



Bourke

Shire

Council

Annual

Report

2010/2011



**OUR GUIDING OPERATING
PRINCIPLE
(Our Motto)**

“Building a strong united
community, proud of our past and
committed to our future”

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I have great pleasure in presenting the annual report for Bourke Shire Council for the 2010-2011 year. I have been honoured by the opportunity bestowed on me by the community and by fellow Councillors to once again provide leadership and advocacy for the betterment of our community and region.

During the year I was directly involved in a range of different representations confronting the challenges we face, mostly accompanied by the General Manager. These included:

- Separate meetings with the Deputy Premier and Deputy Director General, Department of Health, regarding the restructuring of NSW Hospitals.
- Separate events associated with the draft Murray Darling Basin Plan, including:
 - Bourke rally and public meeting
 - Meeting in Parliament House, Canberra
 - Addressing a Parliamentary Inquiry into Socio-Economic Impacts, together with Councillors Mitchell and Holmes
 - Meeting with Chair, Murray Darling Basin Authority and local representatives
 - Writing letters on separate issues to the Prime Minister and Minister for Water.
- Participating in Western Roads Congress and Barwon Roads strategy planning
- Participation in Shires forums including a conference on the development of One Association for Local Government, and the Western Group of Shires Annual and mid-term conferences.
- Various Board meetings of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils, of which I have been elected Deputy Chair, and the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance.
- Representing Western Division Shires as a Board Member on the Western Lands Advisory Council.

More locally, Councillors and Senior Managers conducted village tours to every village community within the Shire, learning first-hand the issues from the local residents. These communications, together with many meetings with special interest groups, have given the basis for Council to prepare a draft Community Strategic Plan.

A feature of 2010/11 has been the outstanding seasonal conditions experienced across the Shire throughout the year, providing all rural and urban business owners an opportunity for renewal of optimism and confidence. Pasture conditions during the 2010 spring were outstanding, and these were maintained with regular ongoing rainfall events until early in 2011. The irrigation industry experienced highly favourable conditions throughout the year, supported by beneficial river flows, including an extended series of high flows, peaking at 12.56 metres, between December 2010 and the end of April 2011. The localised flooding resulted in the Shire being declared a Natural Disaster area.

Whilst there were numerous benefits from the climatic conditions, the wet weather and flooding hampered the ability of Council in maintaining roads across the Shire. Unfortunately, both the Enngonia and Louth Race meetings in 2010, which are usually two of the largest annual feature events in the Shire, were washed out. In view of the high fire

risk from the abundant vegetation growth, Council undertook hazard reduction control activities at numerous locations across the Shire, concentrating around Bourke township and all the villages.

Continual growth in inland tourism has been a feature of developing trends, with the opportunities provided by Council with the popular Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, Jandra Paddle Vessel and Crossley Engine providing magnets for extending overnight stays. A major strategic decision of Council was the merger of the Tourist Information Centre with the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. This had been foreshadowed for some years, and its implementation has consolidated Council's tourism focus.

I extend my thanks to Deputy Mayor Bob Stutsel, to all Councillors, and to General Manager Geoff Wise and all Council staff for their contributions throughout the year. 2010/11 has proved to be another good year for our Shire despite the challenges. I look forward to continuing to work with Councillors, General Manager Geoff Wise, staff and community members over the coming year for the benefit of our region.

Andrew Lewis
MAYOR, BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL

GENERAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

The 2010/11 financial year has again proved a challenge for the residents and Council of Bourke Shire. Despite these challenges, Council has continued to deliver all services throughout the Shire within efficient financial responsibility.

Council has continued to improve its financial position during the year by increasing our working capital position and continuing to introduce plans of management for Council's assets. As well, Council continues to maintain a low level of debt and is in a sound financial position as reflected in our Auditor's reports and demonstrated by the financial performance indicators. Examples of Council's financial positions appear at the end of this foreword, all of which are showing long-term favourable trends.

A huge project conducted by the Council for the first time in over a decade was the holding of an auction of lands for which rates and charges have been outstanding for significant periods. 81 properties were sold, grossing over \$100,000, allowing Council to write off the unpaid debts of approximately \$750,000.

Council has completed a variety of infrastructure developments during the year. Examples include:

- \$600,000 restoration of the Bourke town levee
- \$196,000 refurbishment of the Darling River Medical Centre
- Installation and commissioning of town fluoridation
- Restoration of the Wharf, the historic North Bourke Bridge and the Rotunda in Central Park
- Installation of an automatic sprinkler system at Davidson Oval
- Renewal of the North Bourke Cycle Way
- \$1.327 million construction of the approaches for a new bridge across the Bogan River on the Kamilaroi Highway
- \$120,000 repairs for flood damage to Humes Creek Bridge on the Louth Road
- Upgrade Wongareena Plain on the Wanaaring Road
- Approving 45 development applications, valued at \$8.570m.

Council is mindful of the need to be conscientious and to act with guarded responsibility as the new Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework required by the Division of Local Government will necessitate demanding staff work and difficult Council decisions in prioritisation and allocation of resources and services. In order to do this effectively Council is progressively:

- Revaluing all assets
- Reviewing all the levels of service able to be provided
- Developing a workforce plan to satisfy the level of service acceptable to the community
- Developing a long term Financial Plan over the next 10 years

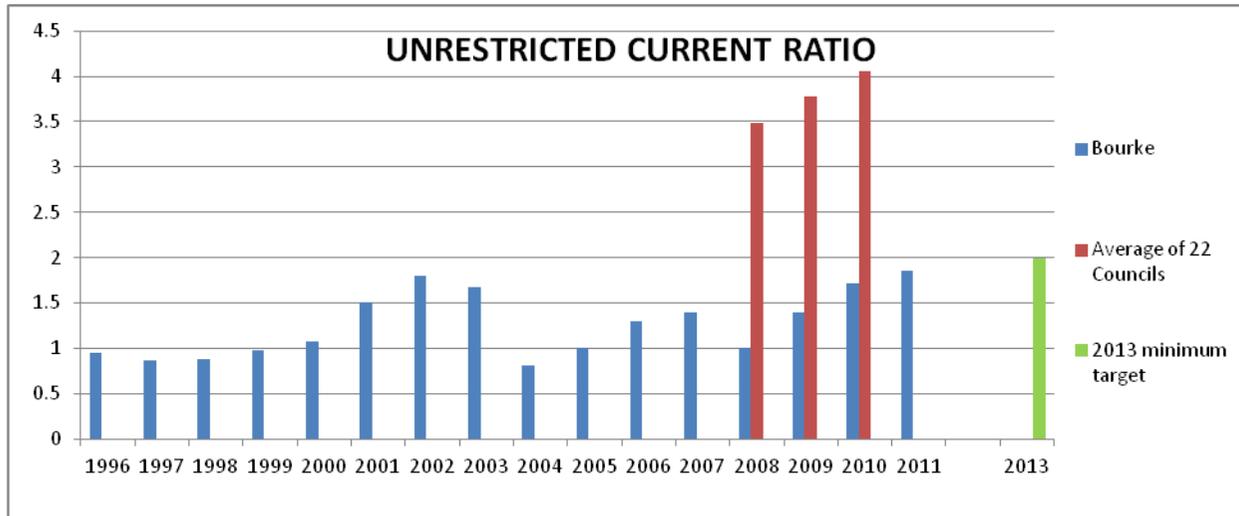
All of these requirements then have to form part of the Annual Delivery Plan to demonstrate to the community and the NSW Government that Council can meet its obligations and maintain its assets to a reasonable level acceptable to the community.

The services provided to the community are totally dependent on the commitments and work of all staff, and the governance provided by Councillors. These are the people who deserve thanks for your returns on your investments in our Council.

It has been my privilege to have continued working within the Bourke community with Councillors and staff throughout the year and I look forward to the next year with the continuation of the many projects and strategic initiatives that have been started.

Geoff Wise
General Manager

FINANCIAL INDICATOR TRENDS OVER 15 YEAR PERIOD



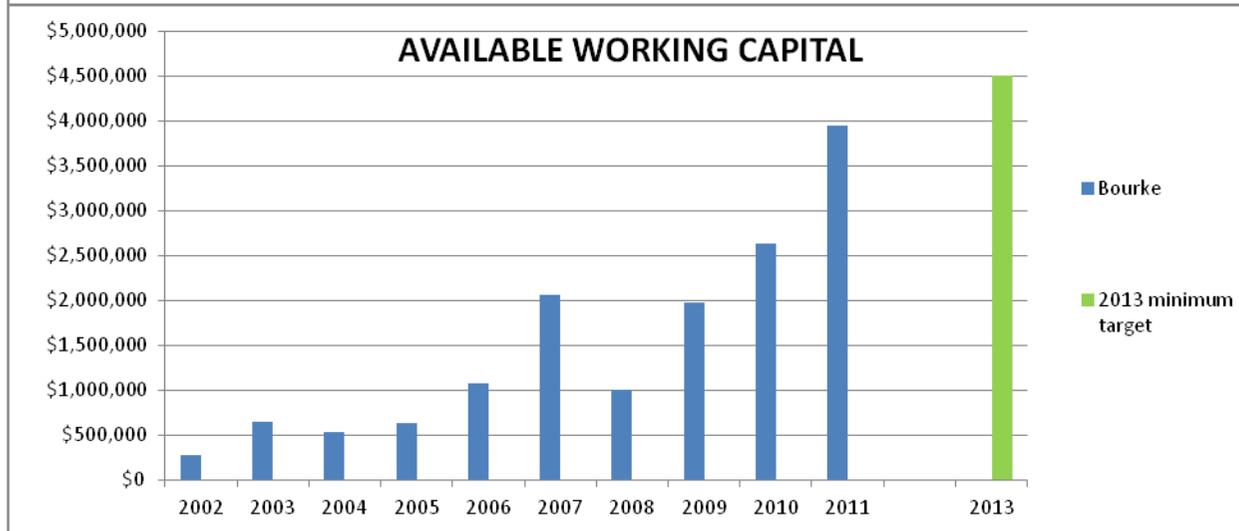
The Unrestricted Current Ratio is a financial indicator specific to local government and represents Council's ability to meet its debts and obligations as they fall due. The ratio assesses the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities.

Acceptable Measures:

Less than 1:1	= RED
Between 1:1 & 2:1	= AMBER
Between 2:1 & 10:1	= GREEN
Greater than 10:1	= RED

Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council:

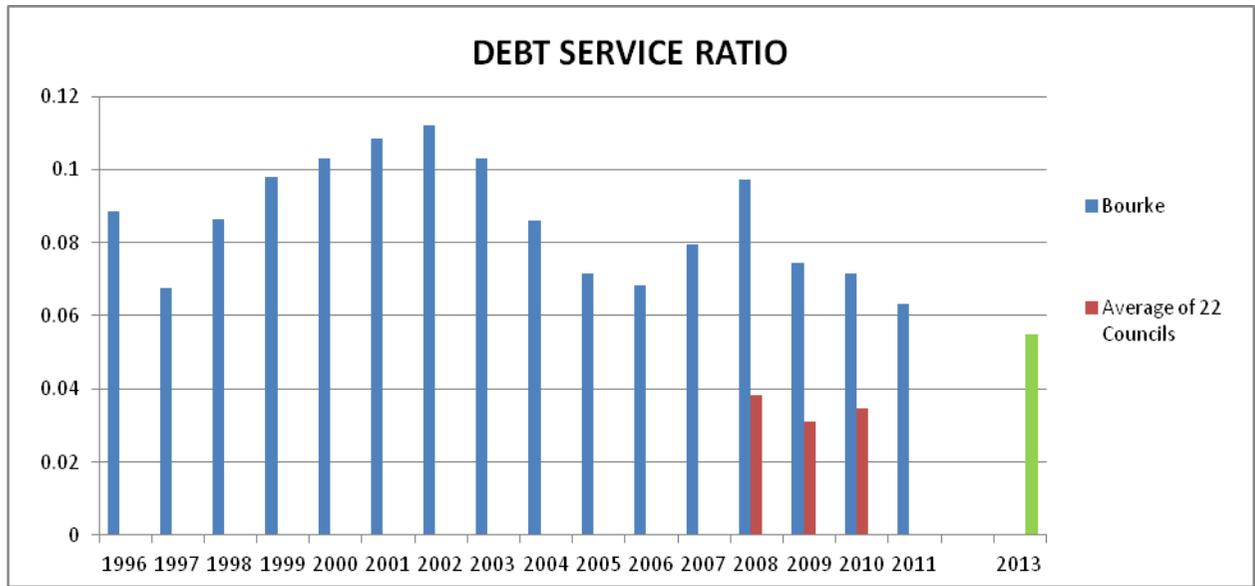
Over 2:1	RED	Remedial action required
	AMBER	Must monitor trend closely
	GREEN	Acceptable



The Available Working Capital – (Working Funds) is a more meaningful financial indicator specific to local government.

Net Current Assets are adjusted by eliminating both external and internal reserves held for future purposes.

Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Greater than \$4,500,000

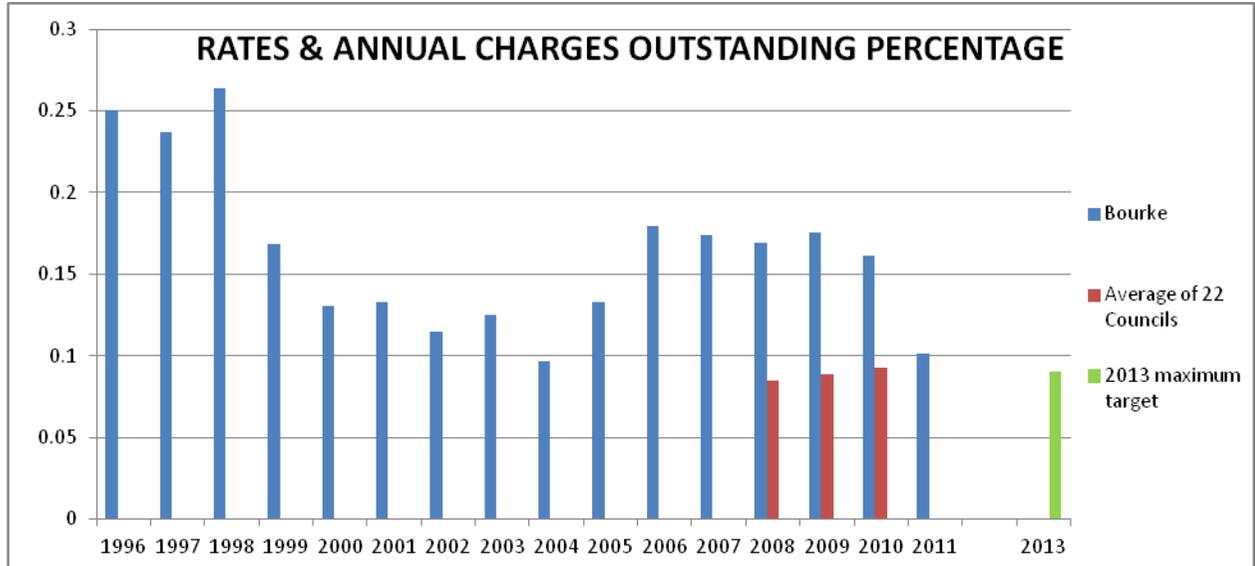


The Debt Service Ratio assesses the impact of loan principal & interest repayments on the discretionary revenue of Council.

Acceptable measures:
 Less than 10% = Green
 Between 10% & 15% = Amber
 Greater than 15% = Red

Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Less than 5.5%

RED Remedial action required
AMBER Must monitor trend closely
GREEN Acceptable



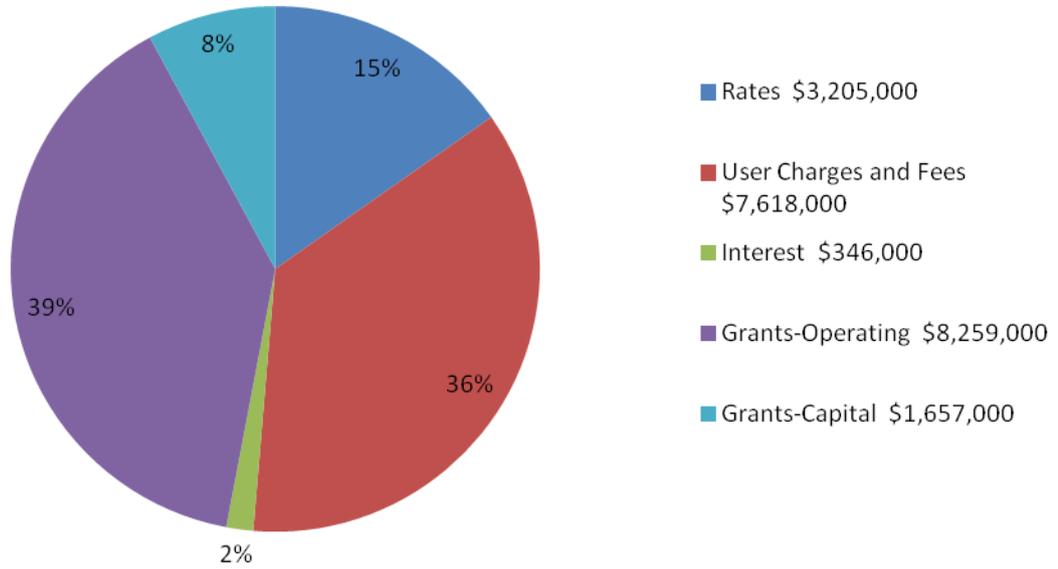
The Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

Acceptable measures:
 Less than 6% = Green
 Between 6% & 9% = Amber
 Greater than 9% = Red

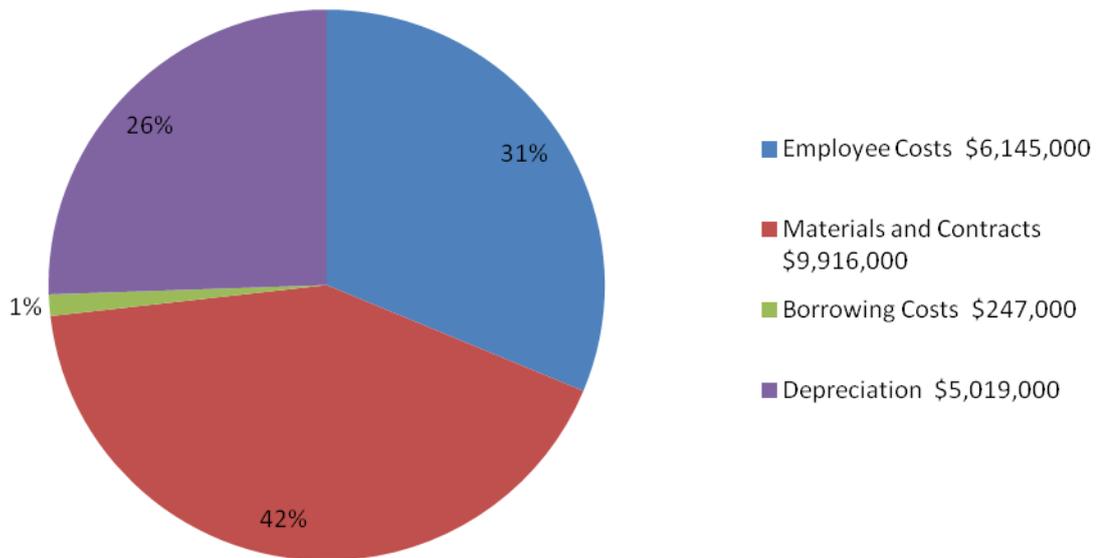
Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Less than 9%

RED Remedial action required
AMBER Must monitor trend closely
GREEN Acceptable

2010-11 REVENUE
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Revenue - \$21,085,000



2010-11 EXPENSES
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Expenses - \$21,327,000



**COMPARISON of NET Costs and PERCENTAGES of COUNCIL SUBSIDIES
for a SELECTION of COUNCIL BUSINESSES**

The following table compares a number of different Council services, listing the gross operating expenditures, net operating results after deducting income, and the percentage of the operating expenditure subsidised by Council funding (i.e. the net operating result compared to the gross operating expenditure). To allow effective comparisons, capital funding, depreciation and insurance costs are excluded.

SERVICE	OPERATING EXPENDITURE to nearest \$1,000	NET COST to nearest \$1,000	PERCENTAGE COUNCIL SUBSIDY
# Parks and Gardens	\$429,000	\$429,000	100%
*Swimming pool	\$189,000	\$189,000	100%
*Street cleaning	\$155,000	\$155,000	100%
*Tourism	\$123,000	\$123,000	100%
# Community Halls	\$ 42,000	\$42,000	100%
# Sports Grounds	\$255,000	\$252,000	99%
# Airports	\$186,000	\$175,000	94%
# Animal control	\$115,000	\$105,000	91%
# Library	\$230,000	\$200,000	87%
# Other Community amenities	\$316,000	\$262,000	83%
# Street lighting	\$114,000	\$ 94,000	82%
# Cemeteries	\$102,000	\$ 81,000	79%
*Back O' Bourke Centre Jandra and Crossley Engine	\$568,000	\$249,000	44%
*Emergency Services	\$491,000	\$195,000	40%
# Noxious Plant Control	\$115,000	\$ 42,000	37%
# Solid Waste	\$501,000	\$148,000	30%
# Sewerage services	\$609,000	\$ 35,000	6%
# Roads, streets and bridges	\$11.468 m	Nil	Full cost recovery
# Water supplies	\$ 1.848 m	Nil	Full cost recovery

Taken from Auditor's report.

* Taken from Council's Budget review as at 30th June 2011

OUR GUIDING OPERATING PRINCIPLE
(Our Motto)

Building a strong united community, proud of our past and committed to our future

WHAT WE WANT OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY TO BE
(Our Vision)

Bourke Shire will continue to grow as an iconic, outback, regional community and destination, which is united and productive, thriving on practical access to all modern services

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE AND FOCUS
(Our Mission)

To provide leadership and initiative in maintaining and improving services and opportunities that meet the needs of the communities in the Shire, through proactive Councillor representation, responsible asset management and efficient, effective service delivery by staff.

**BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT DECADE
(2011 – 2021)**

OUR STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Growing Prosperity

- Improving the economic prospects for people who live in the region
- Promoting Bourke as a regional service centre
- Developing industry and business
- Promoting population growth

Enhancing Community Wellbeing

- Taking leadership with our community and governments, to improve social issues in the region
- Encouraging and supporting initiatives with local indigenous communities, particularly through the Community Working Parties
- Promoting participation and coordination between the community and Council
- Encouraging and supporting community initiatives to enhance community benefits

Living in the Environment

- Managing the natural and built environment responsibly
- Securing a sustainable water supply for all users
- Considering future generations in all our decision making

Delivering Better Services

- Providing infrastructure to support community needs
- Effectively managing Council's assets
- Planning for future service needs of our communities
- Pursuing continuous improvement in the business of Council

Promoting Leadership

- Advocating the iconic regional benefits of Bourke Shire areas, its people and resources
- Providing strategic leadership for the community
- Being recognised as an employer of choice

OUR PLATFORM FROM WHICH WE OPERATE (Our Strategic Pillars)

Community: primary stakeholders and service recipients

Councillors: provide governance, representation and leadership

Staff: manage assets; deliver services to the community and to Councillors.

Assets: roads; water and sewerage; plant, equipment and machinery; community facilities and service buildings; staff and finances

Legislation: meet all legislative requirements

STATEMENT OF VALUES

In pursuit of our Strategic Directions, all Councillors, staff and agents will act in a manner which:-

- places integrity above all
- does not discriminate
- is fair and equitable
- continually strives for improvement in every aspect of Council's activities and recognises initiative
- ensures all activities are customer focused, providing equity for all
- provides sound leadership to the communities within Bourke Shire
- involves the community in decision making through open government and consultative process
- fosters and promotes sustainable economic development, rural pursuits and industries that contribute to the wealth of the region and in keeping with the environment and resident's lifestyle
- protects and enhances the environment
- promotes a spirit of regional cooperation, particularly in regard to planning, infrastructure, economic development, tourism and employment

BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL STATISICAL INFORMATION

Population:	3095 (September 2006)	
Area:	43,116 sq km	
Address:	PO Box 21 / 29 Mitchell Street Bourke NSW 2840	
Phone:	02 68308000	
Fax:	02 68723030	
Email:	bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au	
Web:	www.bourke.nsw.gov.au	
Employees:	86	
Salaries & Wages:	\$4,357,000	
Income:	\$21.1M	
Rate Income:	\$3.2M	
Rate in Dollar	Town	4.52 cents per dollar
	Village	2.98 cents per dollar
	Rural	.73 cents per dollar
Total Operating Expenditure	\$17.6M	
Land Valuations	\$95,353,056	
Rates Assessments:	1,779	

COUNCILLORS

Councillors

Since September 2008 Council elections, Councillors comprised:-

Cr Andrew Lewis (Mayor)
Cr Robert Stutsel (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Victor Bartley
Cr Olga Collis-McInnespie
Cr Sally Davis
Cr Cecil Dorrington
Cr Barry Hollman
Cr John Holmes
Cr Wal Mitchell
Cr Lachlan Ford (Elected by-election in May 2010, 1st Meeting 24th May 2010)
Cr Steve Greentree (Resigned 21/01/2010)

Function of Councillors

Collectively, Councillors exercise the following functions:-

- To develop and monitor the implementation of strategic plans and budgets
- To determine and monitor the application of policies, plans and programs
- The efficient and effective provision of services and facilities
- The efficient and effective management of assets
- To facilitate and encourage the planning and development of the Shire in the best interests of the communities
- To appoint and monitor the performance of the General Manager
- To determine and review Council's resource allocation and expenditure activities
- To monitor the manner in which services are provided by Council.

Public Forum

Members of the public can make representation to Council at the Public Forum which is held at 10.00am at each Ordinary Meeting of Council. Anyone wishing to take the opportunity is required to contact Council's Executive Assistant on 68308000 and advise of their intention, giving as much notice as possible to Council. Ordinary Meetings of Council are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month. Any changes to this schedule are advertised in the Western Herald and broadcast on Radio Station 2WEB.

Committees

Council has a variety of Committees as follows:

- Corporate Planning
- Roads Committee
- Town Committee
- Traffic Committee
- Villages Committee
- Back O' Bourke Advisory Committee
- Economic Development

A list of Councillors on each committee is available from Council's Office if required.

COUNCIL STAFFING

GENERAL MANAGER GEOFF WISE	MANAGEMENT TEAM	
	MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
	Bernie Wilder	
	Environmental Support Officer	Senior Weeds Officer
	Admin Officer Trainee (PT)	Waste Depot Operator
	Environmental Operators x 2	Animal Control Operator
	Environmental & Development Officer	Cemetery Operator
	Ranger (Vacant)	
	MANAGER OF ROAD SERVICES	
	Mark Gordon	
	Roads Maintenance x 8	Maintenance Relief Operators x 3
	Bitumen Maintenance x 3	Transport Services x 5
	Workshop x 4	Roads Technical Officer
	Apprentice x 1	
		Roads Inspector (RTA SIMC)
	Works Supervisor	Storeman
	MANAGER OF TOWN SERVICES	
	Bruce Gray	
	Town Services x 7	Building Maintenance
		Apprentice Building Maintenance
	Services Technical Officer x 1	Parks & Gardens x 4
	Engineering Secretary	
	MANAGER OF WATER & WASTEWATER SERVICES	
	Peter Brown	
	Water & Wastewater Services x 7	
	MANAGER OF TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT	
	Phil Johnston	
	Manager Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre	
	Captain x 1	Administration Assistant x 1
	Deckhand x 1	Retail Assistant (vacant)
	Deckhand Casual x 5	
	General Hand x 1	
	VIC Guides Casual x 5	Volunteers
MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES		
Leonie Brown		
Senior Finance Officer	Executive Assistant	
Human Resource Officer	IT/GIS Officer x 1	
	IT Trainee x 1	
Rates & Water Billing Officer	Records Coordinator/Customer Service Officer x 1	
Finance Officer	Customer Service Officer	
RTA Officer	Admin/Finance Trainee x 1 (Vacant)	
Community & Governance Officer	Library Manager x 1	
OHS/Risk Inspection Officer	Library Assistants x 2 (PPT)	
Cleaner		

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Audited Financial Reports

LGA s428 (2)(a)

Bourke Shire Council has an improved financial position for the 2010/2011 financial year. Spencer Steer Chartered Accountants audit Councils Financial records. A full copy of the Financial Statements are included as an appendix to the report or are available for viewing from Council's Office, Library or on the Webpage.

Performance against Plan

LGA s428 (2)(b)

Refer to "Principal Activity Section" covered in this Annual Report.

State of the Environment Report section (428)(20)(c)

In the 2008/09 reporting year, Council participated in a joint State of the Environment (SOE) report coordinated by the Central Western Catchment Management Authority. This report covered the Local Government areas of Bourke, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warren, Narromine, Mid-Western, Dubbo, Lachlan, Warrumbungle, Blayney, Oberon, Cabonne, Bathurst, Wellington, Weddin and Orange. A copy of this report can be obtained by contacting the Council Office on 02 68308000 or from the Council's website <http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au>

The 2010/11 period only required a supplementary SOE report. Council participated in the joint report to ensure that a collaborative approach to what are mostly region wide issues might assist in making the reports a more useful tool in assisting Council to measure and act against the community impacts on the environment.

Council has adopted a document titled 'Strategic Direction for the next Decade – 2010-2020. Development of this document including its implementation through Management Plans more accurately link the SOE reporting to Council's annual plans.

Condition of Public Works

LGA s428 (2)(d)

The Audited Financial Reports (Special Schedule No7, Condition of Public Works), incorporates this information which are included towards the end of this document.

Legal Proceedings

LGA s428 (2)(e)

Rates and Charges

Council retains a debt recovery service for the recovery of outstanding rates and charges. All charges incurred in using the service are recovered as a charge against the ratepayers.

Legal proceedings incurred by Council during this reporting period.

Legal Costs:

Total	\$115,603.95
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Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities

LGA s428 (2)(f) & REG 217 (1)(1a)

Councils Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors Policy allows for the payment of expenses incurred by, and the provision of facilities to the Councillors in relation to their roles as elected persons and members of the governing body of the Council. The policy is included as an attachment at the back of this document.

Councillors Expenditure

Sec 428 2 (f), cl 217 (1)(1a)

Council expended \$88,460.28 on Mayoral fees and Councillor Fees during 2010/2011

The distribution was as follows:

Mayoral Fees	\$20,889.96
Councillors Fees	\$67,570.32

Total amounts of money expended during the year on the provision of facilities for use by Councillors and the payment of Councillor's expenses was \$26,300.00. The breakup of this expenditure (in part) is as follows:

1. Provision of dedicated office equipment to Councillors = \$363.96
2. Telephone calls made by Councillors = Nil
3. Attendance of Councillors at Conferences and seminars = \$24,646.04
4. Training of Councillors and provision of skills development = \$1290.00
5. Interstate visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket expenses = Nil
6. Overseas visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket expenses = Nil
7. Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor = Nil
8. Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a Councillor = Nil

Overseas Visits

LGA s428(2)(r) and REG cl 217 (1)(a)

Councillors and staff were not involved in any exchanges or projects necessitating overseas travel in 2010/2011

Senior Staff

LGA s428 (2)(g), Sec 332

The General Manager is the only designated Senior Staff member as prescribed by Section 332 of the Act as at 30th June 2011, Council has three Managers who are paid on contracts to fulfil the delegation provided by the General Manager. Council also has a flat structure that includes six senior staff. The term 'Management' is used within Council and by the Councillors to describe the Management Executive, including the General Manager.

Senior Staff Remuneration

REG cl 217 (1)(b), Sec 332 LGA

During 2010/2011 period Council employed one senior staff employee, that being the General Manager at a total cost of \$169,553. This figure includes salaries paid, fringe benefit tax expenses, private use of a Council motor vehicle, employer's superannuation contribution and housing.

Contracts Awarded

LGA 428 and REG cl 217 (2) (a)

The following contracts/tenders for \$150,000.00 or more were awarded during the year:

RTA	Road Works	\$1,427,206.00
A Ryan	Road Works	\$714,606.25
Caltex	Fuel Purchase	\$726,941.10
THM Earthmoving	Road Works	\$544,386.70
CJD Equipment	Volvo Grader	\$386,431.00
Cutting Edge Earthmoving	Road Works	\$351,620.03
Road Busters	Road Works	\$337,637.92
Jacks Plant	Road Works	\$302,570.40
Tolbra	Road Works	\$267,937.37
B Bowden Transport	Road Works	\$262,743.25
Orlmyne	Road Works	\$223,027.20
R Parnaby	Road Works	\$204,809.44
NAK Graders	Road Works	\$179,510.00
Mark Bowden Transport	Road Works	\$171,388.25
S Douglas	Road Works	\$169,545.71
Calvani Crushing	Gravel Crushing	\$161,501.69

Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Activities

LGA s428 (2)(il)

Bourke Shire Council is a member of the Barwon Darling Zone Management Committee (BDZMC), which includes the Bourke and Brewarrina Shire areas. The BDZMC met twice during the year and hazard reduction proposals and activities formed part of the business conducted.

Bourke Shire received funding from the Bush Fire Mitigation Scheme for installing firebreaks around the villages of Wanaaring, Yantabulla, Fords Bridge, Enngonia, Byrock and Louth within the Bourke Shire.

No major fires occurred during the 2010/2011 period, despite major risks.

Diverse Cultural and Linguistic Backgrounds

LGA (s428) (2)(j)

Of the 2.6% of Bourke Shire's population born outside Australia, only 0.6% speak a language other than English in their home.

Council maintains SBS Television, SBS Radio and ABC JJJ Radio to further enhance communication. Council actively participates in naturalisation ceremonies and works with the Federal Government to process work visas.

Program to Promote Services & Access to those Services

LGA s428 (2)(j)

Council supports Yarrumbin Outreach, St Vincent de Paul, Richmond Fellowship, Centrecare, Outback Division of General Practice and the Department of Aging and Disability with their endeavours throughout the Shire.

Section 67 Work on Private Land

LGA s67, s428 (2)(k)

Details or a summary (as required by section 67(3) of resolutions made during 2010/2011 under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land and details or a summary of such work if the cost of the work has been fully or partly subsidised by the Council, together a statement of the total amount by which the Council has subsidised any such work during 2010/2011.

No resolutions under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land were made and no works of this nature were carried out during 2010/2011.

Contributions and Donations

(S.356)

LGA s428 (2)(l)

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993 was \$34,729.32

Human Resources Activities

LGA s428 (2)(m)

Council is committed to quality human resource practices. The Management Team and the Consultative Committee discussed issues and decided to review the whole Human Resource function of Council. The review will investigate ongoing compliance with the salary system rules and find areas of improvement. Council will facilitate this process with the allocation of resources. The review will continue in 2011/2012.

The following activities are currently being undertaken:-

- Finalisation of a Training Plan
- Performance Appraisals
- Development of a Workforce Plan which will include succession planning, aging staff, Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- Investigation of a system to more accurately align positions with the Award structure
- Updating the Camping out Agreement

Occupational Health & Safety

Council's OHS Committee continues to be active in carrying out regular worksite inspections and meeting monthly.

Risk Management

Council's Risk Management Committee meets approximately every 6 months. Currently the Committee is working on developing a Risk Management Plan. The framework for Fraud Control prevention has been developed.

Council has completed the Business Continuity Plan. A consultant has also prepared a Mines Management System which is currently being implemented by Council staff. The Mines Management System is a risk and environmental system in relation to all Council's quarries and pits.

Training

A total of \$136,000 was spent on staff training during the year. A large percentage of the training budget is expended on training required under legislation, e.g. ticketed training in various levels of Traffic Control, OH&S and plant operations. Recurrent training is another large contributor to our training budget, e.g. relevant staff need to be trained in working near powerlines annually and retrained in traffic control every three years, as well as First Aid.

Council is currently reviewing training requirements to maintain relevancy to positions and the needs of Council. A matrix is being developed to obtain a complete overview of training supplied, and considers the requirements of departments, teams and individuals in regards to training. The results should see a reduction in some training, improved training in other areas, and ultimately a more equitable spread of the training budget based on Council's corporate, organisational and individual training needs.

The coming year will see the completion of a Staff Training / Skills Database which will enable a variety of reports to be produced, contributing towards the development of a five year training plan.

Council has an Apprentice Carpenter and IT Trainee.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Programs

LGA s428 (2)(n)

Council has a comprehensive EEO Management Plan, with some of the objectives from the plan are noted below:-

- To ensure that management and all employees understand EEO and Anti-Discrimination principles and their responsibilities in relation to them, and the EEO and Anti-Discrimination Management Plan, and its implementation
- To ensure the active participation of all employees and relevant unions in decision making about the EEO and Anti-Discrimination Management Plan and its implementation
- To review recruitment policies and practices to ensure they conform with EEO and Anti-Discrimination principles and to demonstrate fair practice. It will also provide opportunity for increased representation of EEO and Anti-Discrimination target groups in the various areas of Council employment
- To ensure that the Selection Committee members have sufficient skills and are fully aware of, and implement the principles of EEO and Anti-Discrimination

- To ensure that the various Council workplaces and facilities are accessible to people with physical disabilities
- To give the opportunity for people with a physical disability to gain a place in Council's workforce
- To ensure that appointment, promotion and transfer policies and practices conform with EEO and Anti-Discrimination principles and to demonstrate fair practice
- To increase the representation of women and other minority groups, in which they are currently under represented in Council
- To implement and maintain an accessible and effective grievance procedure.

External Bodies Exercising Council Functions

LGA s428 (2)(o)

No external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council.

Companies in Which Council has an Interest

LGA s428 (2)(p)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any company during this financial reporting period.

Partnership, Cooperatives and Joint Ventures

LGA s428 (2)(q)

Partnerships, Cooperatives and Joint Ventures have included the following:-

- Australian Airports Association
- Darling River Run
- Kamilaroi Highway Committee
- Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance
- Mungindi Menindee Advisory Council
- Murray Darling Association
- Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)
- Outback Arts
- Outback Regional Tourism Organisation (ORTO)
- Regional Development Australia – Orana Region
- Shires Association of NSW
- Western Catchment Management Authority
- Western Division Councils of NSW

List of Category 1 Business Activities LGA s428 (2)(r) and REG cl (217)(1)(d)(ii)

Council did not operate any Category 1 business activities in 20010/11.

List of Category 2 Business Activities cl (217)(1)(d)(iii)

Council operated the following Category 2 business activities (undertaking with an income of less than \$2M) in 20010/11.

- Water Supplies for Bourke town and various villages
- Sewerage Schemes for Bourke town

Competitive Neutrality cl(217)(1)(v)

This section does not apply to Bourke Shire Council

Category 1 Business Activities cl(217)(1)(d)iv to (217)(1)(d)(ix)

These clauses are not relevant to Bourke Shire Council as no Category 1 Business Activities were operated 2010/11.

Rates & Charges Written Off LGA s428 (a) and REG cl(132) the following amounts of Rates & Charges were written off during the period

Pensioner Concessions	\$	Written Off \$
General Rate - Pensioner	29,219.36	
Water – Pensioner	10,414.27	
Sewer - Pensioner	9,386.14	
Sub Total Gross Pensioner Concessions	49,019.77	
State Subsidy Refund to Council	26,960.88	
Net Loss to Council for Pensioner Rebate Concessions		22,058.89
General Rates & Charges		
		538,588.08
Total Rates & Charges Write Off		
		560,646.97

It should be noted that Council received a subsidy payment from the Department of Local Government for 55% of the pensioner write offs for the year. In 2010/11 the subsidy amounted to \$26,960.88.

Children's Services Activities**LGA 428 (2) and REG cl 217(1)(c)**

Council has sponsored and/or been involved with the following activities:-

- School Sports
- Supporting the PCYC
- Children Book launch at the Library
- Management Committee of Bourke and Children Services
- Active members of the Youth Interagency
- Enhancement of Parks and Playgrounds
- Welcome to Bourke for new families

Access & Equity Activities**LGA 428 (2) and REG cl 217(1)(d)(i)**

- Council programs annual village visits to our small and remote communities within this Shire
- Council continues to participate in and communicate with stakeholders through participation in remote area Field Days, School Career Days and the Annual Show
- Council held regular meetings with the Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party to discuss a variety of cooperative activities
- Human Services Interagency participation
- Council attended regular meetings with the Bourke Alcohol Working Group and the Liquor Accord

Stormwater Management

LGA 428 (2) and REG cl 217(1)(e)

- Maintained Stormwater Infrastructure
- Major repairs to flood damaged river outlet
- Services all stormwater gates prior to the January/February 2011 floods
- Effective Kerb and Gutter replacement
- Installed a pump in Anson Street to alleviate a serious local flooding problem

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Council did not have any outstanding FOI requests from the previous reporting period, nor did Council receive any during 2010/11.

Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998

No reviews were conducted by, or on behalf of Council under Part 5 of the PPIP Act 1998.

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 s(93)(g)(5)

Council complies with its Local Environmental Plan 1998, and development is assessed in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Council in partnership with Brewarrina and Central Darling Shire Councils have received funding from the Department of Planning, under the Planning Reform Program, to prepare new Local Environmental Plans. Work has commenced on this project and a new plan is to be introduced by 2012.

ICAC Statistics

Council had one formal request from ICAC, which was promptly and comprehensively responded to, with a satisfactory reply from ICAC.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW

Performance in Terms of Principal Activities

LGA s428 (2)(b)

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, reports have been submitted to Council on a quarterly basis as to the extent to which the performance targets set by the 2010/2011 Management Plan have been achieved during the year.

Governance

To ensure the sound management of Council and the promotion of a favourable image of Council and its staff

Strategies

- Ensure Council's organisational structure is effective
- Ensure policies are relevant and meet objectives
- Ensure the objectives and targets identified in the Management Plan are met
- Establish Bourke Shire Council's Strategic Directions for the next decade
- Establish a Community Integrated Planning & Reporting Strategic Planning Process

Progress

- Policies are being methodically reviewed, amended or developed as identified
- Management Plan reviewed quarterly
- Strategic Directions document reviewed, endorsed and publicised
- Community consultation completed for development of a community strategic plan by June 2012

BACK O’ BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE AND PV JANDRA

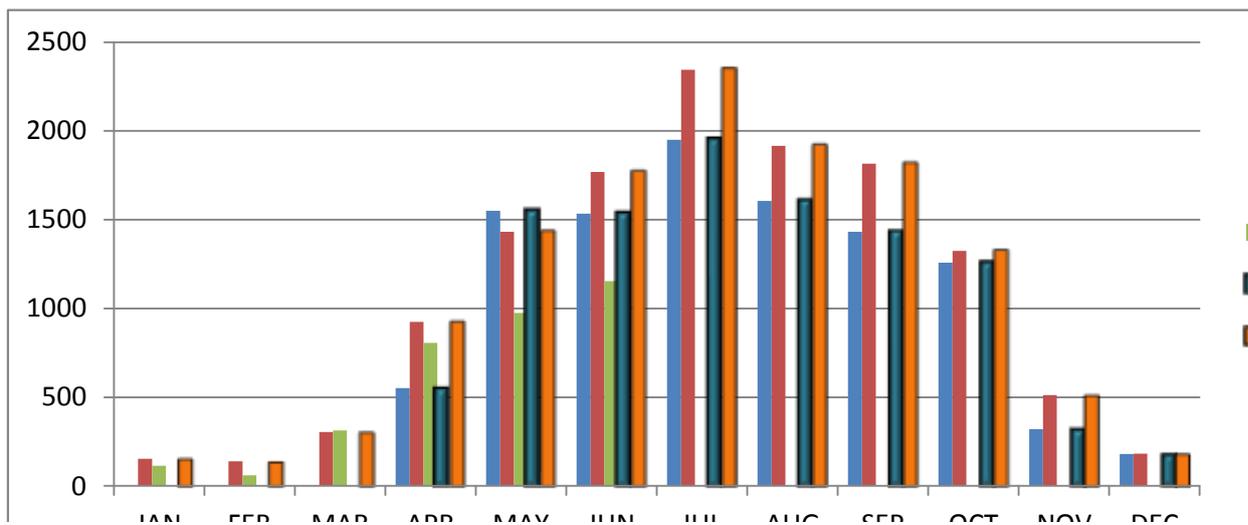
The Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre has once again proved popular. There was a small increase in visitation over the previous financial year and the Centre has once again proved to be an industry leader.

Expenses for the business have been reduced and the productivity of staff increased. Excellent feedback was received from visitors throughout the year who enjoyed the displays, cafe and the Jandra package.

The Visitor Information Centre was moved out to the Exhibition Centre in March 2011 following 16 years located at the old railway station. New visitor signage was installed in town and the foyer of the Exhibition Centre refurbished to enable the changes.

In the 2011 calendar year over 28,000 visitors are expected to visit the Bourke Visitor Information Centre.

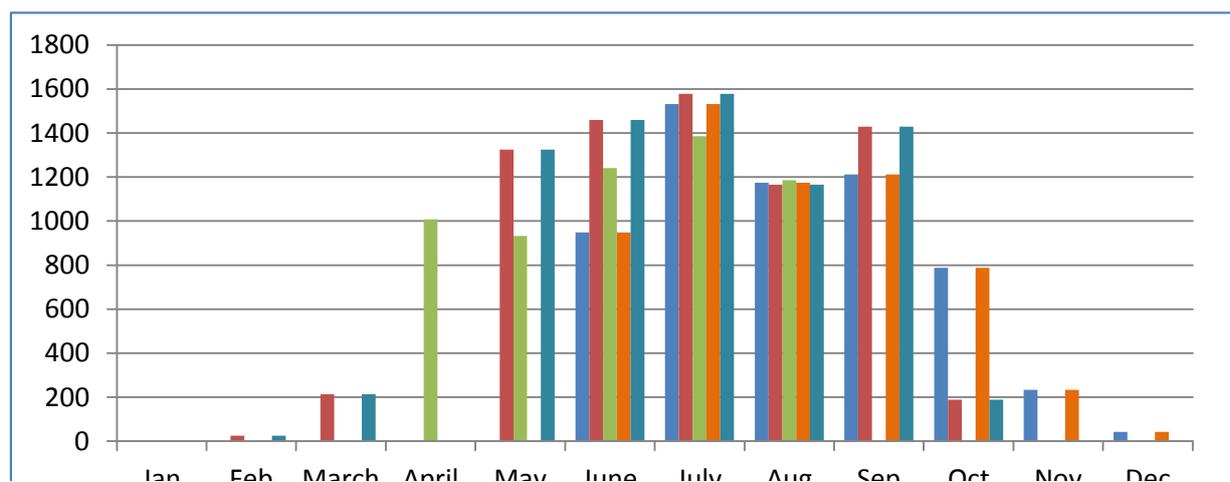
Graph 1 - Visitors through the Exhibition Centre from July 2010 to June 2011



The Jandra paddleboat has also been popular over the calendar year with high visitation and excellent customer feedback. Bourke Shire Council continued to employ a Captain for the vessel and also took on a full time deckhand.

The Jandra continues to be an important part of the Bourke visitor experience and together with the Exhibition Centre is well established in the industry.

Graph 2 - Visitors on the PV Jandra Paddleboat 2010 to 2011



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council have continued to assist in the area of economic development. Over the year Council staff have:

- Assisted event organisers in organising large meetings for Bourke including the Biannual Conference of the Australian Rangelands Society
- Organised the Bourke business awards
- Assisted business to access the resources of the Department of Industry and Investment
- Participated in the Country and Regional Living Expo in Sydney
- Been an active member of the regional economic development managers forum
- Been an active participant of Regional Development Australia
- Hosted the Outback Tourism Symposium
- Finalised the redevelopment of the Doctors surgery
- Worked with local businesses on expansion plans and succession issues to enter new markets and HR issues
- Ensured the CCTV network has been upgraded and maintained
- Been an active member of the Community Working Party
- Assisted to organise visits by students from Volda University in Norway

Excellent weather and above average rains have meant a return to good irrigation seasons and a recovery in the grazing industry. The local irrigation industry imported labour into the town to enable a successful harvest. Almost 100,000 bales of cotton were harvested in 2011 with both cotton gins operating.

Council staff also continued to develop the Bourke Community Integrated Plan which is due for implementation by June 2012.

CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION

ADMINISTRATION

To provide effective administration support services to the Council, Mayor, General Manager and Departments and to fulfil Council's broad range of services and activities.

Australia Day Celebrations

Australia day was held on 26th January 2011 at the Bourke Wharf Precinct, with Russell and Felicity Adcock. Russell was the Ambassador. A breakfast was held in conjunction with the Rotary Club and awards were presented.



Seniors Week

Seniors Week celebrations were held from Sunday, 20th March – Sunday, 27th March 2011. The week included BBQ's, trip to Enngonia for lunch, trivia games, craft, daycare activities, live music and lunch at the Bowling Club. The week was attended by over 150 seniors from Bourke and surrounding areas.

ANZAC Day/Remembrance Day

Council takes part every year in the ANZAC Day march and Remembrance Day at Bourke by placing a wreath and the Cenotaph in memory of the fallen.

Bourke Public Library

Annual Report for Bourke Shire Council 2010/2011

Circulation Statistics

Audio Visual	4342
Adult Fiction	5312
Non-Fiction	1896
Junior Fiction	2650
Magazines	735
Interlibrary Loans	60
Total Issues	14995

New Memberships

Adults	102
Temporary Adults	25
Junior	23
Organisations	0
Total New Members	150

Previous Years Circulations Figures

Audio Visual	4146
Adult Fiction	5547
Non-Fiction	1873
Junior Fiction	2991
Magazines	907
Interlibrary Loans	43
Total Issues	15507

Previous Year New Memberships

Adults	110
Temporary Adults	24
Junior	19
Organisations	1
Total New Members	154

Highlights for the Year

In August we celebrated Children's Book Week with story time, prize giving and a party on the Saturday. We had a good turnout, and all enjoyed the story and party. Competition entries were displayed in our window and I hope all saw our window display "Across the Story Bridge" that Cathy painstakingly did.

In September we held a history morning which was very successful. A number of people turned up to share their memories of Bourke and local families. Local business houses were mapped and past owners collated.

The library received new computers for the front counter and main office in November. One of the old computers was set up in the history room for Cathy's research.

In January the library received a new server for our computer network. Over the Christmas break our old server had died.

During March, our Book Club celebrated its 2nd birthday. The Book Club is still going strong, and our members enjoy the discussions each month.

The Premiers Reading Challenge began in April. We have labelled many new books included in the challenge this year, so that our customers can easily identify them.

During April library staff were busy finalising the acquisition and cataloguing of our grant funded resources for men, young people and older persons. We were able to purchase a great range of new resources, and have received a lot of positive feedback as a result. We also produced a range of promotional materials for schools.

In May we obtained a new colour photocopier funded by the Local Priority Grant from the State Library of New South Wales. The new photocopier is networked to all computers in the library. We also received three new computers for the public to use. The new technology has made a big difference with customers commenting on how much better it is now.

In May the library held a launch of the new resources acquired with grant funding from the State Library of NSW. The launch was attended by Acting Mayor Bob Stutsel.

Jodi Hatch
Library Manager
Bourke Public Library

ROADS SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Regional Road Block Grant

Budget: \$1,738,000

Sealed Road – 99.77 km **Unsealed Road** – 470.96km

Roads under Regional Road Block grant: MR 68Sth Bourke – Tilpa, MR 407 Louth – Cobar, MR 405 Bourke – Wanaaring & MR 404 Bourke – Hungerford.

Expenditure General Maintenance on these roads: (\$728,445.42) - This includes grading, clearing of table drains, grid maintenance, signage, bitumen patching, reformation, clearing mitre drains.

Expenditure Gravel Resheeting: (\$804,439.68)

Completed on MR 68 South (Bourke to Louth), MR 404 (Bourke to Hungerford) & MR 405 (Bourke to Wanaaring)

Expenditure Reseals: (\$182,295.78)

This was the combination of repairs to the 95.77km of sealed road on our network

Expenditure Bridge & Major Culvert Maintenance and Capital Works: (\$22,820.12)

No major repairs on bridges or culverts, only minor repairs and inspections completed.

Wongareena Plain (MR 405)

Expenditure : (\$562,000) Cost is included in the gravel Resheeting expenditure.

This program was completed in June 2011 consisting of 5 km of reformation and gravel resheeting on the Bourke to Wanaaring Road. The installation of a 50m concrete causeway at Wongareena Creek was completed as a result of negotiations with the Wanaaring Roads Committee. Funding consisted of \$144,000 from the Supplementary Component and \$418,000 from the Roads Component of the Regional Road Block Grant.



Concrete Causeway at Wongareena Creek MR 405 Bourke to Wanaaring

Storm Damage Regional Roads

Council received funding to complete storm damage repairs on its Regional Roads as a result of the December 2009 and March 2010 events. A total of \$290,190.00 not spent was carried over into the 2010/2011 financial year.



Back Creek MR 404 Bourke to Hungerford

Council received a further \$500,960.00 as result of the December 2010 storm and flood event, with \$350,000.00 of this being completed this financial year. This will leave a total of \$150,960.00 to be carried over into the 2011/2012 financial year.



Wongareena Creek MR 405 Bourke to Wanaaring

Cycle Way North Bourke Road

Budget \$85,000.00

Council received funding to upgrade its existing cycle way track to North Bourke from Road Safety Traffic and Development.



Cycle Way North Bourke Road (Road Safety Traffic Development)



Rural Local Roads

Budget: \$800,000.00

Sealed: 11.29 km

Listed Roads: 48

Unsealed: 1,834.96

Expenditure: \$906,176.64

These figures are for routine maintenance for, grading, signs, gravel resheeting, reseals and patching, grid and culvert repairs etc. The over expenditure was due to the demand from the public for Council to carry out essential works to get the roads opened.

Storm Damage Local Roads

Council received funding for storm damage from the December 2009 and March 2010 rains. \$659,206.34 of this funding being carried over to the 2010/2011 financial year.



West Culgoa Road



Cuttaburra Crossings at Willara

Council received further funding of \$685,900.00 from the December 2010 storm and flood events with \$300,000.00 being spent this financial year. This leaves a total of \$385,900.00 to be carried over into the 2011/2012 financial year.



Storm Damage Dead Horse Creek Janbeth Road

Roads to Recovery

Budget: \$845,889.40

Expenditure: \$786,776.57

RLR 46 Lanihuli Road

Expenditure: \$3,150.00

This project was unable to be completed due to the continual flood waters from the Warrego River. Council hopes to complete these works in the 2011/2012 financial year.

RLR 5 Coronga Peak Road

Expenditure: \$25,914.41

Approximately 13km of Formation grading was completed, but was interrupted by continual rains. Council hopes to return and complete the project in the 2011/2012 financial year.

RLR 44 Janina Road

Expenditure: \$151,535.38

Approximately 40km of full Formation grading was completed for this project.

RLR 27 Burrawantie Road

Expenditure: \$123,090.50

Approximately 30 km of road received a full formation grade.

RLR 24 Ellavale Road

Expenditure: \$19,946.20

New guard rail installed to the approaches of the Green Creek Bridge.

RLR 24 Ellavale Road

Expenditure: \$20,686.00

New Guard rail was installed to the approaches of the Davis Creek Bridge

RLR 6 Ben Lomond Road

Expenditure: \$48,784.67

Repairs were completed to the bridge culvert and the approaches were reconstructed and sealed.

RLR 27 Burrawantie Road

Expenditure: \$20,000.00

New guardrail was installed to the approaches of the Irrara Creek Bridge.

RLR 4 Bundy Road

Expenditure: \$95,084.89

Approximately 40km of formation grading was completed on this project.

RLR 3 Twin Rivers Road

Expenditure: \$99,114.08

Approximately 60km of formation grading was completed on this project.

Town Streets Reseals & Stabilisation

Expenditure: \$133,370.38

Reseals were completed in Tudor Street, Sturt Street, Meek Street, Glen Street, Wilson Street and Renshaw Street

Short Street Lime Stabilisation

Expenditure: \$46,100.06

Lime Stabilisation and Primer Seal was completed in Short Street.

State Roads

Sealed Road: 357 km

Unsealed: Nil

RMCC Routine Budget: \$548,000.00

Expenditure: \$567,156.26

Routine activities carried out were pot hole patching, edge patching, sign & guide post maintenance, correct surface shape, shoulder grading, rest areas and rubbish removal, ground vegetation control, repair wearing surface, grid repairs and restoration of stock pile sites.

RMCC Works Orders

Funding Received: Approximately \$5, 220,730.20

Estimated Expenditure: \$4, 750,607.87



Heavy Patching Program

Council received approximately \$5, 220,730.20 in works orders for the financial year including accruals of approximately \$1, 800,000.00 for works completed during the months of July and August.

Major works included 37.38 km of resealing, 12.89 km of shoulder widening, Heavy Patching and the stage 1 construction to the Beemery Bridge Approaches Project.



Beemery Bridge Approaches HW 29 Kamilaroi Highway



Shoulder Widening MR 421 Kidman Way

PLANT ACTIVITIES IN ENGINEERING

Plant M&R

Budget: \$1,650,000.00

Expenditure: \$1,820,548.33

The over expenditure is a result of the rise in the works order income from RMCC works and extra storm and flood damage works that had to be completed this financial year. The over expenditure is offset by the increase in plant return and therefore Council does not experience any financial loss.

Small Plant Replacement Maintenance & Repair

Budget: \$35,000

Expenditure: \$44,392.00

Light Plant Replacement 2010/2011

Budget: \$180,000.00

Expenditure: \$179,031.00

Heavy Plant Replacement 2010/2011

Budget: \$585,000.00

Expenditure: \$539,656.00

Mitsubishi Fuso Dual cab Truck	\$46,483.00
Isuzu 400 NPR Tipper	\$58,611.00
John Deere tractor	\$83,003.00
Volvo Grader	\$284,807.00
Kubota Mower	\$24,001.00
Slasher D15 Delta Wing	\$42,750.00
Total	\$539,656.00

New John Deere Tractor



New Volvo Grader



New Kubota Mower



Mitsubishi Fuso

WATER AND WASTEWATER SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Water and sewerage supply services

To provide a cost effective Water and Wastewater service that meets customer service standards and complies with health and environmental regulations

Strategy

- Drought proof Bourke and North Bourke with the installation of pipeline from new bore site situated 13kms from North Bourke on the Fords Bridge Road. (Walkdens Bore)
- Treat bore water and deliver to the potable supply only (emergency only)
- Meet Australian drinking water guidelines (ADWG) standards where possible and practical
- Meet best practice guidelines set out by NSW Office of Water
- Explore cost saving measures to reduce council expenditure
- Reduce shire water demand with implementation of water wise education activities
- Introduce fluoride to Bourke's water supply
- Renew and maintain Bourke's aging water assets



Above: Walkdens Bore – Bourke's New Emergency Supply

Progress -100% Government funding of \$550,000 was approved for the bore drilling and ongoing works (breakdown of expenditure below)

- Artesian bore has been drilled \$149,000
- 8kms of Pipeline has been ordered \$150,000
- REF (regional environmental factors) study \$30,000 initiated
- Public works – concept design \$30,000

- Continue to investigate cost effective methods to meet EPA licence standards and reduce load base licence fees at the sewerage treatment plant where practical.
- Refurbish / replace Council's two main sewerage pumping stations.
- Maintain a sewerage manhole lid replacement program.
- Continue to replace all troublesome sewerage boundary traps.
- Comply with key customer service performance requirements



New connections water & sewerage – Becker Street, Bourke

- Best practice is implemented and the following are complete:-
 - IWCM (Integrated Water Cycle Management)
 - DMP (Demand Management Plan)
 - SBP (Strategic Business Plans)
 - DMP (Drought Management Plan)
 - LTWP (Liquid Trade Waste Policy)-part complete
- Bourke Shire Council has joined the save water program and are constantly updated with save water ideas and techniques
- Bourke Shire Council also are part of the water wise programs with opportunities for funding and water saving initiatives
- A structural investigation is currently being completed on how to repair or replace Council's two main sewerage pumping stations
- Fluoride plant was commissioned 18th May 2011 and introduced into the potable water supply on the 15th June 2011

Asset Improvement/ Replacement

- A new power switch board has been installed in the filtered water pump shed
- A new sewerage pump for Mertin Street has been installed
- A new sewerage rising main and pedestal has been installed at Mertin Street well
- A new raw water Magflo meter has been installed at the water treatment plant
- A new absorption pit has been installed at Fords Bridge septic tank
- A new absorption pit has been installed at the CWA Hall in Wanaaring
- New pumps installed at water treatment plant potable water shed
- New valves installed on backflow system and control valves at water treatment plant



New potable water flow valve at Water Treatment Plant

TOWN SERVICES SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Town Streets and Footpaths

- Resealing of various Town streets under the R2R (Roads to Recovery) Program completed
- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance on streets, footpaths and lanes completed
- Traffic facility improvement completed at Intersection of Mitchell and Tarcoon Streets
- Installation of two back lane gates completed
- Road signage improvement through Town



Parks, Gardens and Sporting Grounds

- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance completed
- Installation of an automatic Sprinkler system at Davidson Oval
- Foundation repairs and repainting of Central Park Rotunda completed
- Improvements (disabled toilet and secretary's Room) to Renshaw buildings completed



Council Buildings and Structures

- Repair work commenced on the Bourke Wharf. Grant received from NSW Waterways
- Major improvement and refurbishing of Bourke Medical Centre completed
- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance completed to Council Office and housing
- Specific repairs to Railway buildings funded by ARTC completed.
- Conversion of Railway flat to Meals on Wheels kitchen completed
- Deck repairs carried out on Old North Bourke Bridge



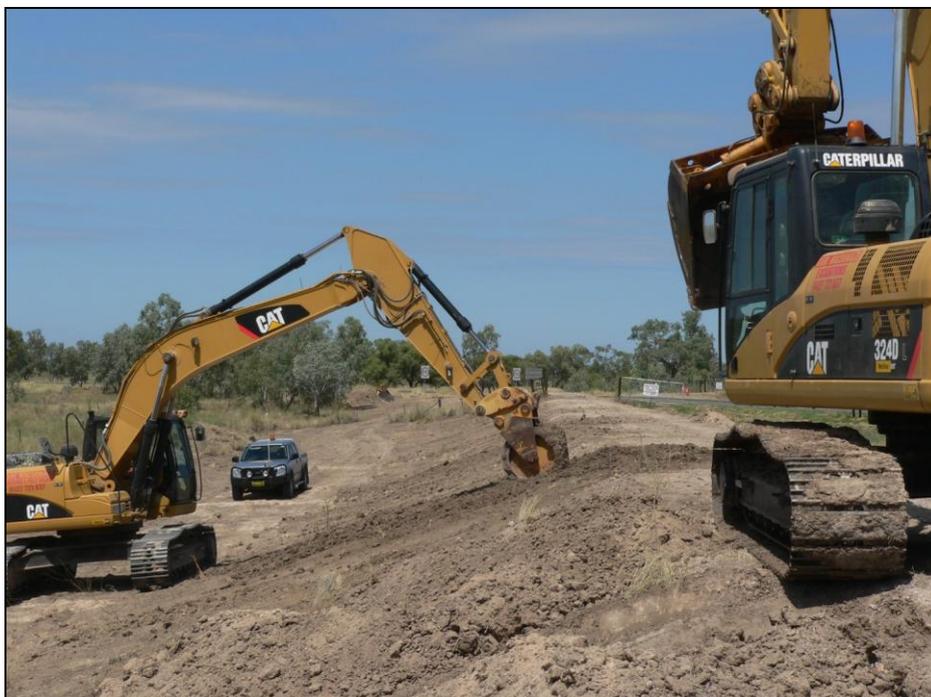
Airports

- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance on Bourke and Village airports completed
- Audit of Bourke Airport carried out by CASA with an extremely favourable report
- Provided Airport support and facilities for State Emergency Service during January 2011 Flood emergency
- Aircraft parking area extended at Wanaaring Airstrip
-



Storm Water Drainage and Flood Mitigation

- Restoration and repairs to Bourke Levee totalling \$601,000. Funding provided by State Government following damage from the 2009 storm
- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance on storm water system and levee bank completed



Village Amenities

- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance completed.
- Carried out major repairs to Louth Flood levee prior to January 2011 Flood
- Reseal completed on Wanaaring streets.
- Fords Bridge Cricket Pitch resurfaced and practice pitch installed
- Specific repairs to Enngonia Hall toilets



Emergency Management

- Local Emergency Management Officer coordinated quarterly LEMC meetings
- Administrative support to LEMC for Flood emergency January 2011
- Agency response to Flood emergency January 2011
- Town and Village Hazard Reduction works completed prior to summer bush fire season
- Airport Emergency Exercise carried out involving all emergency response agencies

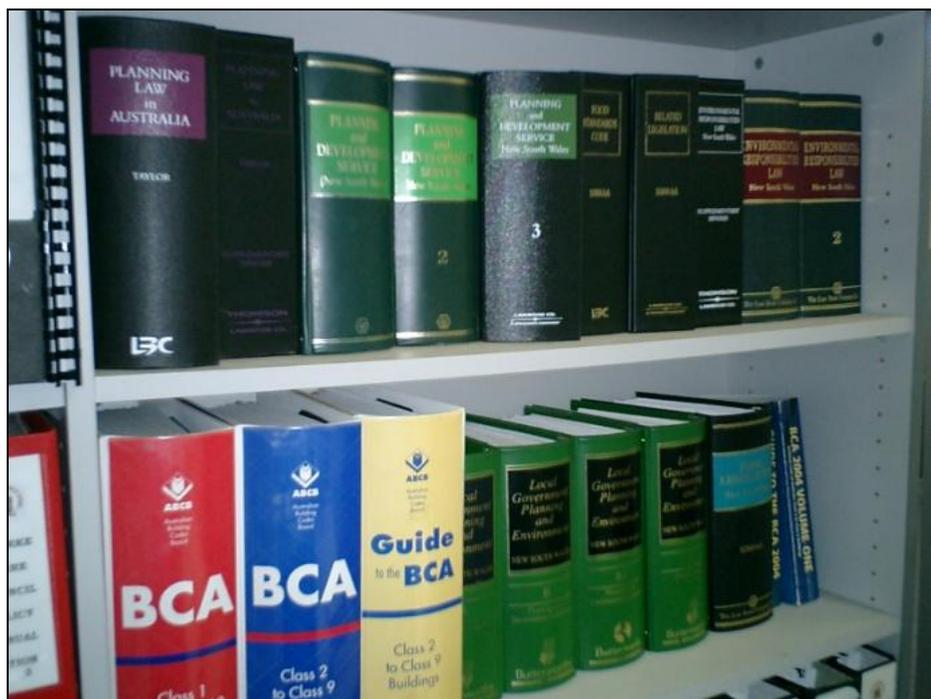


ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION

LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION

Council continued to adhere to its Land Use Planning and regulation instrument being the Bourke Local Environmental Plan 1998 in the reporting year.

A total of 45 Development applications were approved for 2010/11 which was a decrease from 58 in 2009/10. The total value of the Development Applications were \$8,569,516.00



Applications are assessed against all relevant Legislation

Council Officers continued to provide advice in relation to development matters and residents are invited to discuss any proposals with the Environmental Services Section at an early stage of project planning phase in order that any issues can be identified.

Council continued in its progress in the reporting year in updating the 1998 Bourke Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and developing a new LEP in line with the Standard Instrument.

Council have an agreed timeline with the Department of Planning for the new LEP to be completed by December 2011. In December 2007 Council were advised that a joint funding application by Bourke, Brewarrina and Central Darling Shires, to the Department of Planning was successful. This provided \$100,000 towards the preparation of individual LEP's and associated zoning maps for the three councils. This money was provided under the Planning Reform program, which is an initiative of the Department of Planning, funded by a levy collected on all development over \$50,000, to fund improvements to planning instruments.

Work is well underway on preparing the new LEP and further public consultation is planned prior to adoption of the new LEP.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Council continued its commitment to providing heritage services in the reporting period by funding the employment of a consultant heritage advisor. The Heritage Advisory Service along with Council's annual \$15,000 Local Heritage Fund is funded jointly by the NSW Heritage Office and Council.

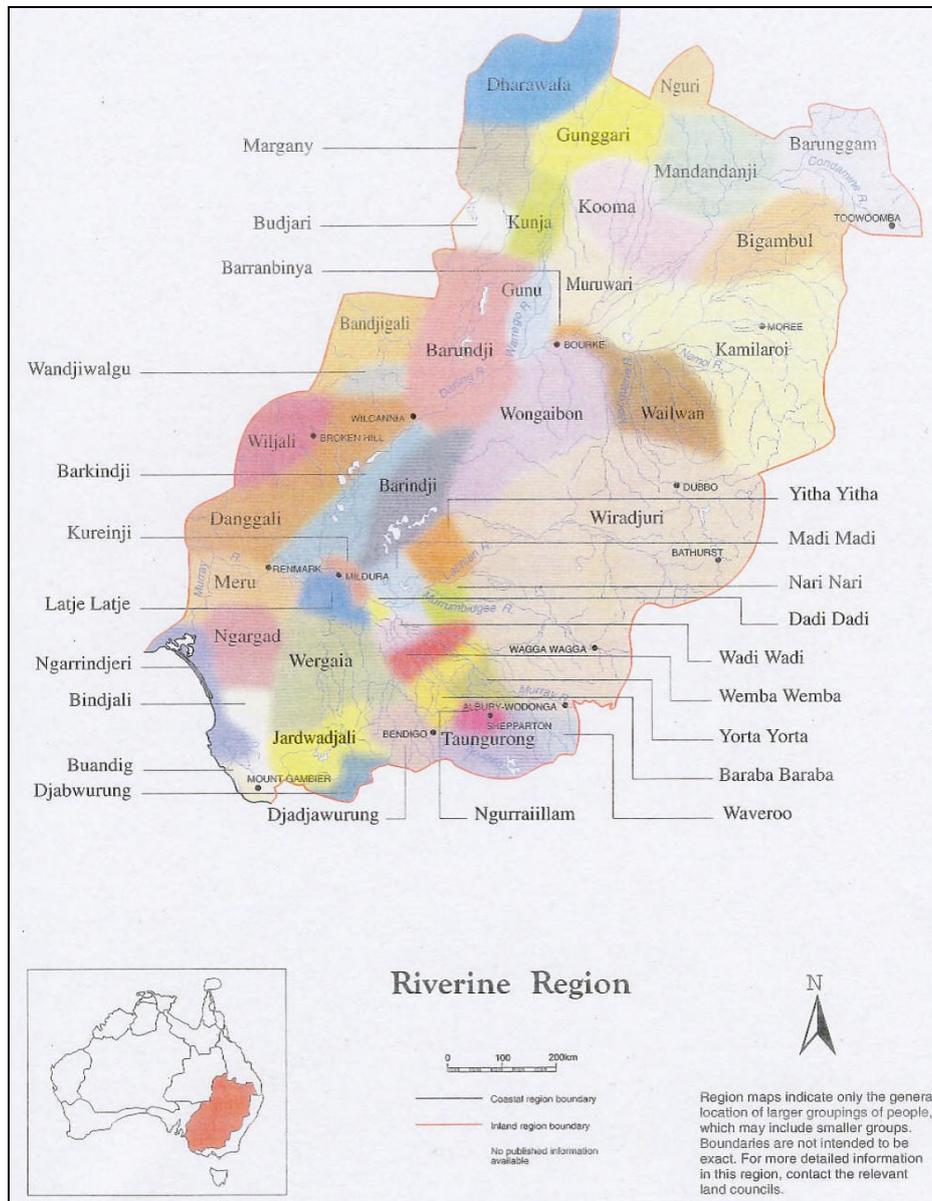
Council provides a Heritage Advisory Service to the community and residents are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Section for an appointment with the Heritage Advisor and advice in relation to funding opportunities.



The Shire contains many important Historic Buildings

A draft Aboriginal Heritage Study was submitted to the Heritage Office in January 2008. There is still some work to be completed on consultation with various stakeholders. There is also ongoing discussion regarding confidentiality as Aboriginal community members are concerned about site information appearing on websites and the like and require assurances as to how the Heritage Office will maintain confidentiality before site information is released.

The region is rich in Indigenous Heritage and Culture



RANGER SERVICES

Animal control continued to be the main focus in the provision of ranger services for the year. Of note was the further decrease in the number of animals impounded compared to 2009/2010.

Year	Animals Impounded
2008/09	162
2009/10	127
2010/11	76

It is important to note that staffing resources remained the same for the period so the decline cannot be attributed to a lack of patrols.

There has been a greater community participation rate in subsidised de-sexing of pets and responsible pet ownership clinics provided by Council in conjunction with the RSPCA and Greater Western Area Health Service.



Community education in relation to responsible pet ownership and animal health is a regular Shire activity

A stronger focus has also been placed on greater liaison and more positive relationships with the community particularly in relation to assisting in capturing stray animals, surrendering of unwanted pups and education programs.

Publicity program for responsible pet ownership has been instigated.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council continued its waste management operations successfully for the period. The operation continues to be structured on a cost recovery basis, as provided for under the reasonable waste charges of the *Local Government Act 1993*.



Local Waste Depots are being upgraded to contemporary standards

Significant achievements for the 2010/2011 year were the grinding of greenwaste to provide garden mulch and the continuation of the preparation of Management Plans for all Waste Depots.



Village landfill sites are being progressively upgraded with fencing and signage

The Recovery Shop has gained much community acceptance and appreciation and importantly diverts waste from landfill to encourage re-use. Goods are selected and diverted by staff and re-sold through the shop at a minimal price. Work is in progress to further expand recycle activities to include concrete.

Garbage collection services have been undertaken in Bourke and North Bourke on a weekly basis spread over the working week. The smaller villages are served by Waste disposal facilities.

Income derived from the Recovery Shop assists in reducing Waste Management costs.



The Recovery Shop removes unwanted items from the landfill

Council continues to separate scrap metal from the waste stream and sells the metal for recycling. During the reporting period approximately 300 tons of steel was recovered.



Council receives income from scrap metal and this income is spent on local amenities

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Routine water sampling continued throughout the year for sampling and testing to ensure Council's potable water supply meets the NSW Health and *Australian Water Quality Guidelines*.

Samples were collected weekly and sent to the Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL) in Sydney for micro-biological analysis. Chemical samples were also collected monthly as required and analysed by DAL. Non compliant samples were acted upon. Routine water sampling of the untreated non-potable village water supplies as recommended by NSW Health was undertaken and analysed by DAL.

Council also assisted the Department of Water and Energy in collecting raw river samples and sending to Hunter Laboratories for analysis, for monitoring and control of Blue Green Algae under the *River Watch* scheme.

Council continues to apply its On Site Sewerage Management Policy with all new applications for on-site sewerage management systems requiring applications, assessment and approval under relevant guidelines and legislation. Council has a register of systems, and will shortly commence routine inspections of existing systems, as outlined in the policy on a risk priority basis.

CEMETERIES ADMINISTRATION

Grave location queries are now mapped and as a result the many visitors that pass through the Cemetery wishing to visit the graves of relatives or friends can obtain a colour map of the area with the grave clearly marked.

There were a total of 29 burials for the reporting period.



The cemetery is maintained by Council

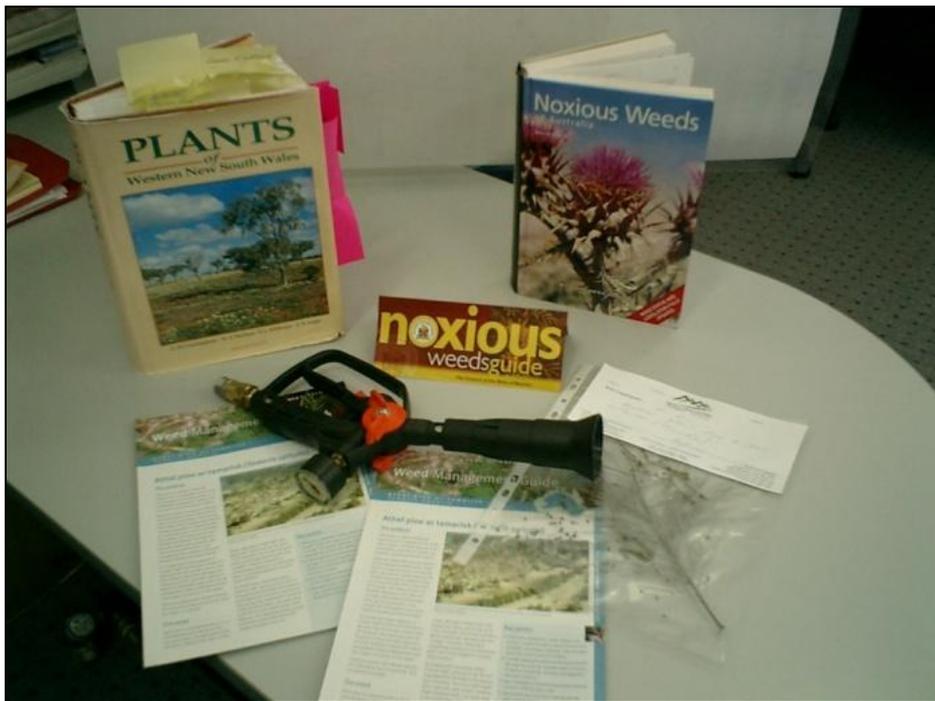
Recent aerial photography has also greatly assisted in future planning of rows. Council Management are also considering the installation of a lawn cemetery. This proposal will be presented to Council in the future.



Air photography assists in planning our cemetery

NOXIOUS WEEDS MANAGEMENT

Council continued its progress in ensuring it meets its responsibilities in noxious weeds management. Existing Weed Management Plans were reviewed and adopted at a regional level and several new Weed Management Plans were adopted to address new emergences.



Council provides a Weed Control Advisory Service

Regular inspections were conducted of Council owned/controlled property to ensure the obligations under Noxious Weeds Act are met. Regular property inspections were also undertaken to provide advice to land owners with respect to noxious weed control.



Council maintains equipment used in weed control activities

During the reporting period Council's Senior Weeds Officer attended to over 130 rural property inspections. Over 570 hours have been spent on spraying activities within the Shire.

During the reporting period special attention has been given to the control of Pistia Stratiotes (Water Lettuce) in the Warrego and Paroo Rivers.



Water Lettuce has escaped the Weir Pool at Cunnamulla in abundance during the recent floods. The potential for Water Lettuce to infest the local river system is quite possible.

Water Lettuce is a free-floating aquatic plant. Once established, it has the potential to quickly spread and form a dense mat, which can cover an entire body of water, rivers, wetlands, lakes and slow moving streams are most at risk from this weed.

BOURKE SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX

The pool remains a popular recreation facility in the Shire.

During the reporting period work has started on planning for a replacement of the toilets and change rooms at the pool.

Water quality remains high at the pool with no complaints during the season.

Regular hourly testing and analysis is undertaken on site and routine samples are also sent to an independent laboratory to confirm the onsite data.

FOOD PREMISES

Bourke Shire is an active member of the Western Region Food Group which comprises Western Councils and the NSW Food Authority.

The group enables Council staff to keep abreast of new Legislation and provides a forum for food related issues to be discussed. Food premises are regularly inspected to ensure compliance with relevant Legislation.

Follow up inspections occur where required and complaints are actioned. Council also purchased an interactive on line food safety training course which is available to food shop operators. Food shops have accessed this tool free of charge on Council's website and have found it most useful in educating food handler staff on the basics in preparing and selling safe food.

CROWN AND PUBLIC LAND

Council continues in the challenge of the administration and management of the many parcels of Crown Land within the Shire. It strives to ensure all Public Land under Council control is managed in accordance with the Crown Lands Act and the Local Government Act 1993.



Management Plans will include planning for future requirements

A register of all land is maintained and this assists with planning for future requirements.

Work has commenced with the preparation of an Open Space Strategy for the Shire to ensure that appropriate open space and sporting facilities are provided and maintained to meet future needs.

Work on the preparation of Management Plans for all public land under Council control is well under way.



A Management Plan for the Fishing Reserve is underway

OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period the following other activities have been undertaken by the Environmental Services Section:

- Assisting Brewarrina Shire Council with Development Approvals which has subsidised Council's budget and reduced costs.
- Participation in the Community Animal Welfare Scheme (CAWS) program which provides financial assistance with animal de-sexing and health.
- Participation in the Murdi Paaki Dog health program.
- Active role in NSW Food Authority activities and training to maintain food standards.
- Participation in Planet Arc tree planting day.
- Clean up of the Adams Street area to remove rubbish and plant trees.
- Participation in the NSW Health Arbovirus program which monitors Mosquito activity and control activities.

