

Balonne Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF BALONNE SHIRE COUNCIL

ISSUE 36 | 20 JUNE 2023



Council is delivering \$105M in Grant Funded Projects for Balonne

Balonne Shire Council is delivering a whopping \$105 million worth of grant funded projects for the local community by the middle of next year, which represents around 10 times more than the Council's annual rates and utilities revenue.

This remarkable success has been made possible through effective leveraging of grant funding with Council's dedicated team working tirelessly to secure funds from various sources and funding bodies.

Projects range from flood recovery works, vital infrastructure, supporting local business, economic development, community events and upgrades to local parks and recreational facilities have all

been part of this ambitious mission to enhance our community's quality of life and lay a foundation for a prosperous future.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said, our council's achievement goes to show what can be done with effective planning, perseverance, and a commitment to our community.

"Our goal is to continue delivering value and driving our Shire forward," Mayor O'Toole said.

"We've demonstrated it's not just about the revenue you have, but how effectively you use it.

"By applying innovative project management strategies, forging partnerships, securing grants, and tapping into commu-

nity resources, we've been able to stretch every dollar further.

"Every project aims to boost quality of life and ensure Balonne Shire remains a vibrant place to live and visit.

"I am extremely proud of the efforts of our Council, Council's Senior Management Team and all Council staff that work tirelessly each day to deliver these outstanding results for our Shire.

"This success story serves as a testament to Council's commitment to fiscal responsibility, innovative problem-solving and unwavering dedication to maximise every dollar for the betterment of our beloved home.

What's On

OUTBACK QUEENSLAND MASTERS

The Outback Queensland Masters is Australia's most remote golf series, spanning over 2,000 kilometres across Queensland's Outback in 6 locations, teeing off in St George.

When: Sat 17 & Sun 18 June

Where: St George Golf Club

KASEY CHAMBERS LIVE AT NINDIGULLY

Catch one of Australia's most captivating performers in concert, stripped back and acoustic for an unforgettable live experience.

When: Sat 1 July from 5:30pm

Where: Nindigully Pub

MUNGINDI RACES

The Mungindi Cup is country racing at its best! This event was first held in 1872 and the tradition continues with a six race strong meeting that is generously supported by local sponsors.

When: Sat 1 July from 12pm

Where: Mungindi Racecourse

DAM BUSTER 250

The St George Dam Buster 250, held over two action packed days! Opening with a short course track on Saturday and a Special Stage in the afternoon, Sunday will see a longer track being run to complete the excitement of the weekend.

When: Sat 1 & Sun 2 July

Where: Brookdale Farm on Whyenbah Road, St George

A message from the Mayor

As a Council, we are committed to enhancing the lives of our residents and ensuring the sustainable growth and prosperity of our beautiful region. We have made some great strides in achieving this aim recently and are currently delivering a staggering \$105 million worth of projects from a broad range of available grants, despite having a limited \$11 million rates income.

Our Council has harnessed innovative strategies to maximize the impact of our limited resources. Through practical financial management and thorough planning, we have successfully leveraged available grant funding to execute a range of diverse projects that span various sectors.

In the realm of beautification, we have gained approval for significant grant funding for initiatives that enhance the aesthetic appeal of our Shire. From the revitalization of St George CBD, Dirranbandi Rail and River Precinct and the Mungindi River Park to the upcoming installation of public art pieces, we are transforming our urban spaces into vibrant hubs that foster a sense of pride and community spirit. These beautification projects not only create inviting spaces for our residents but also attract visitors and stimulate local businesses.

As a region that deals with more than our fair share of disasters and have secured vital grant funding for initiatives that ensure the safety and resilience of our community. By implementing innovative technologies like flood water mapping and a network of flood monitoring cameras, we are now better equipped to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and safeguard the wellbeing of our residents.

To drive economic development, we have launched a range of initiatives via grant funding aimed at supporting and attracting new businesses. By investing in infrastructure, providing incentives, and facilitating



partnerships, we are creating an environment that nurtures economic growth, job creation, and long-term prosperity for our region.

We know that tourism plays a vital role in our local economy, and we have undertaken a range of initiatives that promote Balonne Shire as a premier destination. From developing new tourism infrastructure to marketing our unique cultural and natural attractions, we are actively enticing visitors to explore our region and experience the warmth and hospitality for which we are renowned.

I am immensely proud of the dedication and hard work of our Council members and staff who have tirelessly pursued these ambitious projects. Their unwavering commitment and innovative approaches have allowed us to achieve remarkable outcomes for the benefit of our residents and region.

As we continue on this exciting journey of progress and development, I encourage you to remain engaged and provide your valuable input. Together, we can shape the future of Balonne Shire and create a thriving community that we can all be proud to call home.

Samantha O'Toole

WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW IN PLACE IN ST GEORGE

LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS

RESIDENCES

- Water any time, any day - considering the maximum daily water limit of 3.0kL per household

ALL SCHOOLS & CARAVAN PARKS

- Water from 9am - 12noon & 3pm - 6pm Monday to Thursday

OTHER BUSINESSES

- Odd Property Numbers - Water from 7am - 11am & 2pm - 6pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays
- Even Property Numbers - Water from 7am - 11am & 2pm - 6pm on Wednesdays, Fridays & Sundays

COUNCIL FACILITIES

- In accordance with parks and gardens programme

HANDHELD HOSES - FOR ALL CONSUMERS

- Water any time

For the People
Balonne Shire Council

For the People
Balonne Shire Council

BOLLON LIBRARY

CHANGED OPENING HOURS

Every Friday
8:30AM - 12:30PM
1PM - 4PM

Below is a list of all Grants and Funding bodies that Balonne Shire Council secured funding approval from to deliver the ongoing development of our Shire:

- **APAWCS** - ADVANCING PEST ANIMAL & WEED CONTROL SOLUTIONS, PEST ANIMALS & WEEDS PIPELINE PROGRAM (Aus Gov – Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry)
- **BOR** - BUILDING OUR REGIONS (Qld Gov - Dept of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Gov & Planning)
- **CRROP** - COMMUNITY RECOVERY & RESILIENCE OFFICER PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Qld Reconstruction Authority through Dept of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy)
- **CDSP** - COMMUNITY DROUGHT SUPPORT PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Dept of Seniors, Disability Services & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships)
- **CMQP** - CELEBRATING MULTICULTURAL Qld PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Dept of Children, Youth Justice & Multicultural Affairs)
- **DRFA** - DISASTER RECOVER FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (Qld Gov – Qld Reconstruction Authority)
- **DRFA** - LOCAL RECOVERY & RESILIENCE GRANT (Qld Gov – Qld Reconstruction Authority)
- **FRMP** - FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Qld Reconstruction Authority)
- **GABP** - GREAT Aus BITES PROGRAM (Qld Gov - Dept of Premier & the Cabinet)
- **GRQ** - GET READY QLD (Qld Gov – Qld Reconstruction Authority through the Dept of Premier & the Cabinet)
- **GWPF** - GROWING WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION FUND (Qld Gov - Dept of Small Business, Employment & Training)
- **IGGSP** - LOCAL Gov GRANTS & SUBSIDIES PROGRAM (Qld Gov - Dept of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Gov & Planning)
- **LGIDPP** - LOCAL Gov ILLEGAL DUMPING PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Dept of the Environment & the Great Barrier Reef & Minister for Science & Youth Affairs)
- **LRCIP** - LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (Aus Gov – Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications)
- **MDBEDP** - MURRAY DARLING BASIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (Aus Gov - Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water)
- **NSW CBCIF** - NSW CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (New South Wales Gov - Dept of Regional NSW)
- **NSW CBCIF-CR** - NSW CROSS BORDER COMMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE FUND-COVID RECOVERY (New South Wales Gov – Dept of Regional NSW)
- **PACP** - PREPARING Aus COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (Aus Gov - National Recovery & Resilience Agency)
- **QDSP** - Qld DAY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM (Qld Gov - Dept of the Premier & the Cabinet)
- **QFFFG** - Qld FLOODING FLEXIBLE FUNDING GRANT (Qld Gov – Qld Reconstruction Authority)
- **QFIP** - FISHING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Dept of Agricultural & Fisheries)
- **QRRRF** – Qld RESILIENCE & RISK REDUCTION FUND (Qld Gov - Qld Reconstruction Authority)
- **RADF** - REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (Qld Gov – Arts Qld)
- **RNGP** - REGIONAL NETWORKER GRANT PROGRAM (Qld Gov - Dept of Employment, Small Business & Training)
- **RRCGP** - RURAL & REMOTE COUNCIL GRANT PROGRAM (Qld Gov – Qld Health)
- **RRUPP** - REMOTE ROADS UPGRADE PILOT PROGRAM (Aus Gov – Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications)
- **R2R** – ROADS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM (Aus Gov – Dept of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications)
- **STSCGP** - SALUTING THEIR SERVICE COMMEMORATIVE GRANTS PROGRAM (Aus Gov - Dept of Veterans’ Affairs)
- **TIDS** – TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (Qld Gov – Dept of Transport & Main Roads under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme & the Roads & Transport Alliance Operational Guidelines)
- **TIRG** - TOURISM INDUSTRY RESILIENCE GRANT (Qld Gov – Dept of Tourism, Innovation & Sport)
- **TTTT** - TACKLING TOUGH TIME TOGETHER (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal)
- **W4Q** - WORKS FOR Qld (Qld Gov - Dept of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Gov & Planning)

Balonne Finalist in LGMA Qld Awards for Excellence

Balonne Shire Council was announced as a Shaping Communities Finalist at the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) Queensland Awards for Excellence last week, for their multi-stream Business Improvement and Mentoring Schemes.

The Balonne Business Improvement and Mentoring Schemes were recognised for informing community behaviour and practice, leading to sustainable, positive changes in the community, while enhancing community wellbeing.

Balonne Shire Mayor, Samantha O’Toole, expressed her appreciation for the recognition of Council’s commitment to supporting local businesses to thrive.

“We are proud of the benefits these initiatives have delivered to participating businesses throughout the Shire delivering over \$1.26 million in funding for projects to create energy efficiency cost savings and improvements to physical business premises,” said Mayor O’Toole.

This project was funded by the Australian Government under the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program.



Grants officer finding opportunities for Balonne

Balonne Shire Council’s newest Grants Officer has hit the ground running, securing millions of dollars in grant funding for the Shire.

Having been a local since 1996 and raising a family in the area, Janice Mckee relished the opportunity to work within Council to help make a difference to our region.

“My husband and I were drawn to Balonne from the first time we visited, it is such a beautiful place with such welcoming people,” said Mrs Mckee.

“I was looking for a job that was

both rewarding and challenging and I really wanted to be part of the improvements that could enable our community to have the same lifestyles and opportunities as other towns around Queensland.

“I saw the opportunity to work in Council and to help to deliver some of the fantastic projects that I saw happening around the Shire and was delighted to secure this role.

“Since my time with Council, I have been impressed by the strong team who are committed to delivering for our community and the support that is given by all staff towards me and my role requirements.”



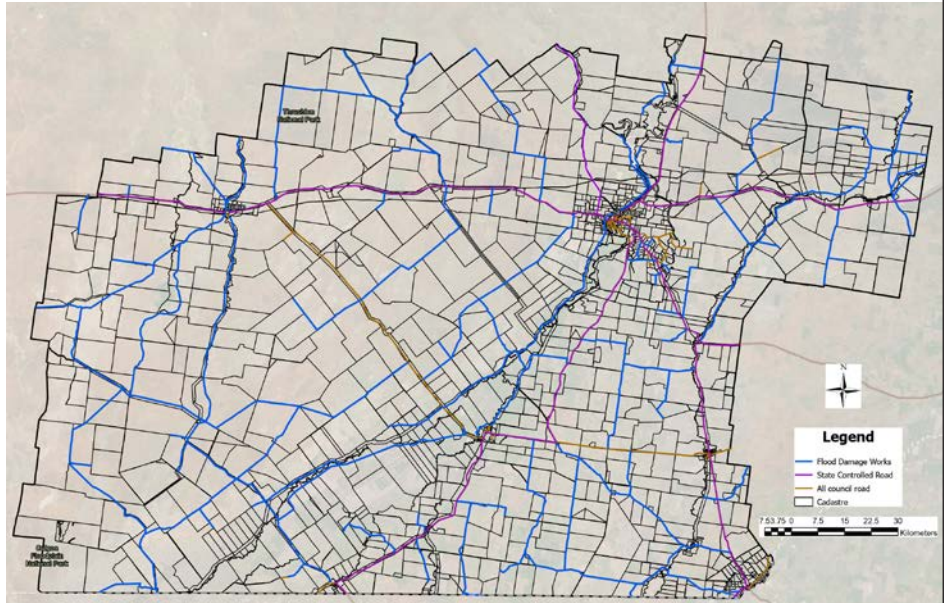
Roads Funding Dominates Grant Funding

As a sparsely populated Shire with vital industry heavily dependent on a reliable transport network that has endured multiple recent flooding events, grant funding for roads and associated infrastructure clearly takes the lion's share of successful grant funding for our Shire.

The adjacent map clearly highlights the extent of roadworks underway in our Shire with nearly \$80 million in currently approved works either being delivered or scheduled for delivery and a further \$26.3 million in further grant applications currently pending approval.

Many of these projects are focussed on not just remediation, but also on betterment to achieve longer term solutions to flood impacted areas.

Outside of grant funded roadworks, Council also delivers a range of roadworks via it's own budget.



All roads indicated in the blue, purple and tan are currently approved for remedial works and/or improvement.

Balonne ready to deal with disasters

In the face of adversity, the Balonne Shire Council continues to forge pathways for community resilience by leveraging grant funding to create comprehensive flood mapping and initiate a river water height monitoring project, which are essential tools for disaster management and community safety.

This journey started with the daunting task of mapping potential flood areas, a mammoth feat achieved through the funding assistance from PACP. The resulting flood maps offer a clear visual representation of high-risk areas, critical for planning, prevention, and evacuation strategies.

Further fortifying our defences, we have instituted a river water height monitoring project with a network of Flood Monitoring cameras at key locations thanks to QRRRF grant funding. Using cutting-edge technology, this initiative enables real-time

tracking of river levels, offering valuable time to execute contingency plans when water levels begin to rise.

These projects represent only part of our strategy. We're proud to have engaged a new Community Recovery and Resilience Officer via CRROP/DFRA grant funding, who is working on resilience-building activities and will help guide us through the recovery process post-disaster.

This role, funded through the same grant, underscores our commitment to not only respond to emergencies but, also support our community in bouncing back stronger after disasters occur.

Balonne Shire Council is deeply invested in the welfare of its residents and through these critical initiatives, we stand prepared, enabling us to safeguard our community and ensure their ongoing resilience in the face of adversity.



Preparation is key to reducing bushfire risk



With a high chance of El Nino conditions this winter and spring, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is focussed on reducing the fuel load throughout regional areas.

QFES and partnering agencies will use a range of measures aiming to control the fuel load and the risk of bushfires later this year, but they also need the help of landowners.

Rural Fire Service (RFS) South Western Region Mitigation Manager Inspector Michael Welsh said landholders needed to start planning now to ensure they are prepared.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a 70 per cent chance of El Nino with higher temperatures and lower rainfall, which means the approaching bushfire season could start earlier and be more severe.

To contact your local fire warden, visit <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/safety-education/using-fire-outdoors/fire-wardens>

For Fire Danger Ratings, visit <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/prepare/bushfire/fire-danger-ratings>

Grant funding is helping boost Tourism to our region

Balonne Shire Council is making strides in fostering local tourism through several grant-funded initiatives designed to enhance the region's natural and cultural appeal.

The Mungindi Sculpture Trail, built with passion and precision, now graces our landscape thanks to MDBEDP grant funding. Showcasing the work of local artist, Tony 'Nicko' McMillan, the trail invites visitors and locals alike to meander through its engaging installations. This initiative has attracted widespread recognition and a National Grey Nomads Award and is fast becoming a must-visit landmark, sparking interest in the rich cultural fabric of our community.

Additionally, the iconic Mungindi One-Ton Post has received a much-needed

facelift. The refurbished site stands as a testament to our agricultural heritage, and will continue to attract those interested in the history of our region with the help of MDBEDP grant funding.

Camping enthusiasts will be pleased with the upgrades at Thallon Campgrounds due to a successful QFIG grant application. Improved facilities, including a new camp kitchen, new fire pits, picnic areas, landscaping and electrical outlets, promise a comfortable, back-to-nature experience, making our campground a premier destination for outdoor adventurers.

Last but not least, Bollon's Walter Austin Park is about to benefit from the con-



struction of a new amenities block thanks to LRCIP grant funding. This upgrade aims to enhance the park's usability, offering visitors a more enjoyable and convenient outdoor experience.

These initiatives, made possible through grant funding, really do highlight Balonne Shire Council's dedication to improving our tourism infrastructure to create more vibrant, unique experiences that weave our history, culture, and natural beauty into unforgettable adventures for locals and tourists alike.

Beautification Projects to Transform Balonne Shire – A Celebration of Grant Success

In a celebration of community spirit, vision, and the power of grant funding, Balonne Shire Council is excited to be delivering a broad range of significant advancements in local beautification projects.

The St George CBD Beautification Project, supported by crucial MDBEDP & LRCIP grant funding, is transforming the central hub of our Shire's largest town. This initiative is focused on reinvigorating the streetscape, creating a vibrant and attractive space that will encourage community gatherings and stimulate local business.

A key part of our vision for a more picturesque Balonne Shire is the construction of the St George Foreshore Project thanks to a successful MDBEDP grant application.

This project, another milestone achievement, is transforming our riverfront into a more vibrant, accessible space, inviting locals and visitors to engage with our natural beauty.

Meanwhile, the Dirranbandi Rail and River Project is set to be a grand testament to our region's rich history thanks to MDBEDP grant funding. With planned

landscaping enhancements around the iconic rail and river precincts, Dirranbandi will soon feature a vibrant open space showcasing our proud heritage and natural beauty.

Adding a splash of creativity to our streets, six stunning new murals are planned across the Shire under a TTTT-FRRR grant. These murals, championed by local artists, will narrate the tales of our community and our culture to our streets, creating conversation pieces and photo opportunities for both residents and tourists.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said grant funding has been the cornerstone of these projects, allowing us to transform our shared spaces while encouraging community growth and local pride.

"These initiatives have not only beautified our surroundings but also stimulated local pride and potential for tourism growth," Mayor O'Toole said.

"As we beautify Balonne together, we invite our residents to join in the journey, watch these spaces transform, and take pride in the shared story of our Shire."



Do you have a community story, event or notice for the next edition of the *Balonne Bulletin*?

Let us know via Email: media@balonne.qld.gov.au



Out and About in Balonne

Ballon Polo



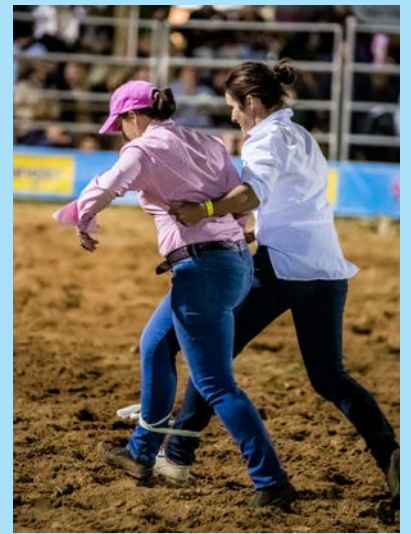
'Small Business Month' Event



Good Catch Casting Off



St George Show



Bollon Markets





MINNUM RD

Expected completion: mid-June

- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

MIDDLE RD

• Expected completion: late - June

- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

HONEYMAH LANE

• Expected completion: mid - June

- Construction is ongoing.
- Expected traffic delays less than 5 minutes.

UPCOMING WORKS

WOOLERBILLA RD

- Expected start: early - June

THOMBY RD

- Expected start: mid - June

Governor-General Awards Prestigious Public Service Medal to Dianne Francisco

Balonne Shire Council's Environmental Services Manager, Dianne Francisco, has been recognised with a prestigious Public Service Medal for her outstanding public service in environmental and public health services, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and flood events.

Ms Francisco was presented with her award by the Governor-General at an investiture ceremony held in Brisbane last month.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole has said she is incredibly proud of Ms Francisco's achievements and the recognition.

"Di has been a valued,

hard-working and dedicated member of the Balonne Shire team for the past 22 years," said the Mayor.

"This award is a worthy reflection of the dedication Di has shown in protecting and serving our communities, particularly in the last couple of years, through the COVID-19 pandemic and numerous flood events."

The Public Service Medal is one of the meritorious awards which must be recommended by federal, state and

territory Ministers, these recommendations are then presented to the Governor-General for consideration and approval.



Grant Funding Securing Water Management for Balonne

In a resounding win for our community, Balonne Shire Council has successfully secured grant funding to bolster vital water asset management projects across the Shire.

First on the agenda is the Mungindi Water Security project made possible from a NSWCBICIF grant application. By enhancing the resilience of our water supply, this initiative promises to secure a stable future for Mungindi, even in the face of challenging times of flood disasters.

Both Mungindi and St George will benefit from comprehensive drainage plans, set to vastly improve our infrastructure's ability to withstand and manage heavy rain events made possible from LGGSP grant fund. These improvements will alleviate localised flooding and safeguard our communities and environment from potential damage.

Additionally, residents across the Shire can look forward to more consistent water security and water cooling from a successful BOR grant application. By leveraging advanced technologies, this endeavour will lay the groundwork and planning to achieve more refreshing water during those hot summer months.

These projects exemplify how targeted grant funding can significantly enhance local infrastructure.

Balonne Shire Mayor Samantha O'Toole said we're excited about the benefits these initiatives will bring to our communities and remain committed to ensuring Balonne Shire is a great place to live, work, and play.

Help us Cut the Crap!

These can be flushed down the toilet:

These items can't be flushed down the toilet:

WET WIPES

BAND-AIDS

NAPPES

COTTON TIPS

TISSUES

PAPER TOWEL

SANITARY ITEMS

CLOTHING