

Bulloo Buzz

December 2022



 Merry
Christmas

Merry Christmas from Mayor Ferguson



It brings great pleasure to present this year's work achievements despite the ongoing challenges presented throughout the year. The scale of projects undertaken speaks volumes about how we have worked together to achieve our objectives despite ongoing challenges.

Council's responsibility is to provide leadership and good governance for the residents of Bulloo Shire. Our priorities are supporting residents, local businesses and community groups.

With the worst of the COVID pandemic and its associated challenges, restrictions and disruptions behind us, our tourism flourished with the Thargomindah Visitor Information Centre recording 8127 tourists visiting the Information Centre.

Our annual Shearers Shindig and Channel Country Music Muster Festival were massive drawcards with both events recording attendances of over 500 people. These events generate significant income for local businesses and economy.

Council has maintained its support in providing essential services to our communities, including but not limited to:

- Construction of Teelow Court, the Independent Living Units
- Funding for teaching staff at the primary and remote secondary learning centre,
- Upgrade of the Noccundra Sports Grounds,
- Installation of free Wi-Fi at Noccundra,
- A major upgrade of streets and Council owned facilities in Hungerford
- Continued its commitment to support community groups
- Continued maintenance of Council extensive road network

Council completed \$12.4m of road works under Council Maintenance, Regional Economic Enabling Funding, Roads to Recovery and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This amount includes \$1.29m of works undertaken on behalf of the Department of Main Roads.

Council will continue to advocate for sealing of the Warri Gate Road to the NSW border.

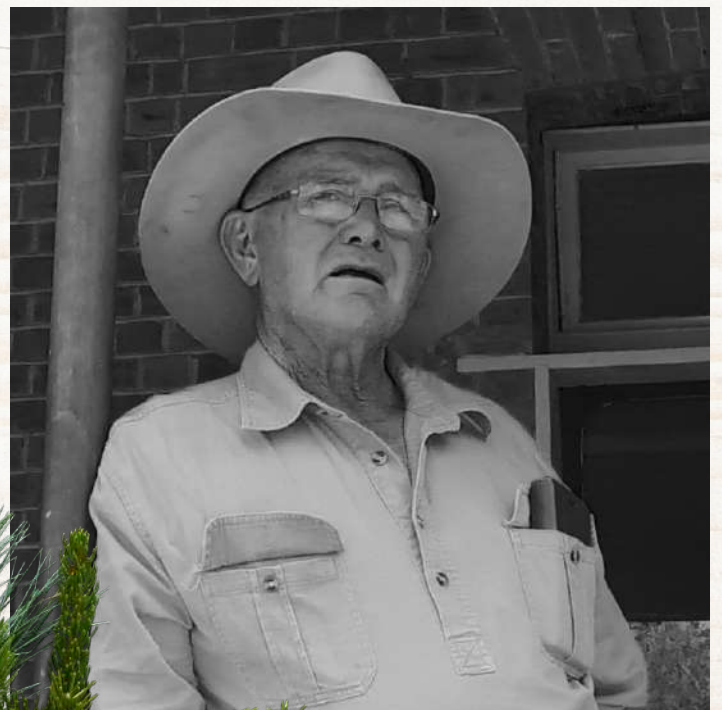
Some funding projects have had to be put on hold due reasons beyond our control, Council will need to remain vigilant over our activities to balance our need for growth while trying to maintain a high standard of road and facility infrastructure.

For all we have achieved in the past year we extend our thanks to the Councillors and Council staff.

Working together we have effectively implemented existing plans and established our path going forward with the goal of providing continued growth and prosperity within the Shire.

This year's achievement has been a result of strong partnerships and a commitment from our Councillors and Council employees to serve our community. We would also like to thank the

businesses and community organisations that have adapted their efforts to continue to enhance the liveability and resilience of our Shire.



TOURISM ROUND UP FOR THE YEAR



As the weather warms up and we prepare to close for the year, the Tourism Team is reflecting on the wonderful Tourist Season we have had in 2022. Even with the rain, flooding and swelling of the Rivers in the region, over 8000 people came into the Tourism Centre to get souvenirs and information on the best places to travel in the Bulloo Shire. The travellers who did get to experience the region provided positive feedback on their time here, with most comments stating the region is better than expected and provided exceptional experiences, which as a community we should all be proud of.

We pulled off some magnificent events this year, with the Shearers Shindig in May proving to be our most popular event attracting over 600 people alone to watch some of the best shearers in Australia compete and relish and all the activities over the two-day event. The Channel Country Music Muster in July had over 200 caravans on site at the Rodeo Grounds, with many more filling our Caravan Parks to attend our Music Festival. Finally, the Christmas in the Bulloo presented in conjunction with the Thargomindah State School P&C was a wonderful event to bring the community together one last time before Christmas. Of course, our events could not run without the support of our great community and sponsors so as a Team we thank each and every one of you for supporting our events and we hope to put on a good show for you in 2023.

Erin and Kitsa did some travelling throughout the shire, going to the Dig Tree as well as Hungerford and Currawinya National Park. These trips were so we could advise our travellers on the facilities and experiences in each location, while also getting photos and videos of all destinations to update the imagery we have of our beautiful shire.

The Tourism Team hosted 17 tours throughout the 2022 Tourist Season, hosting bus groups and fly in tours with people from all over Australia. The number of tours hosted was unfortunately reduced due to the unpredictable weather events, however the groups that missed out this year are excited to experience Thargomindah in 2023. We had some delicious catering for our tour groups from our local foodies and we are thankful for their contribution to our successes.

We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the 2022 Tourist Season. We look forward to putting on some incredible events in 2023 and welcoming even more travellers to explore the Bulloo Shire and show we're "More than A One Night Stand".



ROAD SERVICES

Robert would like to thank all the people that work for the Roads Department for all their hard work throughout the year. With all the rain that we received this year works have been hard to plan and complete. Having Robert here this year has been a massive help to the Roads Department, motivating the staff and getting jobs done.

We have had a rotating door effect of staff this year with staff members leaving and moving on to bigger and better things and new people starting with Council.

We have even had to pull the Flood Truck out a couple of times this year due to rain up river, with the longest flood being in September/October which lasted nearly 4 weeks. A massive thank you to everyone that worked on the flood truck, giving up their weekend to help out.

Crew 1

Clancy started the year off continuing on with the Cunnamulla Road REEF Widening Project. Then the crew moved over onto Quilpie Road and worked on the next 5km bitumen seal under TIDS funding. Once completed they moved down to Hungerford and started cleaning up the streets, grading the edges, and then the airstrip. They then moved onto Hungerford Road and have been grading their way back towards Thargomindah.

Crew 2

Brad and his crew started the year off working on the Warri Gate Road, including the Warri Gate Camp setup. In May Brad and his crew moved over onto the Innamincka Road and started working on the shoulders ready for Reseals.

Once reseals were completed the crew went back onto Warri Gate Road, before moving to Quilpie Road for the next 4k bitumen Seal. Under TIDS, however the TIDS work has due to consistent rain been pushed back until we return in 2023.

November 2022 saw Crew 2 move down onto the Woompah Gate Road.

Crew 3

Although still working on the Hungerford Road, Mook and his crew went out to the Cooper and did some Floodways Repairs near the Cooper Bridge on Innamincka Road. In April, Crew 3 started grading the shoulders on Hungerford Road preparing for Reseals.

Once reseals were completed, Crew 3 continued on with grading Hungerford Road. Just recently Crew 3 have moved onto Soonah Crossing Road with Andy Petty as the grader driver and have started grading back towards town.

Crew 4

Nathan and his crew started the year working on New Hamilton Gate Road under Flood Damage. Once finished on Hamilton Gate Road, they moved over onto Hungerford Road and have started working alongside Mook and his Crew. As well as working on Hungerford Road, Nathan and his crew also graded the Kilcowera Access Road. As of a few weeks ago Nathan and his crew have moved back onto New Hamilton Gate Road.

Maintenance Crew

The maintenance crew have had a busy year with Guide posting on not only the council roads but also RMPC roads, installing signs, pothole patching, stabilizing the road outside the shop and edge patching. Not only has the team been busy with all the above, if any of the roads crew have been low on staff, the guys have been filling in working on rollers.

Concrete Crew

A new Crew formed in July 2022. The guys have been installing culverts on Stafford Street, and also concrete margins on the Bulloo Bridge Cunnamulla Road, along with concrete slabs at the new houses. Jake and the crew are planning ahead for a busy 2023.

Workshop

Workshop have consistently been busy all year round by continuously prioritizing work to keep Council plant in working condition and well maintained. Plant in good working condition is vital for Council works programs.

Contractors

Council would like to say a big Thank You to all the contractors that have worked for us this year. They have done a great job helping finalise all the Flood Damage works and assisting our Road Crews.





Projects around the Bulloo

Projects

Renovations to the Hungerford Hall are now complete with the installation of a shiny new kitchen & appliances – recent years have also seen the hall have its floors repolished, a new coat of paint both inside and out, and the installation of split system air conditioners.

Teelow Court

Works are finishing up at Council's independent living units 'Teelow Court' in Sams Street. It has been wonderful being involved with the construction of Teelow Place, and it was extremely gratifying to all the staff and contractors involved to receive very positive feedback from our local member David Littleproud when he visited earlier this year. To top off a fantastic project, three of the units are already tenanted and the Rec Room is now being used for community activities and services.

Frew/Sams Street Development

We are now seeing the completion of the final stages of the four new houses in Sams Street and Frew Street with all essential works projected to be complete very soon. Council expects the first two of the houses to be ready for tenants imminently, with the final two to be ready early in the new year.



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

2022 has been a hectic year for the Infrastructure Team. We have welcomed new staff members – Andrew Fleming, Tim Shillingsworth, Nick Giggins, Anita Towers and Darryl Smith. We have also said goodbye to some old friends, John Chen and Darell Lee, as well as some new ones, Nick Giggins and Darryl Smith. Jake Bliss also left our team to head up Council's new Concreting Crew – congratulations Jake!

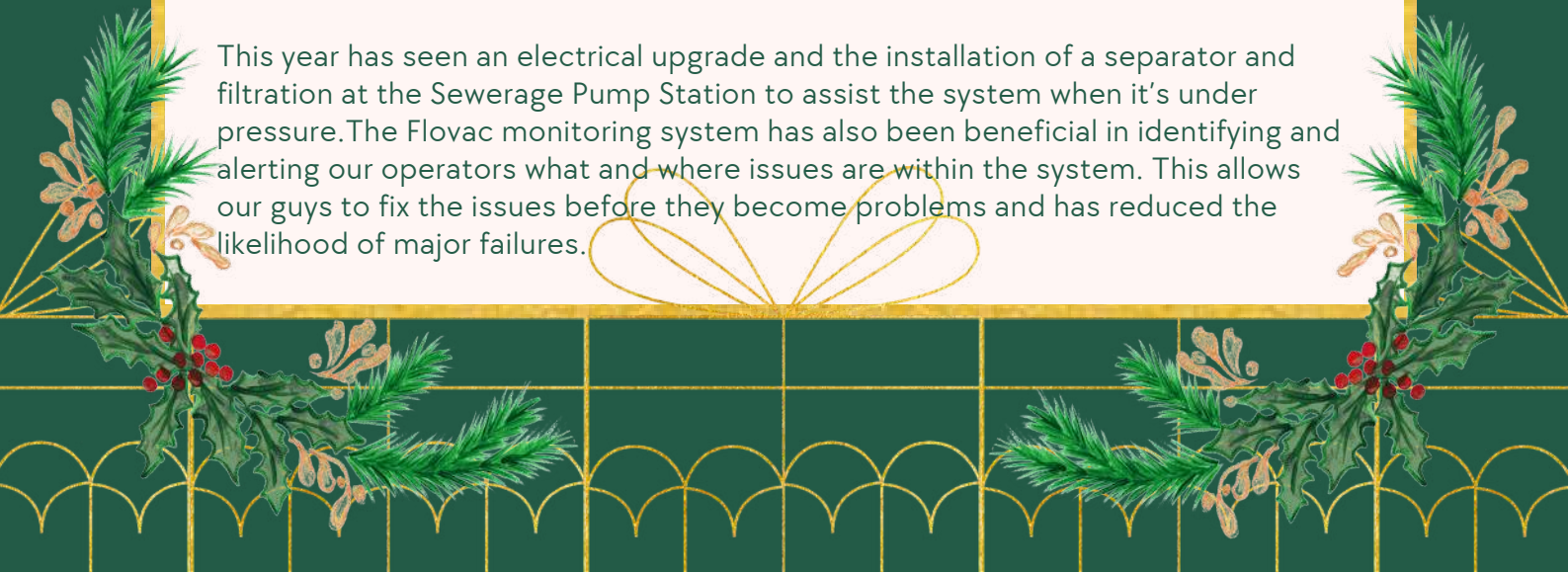
It has been business as usual for the Town Services Crew this year maintaining and beautifying Council's infrastructure, performing rubbish collection and assisting the community, when necessary, with various requests – all the things that just happen without anyone realising that there's someone that does it! Hats off guys, you really deserve your break this year.

The new Heat Exchange water cooling system has now been operational for a year and a half, and apart from a couple of minor teething problems, it has been delivering cooler water to Thargomindah as promised.

In an effort to minimise any further issues, the cooling plant has been removed from the mains power grid and is now fully solar powered with solar charged battery backup – this has given the plant a much cleaner power supply and has eliminated the power spikes which were causing the problems.

We are also in the process of installing particle filters to reduce the risk of solid matter entering the Town Water Supply.

This year has seen an electrical upgrade and the installation of a separator and filtration at the Sewerage Pump Station to assist the system when it's under pressure. The Flovac monitoring system has also been beneficial in identifying and alerting our operators what and where issues are within the system. This allows our guys to fix the issues before they become problems and has reduced the likelihood of major failures.



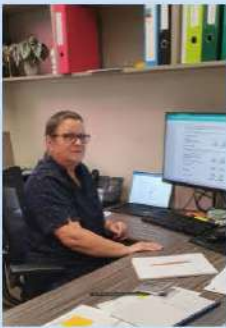
GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS



Drought Angels

Drought Angels visited Thargomindah during December, visiting the school and delivering of kitchenware and linen to our newly constructed independent living units at “Teelow Court”.

Generous volunteers Dean and Chris made the trip from Chinchilla, visiting other small schools along the way including Bollon and Eulo.

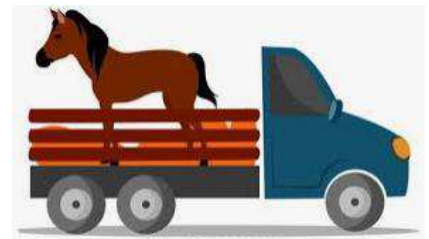


Horse Movement within Queensland...

On the 1st July 2016 the Biosecurity Act 2014 commenced:



- All individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk have a legal responsibility for managing them.
- As a horse owner you need to take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under your control
- The general biosecurity obligation means you will need to ensure your activities do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant
- Under the Act the requirement to record animal movements has been expanded.
- From the 1st July 2016, every time a horse (or other designated animal) moves off a property, a movement record must be created.
- Before movement commences you must become a registered biosecurity entity (RBE)
- The following information must be recorded for animal movements:
 - Name of person completing the record
 - Where the horse/s are being moved from
 - Where the horse/s are being moved to and the name and address of the person receiving the horse/s
 - The date of the movement
 - Description of horse
- If you are moving the horse and there is no receiver eg: taking a horse for a ride down the road, to the neighbours for the day you simply record where you rode and the return address. Movement records can be recorded in any format providing it captures the above specified information, including:
 - Diary or logbook entry
 - Notepad or exercise book
 - Email
 - Text message
 - Excel spreadsheet
 - Movement record
 - Horse health declaration
- Organisers of horse events must also keep records of horses that attend their event, the following information must be recorded and kept for two years:
 - Date of event
 - Name and address of person who kept the animal before the event and of the person keeping the animal after the event
 - Where the animal/s came from
 - When the animal/s arrived and left the event
 - Description of animal/s



For more information go to - <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity-welfare/animal-health-pests-diseases/horses/horse-registration-and-movement-records>



Rural Services 2022



This year has seen rainfall a bit more frequent than we are used to, January started with some great totals, Epsilon 63mm, Orientos 149mm, Omicron 142mm, Tickalara 68mm, Yakara 32mm, Naryilco 83mm, Besm House 88mm, Picarilli 108mm, Kilcowera 66mm and Durham Downs 101mm. In October rainfall was over all the Shire again with the eastern side getting the better of the falls Thargomindah Town 110.8mm, Yakara 108.5mm, Picarilli 158.5mm, Moombidary 255.5mm, Besm 113mm, Nooyeah 90mm, Wombula 144mm, Omicron 57.1mm, Orientos 35.4mm, Epsilon 50.5mm, Tickalara 37.5mm and Naryilco 70mm. With all the rainfall and river floods mosquito and midge fogging has taken place along the river. We covered approximately 3000km doing property visits, this included consulting landholders about wild dogs, feral pigs, biosecurity plans, workshops, drought funding, rural fire service volunteering.

The team conducted two co-ordinated aerial baitings to control wild dogs for the year in May and November, thanks to all the landholders for helping out with this program. Landholders and the Rural Lands Officer also trapped a number of dogs. Thanks to Queensland Feral Pest Initiative for their support to complete these activities.



We have attended and conducted a number of workshops and field days this year. We had a Top Country Nutrition Workshop, Excel Spreadsheet Workshop, Birddata Workshop, Corner Country Pasture Field Day at Omicron Station and Picarilli Ram Sale and Rural Field Day. The Corner Country Pasture Field was held on the 13th September with landholders from Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia attending as well as Local Lands Service New South Wales and National Parks from Fort Grey. Rangeland Agronomist Jenny Milson from Longreach was our guest speaker for the day telling us about identifying plants in our everyday environment and then travelling to different locations on Omicron to look at the diversity of plants growing there. The second annual on farm Ram Sale at Picarilli saw us ran a Rural Field Day in conjunction with the sale. Approx 60 people attended with 114 rams offered for a clearance rate of 99% an increase of 20% from last year. 10 stall holders were present with Rural Services offering lucky gate prizes of a Dog Trap, Two UHF Holders and a Garden Book to four lucky sale goers.



Field day stall holders at Picarilli



Field Day participants identifying plants

We have been repairing and renewing town common fences. Thargo Station has erected an exclusion fence along the eastern side of the common. A new fence has gone up around the golf club. The Town Common cattle muster was held in March with all cattle mustered with 14 sold and 20 returned to the common, there were no calves to brand. An end of year muster was not needed as no stock owners wanted to sell and no calves to brand.



Weeds that have been sighted and treated include Parkinsonia found at Hungerford, Thargomindah Station and the Town Common, Tobacco Bush and Calthrope was found on Yakara, the Cochineal bug was checked for progress at Hungerford and the Black Gate Road in Coral Cactus and Devils Rope Cactus. Mimosa and Ant Bush (pepper-leaf senna) was found along the Eromanga Road under the RMPC funded weed control. Coral Cactus was also found at Bullawarra. African boxthorn and Downy thornapple have been found at Borarra.



Downy Thornapple



African boxthorn

Rural Services staff joined with Southern Queensland Landscapes and Dr Adam Kerezszy to complete fish surveys on the Bulloo River around Thargomindah. Lots of different types of fish were caught and released including: rainbow fish, gudgeons, bony herring, silver tandans (moonfish), spangled perch, yellow belly, yabbies, shrimp and turtles.



Baby Yellowbelly



Fyke nets set in the river



James measuring fish before releasing

Donna, James and Alison would like to wish everyone
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Naturally occurring fluoride in Thargomindah's drinking water

Fluoride is a natural element often found in water, plants, rocks, soil, air and some foods. Research shows that fluoride helps protect teeth against tooth decay. Regularly drinking water containing small amounts of fluoride can help reduce tooth decay for people of all ages.

What is the drinking water standard for fluoride?

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines recommend an upper limit of 1.5 milligrams per litre (or parts per million) of fluoride in drinking water. This is equivalent to one twentieth of a teaspoon of fluoride in a bathtub of water.

Many Western Queensland towns source their drinking water from groundwater (i.e. bores). These water sources can contain natural fluoride levels that are above this limit.

Monitoring of Thargomindah's drinking water supply has indicated that it contains naturally occurring fluoride in the range from 1.6 to 1.9 milligrams per litre. This is slightly above the recommended limit in the Guidelines.

Conventional water treatment processes and most domestic water filters do not reduce the level of fluoride present in your drinking water.

What are the risks of elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water?

There are two side effects that have been associated with elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water. The first is dental fluorosis and the second is skeletal fluorosis, which only occurs with very high levels of fluoride in drinking water.

What is dental fluorosis?

The main side effect associated with elevated levels of fluoride in drinking water is a condition known as dental fluorosis.

Dental fluorosis is largely an aesthetic concern and most often occurs as a mild change to the appearance of tooth enamel. It can appear as small, almost invisible, white lines in the enamel. More rarely, and in more severe cases, it can appear as pitting or staining of the enamel.

Dental fluorosis can occur if too much fluoride is ingested when teeth are developing at around one to four years of age. Teeth already present in the mouth are not at risk of developing fluorosis.

The risk of developing dental fluorosis, or experiencing more severe forms of the condition, increases with greater levels of fluoride in drinking water. However occasionally dental fluorosis occurs in developing teeth at relatively low fluoride levels.

Showering or bathing in water containing high levels of fluoride does not increase the risk of developing dental fluorosis.

What can I do to minimise the risk of dental fluorosis?

Most domestic water filters do not reduce the level of fluoride present in your drinking water. Parents can reduce the risk of children developing dental fluorosis by:

- Ensuring children do not take fluoride supplements (e.g. fluoride tablets and/or drops).
- Cleaning children's teeth with low fluoride or fluoride free toothpaste until the age of 18 months, unless otherwise recommended by a dentist.
- If fluoridated toothpaste is used, ensuring only a pea-sized amount of toothpaste is used and that children spit out after brushing and rinse their mouths with water.
- Monitoring and restricting other sources of fluoride in their children's diet (such as seafood and tea, which are known to contain fluoride).
- Providing bottled drinking water with low fluoride content where possible and not substituting bottled drinking water with soft drinks or other drinks high in sugar.
- Breast-feeding infants where possible and using bottled water to add to infant formula.

Help and assistance

For general enquiries contact your local Public Health Unit:

- Darling Downs Phone: 4699 8240

For more information:

Contact your dental professional

- Visit www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth
- Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for confidential health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Email oral_health@health.qld.gov.au

The information in this fact sheet applies only to those parts of Queensland with levels of naturally occurring fluoride above the drinking water Guideline or 1.5 milligrams per litre. It does not apply to locations with standard levels of water fluoridation.

Disclaimer: Please note that any material printed is regarded as an uncontrolled copy. It is the responsibility of the person printing the document to refer frequently to the latest electronic copies for updates.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words.

M	T	R	D	B	Y	B	A	G	Y	T	A	R	T
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	N	S	E	L	O	M
U	R	B	I	K	N	R	A	H	D	O	D	L	I
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K	T	Y	O	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	L	M

- reindeer
- wreath
- bauble
- christmas
- stocking
- mistletoe
- celebrate
- ornaments



Each year QCWA offers a range of Student Bursaries

The forms are available on QCWA Website. Please read the application forms and return to the State Secretary when completed. Applications usually close at the end of January, sometime extended to February. Because it is our Centenary Year new bursaries have been added from specific Branches in specific areas of Queensland.
<https://qcwa.org.au/Student-Bursaries>

It is some years since there was a QCWA Branch in Thargomindah. If anyone is interested in forming a new branch, I am happy to come out for a meeting and presentation.

We are not just about Tea and Scones and have a very reliable 100-year history of charitable works in our communities.

I am happy for people to contact me at qcwawarregodivision@gmail.com Or susannranson2@hotmail.com Or mobile phone 0411161262



VIRTUAL WOMENS GROUP MEETINGS

Expression of Interest

+
+
+



CWA

FIRST MEETING, THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER 7PM
Contact susannranson2@hotmail.com to be emailed
the Zoom connection

PURPOSE
"PROVIDE A SPACE FOR WOMEN TO CONNECT AND COLLABORATE" AND ALLEVIATE
SOCIAL ISOLATION



Bulloo Shire Council

Approved Thargomindah Animal Inspection Program

Commencing on Monday, 9th January 2023, Bulloo Shire Council will be conducting a full animal inspection of all properties inside the Thargomindah Designated Town area.

The purpose of the inspection is to enforce the Animal Management Act 2008 (Dogs and Cats) and the Bulloo Shire Council Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) within the Thargomindah Designated Town area, in particular:

- § ascertain ownership of all unregistered animals, to enforce registration and permits; and
- § ensure all animal enclosures comply with requirements

Fines will be issued for any animals that are in breach of the Animal Management Act 2008 (Dogs and Cats) and Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management).

A complete copy of the Approved Thargomindah Animal Inspection Program is available to purchase for \$0.60 at the Bulloo Shire Council Office, 68 Dowling Street, Thargomindah. This program will be completed by Friday, 30th June 2023.

Tamie Warner
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Your Councillors

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