

Highlights from the Council Meeting 21 May 2025

Aurora Estate Expansion to be applied for

Council approved applying to the \$2B Residential Activation Fund to progress Stage 2 (Lots 1–5) of Charleville’s Aurora Estate. This aims to alleviate housing shortages for essential workers by opening up flood-free residential land.

Bushfire Mitigation Plan Adopted

Council adopted the Murweh Bushfire Mitigation Plan, which aligns with national bushfire resilience recommendations.

Tourism & Attractions Update

- Charleville VIC: April saw a 48% drop year-on-year, but a 58% increase from March – season is ramping up.
- WWII Secret Base: Strong ANZAC attendance.
- Cosmos Centre: Shorter opening hours trial successful – cost savings with no drop in visitors.

QMF Outback Sounds 2025 – Event Wrap

1,198 attendees, with 31% local, 57% intrastate. Accommodation was at capacity – overflow camping activated at the showgrounds. The event saw strong local involvement from the Dance House, and Healthy Aging performers. Thanks to Minister Langbroek who attended and toured local attractions.

Planning & Development

- 3 new development applications and 8 project enquiries.

Planning Scheme Amendment Proposal

Proposed updates to the **Murweh Shire Planning Scheme 2017** to include; Tiny homes & secondary dwellings, Heritage & Traditional Owner recognition, Flexible zoning for tourism/industry, Parking reductions in town centres, and enhanced bushfire & flood mapping.

Charleville Historical Society – Public Amenities

Council will negotiate annual support to cover utility costs for public amenities at the Historical Society’s premises, these are widely used by the local and travelling public.

Wild Dog Control

- Baiting program participation down to 21% (from 24%) with 326 scalps collected for April.

Stock Routes Water Facilities

- Fully operational for the Great Australian Cattle Drive.

Roads & Recovery

- Emergency repairs ongoing.
- Augathella reseals pending funding.

Water Quality

- **Augathella:** Boil water alert **lifted**.
- **Morven:** New **boil alert water issued** (no E. coli detected).

Building & Maintenance

- Cold room installed at Charleville Showgrounds. 

Innovation

- New floodway monitoring system has been developed using the narrowband IoT network that enabled real-time road condition monitoring during recent floods – improved ability to managing the Shire's road network during a rain and flood event.

Economic Development

Cluster Fencing.

- 2,000+ km installed (38% of shire) with 1,200 km subsidised | 850 km privately funded.

Cosmos Centre Upgrade - Xzibit progressing design & installation.

Murweh Business Hub Meeting.

- Second meeting held – direction to be refined at next meeting.

Charleville Swimming Pool

- Chemical dosing upgrade scheduled post- 30 June.
- \$23,570 funding was secured to replace chair lift for improved pool access – ready for 2025/2026 season.

Mulga Lands Gallery

180 April visitors.

Next exhibit: Karen Mayor & Paul Gennings, opening Friday 23 May @ 6:30pm.

RADF Projects Pending Decision

- Noosa Film Academy – Screen acting & production for youth/seniors (\$4,995 RADF | \$23,712 total).
- Fried Mudd – Clay workshop on human form (\$2,960 RADF | \$4,148 total).
- Arts West Out West – Multi-day youth arts festival (\$4,500 RADF | \$20,510 total).
- Not Approved: Unfortunately, the following applications were unable to be approved by the advisory committee under the Murweh RADF guidelines. Charleville Show – The Lemon Drops, and Anglicare – Battle of the Shires Lego Builders.

Library Snapshot

- 79 children joined in for school holiday fun.
- Easter Escape Room (14 participants) launched a Lego collaboration – 3-month trial underway.
- Scavenger Hunt with WWII Secret Base – winners announced in May.
- Creative Alchemy Workshop with Alli Sinclair – 11 writers joined full-day session, excellent feedback.

A huge Murweh welcome to Catherine James who joins the library staff, while we wish Danielle all the best for her move and future, you shall be missed.