating categories.

This means that any property that did experience a significant increase in their land valuation in the 2020-21 revaluation may experience an increase in their general rate of up to 20% for 2022-23.

Land valuation disputes should be lodged with the Valuer General at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/valuation/about/dispute>.

The 2022-23 Budget and details of associated fees and charges are available at <https://www.balonne.qld.gov.au/council/publications/budget-fees-charges>

Five year silobration!

Our stunning Thallon GrainCorp Silos are celebrating 5 years on Wednesday 20 July.

Thallon was in decline until the local community rallied and looked at ways to reinvigorate their town. The plan they came up with - to paint their silos - surpassed their expectations and turned their fortunes around.

In so doing, they not only became the first town in Queensland to paint their silos, but also one of only a few nationally to have done so on operating silos.

Mayor Samantha O'Toole said that GrainCorp showed great community spirit in the initiative.

“The silos project resulted from the determination and foresight of a small group of people whose achievement not only saved their



town, but also created an iconic tourism attraction that has boosted our economy.”

Painted by Joel Fergie and Travis Vinson (aka The Zookeeper and Drapl), the Thallon GrainCorp Silos then won the “Best of the Best”

at the 2019 Australian Street Art Awards after winning the “Best Rural Art” category.

Come along the Thallon Information Station between 9.30 and 11.30 am on Wednesday 20 July to join the community celebration.

falling in love... again!

WELCOME
to Fabulous
LAS DIRRAN
chapel of love

Vow renewal, high tea, evening show, camping

Bookings are essential for this very special event. For pricing and ticketing information contact Dirranbandi Retreat and Caravan Park

Renew your vows
WITH
ELVIS

6 August 2022 from 12 noon on the lawn at the Dirranbandi Chapel
07-4625 8707 or dirranbandicaravanpark@gmail.com

MUSIC MORNING

Jo & Susie
TRIBUTE ACT

DOLLY PARTON, JOHNNY CASH & MORE

Balonne Shire Council are hosting a bus trip to Surat to attend Music Morning in July, come along and enjoy morning tea at the Surat Supper Room and then come along to the Shire Hall for fantastic music and great company.

BOOKINGS: 4620 8834 OR CDO@BALONNE.QLD.GOV.AU

TUESDAY, 19 JULY | BUS DEPARTS ST GEORGE VISITOR INFO CENTRE @ 8:30AM SHARP - RETURNS 2PM | BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL | \$10 ENTRY | \$1 MULTIDRAW TICKETS AVAILABLE

For the People
Balonne
Shire Council

Nominate now to recognise an outstanding Australian

Do you know someone who inspires you? Do you know someone that shows courage, sacrifice and kindness? Did you know that it takes just one nomination to recognise someone for the Australian of the Year Awards?

Nominations are now open for the 2023 Australian of the Year Awards. These prestigious awards celebrate the significant achievements and contributions of extraordinary Australians who are making a positive difference within their community and across the nation.

The Australian of the Year Awards gives Queenslanders the opportunity to nominate individuals who show courage and inspire us to make our own contribution to a better Australia.

Nominations can be made across the following four categories:

- Queensland Australian of the Year
- Queensland Senior Australian of the Year (those aged 65 years or over)
- Queensland Young Australian of the Year (ages 16 to 30)
- Queensland's Local Hero.

Queensland recipients will be announced in November 2022 and will progress to the national awards held in Canberra on the eve of Australia Day 2023. For further information on how to nominate, please visit the website at www.australianoftheyear.org.au. Nominations close Sunday 31 July 2022.



Shake off the cold at St George Thermal Baths

As the weather continues to get colder, things are heating up at the St George Swimming Pool, with the Thermal Baths open daily throughout winter.

It is claimed that the minerals in the hot springs can boost blood circulation, reduce stress, promote sleep, relieve pain and heal skin problems.

Whether you're looking for some therapeutic aid, or just want a warm place to chill out, the Thermal Baths are the place to be!

The Thermal Baths are open 5:30-7:30am, 10am-12pm and 3-6pm from Monday to Friday and from 1pm to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Entrance to the Thermal Baths costs \$8 for adults and \$6 for children (2-17 years), children under two are free.

Race day fast approaching



The St George Jockey Club will host its annual race day on Saturday 30th July.

With a full racing card, TAB bookies and the much-heralded fashions of the field, the St George Cup is renowned as one of the finest country Queensland horse racing events of the year.

Take advantage of the bus service between the pub and racetrack, observe the modern fashions with the country twist, or share a story or three at the bar, this is your Saturday out for the month of July!

Gates open from 12pm. \$20 per person, at the gate on the day.

Balonne Shire residents encouraged to complete survey

Mayor Samantha O’Toole is urging primary producers who have been impacted by recent flood events to complete the Queensland DAF Agriculture Natural Disaster Impact Survey.

“The Department uses local information from impacted businesses and producers to help them plan how to better support regional and rural areas during natural disasters.

“If they don’t know the full story of individual and regional damage and impacts, they are not able to provide us with the best systems and support after future floods.

“It’s important for our region to have our say so that the govern-

ment departments and disaster recovery organisations who work in this space have accurate information that is specific to Balonne.

“There is an online survey that I encourage impacted primary producers to fill out. This will help give a more complete picture of the damage that has been sustained in recent flood events.”

Complete the survey at <https://bit.ly/3nQIVtA>

Full details about currently available assistance for flood affected primary producers, small businesses and non-for-profit organisations can be found on the back page of this issue of the Balonne Bulletin.

Free webinar for employers about visa options for overseas workers

The Department of Home Affairs and Migration Queensland (MQ) are offering a free information session about skilled visa options for employing workers in regional Australia.

This session is specifically tailored for employers.

The Department of Home Affairs will provide information about regional skilled initiatives and visa options to assist with navigating work force shifts during the recovery from COVID-19 and where positions cannot be filled by Australian workers.

Migration Queensland will provide information on the Queensland state nominated program, and discuss pathways for graduates of a Queensland university.

The webinar will be delivered on Teams and an invitation link will be forwarded to registered participants on the morning of the event.

Attendees are encouraged to submit questions in advance when registering.

You must register for the event no later than 27 July 2022. The webinar will take place between 1.00pm and 2.30pm on Thursday 28 July 2022.

If you are unable to attend the event but would like to attend a future webinar, please register your interest by emailing your name and contact details to BIRO.QLD.NT@homeaffairs.gov.au



Access a range of information and support for businesses impacted by natural disasters



Access disaster grants and loans

A range of grants and loans have been made available to support businesses and communities impacted by the South East Queensland rainfall and flooding, May 2022. This support is funded through the Australian and Queensland Government’s joint Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Applications for these grants and loans are managed through QRIDA.



Complete the Qld DAF Agriculture Natural Disaster Impact Survey

Take our short survey to help us understand the impact of the rainfall and flooding on your property. The more specific information we collect, the more targeted our recovery and response approach can be.



Request a call

Provide your details and a member of your local Department of Employment, Small Business and Training team will get in touch.



Visit the Small Business Disaster Hub

Visit the Small Business Disaster Hub to access resources and information to help you prevent, prepare, respond, recover and communicate so you can get back to business sooner.



Subscribe to our updates

Subscribe to receive regular email updates and our monthly newsletter with details of the latest support, resources and events.

Additional financial support available for primary producers impacted by May flood

Further assistance for primary producers impacted by the May flooding event has been announced under the jointly funded Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Details of current packages of assistance are shown below:

Assistance for Primary Producers

Disaster Assistance (Primary Producer) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans to assist primary producers whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations.

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producer

Concessional interest rate loans to primary producers who have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or www.qrida.qld.gov.au

Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers

To assist primary producers impacted by an eligible disaster with the transport of livestock, fodder or water for livestock, building, fencing equipment or machinery to the primary producer's home property.

Contact Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or www.daf.qld.gov.au

Assistance for small business

Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans to assist small businesses whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to recover and return to viable operations.

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for

Small Business

Concessional interest rate loans to small businesses who have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or www.qrida.qld.gov.au

Assistance for not-for-profit organisations

Disaster Assistance (Not-for-Profit Organisation) Loans

Concessional interest rate loans

to assist not-for-profit organisations whose assets have been significantly damaged by an eligible disaster, to repair or replace the damaged assets.

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business

Concessional interest rate loans to not for profits who have suffered a significant loss of income as a result of an eligible disaster by providing the essential working capital required to continue business operations.

Contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on 1800 623 946 or www.qrida.qld.gov.au

