



BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL 2015/2016 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”

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to be able to present the Mayor's Report for 2015/2016.

I am also pleased to say that Council has once again received a positive auditor's report. All of our financial indicators show a positive trend and I would like to thank our staff for their diligence in the control of our finances. Staff must balance the need to be mindful of our limited resources while ensuring that expenditure is monitored and we are able to provide a level of service that is acceptable to the broader community.

Two (2) items that have consumed a considerable amount of time for both Council and staff over the 2015/2016 year have been the proposed development of a Small Stock Abattoir in Bourke. The other is the Local Government Reform Process.

I have been quoted as saying the proposed abattoir development would be a "game changer for Bourke and I stick by that assessment of the potential value of the Abattoir to Bourke and the surrounding district.

Council has worked with the proponents CAPRA Pty Ltd to both try and secure funding and to provide assistance where possible as they worked through the development process. Council was successful with an application to obtain a grant of \$10 million from the National Stronger Regions Fund to provide for the construction of the enabling infrastructure for the Abattoir primarily required due to the location of the proposed facility on the Enngonia Road.

The Local Government Reform Process has included a proposal to establish the Far West Initiative to incorporate the Councils of Balranald, Bourke, Broken Hill, Brewarrina, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett and Wentworth and also the unincorporated area. The proposal is aimed at making Councils more sustainable into the future and improving the service delivery to this part of the state by other tiers of government. The work to date has primarily focussed on the review of the Local Government component.

The Local Government Reform Process has been going for some four (4) years now and has involved the reading of a considerable number of reports and preparation of numerous submissions. The process has also involved the attendance of both the General Manager and myself at a number of meetings both in Sydney and elsewhere within the State.

Council has shown itself to be an active member of the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee (FWIAC), anxious to retain a strong involvement in the process and any developments that would

impact on Council and the wider community. There is still some way to go with the development of the concept of the Far West Initiative, however, Councils involvement in the development stages will continue as it is deemed extremely important.

The amalgamation of a number of Councils in May and the fact that there are a number of other mergers proposed has seen a significant change in the Local Government landscape. There are other changes that will come as a result of the reform process with the gradual introduction of changes proposed following the review of the Local Government Act 1993.

Whilst Council is to be part of the Far West Initiative it is keen to retain its membership of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) which has delivered considerable benefits to Council whilst it has been a member. These have been through savings from some of the negotiated contracts via OROC and the advocacy role that OROC plays.

The footprint of OROC now mirrors that of the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA) which has also provided Council great assistance in meeting its best practice obligations and other standards in relation to the supply of water and disposal of waste water.

I would like to express my thanks to both our local members Mark Coulton, MP, the Federal Member for Parkes and Kevin Humphries, MP, the Member for Barwon in the NSW Government. Both have been extremely good advocates for Bourke Shire and the Bourke community and have often gone that "extra mile" to provide assistance when required. Despite the enormous size of the electorates of each of our local members they have both been regular visitors to Bourke and have taken the opportunity to meet with Council whenever, they have been in town.

Whilst the agricultural conditions have been good of late the impact of the drought was still being felt in the earlier part of the financial year and both our local members did what they could to ensure that our farmers received assistance to see them through the drought period and the difficulties created.

Bourke Shire Council also strongly advocated on behalf of our local landowners to get recognition of the difficulties being faced.

The 2015/2016 year has seen a number of significant achievements for Bourke Shire including:-

- The obtaining of funding for the Splash Park at the Bourke War Memorial Pool
- The obtaining of funding for the reseal of the airport and the installation of the new runway lighting
- The obtaining of the funding to assist in the provision of the enabling infrastructure for the proposed Small Stock Abattoir at Bourke

- The purchase of a B-Double Water Tanker, Crew Cab, Small Plant and a Slasher for Byrock ensuring that Council owns and maintains a modern fleet of plant
- The sale of the residential blocks in North Bourke.
- Work being commenced in the commissioning of Walkden's Bore in an effort to "drought proof" Bourke.
- The completion of the refurbishment of the Mertin Street Sewer Pump Station
- The ongoing work on the timber bridge replacement program that will see all timber bridges replaced.
- The official naming of the "Wayne O'Mally Bridge" over the Bogan River at Beemery by the Minister for Roads Hon. Duncan Gay MLC
- The decision to update current accounting software.

As mentioned earlier Council's financial position remains strong and continues to improve and the ability of Council to meet the established industry benchmarks has also continued to improve.

Council has embraced the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and will in the latter part of this year be required to update its Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and other documents. The ongoing development of its Long Term Financial Plan and the Asset Management Plan have both provided Council with a strong platform for financial management and ensured that it is living within its means and well placed to meet its future obligations.

When the meetings to review the CSP are held I would encourage all residents to attend and participate in the strategic planning process for our Shire

The running of an organisation such as Bourke Shire Council is very much a "team effort" and I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their ongoing efforts and dedicated service on behalf of the community and also thank Deputy Mayor, Barry Hollman who deputised for me on a number of occasions.

I would like to thank the General Manager and MANEX Team for their leadership and contribution to the efficient and affective operation of Council. I would also like to acknowledge staff in all areas of the organisation, each of whom plays an important part in the delivery of the services to the community which, at times can be challenging given the large area and varying climatic conditions in which they work.

Andrew Lewis

Mayor, Bourke Shire Council

**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.

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



L-R Cr Victor Bartley, Cr Sally Davis, Cr Stuart Johnson, Cr Sarah Barton, Cr Lachlan Ford, Cr Barry Hollman (Deputy Mayor), Cr Cec Dorrington & Cr Andrew Lewis (Mayor).
Absent: Cr Robert Stutsel & Cr Jack Bennett.

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 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. 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

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	Weeds Officer
	Admin Officer Trainee (PT) (Vacant)	Environmental Operator - Waste
	Environmental Operators x 2	Ranger
	Environmental Services Officer	Cemetery Operator
	Environmental Services Operator	Building Maintenance X 2
	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 7	Parks & Gardens X 4
	Services Technical Officer x 1	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
	Community & Governance Officer	Library Manager x 1 (PPT)
	WHS/Risk Inspection Officer	Library Assistants x 2 (PPT)
	Cleaner	

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 2015/2016 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 Delivery Program 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

This financial year has again proved a popular time for visitors to the Bourke region with visitation growing through the busy winter months of 2016. Also encouraging was the analysis that visitors are staying longer and are enjoying more time at our visitor attractions.

Over the summer months' staff at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre were again busy with the normal summer maintenance program which this year included cleaning of the underneath of sails, painting on board the PV Jandra and internal painting of the Exhibition Centre.



Another highlight of the year has once again been the Outback Show which has continued to prove a hit with visitors who enjoyed the upgraded facility that has been created. We have also been fortunate enough to have Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation continue to operate the Back O' Bourke Café which continues to provide additional training opportunities to the local community and meals to visitors to the Centre.

Events have played an important role to our visitor economy with the Back to Bourke Reunion once again being held along with another successful Picnic Race Day. These events were held over the Easter long weekend and as they did last year provide an excellent starting point for the visitor season.



Image above shows a young competitor in the popular wool bale rolling event while another local enjoys the Back O' Bourke Race Meeting (below)



In the 2015–2016 financial year, there have also been many successful grant applications with one highlight being the \$10M which was awarded to Bourke Shire Council as a contribution towards the Small Stock Abattoir development. Should this development proceed in the 2017 financial year it has the potential to provide up to 200 local jobs and will lift the average household income in Bourke. This development coupled with the wet weather experienced over winter 2016 should mean a return to more economically prosperous times for many residents and businesses in and around Bourke.

The small stock abattoir seeks to take advantage of the numbers of Rangelands Goats available in the area.

Bourke Shire Council has also been successful in their application for funding to upgrade the airport and also improve the CCTV around town.



Confirmation of the development of the NBN in the Bourke district was also received in June 2016 and this again will be of economic benefit to businesses in the region.

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 Tuesday, 26th January 2016 at the Wal Mitchell Wharf Precinct, with Justin Jones representing as the Australia Day Ambassador. A breakfast was held in conjunction with the Rotary Club and the recipients of the 2016 Australia Day Awards were as follows:-

- Sportsperson of the Year – Tye Simmonds
- Young Sportsperson of the Year – Clare Lienesch
- Emergency Service Volunteer – Ray McMaster
- Community Service Through Employment – Lloyd & Vicki Graham
- Village community Service – Jim & Annabel Strachan
- Young Citizen of the Year – Bradley Parnaby
- Citizen of the Year – Sharon Knight
- Citizenship Ceremony – Dibesh Shreshta



Seniors Week

Seniors week celebrations were held from Sunday, 3rd April – Sunday, 10th April 2016 and what a great week it turned out to be.

It started with a BBQ Luncheon on the first Sunday provided by Bourke Shire Council and CWA at the Renshaw Oval Pavilion.

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

Tuesday seniors visited the Bourke Public Library with staff providing a relaxing morning with Board Games, Colouring in for Calming and morning tea.

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. There were trivia questions and other games with lots of prizes to be won.

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 ride on the Jandra Paddleboat cruising up the Darling River, from there the mystery tour continued onto a morning tea provided by Shayne and Michael at the Bourke Bridge Inn in the beautiful gardens and a tour of the Bridge Inn.

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 Renshaw Oval Pavilion provided by Rotary Club and Far West Red Cross.

The weeklong activities were enjoyed by all the seniors from the Bourke and surrounding areas and the seniors are looking forward to the activities planned for 2017.

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.



ANZAC Day/Remembrance Day

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



Bourke Public Library

Item	2015	Item	2016
Audio Visual	3415	Audio Visual	4254
Adult Fiction	3298	Adult Fiction	3372
Non-Fiction	1359	Non-Fiction	1336
Junior Fiction	2487	Junior Fiction	2657
Magazines	1082	Magazines	1071
Interlibrary Loans	49	Interlibrary Loans	17
Total	11690	Total	12707

Other statistical information

	2015		2016
New Members	111	New Members	123
Internet/Word Processing	1561	Internet/Word Processing	1405
Wireless Tickets	84	Wireless Tickets	108
Number of Visitors	28151	Number of Visitors	22049
Scans	237	Scans	274
Information Requests	703	Information Requests	793
Technical Assistance	105	Technical Assistance	150
Faxes	155	Faxes	174

Highlights for the Year

Children's Services

- In July, a puppet show and craft session was held for preschool, with 16 children and 3 staff members attending. The children all enjoyed the puppet show.
- Children's Book Week was held in August. We had 125 entries in our competitions, which we were very happy with. Prizes were donated by local business. Our prize-giving party at the end of the week had 14 children attend.
- Craft and Storytime sessions were held monthly throughout the year. In total, we had 153 children attend these sessions.
- The library held a puppet show for St Ignatius in December. We had 28 children and four (4) staff attend the event. The children very much enjoyed the two (2) shows, The Three Little Pigs and The Gingerbread Man.
- Two (2) puppet shows were held for Preschool also in December. There were approximately 30 children and four (4) staff attending. The puppet shows for preschool were The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood.

- A puppet show and Christmas party were held on the last Saturday before Christmas.
- Bourke Public School classes have been visiting the library this year. We have had seven (7) classes visit, with a total of 126 children. Emma Beer has been introducing them to the library resources and services, and the children each receive a library bag with some information and goodies inside. All of the children have had a great time and are keen to come back with their parents.
- We also had a school visit from St Ignatius, with 25 children from Kindergarten to Year 2 attending. As a result of our school visits we have raised awareness among children and their parents as to what the library has to offer, and this has resulted in a number of new memberships and increased use of the library by parents and families.
- Emma Beer visited the Preschool for Simultaneous Storytime in May. There 26 children enjoyed a story and craft activity.

Programs and Services

- The library participated in the Tax Help program again this year. During August–October we assisted 31 clients with their tax returns.
- A Colouring for Calmness group was started in October. Four people attended the first session, with more expressing interest in attending further sessions.
- Centacare visited the library for three (3) sessions in February, one colouring session and two (2) clay modelling sessions.
- For ANZAC Day we had a display up in the library. We also posted our updated slideshow of Bourke Diggers of WWI on Facebook. We received two (2) new photos via Facebook which were added to the original slideshow created last year. The Facebook post reached 7682 people and was viewed 1549 times, which we were very happy with. We will continue to utilise Facebook to promote our services.
- A representative of the Australian Tax Office came to the library in May and gave a talk in the library about the services the ATO has to offer. We had nine (9) people attend.

Events

- The library had an author visit in November, with Adrian Mitchell coming to the library to talk about his latest book, "From Corner to Corner: the line of Henry Colless". We had approximately 25 people attend the event and sold 20 copies of the book.
- We held another of our murder mystery evenings in February. We had 30 people attend, and it was another very successful evening.
- The library held a Colouring & Games Day for Seniors Week in April, with 18 seniors attending and enjoying colouring for calmness as well as board and card games.
- The library held an Evening with Shakespeare in May to commemorate 400 years since the death of Shakespeare. The evening included recitations and a Shakespeare quiz with prizes. We had 12 people attend.

ROADS SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Regional Road Block Grant

Budget: \$2,331,000.00

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, MR405 Bourke – Wanaaring & MR 404 Bourke – Hungerford.

Expenditure – General Maintenance on these roads: (\$1,245,800.89) this includes grading, clearing of table drains, grid maintenance, signage, bitumen patching, reformation, clearing mitre drains.

Expenditure – Reseals: (\$401,411.42)

Reseals on MR 68 South, MR 404 completed under 10 year plan.

Expenditure – Gravel Resheeting:

Approximately 10km of gravel resheeting was completed on MR 404. This project was funded with Roads to Recovery funding.

Cuttaburra No 2 Creek Bridge Construction (MR 405 Bourke – Wanaaring)

Expenditure: (\$800,000.00)

This program is scheduled to be completed early in the financial year with the bridge construction to be completed 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 \$256,000.00 from the Roads Component of the Regional Road Block Grant.

Council has also used Roads to Recovery funding on this project to complete the new alignment between the three Cuttaburra Bridges (\$389,737.00). The alignment and opening of the bridges is expected to be completed in November 2016 due to local flooding preventing completion of the project.

Rural Local Roads

Budget: \$899,019.00

Sealed: 11.29 km

Listed Roads: 48

Unsealed: 1,834.96

Expenditure: \$930,741.06

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

Roads to Recovery

Budget: \$2,402,131.00

Expenditure: \$2,089,422.00

Bourke town Street Shoulder Construction Hope St Church to Charles

Expenditure: \$46,685.00

Wanaaring Street Reseals O'Grady, Vicary & Church Streets

Expenditure: \$10,280.00 Works not completed as yet.

RLR 23 Willara Road Reformation & Resheet

Expenditure: \$174,188.00

Gravel resheeting completed.

MR 404 Dowling Track Gravel Resheet 23 Mile

Expenditure: \$518,374.00

Gravel resheeting completed

Hospital Lane Sealing & Carpark

Expenditure: \$29,271.00

Sealing and construction of carpark completed

RLR 5 Coronga Peak Road Reseal

Expenditure: \$14,862.00

Resealing completed.

RLR 5 Coronga Peak Road Gravel Resheet

Expenditure: \$234,554.00

Gravel resheeting completed.

RLR 17 Snake Gully reformation Grade

Expenditure: \$148,696.00

Reformation of road completed

MR 68 Sth Repair Drainage Pipes and Reformation of Roads

Expenditure: \$139,308.00

Five new 450 culverts were installed and reformation of strategic areas completed to improve drainage.

Cooma Street Wortumertie to Moculta Street Shoulders

Expenditure: \$44,262.00

Sealing of shoulders completed.

Sturt Street Anson to Hope Street shoulders

Expenditure: \$37,543.00

Sealing of shoulders completed.

Culgoa Street Anson to Warrego Street Shoulders

Expenditure: \$17,695.00

Sealing of shoulders completed.

RLR 16 River Road Gravel Resheet

Expenditure: \$29,408.00

Gravel resheeting completing.

RLR 47 Polygonum Gravel Resheet

Expenditure: \$52,619.44

Gravel Resheeting completed.

RLR 40 Long Meadows Gravel Resheet

Expenditure: \$44,417.00

Gravel Resheeting completed.

RLR 41 Weir Road Gravel Resheet

Expenditure: \$45,564.00

Gravel resheeting completed.

RLR 22 Parkdale Road Gravel Resheet

Expenditure: \$49,881.00

Gravel resheeting completed.

RLR 24 Ellavale Gravel Bridge approaches

Expenditure: \$44,972.00

Gravel resheeting completed.

Replacement Len Mallon Bridge Burrawantie Road

Expenditure: \$5,046.87

REF and Designs completed only.

Replacement Whiskey Creek Bridge West Culgoa Road

Expenditure: \$10,133.32



Whiskey Creek Bridge

Bridge to be completed in 2016/2017 with the approaches and guard rail expected to be completed in November 2016.

MR 405 Cuttaburra Bridges Realignment

Expenditure: \$389,737.00

Construction in progress with alignment and approaches expected to be completed in 2016/2017.



State Roads

Sealed Road: 357 km

Unsealed: Nil

RMCC Routine Budget: \$760,000.00

Expenditure: \$760,000.00

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 paid by RMS under the RMCC contract.

RMCC Works Orders

Funding Received: Approximately \$2,800,000.00

Council received approximately \$2,800,000.00 in works orders for the financial year including accruals for works completed during the months of July and August.

Plant M&R

Budget: \$2,000,000.00

Expenditure: \$1,980,709.60

Small Plant Replacement Maintenance & Repair

Budget: \$35,000

Expenditure: \$35,000.00 check this with Leonie

Light Plant Replacement 2015/2016

Budget: \$180,000.00

Expenditure: \$140,224.00

Heavy Plant Replacement 2015/2016

Budget: \$278,000.00

Expenditure: \$309,100.00

Isuzu Crew Cab 4x4	\$55,082.00
B/Double Water Tanker	\$154,050.00
Moore Dolly	\$24,773.00
Toro GM 360 2wd Mower	\$25,469.00
Tractor Slasher for Byrock	\$25,136.00
Bobcat attachments x 2	\$24,590.00
Total	\$309,100.00



Isuzu Crew Cab 4x4



Moore Tandem Dolly

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. Continuing to seek funding for the raising of the Bourke Weir by an additional one (1) metre in height.
 2. Build a second weir above the current Bourke weir to help in the regulation of the existing weir pool (BUS site)
- 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



Byrock – water storage empty 2015

Progress – completion of the Walkden's Bore Project

- Walkden's Bore near completion, will be commissioned in 2016/2017
- Plan developed for the sinking of a 3rd auxiliary bore at the Wanaaring turn off to supplement the Walkden's bores
- New water lines installed at North Bourke's new development site.
- 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



Walkden's Bore – construction of the pump house

- Best practice is implemented and the following are completed:-
 - 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)
 - PIRMP (Pollution incident response Management Plan)
- Bourke Shire Council has participated in the Save Water Program and are constantly updated with save water ideas and techniques.
- Bourke Shire Council is also part of the Water Wise Programs with opportunities for funding and water saving initiatives

Asset Improvement/ Replacement

- Raw water supply valve system being upgraded to monitor output
- Telemetry upgrade completed
- Asbestos removal from WTP Building
- 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 to replace Queensland fig trees that have been removed
- Graffiti removal program ongoing
- Re-sheeting of the decking at the Wharf
- New drainage catchment installed under the Wharf
- Plan developed for the upgrade of Bourke stormwater system
- Back-lane poising and cleaning
- Tree trimming for street sweeper access
- Rest area rubbish control



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, Central Park and strategically placed around Bourke
- Parks and Gardens Management Plan reviewed



Skate Park in Central Park



Playground at Central Park, plenty of shade and surrounded by a fence within the park

Airport

- 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
- Continued support during village functions

Toilets Byrock



Slasher in operation



STATUTORY INFORMATION

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT S 428A(1)

With changes to the reporting requirements under the Act and the introduction of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, the requirements for State of the Environment (SoE) reporting were changed. This change meant that a comprehensive State of the Environment report is required to be included in the annual reporting for Councils in the year in which a Council election is held.

Bourke Shire Council participated in producing a regional report of the State of the Environment in a joint venture coordinated by the Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services. This report covered 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 this joint report with the expectation 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 legislative act that may be relevant.

LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION

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

Development applications approved for 2015/16 totalled 22, Section 96 applications two (2) with Complying Developments applications approved for 2015/16 being two (2). The total value of projects amounted to \$4,112,700.00

Council completed, in consultation with the Department of Planning a Planning Proposal for changes to the current LEP. The Planning Proposal amended the Bourke LEP to rectify 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.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Council continued its commitment to providing Heritage Services in the reporting period, by funding the employment of a Heritage Advisor to continue work in Heritage Services. The Heritage advisor role in Council included providing advice to owners of heritage listed buildings, assisting owners and Council with grant applications, providing comments with development on heritage buildings. The Heritage Advisory Service, along with Councils annual \$15,000 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. 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 2015/16 Council spent \$125,735 on companion animal management related activities.

Year	Animals Impounded
2013/14	143
2014/15	185
2015/16	246

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 provided information flyers and pamphlets at the service counter of Council. Lodgement of pound data and dog attacks was placed on the Department of Local Government database as per the Departments requirements. Council provided 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 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 cell in regards to the forecasted lifespan in the environmental impact statement for the landfill. Village Waste Facilities were kept to a good standard, clean-ups of cells took place, including removal of scrap metal from the cells at the various village waste facilities. The Village Waste Facilities also received upgrades with fencing and new signage installed. This was achieved through grant funding from the EPA's Waste Less Recycle More grants. 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 encourage 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 will then collect the steel and recycle, with any money then donated 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 is a very active member of the Bourke Waste Advisory Committee. This committee plays a key role in working with the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal Communities with the discrete aboriginal communities clean-up program, this program improve waste and recycling services, reduce and prevent litter, bulky waste and illegal dumping through a combination of community stewardships, 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 was successful in receiving grant funding through the innovation fund grants program. The grants program aims to help small Councils in regional NSW overcome some of the challenges they face in sustaining their communities and maintaining local services. It provides one-off grants to help them develop new ways of working and improve their performance to

benefit their local communities. The NSW Government and the packaging industry's Australian Packaging Covenant have already funded work in Bourke and Enngonia. In 2016 the NSW Government and the Australian Packaging Covenant funded additional work in three more communities.

The Waste Aid model consists of two parts, Aboriginal community clean up and waste management infrastructure supply, and establishing Aboriginal Community-based Environmental Management (ACBEM). The program is dependent on integration between Aboriginal community governance and Local Government and relies on innovative and cooperative problem solving between the Aboriginal community and its Local Government authority. Bourke Shire Council has piloted the approach with success in Bourke and Enngonia and now intends to embed the work in Bourke Shire and expand it to Brewarrina and Walgett Shires through funding received through the innovation fund.

The program is led by Bourke Shire and supported by the voluntary Local Government waste organisation NetWaste. Funds were sought through an application made from the innovation grant for implementation of the Local Government component of this work which requires support for cost neutral clean-up of legacy waste in all 5 Aboriginal communities, supply of infrastructure to communities, and employment of Aboriginal waste liaison officers and community environment advisors in all three Councils and five Aboriginal communities. There has been significant state, industry and Local Government support, providing the opportunity to increase Aboriginal community-based waste and environmental health management capacity and to secure long term employment sustainability through state and Local Government.

Bourke Shire Council has also been proactive in providing information to the EPA with the introduction of a container deposit scheme slated for NSW in July 2017. Bourke Shire Council has taken a lead role in representing western Councils in discussions on how best the container deposit scheme will work in the western areas of NSW, providing numerous submissions and data on the draft scheme.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – Administration, Inspection, Control

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 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 a routine inspections of existing systems is programmed as outlined in the policy on a risk priority basis.

Council staff have been proactive with its swimming pool barrier inspection program that meets 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 also promoting the NSW Swimming Pool Register, with the Bourke Shire Council Local Government Area having 62 pools registered on the database.

CEMETERIES ADMINISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE

Grave location queries are mapped, and as a result visitors that 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 tourists 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.

Council Staff has seen a substantial rise in genealogy requests in the past year, with larger numbers of people enquiring about burials and history of the people buried 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 continues to be implemented with the planting of new native trees, plants and flowers and the spraying of weeds and burrs ongoing. The front gardens installed at the entrance to the cemetery continue to enhance the visual appearance of the cemetery, with the interpretive entrance sign which was installed to help visitors with directions and the layout of the cemetery continues to receive comments on how easy it is to navigate around the Bourke Cemetery.

A program was undertaken to replace damaged crosses, with new painted crosses installed to replace old damaged ones, new name tags were put on making it easier for family, friends and visitors to read burial information.

As Bourke Shire Council is a registered operator of a cemetery, Council completed its legislative obligation in completing the statutory operator activity report for the prescribed reporting period.

NOXIOUS WEEDS MANAGEMENT

Council continued its progress in ensuring it meets its responsibilities in noxious weeds management under the Weeds Action Program. 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 Noxious Weeds Act are met. Regular property inspections were also undertaken to provide advice to land owners with respect to noxious weeds control. Council continues their membership with the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee, by attending meetings and participating in regional programmes.

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. 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 Division 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 that including the replacement of the main pump which has seen a significant improvement in water circulation and the addition of an automatic chlorine dosing machine. This year marked the first year for the current contractors as pool managers.

Council applied for funding through the ClubGrants Category 3 Fund, with Council being successful in gaining funding to build a new zero depth splash park. The splash park precinct is stage one of the Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool Masterplan to develop new and upgraded facilities onsite.

FOOD PREMISES

Bourke Shire Council is an active member of the combined North West/Central West and Far West Regional Food group who meet 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. All required food premises were inspected in Bourke with 24 inspections being undertaken.

Overall the standard of food premises in the Bourke Shire Council was generally good with an education based enforcement practice generally works well. 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.

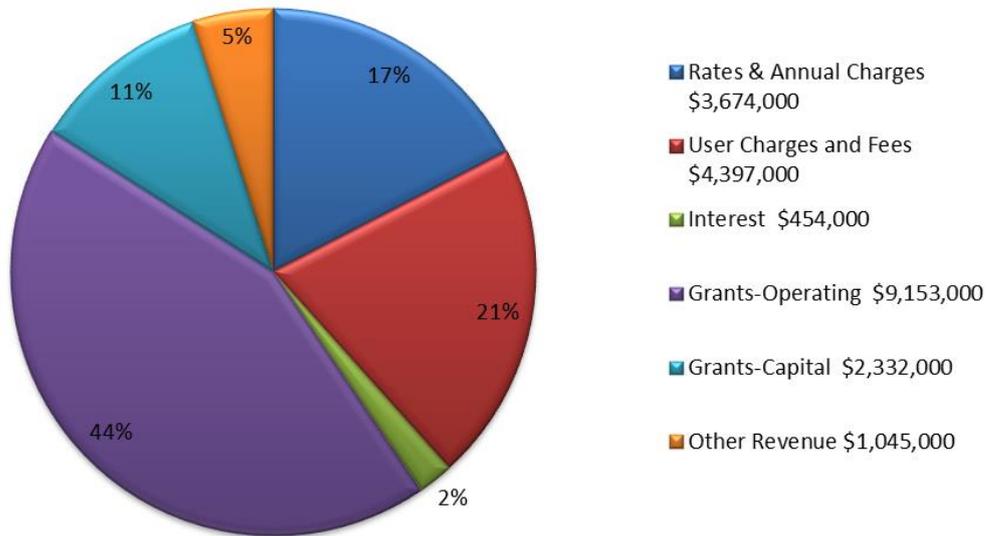
CROWN AND PUBLIC LAND

Council continues with the challenge relating to 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.

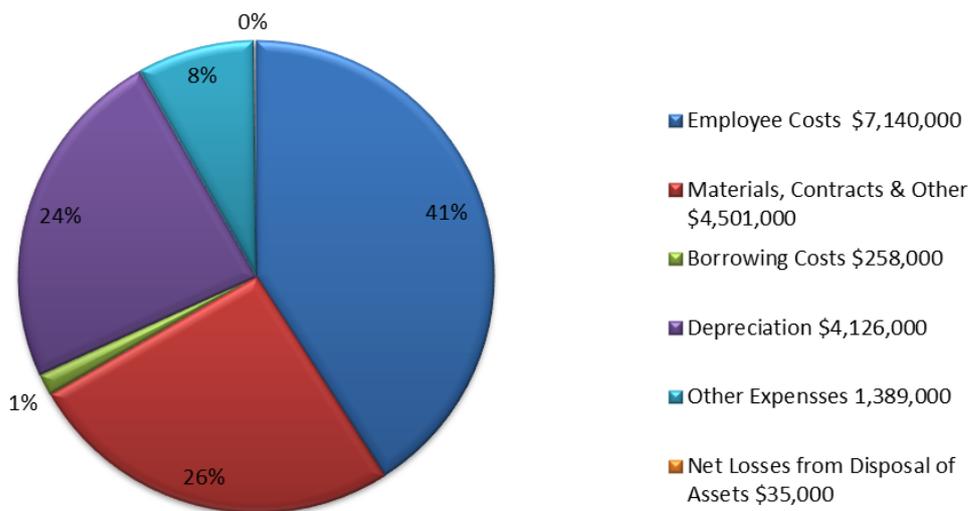
COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Council continued maintenance on all Council owned buildings, improvements this year have seen works undertaken with village hall upgrades, renovations to staff housing and PCYC improvements. Works undertaken to repair the fire damaged grandstand have been completed, works included bringing the seating section up to meet current Australian Standards and refurbishment of the internal dressing shed areas with the addition of storage pods for the local sporting clubs and new showers and toilets for sporting teams to utilise

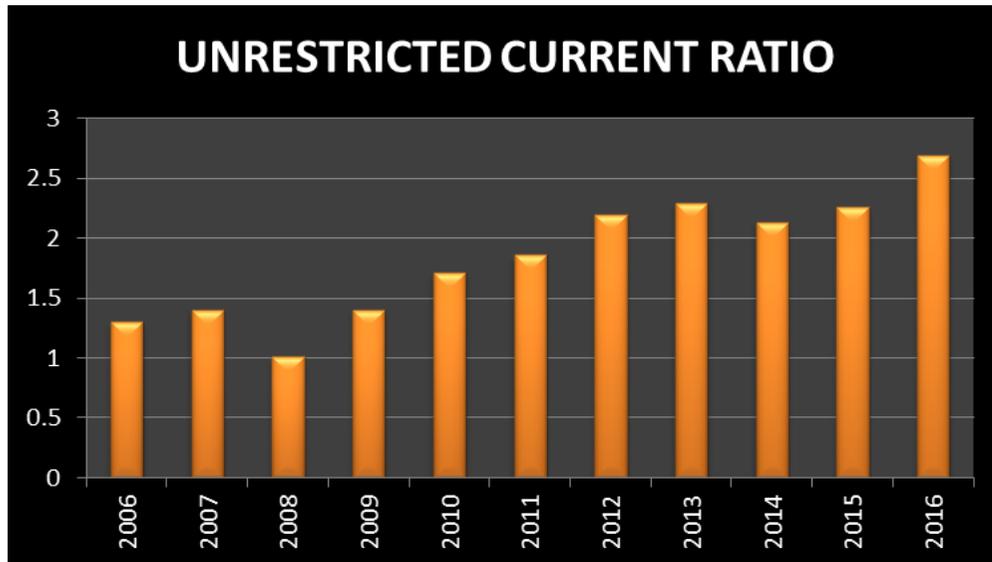
**2015-2016 REVENUE
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Revenue - \$21,082,000**



**2015-2016 EXPENSES
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Expenses \$17,476,000**



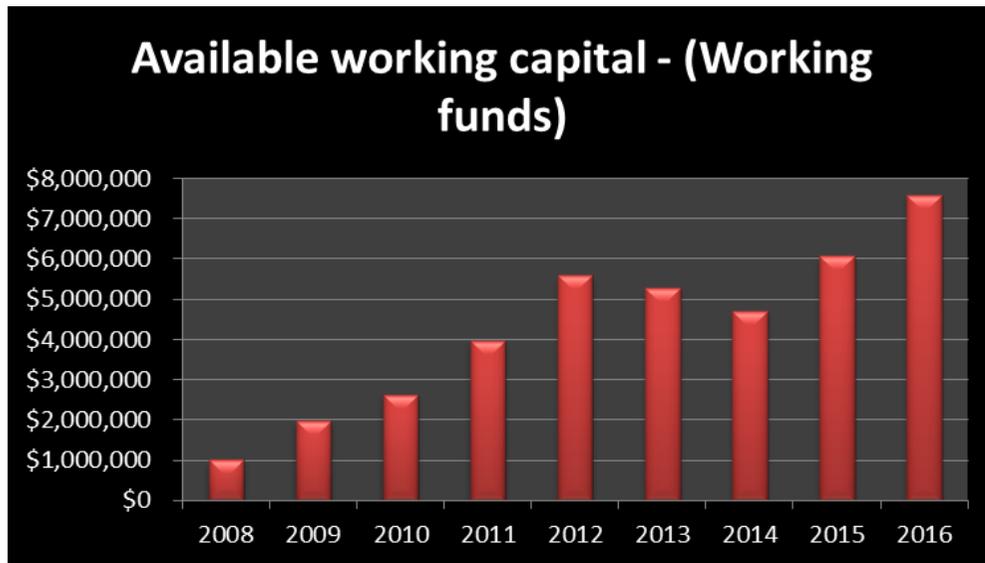
FINANCIAL INDICATOR TRENDS OVER 15 YEAR PERIOD



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

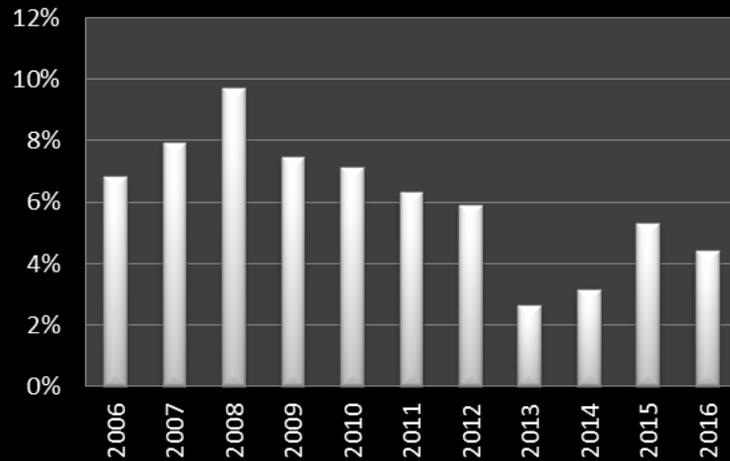
Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Over 2.0:1



Available Working Capital – (Working Funds)

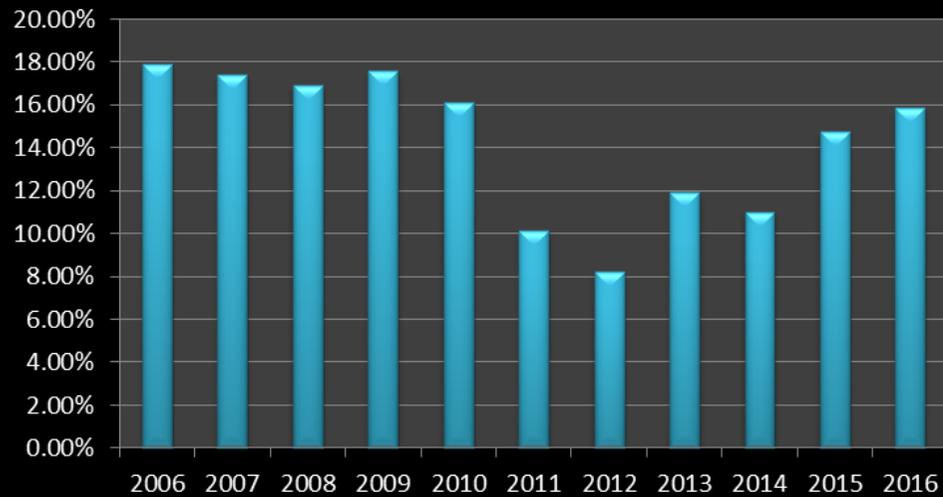
- The Available Working Capital is a more meaningful financial indicator specific to local government.
- Net Current Assets are adjusted by eliminating both external and internal reserves held for future purposes.
- Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Greater than \$4,500,000

DEBT SERVICE RATIO



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

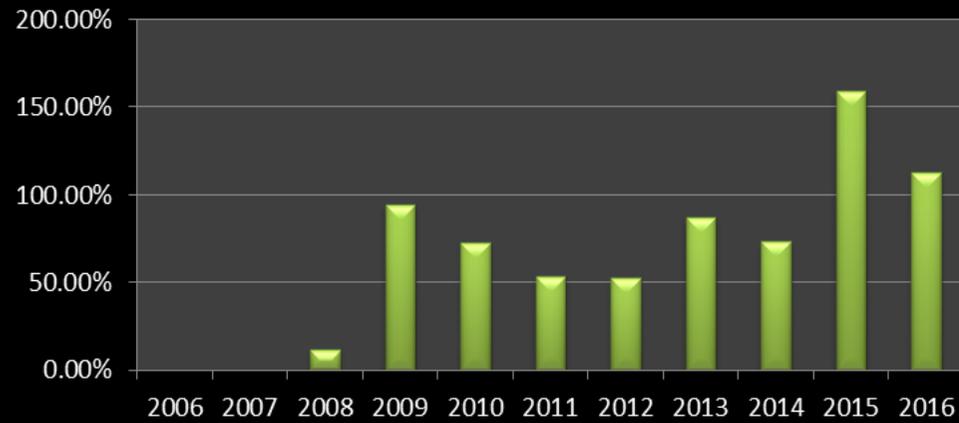
RATES & ANNUAL CHARGES OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE



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

BUILDING & INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWALS RATIO



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 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:	79	
Salaries & Wages:	\$4,778,000	
Income:	\$21M	
Rate Income:	\$3.7M	
Rate in Dollar	Town	1.47 cents per dollar of land value
	Village	4.78 cents per dollar of land value
	Rural	0.70 cents per dollar of land value
Total Operating Expenditure	\$17M	
Land Valuation:	\$154,298,750	
Rates Assessments:	1,736	

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Audited Financial Reports LGA s428 (2)(a)

Bourke Shire Council has improved its financial position for the 2015/2016 financial year. Hill Rogers of Sydney are Council's appointed Auditors. A full copy of the Financial Statements are included as an appendix to this report and are available for viewing from Council's Office, Library or on the Webpage www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Performance against Plan LGA s428 (2)(b)

Refer to "Principal Activity Section" within this Annual Report.

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 as an appendix to this report.

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.

Legal Costs.

Organisation	Status	Amount
	cl 217(1)(a3)	cl 217(1)(a3)
S R Law Debt Recovery	Ongoing	\$49,826.40
Total	Total	\$49,826.40

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 fees and Councillor Fees during 2015/16

The distribution was as follows:

Mayoral Fees	\$24,630.71
Councillors Fees	\$91,641.90

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 \$41,431.46. The breakup of this expenditure is as follows:

Provision of dedicated office equipment to Councillors - cl217(1)(a1)(i)	\$2089.93
Telephone calls made by Councillors - cl217(1)(a1)(ii)	Nil
Attendance of Councillors at Conferences and seminars - cl217(1)(a1)(iii)	\$39,341.53
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)	Nil
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 2015/16

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 2016. Council also has a flat structure that includes five (5) Management 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)

During 2015/16 the total remuneration package of the General Manager was \$201,108.00.

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 cl 217(1)(a2)	Nature of Good or Services Provided cl 217(1)(a2)	Total amount payable under the contract cl 217(1)(a2)
Fulton Hogan Industries	Road Works	\$1,262,197.38
A Ryan	Road Works	\$288,311.68
Caltex	Fuel Purchase	\$585,880.02
B Bowden Transport	Road Works	\$153,225.00
Gilgandra Shire Council	Road Works	\$199,433.93
NAK Graders	Road Works	\$241,650.00
Karl McDonald Excavations	Road Works	\$182,386.00
Boral Resources	Road Materials	\$438,194.79
Murray Constructions	Bridge Building	\$718,782.52
Lucas Engineering	Sewer Pump Station	\$193,986.15
Aqua West Pty Ltd	Emergency Bore Trans Sys	\$636,988.15
Bourke Waste Management	Road Works	\$174,237.28

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 2015/16.

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 \$40,748.47.

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:-

- Australian Airports Association
- Barwon Darling Rural Fire Service (Brewarrina and Bourke Shires)
- Barwon Darling Water
- Inland Tourism Organisation
- Kamilaroi Highway Committee
- Kidman Way Tourist Committee

- Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance
- Murray Darling Association
- Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)
- Orana Economic Development Officer Network
- Outback Arts
- Regional Development Australia – Orana Region
- Shires Association of NSW (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	32,234.40	
Water – Pensioner	11,703.13	
Sewer – Pensioner	9,931.25	
Sub Total Gross Pensioner Concessions	53,868.78	
State Subsidy Refund to Council	29,627.83	
Net Loss to Council for Pensioner Rebate Concessions		24,240.95
General Rates & Charges		1,374.60
Total Rates & Charges Write Off		25,615.55

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 2015/16 the subsidy amounted to \$29,627.83.

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 \$ \$165,742.00 was levied and apportioned as follows:-

Maintenance	30,000.00
Capital	60,000.00
Loan Repayments	75,742.00
Total	165,742.00

Geolyse have now developed the final report for both short and long-term strategies for stormwater upgrade works to be undertaken to benefit the township.

The report includes a strategy to complete the worked detailed report Bourke Stormwater Construction Report. It identified three critical areas for work to be completed. These areas are:

1. Richard Street river outlet,
2. Anson Wilson Street drainage and
3. Sydney Road Pump Station upgrade.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Council received no requests in 2015/16.

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.

Table B; Number of Applications by type of application and outcome								
	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.