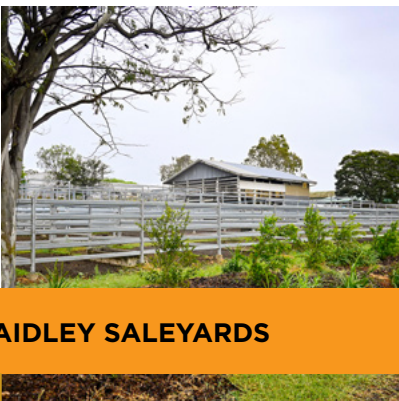


COUNCIL NEWS

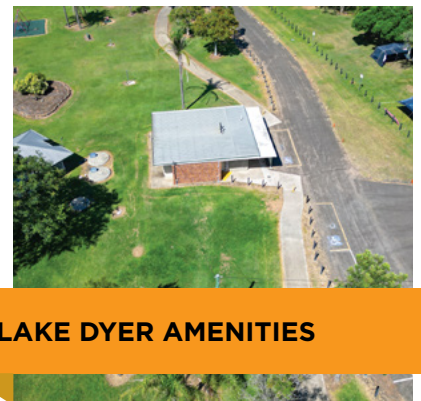
EX-TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED



LAIDLEY SALEYARDS



LAND RATIONALISATION



LAKE DYER AMENITIES



Acknowledgement of Country

Lockyer Valley Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the region, the Ugarapul and Yuggera people and pays our respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of other communities who may live here. Lockyer Valley Regional Council is committed to cultivating inclusive environments for all staff, customers, residents and visitors.



Meet your
Elected Members



Know your
Region

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Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred

MAYORAL MESSAGE

I wish to acknowledge the leadership demonstrated by this Council before, during and after Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred in my absence.

In particular, I wish to mention Deputy Mayor Cr Chris Wilson, Deputy Chair of the LDMG Cr Michael Hagan and Recovery Chairperson Cr Julie Reck. For all three of these Councillors, this was their first intimate involvement in the Local Disaster Coordination Centre and with our partners in disaster management, given their newly acquired roles in this term of Council.

It should also be noted that organisationally, this Council was prepared and kept our community informed. It was also very heartening to see our community, unlike any other event before that I have witnessed, were proactive, prepared and heeded the advice of Council.

Whilst our emergency services people and volunteers all play exceptionally important roles in times of disaster, I feel local councils often receive minimal recognition. Local councils are the lead agency in times of floods and they do lead locally with our agency partners and members of the Local Disaster Management Group.

Many of our staff leave family behind to step up and assist in natural disasters and at times have their own properties threatened or impacted. They are out in the extremes putting out signage to keep our communities safe, then helping to efficiently and quickly assist with recovery and to provide safe access.

I wish to acknowledge this Council in its preparation and now moving forward in recovery. This event has demonstrated that our Council has strong leadership, committed staff, confidence in our people and the ability to make sound judgements for our community to ensure our people are safe and informed.

“As a Council, we’re both proud and grateful to be a part of a community that has banded together once again.”

- Deputy Mayor Chris Wilson

Council is applauding the community for their commitment to preparation in the lead-up and throughout Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Council’s Disaster Dashboard was viewed more than 178,000 times, with 78,000 views on Monday 10 March alone, while Council’s flood camera feeds were viewed almost 263,000 times.

“Council prepares year-round for disaster and emergency events, and we sincerely thank the community for taking our messaging seriously and for being the most prepared we have ever seen,” Deputy Mayor Chris Wilson said.

“Sandbagging was a team effort for those residents and businesses that needed it, and thanks to family, friends and strangers, it was completed in time.

“The community also rallied to get the cleanup underway as quickly as possible, with a lot of our businesses in Laidley back up and running the very next day.

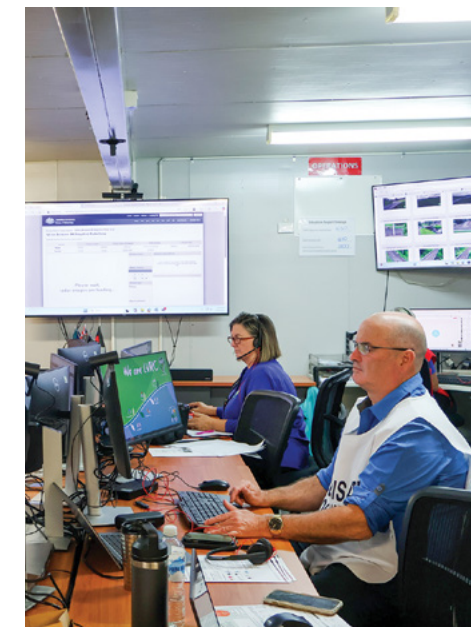
“It really goes to show that communities that are prepared for disasters bounce back quicker, and that’s exactly what we saw this time.”

On 20 March, Council had the privilege of hosting the Governor-General of Australia, Samantha Mostyn AC, Governor of Queensland, Jeannette Young AC PSM and CEO of Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Major General Jake Ellwood (Retd), who visited the region and met with flood affected locals and disaster operations and emergency services personnel.

“Our community spirit in the wake of adversity is truly inspiring and we are committed to supporting our residents through this latest flood event and repairing our beautiful region as quickly as possible,” Cr Wilson said.

Read more about the Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred response, recovery and financial and emotional support available on pages 12 and 13.

Watch as we reflect back on the event and the fabulous community response here:
youtu.be/NdIlddIDCcQ?feature=shared





Council Begins Land Rationalisation

Council has resolved to sell parcels of unused Council land identified during a land asset management review.

Two sites have been approved to go to auction, while another two will undergo a public expression of interest process. Others will undergo further investigation to determine their feasibility for sale.

Deputy Mayor and Finance Portfolio Councillor Chris Wilson said selling the land would reduce Council's ongoing management and maintenance responsibilities and unlock land for housing and industrial uses.

"The parcels of land that have been approved to go to auction or an expression of interest process are surplus to Council's needs," he said.

"These sites will be marketed by Ray White Commercial and are expected to start hitting the market from mid-April."

Cr Wilson said many of the parcels identified for further investigation were land-swap properties.

"These land-swap properties are now zoned 'limited development', so it makes sense to seek the interest of adjoining landholders to see if they would like to purchase the land," he said.

"Disposing of this surplus land allows our maintenance and mowing crews to focus their resources on other areas of the region, which is a win for the wider community."

Land at Cricket Road, Regency Downs and Biggs Road, Withcott will be auctioned, while Council will invite expressions of interest for land on Hawck Street, Gatton and the former Gatton Saleyards.

"We will test the market to see what interest exists and determine whether Council should be undertaking any further activities prior to disposal," Cr Wilson said.

"We will also engage with the Department of Housing and Public Works to see if they have any interest in a property on Hayes Street, Laidley, which has been identified as possibly suitable for social housing, which we know is in short supply across our region."

Cr Wilson said each piece of land identified for further investigation would come before Council before a final decision was made.

"Each asset will be carefully investigated and considered before it is sold to ensure the best possible outcome for the community," he said.

Laidley Saleyards

Council will invest in the remediation of the Laidley Saleyards to help secure the facility's long-term future.

At its February Council Meeting, Councillors gave the green light to undertake detailed designs of critical infrastructure needed to meet regulatory requirements and enhance operations.

Mayor Tanya Milligan said these works were vital to inform the budget process.

"We have committed to spending up to \$200,000 in the remainder of the 2024-25 financial year to undertake detailed design of critical infrastructure components, being the livestock waste water system, cattle dip and other further works.

"This commitment will allow us to finalise those costings and confidently budget for them in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years," she said.

It comes after the advisory group set up to investigate the future operations of the Saleyards concluded the facility could be financially viable.

"After considering all the information presented, the Laidley Saleyards Working Group (LSWG) and Council, are of the opinion the Saleyards could be financially viable with some changes and investment and would continue to make a valuable contribution to the local community.

"To facilitate this, the Group has recommended Council spend \$1.2M over three years to undertake capital improvements at the Saleyards, and this motion to undertake detailed design is the first step towards that," Mayor Milligan said.

Deputy Mayor Chris Wilson said environmental compliance would be prioritised, namely effluent disposal and entries and exits to the cattle dip.

"Council has sought financial assistance from the State Government towards dip improvements and operations, which is the level of government actually responsible for biosecurity, in order to reduce the cost burden on our ratepayers.

"This involved writing to the Minister of Primary Industries, Anthony Perrett. Council will also meet with Local Member, Jim McDonald, to seek assistance for biosecurity obligations regarding cattle ticks.

"This is a positive step and further enforces our commitment to working closely with key stakeholders to try to find a solution that supports our local cattle producers and the wider community," Cr Wilson said.

The capital improvements recommended by the LSWG will allow for an increase in livestock throughput, attract a broader customer base, support the Saleyards' future redevelopment and ensure the Saleyards' long term financial viability and contribution to the local economy.

Established late last year, the LSWG is made up of industry experts, four community-based representatives of local users of the Saleyards, and relevant Councillors and officers.

Works Update

Following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, key maintenance activities such as pothole patching, roadside slashing and fixing of safety hazards will continue in conjunction with emergent works. The Capital Program will continue in combination with flood works. For more on flood repair timelines, visit www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-services/roads/road-repair-timeline-faqs

* Delayed due to weather.



Projects Completed in the last two months

- Electrical upgrade works at the Glenore Grove Cricket Club
- Privacy Fence at RV Park, Gatton
- Solar Panels on Gatton Cemetery Chapel
- Upgrade of Gatton and Laidley Cemetery signs
- Eastern Drive Footpath Renewal
- Berlin Road, Mount Berryman Pavement Rehabilitation
- 2024-25 Gravel Resheet Program
- Ropeley Rockside Road Grid
- Woodlands Road, Gatton light installation



Projects underway in March-April 2025

- Lake Apex Half Basketball Court
- Accessibility Improvements
 - Laidley Pioneer Village
 - Lake Clarendon Campground Amenities
 - Gatton Depot
- Gatton Cemetery Pre-digs for Section 10
- *Postmans Ridge Road, Gatton Pavement Rehabilitation
- *Edgerton Drive, Plainland Pavement Rehabilitation
- *Forest Hill Blenheim Floodway Renewal
- Mahon Bridge, Carpendale Reconstruction (Extension due to weather)
- 2024-25 Bitumen Reseal Program
- Drayton Street, Laidley Bus Shelter Solar Lights
- Gatton Works Depot Compliance Measures
- Biggs Road, Withcott, turf, driveways, line marking
- IGA Carpark, Laidley Tree Removal and Pavement Rehabilitation
- Anzac Park, William Street, Forest Hill Footpath



Projects planned for between March & August 2025

- Renovation of Amenities Block at Lake Dyer
- Gatton Showgrounds Electrical Upgrade
- Playground kerb and surfacing renewal at Little Apex Park, Gatton
- Lyne Road, Morton Vale Pavement Rehabilitation
- Lake Apex, Gatton Carpark Upgrade
- Tenthill Creek Road. Gatton Drainage Upgrades
- Smith Street, Gatton Culvert Replacement
- Pothole patching and emergent works
- Flood recovery works



Laidley IGA Carpark Works

Works designed to address damaged pavement and safety concerns are nearing completion at the Laidley IGA Carpark.

Council’s Infrastructure Portfolio Councillor, Michael Hagan said Council had completed removal of the identified trees, and pavement repair works were due to be finished by mid-April, weather permitting.

“Due to the nature of the identified eucalyptus trees, tree roots have caused cracking in the existing asphalt and that has resulted in pavement failures.

“These trees also tend to drop limbs within storms and as a result presented a major safety hazard for vehicles and pedestrians.

“By removing these trees, the condition of the pavement will now have more longevity, and the community will be safer,” Cr Hagan said.

To safely complete the works, several parking bays have been fenced off and made unavailable for parking for the duration of the project.

“There are exclusion zones and signage on site, and we ask the community to be alert for these safety precautions.

“Some works will occur at night to prepare and lay new asphalt and update line-marking.

“Once the project is complete, more appropriate trees will be planted in the garden beds,” Cr Hagan said.

Council has discussed the project with impacted businesses and will minimise the inconvenience to patrons as much as possible.

The project is proudly funded by the Queensland Government’s South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program in association with Lockyer Valley Regional Council.



Lake Dyer Amenities Building

Construction of a new amenities block at Lake Dyer has commenced.

The new disability compliant amenities block will feature five ensuites, ambulant toilets, a storage room, laundry and more.

The new addition will be located next to the existing building, which will remain operational throughout the construction period.

Works are expected to be completed by the end of April, with demolition of the old structure to begin in early May.

This project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4.



WHAT TO READ MORE?
Click here or scan the code for more information.

Proposed Changes to Local Law

With the housing crisis across Queensland showing little signs of easing, Council has started the ball rolling on a beneficial change.

Following its February Ordinary Council Meeting, Council proposed amendments to Subordinate Local Law No. 1.3, which would allow residential use of caravans in limited circumstances.

The proposed amendments would allow (without the need for an approval) landowners or occupiers to let family or friends reside in a caravan on their property for up to six months in a 12-month period.

Regulatory Services Portfolio Councillor, Cheryl Steinhardt said written notification must be provided to Council and several conditions would apply, with the proposed amendments being in effect until 31 December 2027.

"The proposed requirements ensure an appropriate standard of living for those in the caravan, and the amenity of the area is maintained.

"For example, there must be a residential dwelling on the land with a potable water supply and toilet and shower facilities available to those residing in the caravan," Cr Steinhardt said.

The proposed amendments also include allowing the use of a temporary home (not a Class 10a building) on a vacant lot for up to two weeks in any 52-week period without approval from Council.

"For some of our residents, caravans are their only housing option at the moment.

"These changes not only support affordable living, but also provide stability to our residents who are struggling to make ends meet and allow them to breathe a sigh of relief.

"It would also provide options to people who may be waiting for a rental to become available, or a property to settle," Cr Steinhardt said.

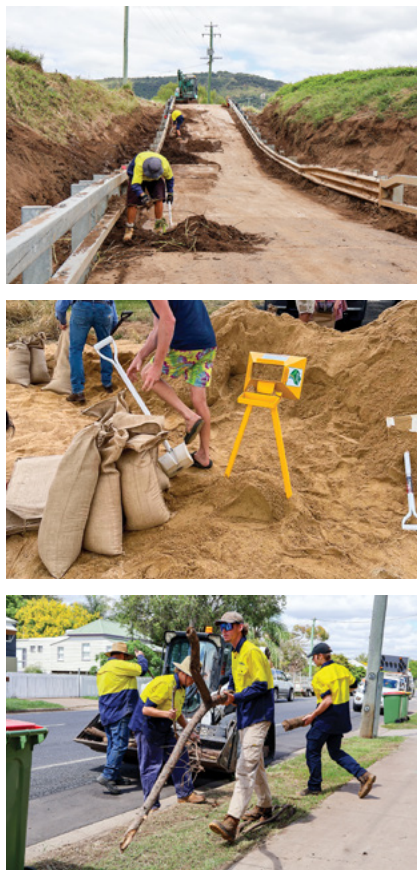
Currently, the only circumstances in which Council allows the use of a caravan for accommodation outside of a caravan park, is when an approval has been issued under Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011 and Subordinate Local Law No. 1.3 (Establishment or Occupation of a Temporary Home) 2011.

These approvals are limited to situations where a landowner is constructing or renovating a dwelling on their land, and they wish to reside in a caravan on that land while the dwelling is being constructed.

A building approval must have been issued for the dwelling prior to an approval being granted. An approval for a temporary home may be granted for a term up to 18 months.

Public consultation on the proposed changes was held from 13 February to 7 March 2025, with Council now reviewing submissions.

The matter will go back before Council for a final decision in the coming months.



Flood Recovery

COUNCIL URGES PATIENCE WITH ROAD REPAIRS IN WAKE OF EX-TC ALFRED

Infrastructure Portfolio Councillor Michael Hagan said the weather event resulted in considerable flooding and damage to Council's infrastructure.

"I can assure residents we are doing everything to ensure the region is returned to normal as quickly as possible, however full recovery will take time. As we know, big weather events impact our roads, and, not surprisingly, we sustained considerable damage to infrastructure assets across the Lockyer Valley.

"Road inspections are already underway, and we are systematically prioritising repairs following a set process," he said.

Council crews are working hard behind-the-scenes to restore critical and immediate community access needs first, before moving to resolving road conditions that pose risks to public safety. After these issues are addressed, Council will then focus on general maintenance and restoration of the broader road network.

"People often ask why we don't fully repair the roads from the start and, unfortunately, if we did that, we wouldn't be able to access disaster funding and would need to significantly increase rates to pay for the works," Cr Hagan said.

He said given the high volume of customer requests Council is experiencing, staff may not be able to provide individual responses to all requests.

"I can assure residents every request lodged will be reviewed, prioritised and actioned accordingly, and we urge residents to refrain from lodging follow-up requests about the same issue."

To keep up to date with the latest road closures across the Lockyer Valley, visit Council's Disaster Dashboard disaster.lvrc.qld.gov.au.

To report road damage or obstructions, contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 005 872.

Read FAQs about flood repairs here: www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/flood-repairs-2025

SANDBAGS AND BEING PREPARED

Lockyer Valley residents had access to more than 735 tonnes of sand and almost 14,000 empty sandbags to prepare themselves and businesses for Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

"Ensuring Council, SES volunteers and homeowners have access to sandbags during a natural disaster boosts everyone's ability to respond in an emergency," Deputy Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group, Cr Michael Hagan said.

"However, we actively encourage residents to make plans to protect their properties year-round and to have sandbags on standby if their property or business is vulnerable to flooding or run-off.

"Council's Disaster Dashboard, website and Facebook page are the best places to find the most up-to-date information on recovery support."

FLOOD RECOVERY SUPPORT AVAILABLE

A range of financial and emotional assistance is available to eligible Lockyer Valley residents, businesses and primary producers impacted by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Council's Local Recovery Group is activated and is continuing to work closely with local providers and state and federal departments to advocate for all flood-impacted areas of our region, and to ensure flood affected community members are supported through this latest severe weather event.

To view the latest flood recovery support available and to check your eligibility for different types of support, visit www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/flood-recovery-support



WANT TO READ MORE?
Click here or scan the code for more information.



New Basketball Half-Court

Council is putting the finishing touches on an exciting new basketball half-court at Lake Apex, Gatton.

The court sports several unique features, including a reversible tower to suit both basketball and netball, and a commercial grade paint solution for high performance playing.

Conveniently situated adjacent to the skatepark and carpark, the court is another way Council is demonstrating its commitment to providing parks, sporting fields, and recreation areas with facilities throughout the Lockyer Valley.

“We’re proud to provide another recreational activity resource for the community to enjoy,” Facilities Portfolio Councillor Anthony Wilson said.

“There is no doubt three-a-side basketball is an increasingly popular sport, and this new court will give residents and visitors the chance to practice their skills and keep fit.

“The \$160,000 project features several unique features, including a reversible tower that can be turned to suit both basketball and netball players.

“The paint solution is also commercial grade, ensuring the ultimate grip for high performance playing.”

Laidley is also home to two basketball half-courts, located at the Laidley Recreational Reserve.

Accessibility Program Begins

New ramps, handrails and footpaths will be installed to improve accessibility.

Thanks to a funding injection, Council has begun rolling out an Accessibility Program across the Lockyer Valley.

Council’s Infrastructure Portfolio Councillor Michael Hagan said construction will take place at three locations, including the Lake Clarendon campground, the Laidley Pioneer Village, and the Gatton Works Depot.

“Over the three locations, we’ll install eight new accessibility compliant ramps and conduct one reconfiguration to an existing ramp to meet compliance. This will include new handrails and footpaths to connect to the ramps for ease of access.

“Features like ramps, wider doorways, and accessible restrooms remove physical barriers, allowing everyone to engage with our spaces safely and comfortably. It promotes inclusion and meets legal requirements, while also fostering a diverse and accessible environment for all.

“We’ve worked hard to recognise the challenges faced by individuals with mobility impairments and have initiated this project to address these barriers and enhance the overall experience for all visitors to our facilities,” Cr Hagan said.

Due to construction works, some of the facilities will be temporarily closed to ensure the safety of public and facilities users.

Access to the current toilet at the Lake Clarendon campground will be cut off completely, however portable toilets (both normal and accessible) will be made available.

Assistance provided by the Australian Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 4.

Hail Damage Roof Repairs

Repairs to hail damaged buildings are underway.

The severe hailstorms that ripped through the Lockyer Valley in December 2023 certainly left their mark, and now repairs to those hail damaged buildings are underway.

Facilities Portfolio Councillor, Anthony Wilson said the repair program has kicked off at the Withcott Sports Centre and Gatton Shire Hall.

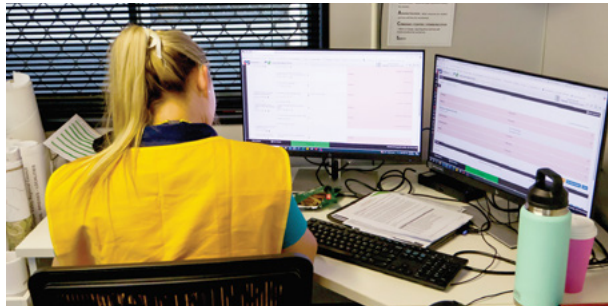
“Many roofs of our Council-owned facilities were damaged in these hailstorms, and it’s great to now have these insurance-funded works started.

“Most buildings will require restricted access while the works are underway, while for some the access will be unavailable and we’re working with all affected user groups to advise of any disruptions.

“We thank the community for its patience and understanding as these works are carried out,” Cr Wilson said.

Works are expected to be completed at the Withcott Sports Centre in April and at Gatton Shire Hall and the Gatton SES Building in May, weather permitting.

Works will also be required at the Lockyer Valley Sports & Aquatic Centre (Gatton Showgrounds) and Council’s Administration Building and Depot later in the year.



Disaster Management Exercise

As the saying goes, practice makes perfect, and Council took the opportunity to practice its disaster response in February when it held a Local Disaster Coordination Centre exercise that simulated a regional flood event.

Exercises such as these allow us to look closely at our procedures and identify opportunities for improvement to ensure we continue to respond quickly and keep our community informed and safe.

Our learnings were put to the test just weeks later when we experienced widespread flooding from Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

As with the exercise, this latest activation and response will be reviewed to see what went well and what can be improved.

The Lockyer Valley is no stranger to the impacts of severe weather, and Council takes disaster preparedness and community safety very seriously.

We're also proud to offer assistance to other councils facing natural disasters through the Council-to-Council (C2C) program.

Earlier this year, we helped our council comrades up north as they responded to an unprecedented severe weather event.

Both our Principal of Disaster Management and Principal of Engagement and Communications made the journey north to lend a hand and provide specialist support at Palm Island and Hinchinbrook Shire Councils

It is fantastic to be able to return the favour and comforting to know we're not alone when disaster strikes.

Council is committed to making disaster preparedness a priority for our region and we urge the community to follow our lead.

As Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred showed, a community that is prepared is much more resilient to the impacts of natural disasters.



Scan or click the QR code to read the **Lockyer Valley Get Ready Guide**, which includes everything you need to know to be prepared.

QTM Re-opens with New Military Transport Exhibition

History isn't just something we read about - it's something we remember, honour and keep alive.

The Queensland Transport Museum's (QTM) new military transport exhibition stands as a tribute to the machines that carried our diggers to war and each and everyone who served with courage.

To celebrate the new exhibition, QTM is holding a **FREE OPEN DAY** on Sunday 13 April, 10am to 2pm (no bookings required).

QTM guide, Nick, has been volunteering at the QTM since 2009, and when it comes to wartime transport, he knows the stories behind the steel.

From troop carriers to military convoys, he'll walk you through the history of how our forces moved—on land and beyond.

If you've got a group of 10 or more, call the QTM on (07) 5466 3426, and they'll check if Nick is available to guide you through—at no extra cost.

Tour bookings available from 14 April.



WANT TO READ MORE?

Click here or scan the code for more information.





982

COMPLETE RESPONSES



58 of 77

LOCALITIES RESPONDED



29%

OF RESPONDENTS WERE
FEMALES AGED 25-44



13%

OF RESPONDENTS WERE
MALES AGED 45-64



2.39%

OF THE
POPULATION RESPONDED

Liveability Survey

Lockyer Valley residents have their say on the future of the region in the 2025 Lockyer Valley Liveability Survey.

Almost 1000 residents took the time to have their say on the future of the Lockyer Valley, heeding Council's calls to complete the 2025 Lockyer Valley Liveability Survey.

Mayor Tanya Milligan thanked the community for taking part in the important survey, which will help guide Council's future planning and decision-making.

"We received a total of 982 completed responses, which was a fantastic result and more than 300 responses above what we were hoping for," she said.

"While our population of 43,800 may be relatively small compared to other regional centres and of course major cities, the Lockyer Valley is still made up of a whopping 77 localities and trying to gather data from each of these was no easy feat.

"However, the community really got onboard, and we were able to source data from 58 localities, some of which have a small number of residents, so we thank everyone who took the time to share what matters to them."

Undertaken by social research organisation, Place Score, the survey gave respondents the chance to rate their neighbourhood's liveability, share their priorities and offer ideas for improvement.

A wide-spread community consultation campaign was undertaken to promote the survey, using social media, paid advertising, flyers and face-to-face engagement at events, with hard copies also made available for those not wanting to take the survey online.

Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Councillor for Community Engagement Chris Wilson said genuine attempts were made to collect responses from a wide cross-section of the community - from young to old, male and female, to people from different cultures and economic backgrounds.

"We acknowledge some people would have liked to have been able to provide their own customisable answers rather than select from multiple choice, however, to ensure the data could be compared to national benchmarks, the questions needed to be consistent," he said.

Cr Wilson said the survey results would be reviewed by Council this month.

"Council will be briefed by Place Score on the common themes that were found - what rated highly, what rated poorly, where we can improve and what different segments the community most value," he said.

"After this, we will inform the community about the next steps, and we'll also use the results as a baseline for future surveys to track our progress."

The survey launched on Monday, 13 January and ran until Sunday, 16 February 2025.



RADF Assistance Available

Round 2 of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a partnership between the Queensland Government and Lockyer Valley Regional Council, is open.

If you're an individual or group interested in delivering arts and cultural projects in the Lockyer Valley, this may be the grant for you.

Apply before Monday 21 April at lockyervalley.smartygrants.com.au/2425Round2



EOI Festival of Cultures

Council is seeking expressions of interest to hold activities, information stalls, cultural displays, or cultural performances at the upcoming Lockyer Valley Festival of Cultures event in August.

Sun, 3 August | 11am to 4pm | Littleton Park, Gatton

The aim of the festival is to celebrate all the region's cultures and to promote intercultural connections. Register your interest by 5pm, Friday 30 April.

Physical copies are available at both Gatton and Laidley Customer Service Centres.

Register at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/YL6ZMNY



Building Approvals

Council has received a 46 per cent increase in Development Applications lodged in 2025, compared to the same period (year to date) in 2024.

Keep up-to-date with building applications by visiting Council's Track an Application webpage: www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-services/plumbing-and-drainage/track-an-application



33 days

Average time to approve building applications



<6 days

Average time to approve plumbing applications



Welcome Baby Celebration

It was a morning to celebrate the Lockyer Valley's newest additions, with Council's 9th annual Welcome Baby Celebration going off without a hitch.

The popular celebration, for little ones born in 2024, was held at the Gatton Library on Saturday 15 March and saw the community gather for a special morning.

Mayor, Cr Tanya Milligan said it was lovely to come together for such a joyful reason.

"For these families and their precious babies, 2024 was such a special and memorable year, which was easy to see on the faces of proud parents.

"Excited parents presented their little one to the wider community, who were warmly welcomed by everyone in attendance.

"As we have recently seen, this is an incredible community to be a part of - one that has each other's backs and I truly feel these children are off to an incredible start as a result," Mayor Milligan said.

Each baby welcomed received a certificate from the Mayor, a Lockyer Valley Libraries First 5 Forever gift bag and enjoyed a special morning tea following the celebration.

The Welcome Baby Celebration is a project from First 5 Forever, an initiative of the Queensland Government, coordinated by the State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with local government.



Scan or click the QR code for more pictures from the morning on Council's Facebook page

International Women's Day Breakfast

Even a looming Tropical Cyclone couldn't stop the Lockyer Valley community coming together to pay homage to the amazing achievements of women, both past and present, at our International Women's Day celebrations.

Celebrated globally on 8 March since 1911, International Women's Day (IWD) presents an opportunity for both men and women to come together to show their support for this great cause.

Once again hosted by Council, the annual celebration of women drew more than 115 people to Gatton Shire Hall on 6 March, where attendees were treated to deep insights from our inspirational guest speaker, former broadcast journalist Kim Skubris.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Chris Wilson said the mother-of-two discussed her life and impressive career, both in front and behind the camera.

"Kim has decades of experience in her field, and it was really inspiring to hear her discuss working in the child protection and domestic and family violence spaces and particularly about how women can establish a respected place in the workforce and world.

"A big thanks to Kim for still making the trip to the Lockyer Valley for the morning, and to everyone for coming along with a cyclone looming.

"To see both men and women come together to take a moment to consider how we can help break down barriers to equality for women and girls under the theme of #AccelerateAction was such an inspiring conversation, and one I am grateful to have been a part of," Cr Wilson said.

Proceeds from ticket sales and the multi-draw raffle will go to the Salvation Army Lockyer Valley Corp for their work supporting vulnerable people.





Dog Registration Inspection Program

On 1 March, Council began a region-wide property inspection program to identify unregistered dogs.

Unfortunately, while our general population continues to grow, the number of Lockyer Valley dogs being registered has been decreasing, suggesting some dogs are not being registered.

In Queensland, it is a State Government requirement that all dogs older than 12 weeks of age must be registered, with fines of up to \$322 per dog payable if you are found in breach.

Council's annual registration fees are just \$50 for most desexed dogs (even less for desexed dogs owned by eligible pensioners) and \$148 for an entire (non desexed) dog.

If you register your dog for the first time before 30 April, only 50% of the applicable registration fee is payable this financial year. If you are yet to register your dog, we urge you to contact us on 1300 005 872 to avoid financial penalties.

We appreciate the majority of pet owners are doing the right thing.

The money collected from dog registrations helps Council reunite lost dogs with their owners, resolve barking issues, undertake patrols, identify dogs involved in attacks, fund education campaigns and much more.

Flood Resilience Works

Bank stablisation works at Mount Sylvia and Woodbine have passed their first major test.

Flood resilience works along Blackfellow Creek at Woodbine and Mount Sylvia have proven successful, with bank stabilisation passing its first major test.

Almost 9000 tonnes of rock have been placed at two priority sites along the creek as part of a \$1.8M flood rehabilitation project delivered by Lockyer Valley Regional Council, in partnership with Resilient Rivers SEQ and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The Tenthill Creek, Junction View to Mount Sylvia Phase Two works is being funded as part of the South East Queensland (SEQ) City Deal, a long-term partnership between the Australian Government, Queensland Government and Council of Mayors (SEQ).

Environment Portfolio Councillor Cheryl Steinhardt said the rocks held up well against major flooding during Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

“I’m very pleased to report that the works along Blackfellow Creek have done exactly what they were intended to do, and as a result, there was no damage to Mount Sylvia Road, which sits perilously close to the creek in some areas,” she said.

“We’ve had engineers come and assess the two sites where the rock has already been placed and they have confirmed that no repairs are needed, which is great news.”

In addition to shoring up the creek bank, the rocks are designed to slow the flow of water, reducing erosion and flood impacts to nearby farmers and those downstream.

Cr Steinhardt said the project team was keeping a close eye on the weather to determine when the planned revegetation works would begin.

“The team was due to put down topsoil at the sites in preparation for planting trees and shrubs, which will further stabilise the creek bank, however that was put on hold when local impacts from Cyclone Alfred were likely,” she said.

“One of the main objectives of this project is to limit the amount of sediment ending up in South East Queensland’s waterways, so we will only proceed with the topsoil when the time is right.”

More rocks, about 3500 tonnes worth, are planned to be installed at the third and final priority site in May, while about 10,000 native trees and shrubs will be planted across the sites during a three-year period.

The project sites suffered considerable impacts from previous flood events in 2011, 2013 and 2022 and were at risk of further damage without intervention. This included the key community asset of Mount Sylvia Road.

Resilient Rivers SEQ is an initiative of the Council of Mayors (SEQ) and has successfully delivered coordinated catchment management for more than 10 years as a partnership with South East Queensland councils, and key regional waterway and catchment organisations.

Read the full media release here:
www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/mtsylviaproject-extcalfred



Laidley Pool Closed

Due to the recent flood impacts, the Dal Ryan War Memorial Swimming Pool in Laidley will remain closed until the start of the next summer season, being September 2025, to allow for repairs.

Council is working with the pool manager, BlueFit, to ensure affected users are informed.

The pool was due to close for the season at the end of April.

We thank the community for its understanding and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Follow the Dal Ryan War Memorial Pool's Facebook page for updates www.facebook.com/LaidleyAquatic.



Building Light Activations

On 8 March, we lit up the Gatton Administration Building and Laidley Cultural Centre purple to highlight International Women's Day, and on 21 March, the buildings were bathed in orange to celebrate Harmony Day.

The next activation will take place on one of the nation's most sacred days, Anzac Day.

These building activations help spread awareness in the community about different causes and initiatives, and to encourage celebration of other recognised days.

To view our list of lighting activations for 2025, visit the Lockyer Lights page on our website www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/lockyer-lights



Laidley Flood Mitigation

Council is well into the process of purchasing a significant amount of land for the Laidley Flood Mitigation Scheme, and hope to finalise purchases soon.

Preliminary designs have been developed by specialist engineers and Council hopes to take these designs to community consultation later this year.

While the Flood Mitigation Scheme won't stop all flooding, it will reduce the impacts and make a significant difference.

As part of an election commitment, the Queensland Government has promised to provide Council with \$15 million for the Laidley Flood Mitigation Scheme.



Fairer Funding Model

In the lead-up to the Federal Election, Council is joining the chorus of calls for a much-needed increase in funding for local governments.

Staggeringly, the current federal funding model for councils hasn't changed since it was first introduced in 1974, two years after this photo of Gatton was taken.

For every \$100 of tax paid by Australians, councils receive just \$3, yet they deliver many of the services the community depends on every day.

When deciding who to vote for this Federal Election, consider their commitment to the level of government most connected to its residents – local government.

For more on the Local Government Association of Queensland's campaign, visit dontleaveusinthet70s.com.au or scan the QR code.



Shave for a Cure

On 4 March, Council's elected members and some Council staff shaved or coloured their hair as part of the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave.

The team raised an impressive \$7500, which will help fund critical blood cancer research and provide much needed support for cancer patients and their families.

It was 10 years in the making for Councillor Julie Reck, who donated her long locks to be made into wigs.

Thank you to the local hairdressers who volunteered their time to do the honours.

See the shaves in action here: youtu.be/3iawnuJxOS8?feature=shared





What's on!

LEST WE FORGET



ANZAC Day

FRIDAY, 25 APRIL
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

25 April 2025 marks the 110th anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

A range of services will be held across the Lockyer Valley to pay homage to the sacrifice of the ANZACS. To view the service timetable, visit www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/anzac-day

All current and ex-service men and women, people representing ex-service personnel, schools and sporting and community groups are invited to participate in Anzac Day marches. It is preferred uniforms are worn.

Lest we forget.

CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE



Heritage Festival

SATURDAY 12 APRIL, 8AM TO 2.30PM
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Travel back in time and experience the olden days by heading to the Lockyer Valley Heritage Festival on Saturday 12 April.

Wander the historical museums and attractions, watch live blacksmith and woodworking displays, marvel at the sheep shearing and spinners and weavers' demonstrations, or admire the vintage cars and engines.

There's something for all ages, including kids' activities, live music, horse-drawn carriage rides, markets, yummy food to keep you fuelled plus lots more!

Full program here: www.luvyalockyer.com.au/whats-on/this-month/event/23934-lockyer-valley-heritage-festival

FENG SHUI 'N' ART



New Art Exhibition

ON NOW UNTIL SUNDAY 4 MAY
LOCKYER VALLEY ART GALLERY

Feng Shui 'n' Art has been inspired by local artist Debra Macpherson's passion for the creative arts and the ancient tradition of feng shui.

Feng shui has been used through generations by ancient and modern Chinese people to bring about the most auspicious functioning for the occupants of a building.

The practice involves embracing the natural and man-made forms and structures along with the compass direction of each space, relevant colour, shapes to complement each room.

Audiences are invited to appreciate the artworks in the context of feng shui, or simply enjoy the artist's skills and creative talents.

SAVE THE DATE



Council Pop-Ups

SATURDAY 10 MAY
MA MA CREEK MARKETS

Council is hosting a series of community pop-up events throughout 2025. Here, residents can engage directly with Councillors and Council Officers to ask questions or provide feedback on specific consultation projects and stay-up-to-date with Council initiatives.

The next pop-up will be held on Saturday, 10 May at the Ma Ma Creek Markets.

Keep an eye out for the Lockyer Valley Regional Council tent and come and say 'hi'.

For the full list of upcoming pop-ups, visit: www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/have-your-say

REGISTER TODAY



Youth Week 2025

MONDAY 7 APRIL TO FRIDAY 11 APRIL

To celebrate Youth Week, Council is hosting free events for 12-17-year-olds.

Picnic in the Park – Monday, 7 April | 1pm – 4pm | Next to Laidley Library. Enjoy live music by Rebecca Lee Nye, grazing tables and games while socialising with your mates!

Hoops and Hangout – Wednesday, 9 April | 2pm – 5pm | Lockyer Valley Sports & Aquatic Centre. Shoot some hoops with the team from Toowoomba Basketball and try multiple sports and activities for free.

Art Workshops – Friday, 11 April | Various times | Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre. Join local artist AJ Gogas Creative for a 'Geometric Abstract Portraits' workshop and create your own portrait.

Register now at: www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/youthweek

STAY IN THE KNOW



Council Meetings and Agendas

Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month commencing at 9am in the Council Chambers, Gatton, unless otherwise advised. Members of the public are welcome to attend. To view the agenda or minutes of previous meetings, visit www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-council/meetings/agendas-and-minutes



Disaster Dashboard

Council's Disaster Dashboard is your one-stop-shop for reputable information during an emergency. See weather warnings, road closures, flood cameras, creek gauges and more. Save it to your favourites. disaster.lvrc.qld.gov.au



Current Vacancies

To keep across the career opportunities available at Council and to apply, visit the Current Vacancies page on Council's website. www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-council/employment-at-council/current-vacancies



Easter and Anzac Day Closures

Council's offices, Libraries and the Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, 18 and 21 April respectively and on Anzac Day on Friday 25 April. Kerbside bin collections will operate as normal. To see if your nearest Transfer Station is open on these days, visit www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au/our-services/waste-management/waste-facilities

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