



BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL
2014/2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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

“If you know Bourke, you know Australia”

This page is left intentionally blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| MAYOR'S MESSAGE | 4 |
| GENERAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD | 5 |
| STATEMENT OF VALUES | 13 |
| BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL STATISTICAL INFORMATION | 14 |
| COUNCILLORS | 15 |
| COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE..... | 16 |
| STATUTORY INFORMATION | 17 |
| PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES..... | 25 |
| TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT..... | 26 |
| CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION..... | 28 |
| ROADS SECTION OF ENGINEERING..... | 35 |
| WATER AND WASTEWATER SECTION OF ENGINEERING..... | 41 |
| TOWN SERVICES SECTION OF ENGINEERING..... | 44 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT | 48 |
| Councils Financial Report & Auditors Report..... | Appendix 1 |
| Councillors Expenses and Provisions of Facilities Policy..... | Appendix 2 |

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It is again with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for Bourke Shire Council for the 2014-2015 year. The report highlights the achievements of Bourke Shire over the past 12 months across a range of initiatives and on behalf of the community.

These highlights include the further development of the Walkden's Bore project, a long term commitment to improve the drought preparedness of the town and the ongoing Bridge replacement program which will mean that in the 2015-2016 year Bourke Shire Council will replace the last of its timber bridges.

Also of note is the continued success of the North Bourke residential project which saw Bourke Shire Council undertake to develop 16 blocks of residential land to be offered for sale. These works are all but completed with strong interest in the purchase of these blocks. Bourke Shire Council also assisted very closely in the organisation of the Back to Bourke Reunion held over Easter 2015 with several thousand people attending the many events.

Works to the fire damaged grandstand were undertaken along with the finalisation of the renewal of the Mertin Street sewer well. Council staff have also undertaken the project management of the new Pre School building to replace the building damaged by fire in 2012.

I would also note the improved financial performance of Council highlighted in the recent audit report along with improvements to our asset management and cash reserves.

Councillors and staff continue to work with the State Government through the Fit for the Future reform process and is an active member of the Far West Initiative Advisory Group. It is clear that the State Government is driving an agenda of change but it is not clear at present where this reform may lead small rural Council's.

I will continue to represent the residents of the Bourke Shire at all levels of Government and in forums hosted by Government Departments. Bourke Shire Council is also often represented at community forums, in various advisory groups and in the non-Government sector.

Thank you to all staff of Bourke Shire Council for the work you have undertaken throughout the year.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman and fellow Councillors who continue to give up a considerable amount of time in maintaining the governance of Council and working for the betterment of the Bourke Shire area.

Andrew Lewis
Mayor, Bourke Shire Council

GENERAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

The production of this Annual Report is not only a statutory requirement but also provides the opportunity for Council to detail to the community the achievements of Council over the past twelve months and forms a very important part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting process.

I am pleased to say that 2014/2015 has seen a further improvement in Councils overall financial position which is reflected in Councils Audited Financial Reports which forms part of this Annual Report.

Like all Council's Bourke Shire Council faces the ongoing issue of trying to provide the level of resources expected by the community and at the same time seeing their income raising capacity restricted and the ongoing cost shifting by the other tiers of Government.

Council is fortunate that the level of assistance offered by many within our communities assists greatly in defraying costs in a number of areas and in particular this relates to the work done by the village communities in the maintenance of the facilities in these locations. With Bourke having an area roughly the same size of Denmark it would be impossible to maintain the level of service in many parts of the shire without this assistance. On behalf of Council I would like to express my appreciation to all those who help in varying capacities.

The maintenance of the Road network continues to be a priority and with additional funding being made available from the Roads to recovery it is hoped that sufficient progress can be made in this regard. The large road length for which Council are responsible provides Council with a significant challenge. The completion of the Cuttaburra No.2 Bridge during the year means that Council has only three (3) timber bridges to replace and these will be undertaken during the 2015/2016 year and their construction will see the finalisation of a long term and effective strategy of which the current Council and previous Councils should be proud.

The past year saw a continuation of Council's plant replacement programme with a new street sweeper and prime mover being among the purchases. A modern and reliable plant fleet is an essential component of Council's ability to provide the optimum level of service.

Council has undertaken some major works in relation to both the water and sewerage systems with the work on the refurbishment of the Mertin Street well commencing and scheduled for commissioning in October 2015. This work follows the extensive refurbishment of Warraweena Well in 2012. The Work on the Walkden's Bore project has continued with all the pipe work now completed and the design of the remaining work having been undertaken by New South Wales Public Works. This work is scheduled to be completed in early 2016 which will see the ability of Bourke to be able cope with a period of extended drought.

Work on the completion of the New Pre-School building at the old Golf Club precinct was well advanced and the building should be ready for occupation in late 2015. The building was required following the destruction of the previous building by fire.

Council continues to look at the issue of waste disposal within the shire and the ability of a sustainable recycling service to be re-established however, the economics have made it unviable at this stage. However, the proposed re-introduction of the container deposit scheme may assist in this regard.

One of the priorities for Council is to access its share of available grant funding and ongoing efforts are being made in this regard with external resources being utilised to help ensure that all applications are of a high standard recognising that in most instances there is significant competition for the available grants.

One of the roles Council plays in the community is that of an advocate and Council has been very active in this regard with a strong focus over the past twelve months on ensuring that the provision of health services within Bourke is not eroded and where possible improved. Bourke Shire Council was a strong supporter of the Back to Bourke Reunion held over the Easter weekend and I would like to congratulate the organising committee and all those who assisted in any way for a job well done.

Local Government is undergoing a period of extensive review which is likely to lead to a significant change across the state with the amalgamation of Councils likely to happen before the election of Councils scheduled for September 2016.

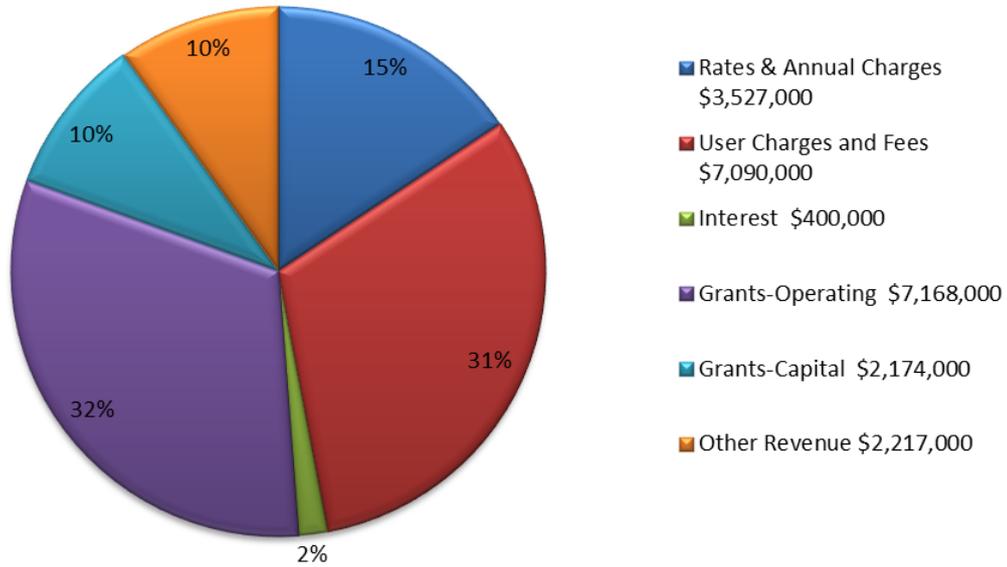
Bourke Shire Council along with Brewarrina, Walgett, Central Darling, Wentworth, Balranald Cobar and Broken Hill council will form part of the Far West Initiative (FWI), aimed at both improved governance and service delivery in the region and have been exempt from much of the process to date.

The concept of the Far West Initiative is still to be formulated; however, Council is actively monitoring all developments and will be an active participant in the development of any new model.

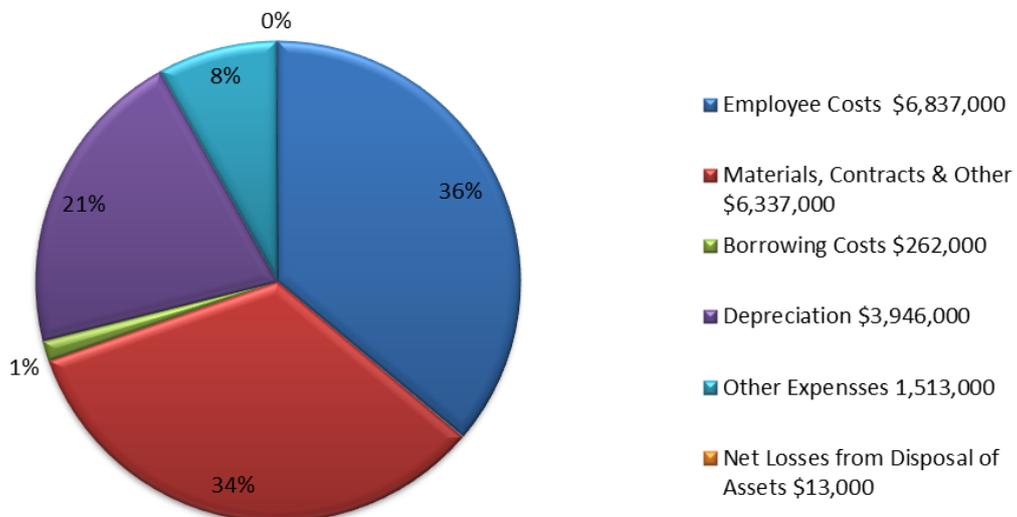
I would like to thank all staff across the organisation for their efforts in delivering the outcomes for the community and the support and assistance of Councillors in providing their vision, direction and commitment to the future of the community

Ross Earl
General Manager

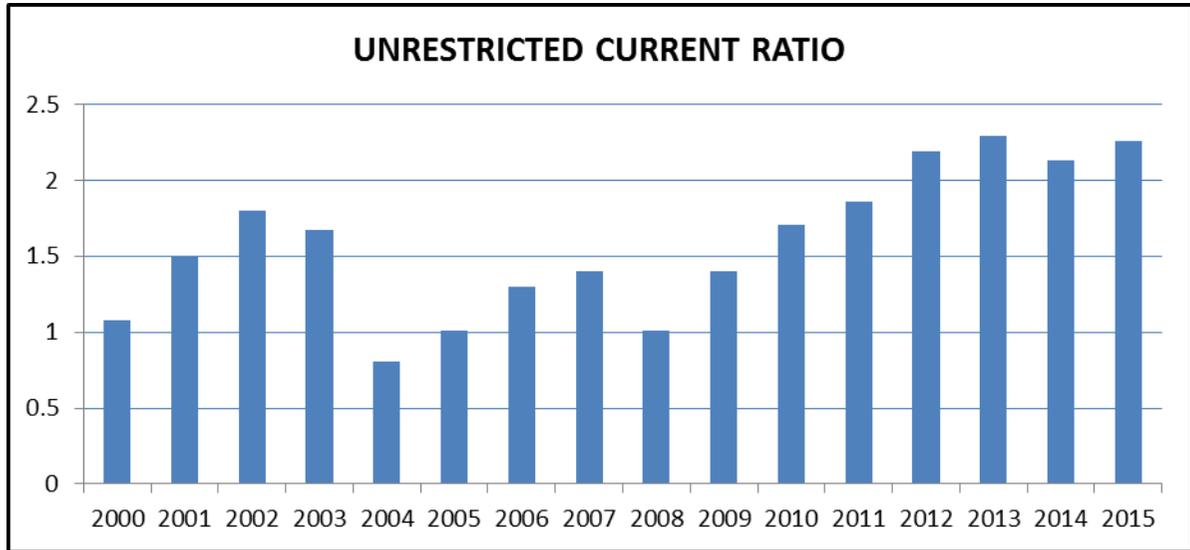
**2014-2015 REVENUE
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Revenue -\$22,576,000**



**2014-2015 EXPENSES
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Expenses \$18,908,000**

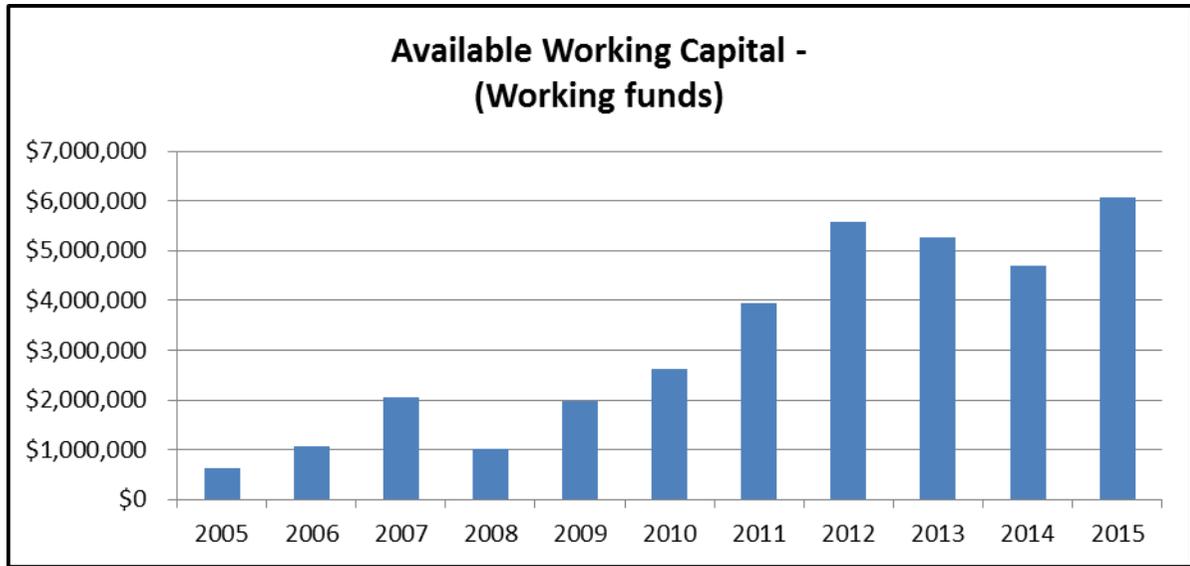


FINANCIAL INDICATOR TRENDS OVER 15 YEAR PERIOD



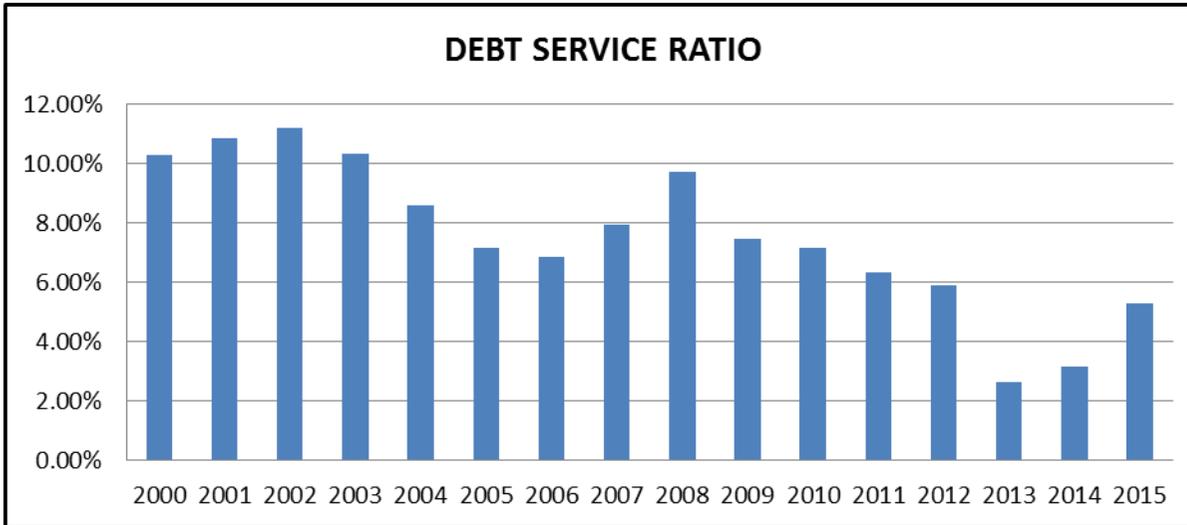
Unrestricted Current Ratio:
 The Unrestricted Current Ratio is a financial indicator specific to Local Government and represents Council's ability to meet its debts and obligations as they fall due. Its purpose is to assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities

Acceptable Measures for Unrestricted Current Ratio:
 Less than
 1:1 = **RED** Remedial action required
 1:1 to 2:1 = **AMBER** Must monitor trend closely
 Over 2:1 = **GREEN** Acceptable
 Over 10:1 = **RED** Remedial action required
 Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Over 2.0:1

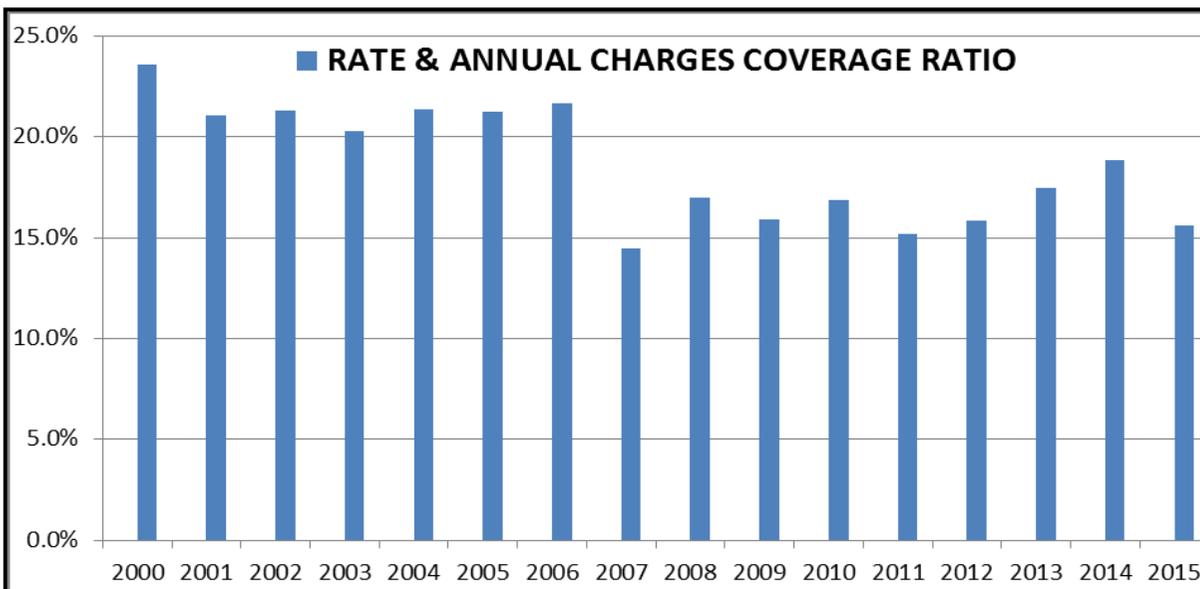


Available Working Capital – (Working Funds)

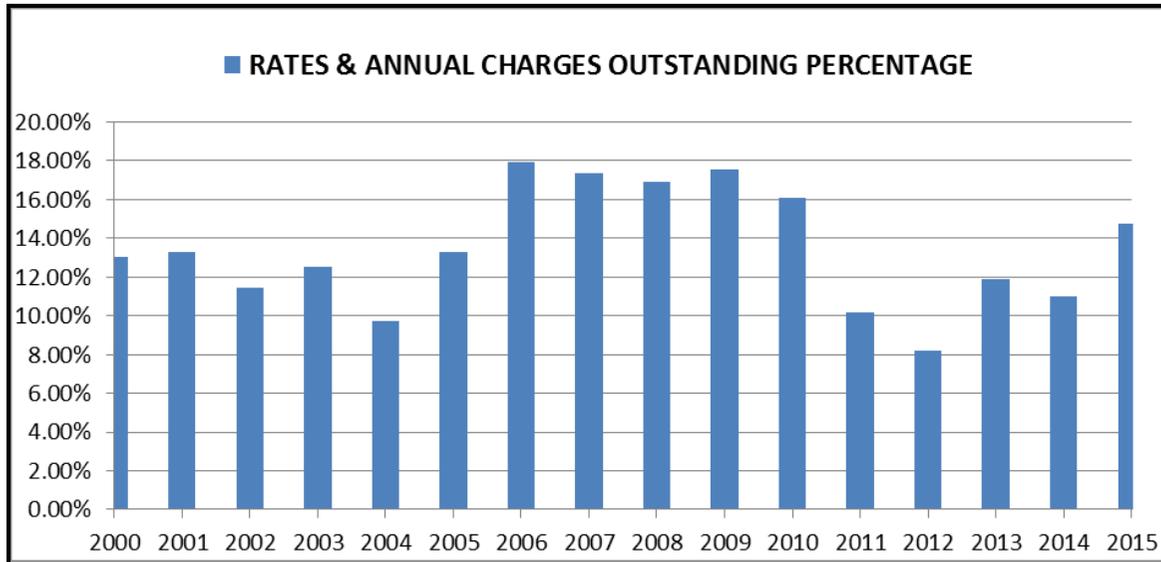
- The Available Working Capital is a more meaningful financial indicator specific to Local Government.
- Net Current Assets are adjusted by eliminating both external and internal reserves held for future purposes.



Purpose of Debt Service Ratio The purpose of the Debt Service Ratio is to assess the impact of loan principal & interest repayments on the discretionary revenue of Council.



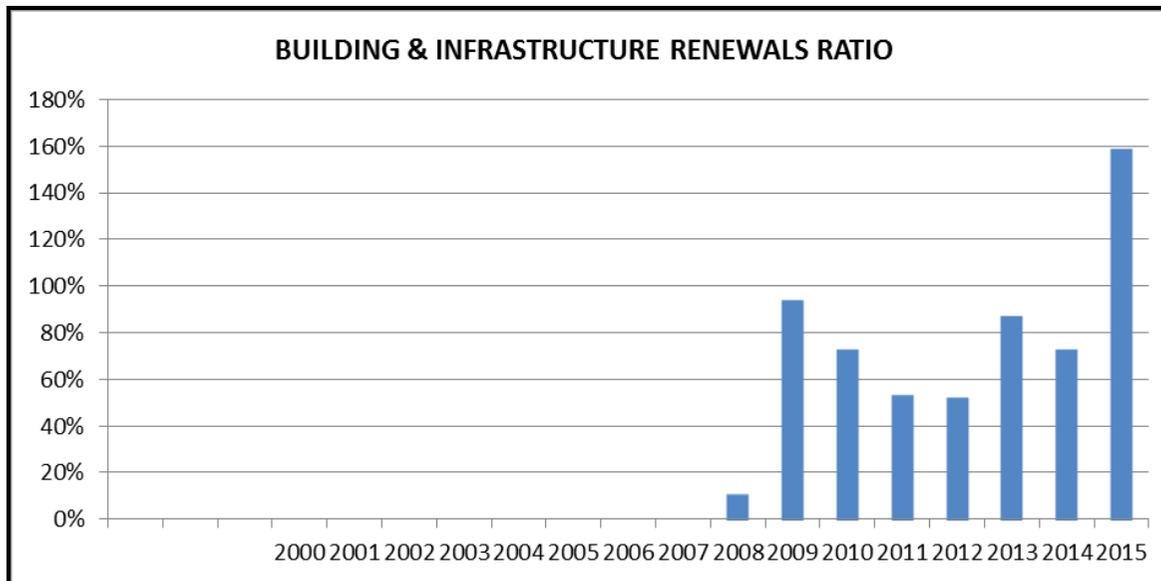
Rates & Annual Charges Coverage Ratio The purpose of the Rates & Annual Charges Coverage Ratio is to assess the degree of Council's dependence upon revenue from rates and annual charges and to assess the security of Council's income.



Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio

The purpose of the Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio is to assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

Target for Bourke Shire Council: Less than 9%



Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio

The purpose of the Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio is to assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.

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

**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

Everyone who deals with Council or works in Council has the right to expect that Councillors and Council staff will make decisions based on consistent and high ethical standards in line with the principles of Council's Code of Conduct:-

- Openness
- Honesty
- Respect
- Accountability
- Objectivity
- Leadership
- Selflessness
- Integrity

To realise our Strategic Directions for the next 10 years, all Councillors, staff and agents of Council will act in a manner which:-

- Provides sound civic leadership to the communities in Bourke Shire
- Continually strives for improvement in every aspect of Council's activities
- Focuses on our customers
- Protects and enhances the environment for future generations
- Recognises initiative
- Is fair, equitable and does not discriminate.

BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL STATISTICAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Population: | 2868 (September 2011) |
| Area: | 43,116sq km |
| Address: | PO Box 21 |
| Postal Address: | 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: | 81 |
| Salaries & Wages: | \$5,553,436 |
| Income: | \$20M |
| Rate Income: | \$3.86M |
| Rate in Dollar | Town 2.80 cents per dollar of land value Village 5.92 cents per dollar of land value Rural .83 cents per dollar of land value |
| Total Operating Expenditure | \$22M |
| Land Valuation: | \$153,954,730 |
| Rates Assessments: | 1,741 |

COUNCILLORS

Councillors

Since the September 2012 Council elections, Council has comprised of:-

- Cr Andrew Lewis (Mayor)
- Cr Barry Hollman (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Cecil Dorrington
- Cr Jack Bennett
- Cr Lachlan Ford
- Cr Robert Stutsel
- Cr Sally Davis
- Cr Sarah Barton
- Cr Stuart Johnston
- Cr Victor Bartley

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.

Council Meetings and 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 asked 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 at 9.00am. Any changes to this schedule are advertised in the Western Herald, broadcast on Radio Station 2WEB and will be advertised on Council's website.

Committees

Council has the following standing Committees:-

- Corporate Planning Committee
- Roads and Plant Committee
- Town and Villages Committee
- Tourism and Economic Development Committee
- Traffic Committee
- Aboriginal Community Consultative and Advisory Committee

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

COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| GENERAL MANAGER ROSS EARL | MANAGEMENT TEAM | |
| | MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES Dwayne Willoughby | |
| | Development Assessment Officer | Environmental Services Officer |
| | Environmental Coordinator | Ranger |
| | Environmental Operators x 2 (Cemetery) | Weeds Control Officer |
| | Environmental Operator (Garbage Truck Operator) | Building Services Operator (2) |
| | Environmental Operator (Waste Depot) | |
| | MANAGER OF ROADS Mark Gordon | |
| | Engineering Support Officer | Maintenance Relief Operators x 3 |
| | Roads Maintenance x 8 | Transport Services x 5 |
| | Bitumen Maintenance x 3 | Roads Assistant |
| | Workshop x 4 School Based Trainee X 2 | Roads Inspector (RTA SIMC) |
| | Works Supervisor | Depot/Store/Fleet Coordinator |
| | MANAGER OF WORKS Peter Brown | |
| | Town Services x 5 | Building Maintenance X 2 |
| | Services Technical Officer x 1 | Parks & Gardens x 4 |
| | Water & Wastewater Services x 5 | |
| | MANAGER OF TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT Phil Johnston | |
| | Coordinator Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre | |
| | Captain x 1 | Administration/Retail Assistant |
| | Deckhand x 1 | 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/Payroll | IT System Administrator IT Support Officer |
| | Rates & Water Billing Officer | Records Coordinator/Customer Service Officer x 1 |
| | Finance Officer /Creditors/Payroll | Customer Service Officer |
| | R&MS Officer | Admin/Finance Trainee x 1 (Vacant) |
| | Community & Governance Officer | Library Manager x 1 (PPT) |
| | WHS/Risk Inspection Officer | Library Assistants x 2 (PPT) |
| | Cleaner | |

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Audited Financial Reports LGA s428 (2)(a)

Bourke Shire Council has improved its financial position during the 2014/2015 financial year. Hill Rogers Spencer Steer of Sydney are Council's appointed Auditors. A full copy of the Financial Statements are included as an appendix (i) to this report and are available from Council's Office, Library or on the Webpage www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Performance against Plan LGA s428 (2)(b)

The "Principal Activity Section" within this Annual Report highlights the achievements in this area.

Condition of Public Works - LGA s428 (2)(d)

The Audited Financial Reports (Special Schedule No7, Condition of Public Works), contains the relevant information and is included in appendix (i).

Legal Proceedings - LGA s428 (2)(e) REG cl 217(1)(a3)

Rates and Charges

Council retains a debt recovery service to assist in 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 are detailed.

Legal Costs:

| Organisation | Status cl 217(1)(a3) | Amount cl 217(1)(a3) |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Booth Brown Samuels and Olney Payment of Creditor Account Review | Complete | \$962.50 |
| S R Law Debt Recovery | Ongoing | \$22,970.20 |
| Total | Total | \$23,932.70 |

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 appendix to this document.

**Councillors Expenditure -
Sec 428 2 (f), cl 217 (1)(a1)**

Council expended \$112,967.28 on Mayoral and Councillor Fees during 2014/15

The distribution was as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Mayoral Fees | \$24,025.92 |
| Councillors Fees | \$88,941.36 |

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 \$42,923.58. The breakup of this expenditure is as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Provision of dedicated office equipment to Councillors - cl217(1)(a1)(i) | \$195.14 |
| Telephone calls made by Councillors - cl217(1)(a1)(ii) | Nil |
| Attendance of Councillors at Conferences and seminars - cl217(1)(a1)(iii) | \$39,472.19 |
| Training of Councillors and provision of skills development - cl217(1)(a1)(iv) | Nil |
| Interstate visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket expenses - cl217(1)(a1)(v) | 3,256.25 |
| Overseas visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket expenses - cl217(1)(a1)(vi) | Nil |
| Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor - cl217(1)(a1)(vii) | Nil |
| Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a Councillor - cl217(1)(a1)(viii) | Nil |

**Overseas Visits -
REG cl 217 (1)(a)**

Councillors and staff were not involved in overseas travel on behalf of Council in 2014/15

Senior Staff

LGA s428 (2)(g), Sec 332 REG cl 217 (1)(c)

The General Manager is the only designated Senior Staff member as prescribed by Section 332 of the Act as at 30th June 2015. Council has a flat structure that includes five (5) Managers. The term 'Management' is used within Council and by the Councillors to describe the Management Executive, including these five (5) Managers and the General Manager.

Senior Staff Remuneration

REG cl 217 (1)(b)

During 2014/15 the total remuneration package of the General Manager was \$183,427.41.

This figure includes salary paid, fringe benefit tax expenses, private use of a Council motor vehicle, employer's superannuation contribution, housing subsidy and employees contribution to superannuation.

Contracts Awarded

REG cl 217 (2) (a)

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

| Name of Contractor | Nature of Good or Services Provided | Total amount payable under the contract |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Fulton Hogan Industries | Road Works | \$1,680,641.75 |
| A Ryan | Road Works | \$432,116.36 |
| Caltex | Fuel Purchase | \$679,596.49 |
| B Bowden Transport | Road Works | \$220,666.88 |
| Gilgandra Shire Council | Road Works | \$267,554.82 |
| NAK Graders | Road Works | \$164,489.77 |
| Karl McDonald Excavations | Road Works | \$175,625.00 |
| Boral Resources | Aggregate | \$229,163.83 |
| Murray Constructions | Bridge Building | \$425,823.64 |
| Lucas Engineering | Sewer Pump Station | \$1,147,305.85 |
| Darling Irrigation | Emergency Water Pipeline | \$486,852.55 |
| Rofra Pty Ltd | Construction - Bourke Pre School | \$681,586.92 |
| Thompson Truck Sales | Western Star Truck | \$245,466.12 |
| Rosmech Sales | Scarab Street Sweeper | \$314,242.27 |

Section 67 Work on Private Land LGA s67(3) cl 217(1)(a4)

No resolutions under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land were made and no works of this nature were carried out during 2014/15.

Contributions and Donations (S.356) REG 217 cl(1)(a5)

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993 was \$42,722.43.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Programs cl 217 (1)(a9)

LGA s428 (2)(n)

Council has a comprehensive EEO Management Plan, with some of the objectives from the plan 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 cl 217(1)(a6)

No external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council during this period.

Companies in Which Council has an Interest cl 217 (1)(a7)

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

Partnership, Cooperatives and Joint Ventures cl 217 (1)(a8)

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

- Barwon Darling Rural Fire Service (Brewarrina and Bourke Shires)
- Barwon Darling Water
- Inland Tourism Organisation
- Kamilaroi Highway Committee
- Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance
- Murray Darling Association
- Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)
- Outback Arts
- Regional Development Australia – Orana Region
- Local Government NSW
- Western Division Councils of NSW
- Outback Shires Alliance

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 | 30,360.17 | |
| Water – Pensioner | 11,090.64 | |
| Sewer - Pensioner | 9,340.63 | |
| Sub Total Gross Pensioner Concessions | 50,791.44 | |
| State Subsidy Refund to Council | 27,935.29 | |
| Net Loss to Council for Pensioner Rebate Concessions | | 22,856.15 |
| General Rates & Charges | | 5,595.72 |
| Total Rates & Charges Write Off | | 28,451.87 |

It should be noted that Council received a subsidy payment from the Division of Local Government for 55% of the pensioner write offs for the year. In 2014/15 the subsidy amounted to \$27,935.29.

Stormwater Management

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

- Maintained Stormwater Infrastructure
- Major repairs to flood damaged river outlet
- Effective Kerb and Gutter replacement

Council has previously undertaken loan funded works in relation to the improvement to stormwater infrastructure and part of the stormwater revenue is applied to loan repayments.

Council levies an Urban Drainage Charge which is applied to urban properties in Bourke.

A total of \$162,778.00 was to be levied and apportioned as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Maintenance | 27,441.00 |
| Capital | 60,000.00 |
| Loan Repayments | 75,337.00 |
| Total | 162,778.00 |

Council was successful in its application under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) and will have access to subsidised interest payments on loans to be raised. The funds will be utilised to undertake further stormwater remediation works.

Council drew down a \$500,000 loan to undertake a Stormwater Upgrade Strategy and implement the works required part of that Strategy. The Draft Strategy was completed in April 2015.

Geolyse has undertaken a review of the available information from previous assessments into the stormwater and flooding infrastructure in the township of Bourke.

Geolyse have now developed the draft report for both short and long-term strategies for stormwater upgrade works to be undertaken to make the most of the available funding and to provide an improved stormwater disposal system.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Council received no requests in 2014/15.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ACCESS APPLICATIONS (SCHEDULE 2)

| | Access granted in full | Access granted in part | Access refused in full | Information not held | Information already available | Refuse to deal with application | Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held | Application withdrawn |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Media | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Members of Parliament | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Private Sector business | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Not for profit organisations or community groups | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Members of the public (application by legal representative) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Members of the public (other) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

| | Access granted in full | Access granted in part | Access refused in full | Information not held | Information already available | Refuse to deal with application | Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held | Application withdrawn |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Personal Information applications* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Access applications (other than personal information applications) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly others | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

| Table C: Invalid applications | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Reason for Invalidity | No of applications |
| Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act) | 0 |
| Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act) | 0 |
| Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act) | 0 |
| Total number of invalid applications received | 0 |
| Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications | 0 |

| Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act | |
|--|--|
| | Number of times consideration used* |
| Overriding secrecy laws | 0 |
| Cabinet Information | 0 |
| Executive Council Information | 0 |
| Contempt | 0 |
| Legal professional privilege | 0 |
| Excluded information | 0 |
| Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety | 0 |
| Transport safety | 0 |
| Adoption | 0 |
| Care and protection of children | 0 |
| Ministerial code of conduct | 0 |
| Aboriginal and environmental heritage | 0 |

*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.

| Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to Section 14 of Act | |
|---|--|
| | Number of occasions when application not successful |
| Responsible and effective Government | 0 |
| Law enforcement and security | 0 |
| Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice | 0 |
| Business interest of agencies and other persons | 0 |
| Environment, culture, economy and general matters | 0 |
| Secrecy provisions | 0 |
| Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information | 0 |

| Table F: Timeliness | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| | Number of applications |
| Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions) | 0 |
| Decided after 35 days (by agreement with application) | 0 |
| Not decided within time (deemed refusal) | 0 |
| Total | 0 |

| Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome) | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | Decision Varied | Decision upheld | Total |
| Internal review | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Review by Information Commissioner* | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Review by ADT | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

| Table H: Applications for review under part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant) | |
|---|--|
| | Number of applications for review |
| Applications by access applicants | 0 |
| Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act) | 0 |

Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998

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

ICAC Statistics

Council had no formal request from ICAC, in the reporting year.

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 2014/2015 Operational 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

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

Visitation to the Tourist Centre has increased throughout the 2014/2015 financial year with this particularly notable with a strong visitor season in winter 2014 and a strong start to the season in 2015 with the Back to Bourke Reunion. Just over 35,000 visitors came through the Tourist Centre with many going on to enjoy other attractions in Bourke such as the Outback Show, Exhibition Centre, Jandra and Crossley Engine.

The Outback Show has again proved a hit with increased visitation noticed over winter 2015. Improvements were made to packaging and marketing.



The PV Jandra was again popular with visitors with increased numbers noticeable throughout winter 2015. Staff changes were a feature of the previous 12 months with a changeover in Captain for the 2015 season as well as a change to the deckhands. In 2015 we had a period of downtime as the electric drive on the starboard motor needed repairs which kept the Jandra from running for three (3) weeks. The overall maintenance of the Jandra remains good with an out of water survey now expected to be undertaken around Christmas 2016.

The Jandra remains an important part of the tourism package for Bourke and along with the Exhibition Centre provides an excellent basis for our packaging.

As mentioned earlier the Back to Bourke Reunion has been a strong feature of this financial year with the reunion committee hosting events such as the long table dinner, reunion ball, wool bale rolling, street parade and for the first time in over 20 years, a race meeting.

The images below shows the long table on the levee bank at the Exhibition Centre where over 300 people enjoyed the first major event of the reunion weekend. The bottom image shows the popular return of the wool bale rolling in Oxley Street.



Bourke Shire Council made a contribution of \$25,000 towards the various costs of the weekend as well as providing staff resources to assist with the organisation. Well over 3,000 people attended the race meeting on Easter Sunday with the weekend boosting economic output in the economy by over one (1) million dollars.

The Bourke Business Group ran another Christmas Promotion and held a Christmas Market Day activity. The Group continued to be active in developing the main street program and putting this proposal to Government for funding. While the application was not successful the group remain committed to the upgrade of the CBD and the promotion of the town.

Business activity throughout the year was generally lower with a continuation of dry times.

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 2015 at the Wal Mitchell Wharf Precinct, with Jon Dee the Australia Day Ambassador. A breakfast was held in conjunction with the Bourke Rotary Club and the recipients of the 2015 Australia Day Awards were as follows:-

- Sportsperson of the Year – David Pickard
- Young Sportsperson of the Year – Jaxson Tiffen
- Emergency Service Volunteer – Karen Keuning
- Community Service Through Employment – Helen Keane
- Citizen of the Year – Margo Grimes

Council continues to receive a high standard of nominations and this reflects the level of work by community members to enhance the facilities and services within the town.



Seniors Week

Seniors week celebrations were held from Sunday 15th March – Sunday 22nd March 2015 and what a great week it turned out to be.

It started with a BBQ luncheon on the 15th March provided by Lions Club and CWA at the Back O' Bourke Café.

Monday was the usual get together at Day-Care for games and morning tea and lunch and to sit around and catch up with friends.

Tuesday seniors were treated to “Young at Heart” Short Films Award and morning tea at Diggers on the Darling. Every year, Young at Heart, Australia’s Seniors Film Festival, recognises the best Australian short films starring actors aged 55 and over, through the ***‘It’s Your Call’ Short Film Awards***, presented by National Relay Service.

Wednesday was trivia morning and morning tea at the Bourke High School Multipurpose Centre which was provided by both the Bourke Garden Club and Bourke High School Hospitality Class

Thursday the seniors were provided with a beautiful luncheon and music with Mark Gordon at the local Bourke Bowling Club.

Friday the seniors were treated with a mystery tour of Bourke which included a visit to Nursery on Mertin enjoying a look around the nursery and morning tea, we then visited the local PCYC to show the seniors around, throw a few basketballs into the hoops, the last stop was a visit to Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and finished off with lunch at the Back O' Bourke Café.

Saturday was a scheduled rest day to recuperate from the weeks activities and prepare for the finale on the Sunday with Seniors Week finishing off with a BBQ luncheon at the Back O' Bourke Café provided by Rotary Club and Far West Red Cross.

The weeklong activities were enjoyed by all the seniors from Bourke and surrounding areas and the seniors are looking forward to the activities planned for 2016.

Bourke Shire Council has had long association with Seniors Week and it is certainly one that provides staff with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction.



Senior Citizen Activities 2015



ANZAC Day/Remembrance Day

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

Council is an active participant in both the ANZAC Day commemoration services and the Remembrance Days observance in Bourke. The Mayor has been invited to provide an address at both these important occasions and also lay a wreath in recognition of the sacrifices made by the ex-service personnel.

Recognition of Indigenous Servicemen

This year as part of NAICOC Week the Bourke Aboriginal Health Service held a Ceremony to mark the contribution of Indigenous Servicemen in the various conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

The theme for NAICOC Week in 2014 was *Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond*.

Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis gave the welcoming address with Cr Victor Bartley being heavily involved in the coordination of the event as an ex-serviceman himself.



Dawn Service 2015

Bourke Public Library

Circulation Statistics

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Audio Visual | 3415 |
| Adult Fiction | 3298 |
| Non-Fiction | 1359 |
| Junior Fiction | 2487 |
| Magazines | 1082 |
| Interlibrary Loans | 49 |
| Total Issues | 11690 |

Other Statistical Information

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| New Members | 111 |
| Internet/Word Processing | 1561 |
| Wireless Tickets | 84 |
| Number of Visitors | 28151 |
| Scans | 237 |
| Information Requests | 703 |
| Technical Assistance | 105 |
| Faxes | 155 |

2013-14 Circulations Figures

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Audio Visual | 3203 |
| Adult Fiction | 3740 |
| Non-Fiction | 1888 |
| Junior Fiction | 2517 |
| Magazines | 909 |
| Interlibrary Loans | 43 |
| Total Issues | 12300 |

2013-14 Other Statistical Information

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| New Members | 130 |
| Internet/Word Processing | 1304 |
| Wireless Tickets | 113 |
| Number of Visitors | 24197 |
| Scans | 163 |
| Information Requests | 349 |

Highlights for the Year

Children's Services

Centacare students have been visiting the Library throughout the year. In July, a group came for a tour of the Library and some library activities, and students have been attending regularly all year.

In July the Library Manager, Jodi Hatch attended Koinonia School to speak about the MS Read-a-Thon and encourage the students to participate.

In August the Library held a Reading Hour event, with stories, craft and a puppet show. We had 21 children attend, including children from Childcare. The event was a great success, with the puppet show proving very popular.

Children's craft and story time sessions were held monthly throughout the year. These sessions are always popular, and very much enjoyed by the children attending. An average of nine (9) children attended the sessions each month.

Summer Reading Club was held throughout the school holidays, with children reading books to win prizes.

In March the library started a Lego Club. We had five (5) children attend the first session as part of a Centacare program. The children had a great time, and more sessions are planned for the future.

Simultaneous story time was held in May. Staff member, Emma Beer visited the preschool and read the story to 25 pre-schoolers. This was very successful, and preschool have asked us to return for more story time and activities.

Programs and Services

In September the library had photos of Tooralé Station installed in two of our windows, on behalf of National Parks and Wildlife. The photos will remain on display from approximately twelve months. These displays have drawn much positive comment from the community.

The library participated in the Festival of a Thousand Stories during September, hosting two (2) writing workshops. We had a good attendance, and the workshops were very successful.

The Library Historical Officer, Cathy Simpson was interviewed by the ABC Radio in October, about the Bourke cemetery and some of those buried there. Cathy is kept very busy with family and local history research requests. During October there were 16 requests completed. Cathy is also scanning photos from the Bill Cameron Collection to ensure its preservation for future generations.

The library participated in the Tax Help Program again this year. This service has proved very popular, with the library offering three (3) appointments per week from July to October.

We held a murder mystery evening in the library in December. We had 35 people attend, and the evening was a great success. Registrations had to be closed early as all spaces were filled very quickly.

We have updated our magazine collection this year, adding some new titles to our collection and removing some older titles. This has resulted in an increased circulation of magazines.

In February the library celebrated Library Lovers Day, with our Blind Date with a Book display. We wrapped up a number of books and gave them each a description in the style of a personal advertisement. Borrowers could then read the description and select a book for a 'blind date'.

The library hosted a Readers' Advisory training session in March. Library staff from Bourke, Brewarrina and Cobar attended the session, learning how we can better meet the needs of our customers.

A display commemorating 100 years since the Gallipoli landings was shown in the library during April and May. The display featured a slideshow of local soldiers serving in World War I, war records and enlistment papers, newspaper clippings, replica posters and more. The display was very popular, with a number of people requesting copies of the slideshow and war records, particularly those whose relatives were featured in the slideshow.

Know Your Standards Week was held in June. The library had a display throughout the week, which was popular with customers and included a morning tea with games.

Throughout the year we have been building up our collections of audio visual material, including DVD's, in response to increased demand for these collections from our customers.

The library has been working to maintain ties with other libraries in the area to share resources, including talking books, which are very expensive. The library is able to bulk loan items from Broken Hill City Council and from the State Library to expand our collection at no cost. This is a great benefit to our customers.

Jodi Hatch
Library Manager

ROADS SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Regional Road Block Grant

Budget: \$1,666,587.00

Sealed Road – 109.59 km **Unsealed Road** – 461.02 km

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

Expenditure - General Maintenance on these roads: (\$1,212,878.87) this includes grading, clearing of table drains, grid maintenance, signage, bitumen patching, reformation, clearing mitre drains.

Expenditure - Reseals:

No Reseals completed under 10 year plan as Council required these funds for maintenance work which was deemed a greater priority.

Expenditure – Gravel Resheeting: (\$284,187.15)

Gravel resheeting was completed on MR 405 at the area known as Poison Point Plain and MR 404 in the Fords Bridge area. These projects were jointly funded with Roads to Recovery Projects.

Cuttaburra No 3 Creek Bridge Construction (MR 405 Bourke - Wanaaring)

Expenditure: (\$833,519.98)

This program was completed in June 2015 with the bridge construction undertaken by Murray Constructions of Deniliquin. Funding was provided under the Regional Road Repair program \$400,000.00 and Council's contribution of \$144,000 from the supplementary component and \$289,519.98 from the Roads Component of the Regional Road Block Grant.

The bridge is not opened as yet as it has been combined with this years' 2015/2016 Repair Program involving Cuttaburra NO 2 Bridge replacement. The two (2) bridges are to be built on a new alignment and cannot be opened until both bridges are constructed.



Construction of Cuttaburra NO 3 Creek Bridge



Cuttaburra NO 3 Bridge



Cuttaburra No 3 Bridge

RURAL LOCAL ROADS

Budget: \$899,019.00

Sealed: 11.29 km

Listed Roads: 48

Unsealed: 1,834.96

Expenditure: \$927,014.71

These figures provide for routine maintenance for, grading, signs, gravel resheeting, reseals and patching, grid and culvert repairs etc.

ROADS TO RECOVERY

Budget: \$845,889.40

Expenditure: \$1,003,273.67

Short Street Bourke sealing Shoulders

Expenditure: \$40,148.14

MR 404 Gravel Resheeting Dowling Track

Expenditure: \$151,861.62

Gravel resheeting completed around the Fords Bridge area.

MR 405 - Gravel Resheeting of Poison Point Plain

Expenditure: \$478,536.43

Gravel resheeting of 13 km's of road at poison Point Plain.

MR 404 Gravel Resheeting Dowling Track

Expenditure: \$221,629.00

Gravel resheeting completed at Kerribree.

Yambacoona St Bourke

Expenditure: \$21,028.41

Shoulder sealing completed.

Becker St Bourke

Expenditure: \$47,715.00

Sealing of shoulders completed.

Narran St North Bourke

Expenditure: \$21,805.07

Sealing of street completed.

Bogan St North Bourke

Expenditure: \$20,550.00

Sealing of street completed

STATE ROADS

Sealed Road: 357 km

Unsealed: Nil

RMCC Routine Budget: \$626,681.00

Expenditure: \$628,082.82

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.

The over expenditure was met by the Roads and Maritime Services.

RMCC Works Orders

Funding Received: Approximately \$7,000,000.00

Council received approximately \$7,000,000.00 in works orders for the financial year including accruals for works completed during the months of July and August.

Major works included 5.5 km of rehabilitation on the Mitchell Highway, and approximately 14 km of shoulder widening of the Mitchell Highway North and South of Enngonia.

PLANT M&R

Budget: \$2,000,000.00

Expenditure: \$2,059,633.3

Small Plant Replacement Maintenance & Repair

Budget: \$35,000

Expenditure: \$18,708.54

Light Plant Replacement 2014/2015

Budget: \$180,000.00

Expenditure: \$172,007

Heavy Plant Replacement 2014/2015

Budget: \$588,000.00

Expenditure: \$594,783.00

The over expenditure will be off-set by the sale of the old street sweeper which is to go to auction and will transfer to the 2015/2016 financial year.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Rosmech Street Sweeper | \$314,243.00 |
| Western Star Prime mover | \$223,422.00 |
| Isuzu 4x4 Crew Cab | \$57,118.00 |
| Total | \$594,783.00 |



Rosmech Street Sweeper



Western Star Prime Mover



Isuzu 4x4 Crew Cab

WATER AND WASTEWATER SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Aim

To provide a cost effective Water and Wastewater Service that meets customer service standards and complies with Health and Environmental Regulations

Strategy

- Continue membership of the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Association (LMWUA)
- Drought proof Bourke and North Bourke town water supplies by:-
 1. The installation of pipeline, from new bore site situated 13kms from North Bourke on the Fords Bridge Road. (Walkden's Bore).
 2. Continuing to seek funding for the raising of the Bourke Weir by an additional one (1) metre in height.
 3. Build a second weir above the current Bourke weir to help in the regulation of the existing weir pool.
- Meet all Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) standards where possible and practical
- Meet best practice guidelines set out by NSW DPI - Water
- Explore measures to reduce Council expenditure
- Reduce water demand with implementation of water wise education activities
- Upgrade Council's ageing Water and Sewerage Infrastructure
- Secure village water supplies and increase storage capacity



Drought –Bourke Weir - 5140ML- 42km Long when full

Progress -100% Government funding of \$550,000 has been previously approved for the bore drilling and ancillary works. Council received a further allocation of \$2,500,000 to provide for the completion of the Walkden's Bore Project.

- Artesian Bore has been drilled
- 20km of Pipeline has been installed form the Walkden's Bore to the Bourke Water plant.
- Continue to investigate cost effective methods to meet EPA Licence Standards
- Maintain a sewerage manhole lid replacement program
- Continue to replace all troublesome sewerage boundary traps
- Comply with key customer service performance requirements
- Renewal of Mertin Street pumping station complete.

Mertin Street Well 2015



- Best practice is implemented and the following are nearing completion:-
 - IWCM (Integrated Water Cycle Management)
 - DMP (Demand Management Plan)
 - SBP (Strategic Business Plans)
 - DMP (Drought Management Plan)
 - DWQMP (Drinking Water Quality Management Plan)
 - LTWP (Liquid Trade Waste Policy)
- Bourke Shire Council has participated in the Save Water Program and are constantly updated with save water ideas and techniques.

- Work is continuing with the project with finalization anticipated in the first quarter of 2016.
- Bourke Shire Council is also part of the Water Wise Programs with opportunities for funding and water saving initiatives

Asset Improvement/ Replacement

- Mertin Street Well refurbishment has been completed
- Raw water supply valve system being upgraded to monitor output
- Replacement of steel supports in the water plant clarifier
- Sludge lagoons have been de-sludged

TOWN SERVICES SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Town Streets and Footpaths

- Reconstruction and sealing of programmed street shoulder works completed
- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance on streets, footpaths and lanes completed
- Installation of back lane gates in line with adopted plan
- Installation of new trees on footpath



Parks, Gardens and Sporting Grounds

- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance undertaken
- Upgrade of Central park watering system undertaken
- Shade trees planted in strategic locations at Davidson Oval
- Parks and Gardens Management Plan reviewed



Airport

- Additional Airport Reporting Officer (ARO) trained
- Routine maintenance works undertaken
- Yearly technical electrical inspection completed
- Yearly technical structural inspection completed
- Yearly Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) survey completed
- Ongoing lobbying for the reintroduction of a passenger service for Bourke



Village Amenities

- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance undertaken
- Assistance provided by village communities
- New tractor and slasher supplied to Byrock



Slasher in operation

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

STATUTORY INFORMATION

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT S 428A(1)

With Changes to the reporting requirements under the Act, Bourke Shire Council participated in a joint venture producing a regional snapshot report of the State of the Environment which was coordinated by the Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services. This report covers the Local Government areas of Bourke, 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 Council's Office on 02 68308000, or from Council's website, www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Council participated in the joint report in the hope 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ASSESSMENT ACT 1979 (s93G.5)

The Bourke Local Environmental Plan was gazetted for Bourke Shire Council in January 2013. Council complied with the plan in the reporting period. Development and Planning issues are assessed in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and any other legislation that may be relevant to the particular development.

LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION

Council continued to adhere to its principal land use planning and regulation instruments in the reporting year, the Bourke Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Development applications approved for 2014/15 totalled 21, with Complying Developments applications approved for 2014/15 being 5. The total value of projects amounted to \$4,428,499.

Council in consultation with the Department of Planning prepared a Planning Proposal for changes to the current LEP. The Planning Proposal is to amend the Bourke LEP rectifying a number of anomalies as well as introducing some new zonings and provisions in line with the Bourke Shire Council land use strategy.

This strategy is a vital component for the future of sustainability of the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Council continued its commitment to providing Heritage Services in the reporting period, by funding the employment of Gary Stanley as Council's Heritage Advisor, to continue work in Heritage Services. The Heritage Advisory Service, along with Councils annual allocation of \$15,000 to the areas Local Heritage Fund is funded jointly by the NSW Heritage Office and Council.

Council continued to offer the Local Heritage Assistance Fund for residents to apply for funding of restoration and to undertake routine maintenance of older buildings, this is offered on a dollar for dollar basis with grants up to \$2000. Funding was applied for Council to undertake a main street project looking at the historical value of the business precinct, unfortunately, Council was unsuccessful in gaining funding to fund the project. Works were also undertaken with the state heritage inventory database, the database was updated to reflect all current locally and state listed items with current descriptions added to reflect current status.

RANGER SERVICES

Animal control continued to be the main focus in the provision of ranger services for the year. In 2014/15 Council spent \$149,225.00 on companion animal management related activities.

| Year | Animals Impounded |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2012/13 | 77 |
| 2013/14 | 143 |
| 2014/15 | 185 |

A strong focus in the financial year was 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 educating the broader community on responsible pet ownership. Council utilised local media resources to run education campaigns and provide general information in regards to companion animal ownership.

Council provides information flyers and pamphlets at Council Offices.

Lodgement of pound data and dog attacks was placed on the Office of Local Government database as per the Departments requirements. Council provides an off leash area for Companion animal owners situated at the Renshaw Showground Precinct.

Before destroying a seized or surrendered animal it is the duty of the Council to consider whether there is an alternative action to that of destroying the animal and (if practicable) to adopt any such alternative, information regarding any impounded animal is available at the main offices of Council for members of the public to access when required.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council continued its Waste Management (collection and disposal) operations for the reporting 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*.

Sound management practices, including the separation of some recyclable materials from the waste stream and sustained compaction techniques will increase the operational lifespan of the

waste disposal cell in regards to the forecasted lifespan in the environmental impact statement for the landfill. Village Waste Facilities were kept to a good standard, with regular clean-up of cells taking place, including removal of scrap metal from the cells at the various village waste facilities.

The 'Recovery Shop' continued to be operated at the Bourke Waste Depot and has gained significant community acceptance and appreciation and importantly diverts waste from landfill to reuse. Goods are selected and diverted by staff and re-sold through the shop at very reasonable prices. Council continue to separate scrap metal from the waste stream and sells the metal for recycling as part of the NetWaste Regional Contract.

Council also continued to promote its Village Scrap Metal Program, where village residents are being encouraged to separate steel from their general waste. Council then collects and sells the steel for recycling, with any money then allocated back to the village for community projects.

Council once again was a participant in the NetWaste group which is focused on collaborative approaches to waste and resource management, Council benefits significantly from being a part of the NetWaste group and were proactive in participating in regional contracts and education strategies through the group. Bourke Shire Council hosted one of the quarterly NetWaste group meetings with a large contingent of member Councils being represented, a number of Government agencies were represented at the meeting. Representatives from the EPA and Waste Aid attended and a presentation was made to showcase the Bourke Pilot program for discrete aboriginal communities and a tour was conducted of the Bourke Waste Depot in conjunction with the meeting for all delegates and considerable positive feedback was received from the attending delegates.

Bourke Shire Council became a member of the newly formed Bourke Waste Advisory Committee. This committee although in its early stages, will play a key role in working with the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal Communities to formulate a demonstration model to improve waste and recycling services, reduce and prevent litter, bulky waste and illegal dumping through a combination of community stewardship, education, sustainable infrastructure, strengthened partnerships and service agreements between the Council and other Government Departments. The project aims to achieve positive health, economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal Communities.

Council received funding through the "Waste Less Recycle More" Grants that are available from the EPA. Council funding will see all the village tips fenced and sign posted, the funding will also allow for the purchase of surveillance cameras to monitor the tips and also illegal dumping activities with the Bourke Local Government area.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – Administration, Inspection, Control

Routine water sampling and testing continued throughout the year, 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 microbiological analysis. Chemical samples were collected every 6 months and Fluoride Sampling was taken monthly to be 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. Village residents are reminded that it is a non-potable supply and should not be used for human

consumption. Council also assisted the NSW Office of Water in collecting raw river samples and sending to Hunter Laboratories for analysis, and for the 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 onsite 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.

Council staff has been proactive with its swimming pool barrier inspection program to meet Council's obligation under the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and *Swimming Pools Regulation 2008*, increasing pool safety awareness and to reduce infant drowning and near drowning events within the Bourke Shire Local Government Area. Council has also utilised local media outlets promoting safety for pools and the promotion of the NSW Swimming Pool Register.

CEMETERIES ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE

Grave location queries are mapped, and as a result visitors, who pass through Bourke, wishing to locate relatives or friends graves, receive a map of the area with the grave clearly marked. The Mud Map tours continue to be an integral part of the cemetery with tourist and visitors. The graves that are part of the mud map tour are clearly marked for the ease of people to find and learn about the vast and rich heritage of people who lay at rest at the Bourke Cemetery.

Maintenance of the cemetery was undertaken to keep the area in a clean and tidy state, roads and the watering system are continually upgraded. The beautification program has been implemented with the planting of new native trees, plants and flowers and the spraying of weeds and burrs is ongoing. Gardens beds have been installed at the entrance to the cemetery to enhance the visual appearance of the cemetery and a replacement program has been implemented to replace old damaged crosses with new ones. The new rose garden that was placed around the Niche wall area continues to thrive and has received some very positive comments.

The new interpretive entrance sign which was installed to help with visitors with directions and the layout of the Cemetery and comments are received on how easy it is to navigate around the Bourke Cemetery.

NOXIOUS WEEDS MANAGEMENT

Council continued to ensure it meets its responsibilities in noxious weeds management. Existing Weeds Management Plans were reviewed and adopted at a regional level. Regular inspections were conducted of Council owned/controlled property to ensure the obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act are met. Regular property inspections were also undertaken to provide advice to land owners with respect to noxious weeds control.

COUNCIL'S WAR MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX

The pool continues to present a financial challenge to Council, given its aging infrastructure, however, it is nevertheless one of the most important and most frequented facilities in the town, and Council is committed to its future. Water quality remains high at the pool, with no complaints received in this area. Regular daily and hourly testing and analysis is undertaken on site, and samples are also sent to an independent laboratory to confirm the onsite data.

Council has worked in conjunction with the pool contractor in implementing the guidelines for safe pool operations distributed by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia and Practice Note 15 Water Safety distributed by the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier of Cabinet. Continual improvements were undertaken throughout the year at the Pool complex to enhance the user's satisfaction.

This June saw the end of an era with the long-term contractors John and Tanya Milgate electing not to renew their contract after 11 years.

After going through a tender process Council has appointed new Pool Managers for the upcoming season.

FOOD PREMISES

Bourke Shire Council is an active member of the North West Region Food Group who meets regularly with the NSW Food Authority to discuss issues concerning food premises. Being part of the group enables Council staff to keep abreast with new legislation and procedures and provides Council staff with a good network of colleagues with whom food related issues can be discussed. Bourke Shire Council is a Category B Enforcement Agency in food safety. There were 26 food premises inspections undertaken.

Overall the standard of food premises in the Bourke Shire Council was generally good with an education based enforcement practice generally perceived to work well and get outcomes. The NSW Food Authority standard assessment inspection report books were used in food shop inspections, which provide a consistent approach throughout. These assessments are signed off by the proprietor and a copy provided to them at the end of the inspection, the details of which are discussed on site negating the need for additional letters to be sent out.

CROWN AND PUBLIC LAND

Council continues the challenge relating to the administration and management of the many parcels of Crown Land within the shire. It strives to ensure all Crown and Public Land under Council's control is managed in accordance with the Crown Lands Act and the Local Government Act 1993. A register of all land is maintained to assist with planning for future requirements. Council obtained funding through the Public Reserves Management Fund for the control of feral pests on Council managed reserves, the funding was used to buy trapping material so feral animals could be trapped decreasing numbers to limit impact on reserves, neighbouring property and townships.

COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Council continued with its ongoing maintenance programme on all Council owned buildings. Some of the significant improvements this year, has been the works undertaken on village halls upgrades and renovations to the internal layout of the Council's offices. Work has been undertaken to repair the fire damaged grandstand, this work included bringing the seating section up to meet current Australian Standards and refurbishment of the internal dressing shed areas.

The painting of the grandstand is also planned for the 2015/2016 Financial Year.



State of the Environment Snapshot 2014-15



A State of the Environment (SoE) Report is an important management tool which aims to provide the community and Local Council with information on the condition of the environment in the local area to assist in decision-making.

Since 2007, the Councils of the Greater Central West Region of NSW (see map) have joined to produce Regional SoE Reports as part of Council reporting requirements.

Recent changes to NSW legislation mean that Councils are no longer required to produce SoE Reports each year, but only once every four years, in the year of the Council election (which will next be in 2016). However, the participating Councils have decided to continue reporting on an annual basis so that they can provide a detailed Regional SoE report in 2016 that covers trends in the intervening years.

This is a brief snapshot of data for the Bourke Local Government Area in 2014-15 across a range of environmental indicators as shown in the tables below. The tables provide an understanding of trends by comparing this year's data with an average of previous years. The Council snapshot report should be read in conjunction with the 2014-15 Regional SoE snapshot report.

2014-15 Highlights

- ⬆ The area covered by mining and exploration titles declined significantly from last year.
- ⬆ There was a large increase in fish restocking activities: Native species.
- ⬆ Annual water consumption declined from last year.
- ⬆ There was an increase in the number of hours that environmental volunteers worked on public open space.
- ⬇ The amount of material recycled continued to decline.

Land

| Issue | Indicator | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Trend |
|----------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Contamination | Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ➡ |
| | Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | ⬇ |
| | Contaminated sites rehabilitated | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ⬇ |
| Erosion | Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ➡ |
| Land use planning and management | Number of development consents and building approvals | 26 | 32 | 20 | 27 | ⬇ |
| | Landuse conflict complaints | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ⬆ |
| | Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | ➡ |
| Minerals & Petroleum | Number of mining and exploration titles | | 36 | 77 | 75 | ⬇ |
| | Area covered by mining and petroleum exploration titles (ha) | | 320,000 | 235,000 | 189,000 | ⬆ |

⬆ improvement ➡ no or little change ⬇ worsening trend

Note - the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three years of reporting with 2014-15

Biodiversity

| Issue | Indicator | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Trend |
|---------------------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Habitat Loss | Total area protected under voluntary conservation agreements and property agreements (ha) | 19 | 19 | 19 | 448 | ↑ |
| | Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha) | 142,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | ↓ |
| | Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation | 5.6% | 5.6% | 5.6% | 5.6% | ↔ |
| | Habitat areas revegetated (ha) | 0 | 0 | 10 | 15 | ↑ |
| | Roadside vegetation management plan | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ↔ |
| Threatened Species | Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Fish restocking activities: native species | 0 | 100 | 5,000 | 21,438 | ↑ |
| Noxious weeds and feral animals | Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | ↑ |
| | Number of declared noxious weeds | 89 | 89 | 99 | 105 | ↓ |
| | Fish restocking activities: non-native species | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |

Towards Sustainability

| Issue | Indicator | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Trend |
|---|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Waste Generation | Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes) | 3,785 | 3,868 | 2,870 | 2,224 | ↓ |
| | Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes) | 685 | 725 | 320 | 370 | ↓ |
| | Average total waste generated per person (tonnes) | 1 | 2 | 1.06 | 0.87 | ↓ |
| | Average cost of waste service per residential household | \$235 | \$227 | \$265 | \$265 | ↓ |
| Hazardous/Liquid Waste | Farm chemical drums collected through DrumMaster collections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 883 | ↓ |
| Reduce | Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes) | 1,300 | 1,786 | 980 | 491 | ↓ |
| | E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes) | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 | ↓ |
| Recycle | Amount of material recycled (tonnes) | 138 | 140 | 9 | 0.3 | ↓ |
| | Amount of material recycled per person (kg) | 45 | 46 | 3 | 0.1 | ↓ |
| Littering and illegal dumping | Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council | 34 | 41 | 34 | 21 | ↓ |
| Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works | New road construction (km) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Road upgrades (km) | 50 | 33 | 10 | 101 | ↓ |
| Risk Management | Increase in area covered by flood management plans/flood mapping | | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Hazard reduction burns | 5 | 15 | 50 | 6 | ↓ |
| Climate Change Mitigation | Office paper used by Council (reams) | 404 | 362 | 347 | 359 | ↓ |
| | Council sustainability initiatives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Council mitigation initiatives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions | Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | ↔ |
| | Total fuel consumption (KL) | 588 | 472 | 451 | 495 | ↓ |
| | Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ -e/year) | | 2,620 | 3,627 | 3,706 | ↓ |
| Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions | Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW) | 73 | 85 | 161 | 518 | ↓ |
| | Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed | 1 | 3 | 0.99 | 6 | ↓ |

Water and Waterways

| Issue | Indicator | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Trend |
|--|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Riparian | Riparian vegetation recovery actions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| | Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution | Load Based Licencing volume (kg) | 738 | 800 | 1,044 | 1,947 | ↑ |
| | Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| | Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ↑ |
| Stormwater Pollution | Number of gross pollutant traps installed | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | → |
| | Total catchment area of GPTs (ha) | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | → |
| | Water pollution complaints | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ↑ |
| Water extraction | Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources | | | 120 | 119 | ↓ |
| | Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL) | | | 83 | 101 | ↑ |
| | Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources | 1,634 | 694 | 666 | 664 | ↓ |
| | Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL) | | 4 | 0.05 | 0.52 | ↑ |
| Council water consumption | Area of irrigated council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open spaces (ha) | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | → |
| | Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| Town water consumption | Annual metered supply (ML) | 398 | 1,258 | 1,210 | 430 | ↓ |
| | Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML) | 2,200 | 1,966 | 1,895 | 1,600 | ↓ |
| | Level of water restrictions implemented | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | → |
| | Number of water conservation programs | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | → |
| Town Water Quality | Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | ↓ |
| | Number of drinking water complaints | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ↓ |

People and Communities

| Issue | Indicator | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | Trend |
|------------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Active community involvement | Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs) | 60 | 80 | 20 | 100 | ↑ |
| | Number of environmental community engagement programs | | 0 | 0 | 1 | ↓ |
| | Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food operating within LGA | | 2 | 3 | 8 | ↑ |
| Indigenous Heritage | Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register | | | 1,053 | 1,152 | ↑ |
| | Inclusion in DCPs & rural strategies | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | → |
| | Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = High) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | → |
| | Development on listed Indigenous sites | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| | Actions to protect Indigenous heritage (including management plans) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| Non- Indigenous Heritage | NSW Heritage Inventory items | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | → |
| | Locally listed heritage items | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | → |
| | Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans) | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | → |
| | Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | → |
| | Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year | 2 | 1 | 1 | | ↓ |

CASE STUDY: Waste Aid Community Based Environmental Projects: Bourke and Enngonia (Bourke LGA)

Waste Aid works with communities to provide long-term solutions for waste management and environmental health issues. Working only with an invitation from our Aboriginal partner communities, Bourke Shire Council works as equal partners with the Aboriginal community and brings the expertise of its waste management industry supporters to the Aboriginal communities.

Waste Aid uses the Aboriginal Community Environmental Stewardship (ACBES) model to assist communities to clean-up the legacy of built-up waste, put community appropriate waste infrastructure in place and work with communities to build capacity and change the behaviours that create waste disposal and environmental problems.

The approach empowers, engages and motivates the local Aboriginal community to take responsibility for its own waste management. Council provides skills, materials and technical advice to communities and bridges the communication gap between the Aboriginal community and service providers by employing Aboriginal Environmental Advisors to act as liaison for Council and government agencies and to lead community discussions on waste management.

Waste Aid is currently working with the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal communities to manage long term environmental issues in both communities.



Bourke Shire Council
Council Office
29 Mitchell St
Bourke NSW 2840

Phone: (02) 6830 8000
www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Mailing Address
General Manager
Bourke Shire Council
PO Box 21
Bourke NSW 2840