



BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL 2016/2017 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

Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| MAYOR'S MESSAGE..... | 4 |
| BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT DECADE(2011 – 2021)..... | 12 |
| STATEMENT OF VALUES..... | 14 |
| COUNCILLORS..... | 15 |
| COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE..... | 17 |
| PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES..... | 18 |
| CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION..... | 19 |
| TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION..... | 24 |
| ROADS SECTION OF ENGINEERING..... | 27 |
| WATER AND WASTEWATER SECTION OF ENGINEERING..... | 33 |
| TOWN SERVICES SECTION OF ENGINEERING..... | 36 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT..... | 40 |
| BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL STATISTICAL INFORMATION..... | 52 |
| STATUTORY INFORMATION..... | 53 |
| ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY - 2012-2016..... | 62 |
| | |
| COUNCILS FINANCIAL REPORT & AUDITORS REPORT..... | Appendix 1 |
| COUNCILLORS EXPENSES AND PROVISIONS OF FACILITIES POLICY..... | Appendix 2 |

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure that I present the Mayors Report for the 2016/2017 year and in doing so I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the confidence and support given to me when they elected me to the position of Mayor in September 2016 following the quadrennial elections earlier that month.

The elections saw a number of changes on Council with the former Mayor Andrew Lewis deciding not to stand for Council after serving for fifteen years and during that period served as Mayor for eight years. Andrew gave great service to our community and was a strong advocate on a number of issues and was never afraid to make his view and the view of Bourke Shire known and his opinion was respected at all tiers of Government. Thank you Andrew for your commitment and selfless service to the Bourke Community.

The election resulted in seven Councillors being returned and they have been joined by Councillors Sam Rice, John Thompson and Ian Cole and each has made a positive contribution in the role

Councillor Stuart Johnston and Councillor Jack Bennett were unsuccessful in their bid for re-election and I also acknowledge their contribution with each being able to provide a valued contribution during their term on Council.

The 2016/2017 year has been a busy year and a year that has seen a number of changes, issues and achievements both for Bourke Shire Council and the changing landscape of Local Government generally. I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of those changes issues and achievements as they relate to Bourke Shire Council.

Local Government Reform Process

The Local Government Reform Process continues with a degree of uncertainty still surrounding the future of the proposed Far West Initiative (FWI).

The proposal to establish the FWI involved the Councils of Balranald, Bourke, Broken Hill Brewarrina Central Darling, Cobar Walgett 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 the other tiers of government. There has been extensive community consultation and the writing of numerous reports and submissions but at this stage there has been little other development.

All the Councils proposed for the FWI were pleased to hear the Deputy Premier Hon John Barilaro MP state that there would be no amalgamations involving the FWI Councils. The State Government also announced that all proposed mergers which had not taken place would not continue and that no further amalgamations would proceed, however, those amalgamations which had taken place would remain in place and there was no thought or plan to reverse those amalgamations. There were some areas that had lobbied and continue to lobby for that reversal to take place.

Whilst the amalgamation process was an important part of the Local Government Reform process there were other areas being considered and these are continuing with the establishment of Joint Organisations of Councils in rural areas still very much under consideration and Bourke Shire will watch with interest as this proposal develops.

A significant transformation has been the change of tenure for Mayors elected by Councillors with those now being elected for a two (2) year period.

There have been a number of other changes including the appointment of the Auditor General to be the Auditor for all Councils in New South Wales.

Whilst in most instances the audit work has been retained by the previous auditors it is being undertaken under the supervision of the Auditor General on a contract basis. There has been a number of changes to the way some matters are reported and a general increase in the reporting requirements which although causing some initial additional work for staff, those requirements have been able to be met.

The Small Stock Abattoir at North Bourke

It is indeed pleasing to see this \$60 million project under construction and with an anticipated work force of up to 200 staff required for the abattoir to operate at full capacity and a similar number in ancillary and support service industries in and around Bourke. This will provide a welcome boost to the economy of the Bourke Local Government Area.

Council secured grant funding of \$10 million from the National Stronger Regions Fund to provide for the construction of the site enabling infrastructure for the Abattoir.

Council staff have been working closely with CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd on a range of issues relating to the abattoir.

Finalisation of Bridge Replacement Program

The last of the timber bridges in Bourke Shire were replaced during the past twelve months with Bourke Shire Council being one of a few rural Councils in New South Wales to have replaced all of its timber bridges with concrete structures.

Splash Park at the Bourke War Memorial Pool.

The new Splash Park at the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool was commissioned in January this year and has been very well received with the facility providing a valuable resource at the pool complex allowing parents to introduce their children to water facilities in a fun environment.

Funding of \$720,562 towards the project was provide from Club Grants NSW.

Exercise Equipment in Central Park

The installation of the new fitness is proposed with funding for the equipment has been made available from round 2 of 2016 Social Community Housing Improvement Fund which is administered by the Department of Family and Community Services.

Playground Equipment in Jones Park

Funding from Round 2 of 2016 Social Community Housing Improvement Fund which is administered by the Department of Family and Community Services will also see playground equipment constructed in Jones Park.

Walkden's Bore Project

Walkden's Bore is operational and has been subject to testing and will be a boost to supplementing the water supply for Bourke should the need arise in the future. There is some work to be undertaken before the project is finalised and this work includes the ability to increase the amount of water able to be supplied by completing a secondary bore and connecting infrastructure.

New Water Treatment Plant

Council has received notification that it has received funding to undertake the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant and associated infrastructure in Bourke with the total cost of the project being \$8,739,000. A total of \$8,564,000.00 of the funding will come from the Restart NSW-Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program and \$175,000.00 from the Aboriginal Water and Sewer Program.

It is anticipated tenders for the work will be called in early 2018.

Residential Blocks developed by Council all Sold

Council made the decision some time ago to purchase and develop 16 blocks of land at North Bourke and I am pleased to be able to report that all of the blocks offered for sale have been sold with all purchasers intending to build. The addition of the homes will be a boost for the North Bourke precinct but importantly the sales underpin the confidence in the town of Bourke generally. These sales complement the erection of the four (4) homes by the Police at North Bourke.

Council has plans to develop the facilities at the North Bourke Oval and adjacent truck parking area as funding becomes available.

Orana Regional Organisation of Councils

Council retains its membership of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) which has delivered considerable benefits to Council whilst it has been a member, both through savings from some of the negotiated contracts via OROC and the advocacy role that OROC has and continues to play.

There are a number other groups to encourage professional development that are attached to OROC and again they are seen as tremendous benefit to the employees who attended and have created strong support networks.

Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance

Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA) continues to provide Council with great assistance in meeting its best practice obligations and other standards in relation to the supply of water and disposal of waste water.

Council is an active member of the Alliance which has enabled all members to embark on a path of continuous improvement. LMWUA has been held up as an excellent example of regional cooperation.

Council's Solid Financial Performance

Council's Financial Report are attached to this Annual Report and I am pleased to note the continued strong financial position of Council which in part is reflective of the prudent financial management practices adopted by Council and staff coupled with the oversight of expenditure by the finance team.

Performance Indicators

Within the financial report, which forms part of this report there is a series of performance indicators which are utilised to assist in determining the financial strength and viability of each

Council. I am pleased to report that Bourke Shire Council meets or exceeds the bulk of these indicators.

Bourke Shire Council meets all of the ratios save for the level of own source revenue which is reflective of the high level of grants received and the outstanding debt ratio. The outstanding debts are brought about in part by the fact that Council within its boundaries has a number of properties of which the owner is unknown or others which are vacant and the owners refuse to pay. In some of these cases legal proceedings would be uneconomical, particularly given the value of some of the blocks. Council intends to hold a Section 713 Sale for Unpaid Rates early in the New Year.

Finalisation of Work at the Airport

During the past twelve months there has been a considerable amount of work done at the Bourke Airport with new runway lighting installed, the runway being resealed and new line marking undertaken including the car parking area.

The opportunity was also taken to improve security at the airport with new fencing installed adjacent to the terminal and the CCTV network has been expanded to take in large sections of the airport complex with the vision being transmitted to the monitoring centre.

Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy

Council has worked with Maranguka and The NSW Ombudsman's Office to secure funding for the employment of a Project Manager aimed at increasing employment opportunities within Bourke.

Council and Community representatives met with the Deputy Premier, the Hon John Barilaro, MP, the Minister for Finance, the Hon. Victor Dominello. MP and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC to discuss the initiative which would in part capitalise on the opportunities presented by the establishment of the abattoir. \$320,000.00 over two years has been subsequently committed to the project.

Support of our Local Members at Federal and State Level

Our two (2) local members, Mark Coulton M.P, Federal Member for Parkes, and Kevin Humphries MP, Member for Barwon in the NSW Government have been extremely helpful and I say a sincere thank you for their ongoing assistance and support. Both are very good advocates for Bourke Shire and the Bourke community. 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.

Staff Changes

The period has seen a number of staff changes with long serving staff in Stephen Bridge and Les Harding retiring whilst Manager of Tourism and Economic Development Phil Johnston resigned to take up a role with Narrromine Shire.

Plant Supervisor Neil Driscoll has also flagged his intent to retire early in the 2017/2018 period.

I wish to thank each of these staff members for their contribution to Bourke Shire and wish them well for the future.

I welcome our new Manager of Tourism and Economic Development Charles Liggett to the Bourke Shire Council team.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework now underpins the operation of Council and with the election of a new Council the Local Government Act requires Councils to undertake a review of the suite of documents that are involved.

Council undertook a series of community consultative meetings to update its Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which is the corner stone of all the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and has also reviewed all other documents in line with identified needs.

Council has a well-developed Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plans and these are extremely valuable in the determination of the Operational Plan (Budget) for each year as well as the Delivery Program which provides the basis of the Councils plans over the ensuing four (4) year period.

Work to introduce new Accounting Software

Work is continuing on the implementation of a new Accounting Software and it will be installed and operational by the time this report is published. The new Software will assist Council staff in meeting their obligations in relation to contemporary accounting and reporting requirements. The previous software being utilised was no longer being upgraded and had a rapidly declining number of users and as such was not longer supported.

Representation of various Local Government Related Committees

Councillors and staff have shouldered their responsibility on a regional basis and have been actively represented on a number of regional based committees and organisations, including the Western Division Group of Councils, NetWaste, Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance and its Professional Groups, OROC and its Professional Groups, Barwon Darling Zone of the Rural Fire

Service and Barwon Darling Water to note a few. Each of the groups requires an investment of time and other resources but it is essential that Council takes opportunity to have its voice heard and concerns raised.

CBD Redevelopment

Council has secured funding of \$1.5 million to undertake an upgrade of the Central Business District through funding provided by the Murray Darling Diversification Fund which is aimed at compensating communities who have experienced a significant economic and social loss as a result of the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

There has been a significant amount of planning undertaken to date and it is hoped that project will be commenced early in 2018.

Tourism

Growth in inland tourism has continued in 2016/2017 with the tourist attractions in Bourke to a large degree underpinned by those provided by Council with the popular Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, Jandra Paddle Boat and the Crossley Engine each providing visitors and opportunity to see some of the history of Bourke and District. These along with the other attractions and activities including but not limited to Poetry on a Plate, Mt Oxley, various station stays and the Aboriginal walking tours encourage visitors to stay additional nights in and around Bourke. The tourism industry is important to the Bourke community and Council continues to support and grow the product with a focus of making Bourke a destination.

One of the significant events for the year was the Back to Bourke celebrations which were once again held over the Easter weekend with the Back O Bourke Race Club Meeting being one of the major features with many visitors coming for the weekend and many ex-locals returning to Bourke as well. The success of the weekend is due to involvement of the whole of community, with the support of Council. I would like to thank each of the committees that are involved in making the weekend so successful.

Summary and Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of my fellow Councillors who have worked extremely hard over the past twelve months to provide a high level of representation and have given unselfishly of their time to attend the community consultations meetings in all parts of the Shire and also the meetings held in relation to the Far West Initiative. I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Lachlan Ford for representing me when required and the other Councillors who have also assisted in this regard.

I would like to thank staff at all levels within the organisation that work together to deliver the numerous services and facilities that Council provides. I would like particularly acknowledge the leadership provided by the Management Team led by the General Manager.

The running of an organisation such as Bourke Shire Council is very much a “team effort” and whilst there is always robust discussion in the decision making process the Councillors and Management team have worked cooperatively to achieve the best outcome for the community.

Barry Hollman

MAYOR

**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 Councilstaff 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 2016 Council elections, Council has comprised of:-

- Cr Barry Hollman (Mayor)
- Cr Lachlan Ford (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Cecil Dorrington
- Cr Ian Cole
- Cr John Thompson
- Cr Robert Stutsel
- Cr Sally Davis
- Cr Sam Rice
- Cr Sarah Barton
- Cr Victor Bartley

Role of Governing Body (Sect 223 LG Act)

- (1) The role of the governing body is as follows:
- (a) to direct and control the affairs of the council in accordance with this Act,
 - (b) to provide effective civic leadership to the local community,
 - (c) to ensure as far as possible the financial sustainability of the council,
 - (d) to ensure as far as possible that the council acts in accordance with the principles set out in Chapter 3 and the plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,
 - (e) to develop and endorse the community strategic plan, delivery program and other strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council,
 - (f) to determine and adopt a rating and revenue policy and operational plans that support the optimal allocation of the council's resources to implement the strategic plans (including the community strategic plan) of the council and for the benefit of the local area,
 - (g) to keep under review the performance of the council, including service delivery,
 - (h) to make decisions necessary for the proper exercise of the council's regulatory functions,
 - (i) to determine the process for appointment of the general manager by the council and to monitor the general manager's performance,
 - (j) to determine the senior staff positions within the organisation structure of the council,
 - (k) to consult regularly with community organisations and other key stakeholders and keep them informed of the council's decisions and activities,
 - (l) to be responsible for ensuring that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately.
2. The governing body is to consult with the general manager in directing and controlling the affairs of the 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. The provision of notice will allow staff to research any information that may assist in Council's understanding of the issues raised. 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 also 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

All Councillors are members of these standing Committees.

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 (RMCC) |
| | 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 2016/2017 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.

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 2017 at the Wal Mitchell Wharf Precinct, with Alexandra Croak representing as the Australia Day Ambassador. A breakfast was held in conjunction with the Rotary Club and the recipients of the 2017 Australia Day Awards were as follows:

| AWARD | RECIPIENT |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Sportsperson of the Year | Jacinta Smith-Robins |
| Young Sportsperson of the Year | Sophie Bowden |
| Emergency Service Volunteer | No nominations received |
| Community Service Through Employment | Weefa Wong, Yap Tan and Jeffery Loo |
| Village community Service | No nominations received |
| Community Event of the Year | Bourke's Ain't Caught Nuffin Fishing Club |
| Young Citizen of the Year | Claire Hand |
| Citizen of the Year | Michael Keenan |



Citizenship Ceremony

During the 2017 Australia Day Celebrations, Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman as an authorised officer to conduct citizenship ceremonies had the honour of conducting a ceremony for Remesh Koju.



Seniors Week

Seniors week celebrations were held from Sunday, 5th March – Sunday, 12th March 2017 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 Back O' Bourke Cafe.

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 the seniors had a Mystery Tour for the men and ladies. A pamper day for the ladies was arranged with a relaxing morning at the Bourke Bridge Inn with foot massages, hand massage and finger nails painting with morning tea and lunch, the ladies enjoyed themselves immensely. The men attended the Bourke's Men's Shed where they chatted, played cards over morning tea and a BBQ lunch.

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 morning the seniors meet at the Bourke Bowling Auditorium for morning tea whilst hearing from guest speaker Belinda Roberts from Transport NSW TrainLink to inform the seniors of service provided for the elderly when traveling with Transport NSW TrainLink following that the seniors sat back relaxed and settled down and was treated to the movie Dressmaker which was followed by lunch.

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 BBQ luncheon at the Back O' Bourke Cafe provided by Rotary Club and Far West Red Cross.

Guest speaker John Thompson also gave an information session to seniors of the importance of having a will in place.

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 2018.

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 and Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Bourke by placing a wreath at the Cenotaph in memory of the fallen.

Council also participated in the ANZAC Service at Enngonia.



Bourke Public Library

The following items for the 2016/2017 period are presented for your information.

| Item | 2016 | Item | 2017 |
|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Audio Visual | 4254 | Audio Visual | 3289 |
| Adult Fiction | 3372 | Adult Fiction | 3113 |
| Non-Fiction | 1336 | Non-Fiction | 1093 |
| Junior Fiction | 2657 | Junior Fiction | 2682 |
| Magazines | 1071 | Magazines | 838 |
| Interlibrary Loans | 17 | Interlibrary Loans | 28 |
| Total | 12707 | Total | 11043 |

Other statistical information

| | 2016 | | 2017 |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| New Members | 123 | New Members | 123 |
| Internet/Word Processing | 1405 | Internet/Word Processing | 1497 |
| Wireless Tickets | 108 | Wireless Tickets | 145 |
| Number of Visitors | 22049 | Number of Visitors | 14853 |
| Scans | 274 | Scans | 330 |
| Information Requests | 793 | Information Requests | 908 |
| Technical Assistance | 150 | Technical Assistance | 391 |
| Faxes | 174 | Faxes | 169 |

Highlights for the Year

Children's Services

- Jodi Hatch visited the Preschool during Children's Book Week in August to read to the children. There were three (3) visits during the week to each of the classes. The children very much enjoyed hearing the stories and participated very enthusiastically. Children's Book Week was celebrated in the library with competitions running leading up to Book Week, and we had a good response. Thanks to everyone who entered. Our prize-giving party was very well-attended, with 18 children and 12 parents coming along.
- The Reading Hour was held in August, with seven (7) children coming to listen to stories and read in the library.
- The Summer Reading Club was held over the school holiday period. A party to conclude the Summer Reading Club was held in February. The children dressed up as the favourite superhero. We had 13 children attend.

- Children's Craft and Storytime was held every month, with a total of 133 children attending.
- Books for Babies kits were again distributed this year, with 22 bags being given out to new mums.



BOURKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Programs and Services

- Jodi Hatch is participating in the Tax Help Program again this year. 20 people were assisted with their tax returns.
- In October Jodi Hatch attended the CareWest Carers' lunch to give a talk on the library resources and services.
- Emma Beer attended the Pregnancy and Baby Expo at Bourke Public School in April, with a display and handouts of library information.
- Jodi Hatch participated in a teleconference in May to discuss the possibility of joining a consortia of libraries to purchase eBooks and e-Audio through Bolinda. This is a great opportunity for us, as it is not possible for us to afford on our own and it would be a valuable service to provide to the community.
- In June we launched our World Book Online subscription with a demonstration of the new service. Light refreshments were provided. All those in attendance were very impressed and were keen to try it out on the computers provided.

Events

- The library hosted a book event as part of the Festival of 1000 Stories in September. Tony Pritchard gave a talk on his book "Drifting Down the Darling". We had 25 people attend, and it was a great morning. Tony kindly donated three (3) signed copies of his book to the library.
- A murder mystery evening was held in December. The theme was "Murder at the Deadwood Saloon". We had 24 people attend the event, and it was again a very successful evening.

Jodi Hatch

Library Manager

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION

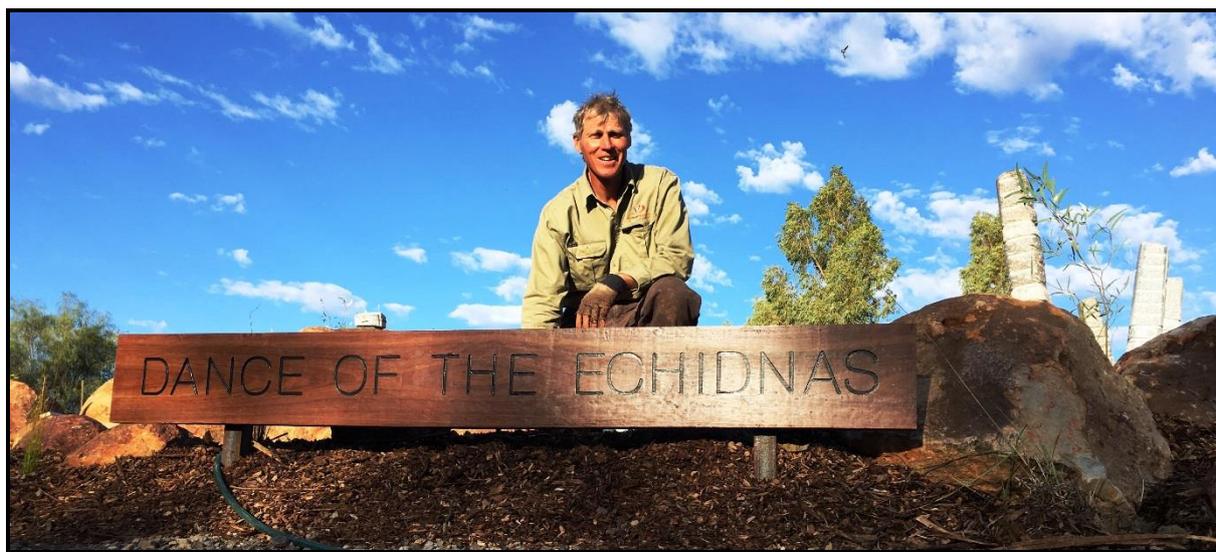
Visitor numbers and tourism development continued along a strong trend for the 2016 and 2017 years. Overall numbers have been consistent with excellent visitor feedback received in regards to the product on offer and the hospitality experienced.

Bourke Shire Council has continued to maintain the PV Jandra, Crossley Engine and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre with these products continuing to be a strong part of the visitor experience in the region. The Exhibition Centre also hosts the Visitors Centre which welcomed 33,000 visitors through the doors in the 2016-17 financial year.



In early 2017 Bourke Shire Council was a strong supporter of the Back to Bourke celebrations including the Back O' Bourke Race meeting, wool bale rolling and street parade. The Louth Races remains the largest event in the Region and one of the best race meetings in Country New South Wales.

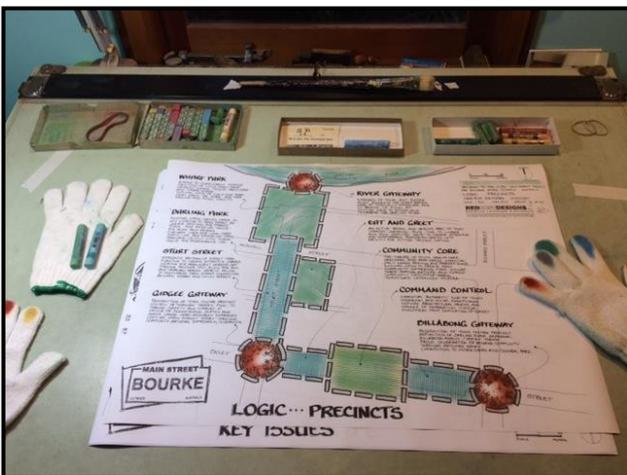
Bourke Shire Council also continued its commitment to the constant upgrade of the Exhibition Centre and in the 2016-17 year finished the 'Dance of the Echidnas' garden at the entrance to the Exhibition Centre and for the 2017 visitor season welcomed Morall's bakery as the café operator and Lochie Cossor who presented the Outback Show.





Early in 2017 the PV Jandra was slipped for its four yearly inspection. The Jandra was inspected by NSW Maritime officials, passing inspection in time for the 2017 visitor season.

Bourke Shire Council has also actively continued its many economic development initiatives. In the 2016-17 financial year work commenced on the Bourke small stock abattoir which is expected to ultimately employ about 200 staff once complete in 2018. Shire staff have also been active to ensure the sale and development of the residential development at North Bourke with all available blocks now sold in this North Bourke development precinct.



Bourke Shire Council was also fortunate enough to secure a grant from the Murray Darling Diversification Fund in order to develop the main street area and the precinct from the wharf along Sturt Street to Oxley Street. This will ensure the link between Bourke's wharf area and the main street and provide an important upgrade to the street amenity. It is expected that this work will commence in the second half of 2017.

While these three large projects have been underway Bourke Shire Council has also supported initiatives such as the Bourke Business Group's buy local at Christmas campaign, supported in the area of business training and continues to participate in the Love the Life We Live initiative.

All of the initiatives undertaken in the area of tourism and development are well supported by the community and the Community Strategic Plan with a new plan implemented in time for the 2018 financial year. Also of significance was the development of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan which is also now included, in Council's decision making process.

ROADS SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Regional Road Block Grant

Budget: \$1,967,000.00

Sealed Road – 112.52 km **Unsealed Road** – 458.09 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: (\$1,356,378.43) this includes grading, clearing of table drains, grid maintenance, signage, bitumen patching, reformation, clearing mitre drains.

Expenditure – Reseals: (\$503,746.46)

Reseals on MR 405 & MR 404 completed under 10 year plan.

Expenditure – Gravel Resheeting :

Cuttaburra Bridges No 1 & 2 Bridge alignment (MR 405 Bourke – Wanaaring)

Expenditure: (\$144,000.00)

Funding was provided under the supplementary Component \$144,000.00 from the supplementary component of the Regional Road Block Grant to help complete the new alignment.

Council has also used Roads to Recovery funding on this project to complete the new alignment between the three Cuttaburra Bridges (\$107,884.76).

Rural Local Roads

Budget: \$899,000.00

Sealed: 11.29 km

Listed Roads: 48

Unsealed: 1,834.96

Expenditure: \$982,865.73

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

Roads to Recovery

Budget: \$1,941,009.00

Expenditure: \$1,745,535.59

Bourke town St Shoulder Construction Cooma, Anson & Wilson Streets

Expenditure: \$133,306.00

Wanaaring Street Reseals O'Grady, Vicary & Church Streets

Expenditure: \$21,711.52

Replacement Len Mallon Bridge Burrawantie Road

Expenditure: \$696,786.00

Construction of new Bridge and sealing of existing alignment completed.



Len Mallon Bridge Construction and sealing of Alignment

Replacement Whiskey Creek Bridge West Culgoa Road

Expenditure: \$420,140.00

Construction of new bridge completed and sealing of existing alignment completed.



Whiskey Creek Bridge and Sealing of Alignment

MR 405 Cuttaburra Bridges Realignment

Expenditure: \$107,884.76

Construction and sealing of new alignment completed.



New Cuttaburra Alignment

MR 405 Installation of new box cell culverts and raising of Road level at 4 & 5 Mile

Expenditure: \$92,655.10

Purchase and delivery of culvert pipes only

MR 68 South Sealing of Duck Tank

Expenditure: \$273,052.21

Construction and sealing of the Duck tank area of road completed. Approximately 1.8 km.

State Roads

Sealed Road: 357 km

Unsealed: Nil

RMCC Routine Budget: \$670,000.00

Expenditure: \$699,009.05

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:

Council received approximately \$5,482,304.00 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: \$1,777,873.19

Small Plant Replacement Maintenance & Repair

Budget: \$35,000

Expenditure: \$24,009.65 check this with Leonie

Light Plant Replacement 2016/2017

Budget: \$180,000.00

Expenditure: \$158,344.00

Heavy Plant Replacement 2016/2017

Budget: \$1,060,681.82

Expenditure: \$1,009,206.00

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hino 5 Tonne Tipper | \$62,022.00 |
| Bitumen PaveLine Truck | \$375,886.00 |
| Caterpillar Backhoe | \$129,002.00 |
| Toro GM 360 Motor | \$18,917.00 |
| Toro 48" ZMaster mower | \$14,240.00 |
| Mahindra Tractor | \$21,491.00 |
| Moore Dolly | \$24,318.00 |
| Moore Side Tipper | \$93,636.00 |
| Kenworth Prime Mover | \$269,694.00 |
| Total | \$1,009,206.00 |



Kenworth Prime Mover



Hino 5 Tonne Tipper



Moore Side Tipper & Tandem Dolly



Cat Backhoe



Mahindra Tractor – Byrock

WATER AND WASTEWATER SECTION OF ENGINEERING

Aim

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

Strategy

- Continue membership of the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Association (LMWUA)
- Evaluate options and the availability of funding to Drought Proof Bourke and North Bourke which includes the raising of the existing weir by one (1) metre, the possible construction of a second weir upstream of the current Bourke Weir and the further development of the Walkden's Bore Project with a third bore to increase supply in times of drought.
- 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 rain event 2017

Progress

The most significant development was the announcement that the New South Wales Government has recognised the importance of the upgrade of the Bourke Water Treatment plant has agreed to fund the renewal of the Plant to the total value of \$8,739,00.00 which includes an amount of \$175,000.00 which has already been committed from the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewage Programme. The balance of the funding of \$8564,000.00 will be provided under the Restart NSW- Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program.

Council has been working closely with the New South Wales Public Works to complete the plans and specifications for the new Plant and it is proposed to call tenders for the works once all the funding deeds are signed and in place

This announcement follows an earlier Announcement that funding has been made available for the construction of an additional waste water pond at the Waste Water Treatment Plant which will cost a total of \$677,000 with funding of 50% of that amount being made available from the Restart NSW- Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program.

Walden's Bore which was also funded under Re-Start NSW has been completed and is operational and will provide a good emergency supply if the severe drought situation arises, and plans are also in place to provide another bore to further supplement the supply through the newly commissioned infrastructure.

Ongoing Strategies

- Plan developed for the sinking of an auxiliary bore at the Wanaaring turn off to supplement the Walden's bores
- 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

Asset Improvement/ Replacement

- Raw water supply valve system being upgraded to monitor output
- Completion Waldens Bore
- Asbestos removal from Water Treatment Plant Building
- Replacement of steel supports in the water plant clarifier
- Funding made available for additional lagoon to be constructed at sewer treatment plant



Bourke weir – water restrictions in place 2016

Best practice is implemented and the following are to be re-assessed

| Policy/Plan | Abbreviations |
|---|---------------|
| Integrated Water Cycle Management | IWCM |
| Demand Management Plan | DMP |
| Strategic Business Plans | SBP |
| Drought Management Plan | DMP |
| Drinking Water Quality Management Plan | DWQMP |
| Liquid Trade Waste Policy | LTWP |
| Pollution Incident Response Management Plan | PIRMP |

- 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.



The beginning of bore 1 Walkdens Bore 2014

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 and maintenance 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
- Cricket pitch upgrade Fords Bridge
- Plan developed for the upgrade of Bourke stormwater system
- Back-lane poisoning and cleaning
- Tree trimming for street sweeper access
- Rest area rubbish control continued



New cricket pitch Fords Bridge



Richard Street new stormwater outlet

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



Renshaw complex 2017

Airport

- Routine maintenance works undertaken
- Reseal of airstrip
- Upgrade of lighting system
- 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
- Ensure adequate numbers of trained Airport Reporting Officers (ARO's)



Bourke- airside new lines marked, terminal in background

Village Amenities

- Programmed and routine repairs and maintenance undertaken
- Assistance provided by village communities
- Continued support during village functions
- Village Street reseals



Enngonia village meeting place – Enngonia oval

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

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 2016/17 totalled 14, Section 96 applications one (1) with Complying Developments applications approved for 2016/17 being one (1). The total value of projects amounted to \$2,280,800.

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 an anomaly with residential accommodation in RU1 Primary production land and R5 Large Lot Residential land.

Regional plans have been developed to plan for future population’s needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and a healthy environment. The NSW Government is transforming the system of Local Government to ensure Councils can deliver the quality services and infrastructure that communities deserve. Bourke Shire Council is part of The Far West Regional Plan 2036, the plan is a 20-year blueprint for the future of Western NSW and now has been finalised. The plan’s vision is to create a diverse economy, supported by the right infrastructure, an exceptional natural environment and resilient communities. It will deliver a vision through three (3) goals:-

- A diverse economy with efficient transport and infrastructure networks
- Exceptional semi-arid rangelands traversed by the Barwon-Darling River
- Strong and connected communities

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. Council was also successful with applications lodged for funding to complete the Aboriginal Heritage Study, and another to replace the lead lettering in the cenotaph.

RANGER SERVICES

Animal control and regulatory services continued to be the main focus in the provision of ranger services for the year. In 2016/17 Council spent \$131809 on companion animal management and regulatory related activities.

| Year | Animals Impounded |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2014/15 | 185 |
| 2015/16 | 246 |
| 2016/17 | 224 |

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.

Bourke Shire Council has formed an alliance with Rural Outback Animal Respite (ROAR). ROAR is a registered non for profit business and a registered animal shelter that is situated in Cobar. ROAR rescues companion animals that are due for euthanasia after being held in the Council pound for the required legislative time. The animals are collected from the Bourke pound and transported to the rescue centre in Cobar. Before the animal leaves the pound the animal is microchipped by the Ranger and the necessary Companion Animal paperwork is filled out and handed over to ROAR. Once at the rescue centre the animals are assessed for re-homing. Temperament checks, De-sexing, flea/tick control and vaccinations are undertaken at the facility also. Once this is completed the animals are picked up by an animal transport service and taken to the larger city animal rescue centres where they are foster cared until rehomed. Council Euthanasia rate has dropped by 95%, with the introduction of the rehoming program seeing 89 dogs being rehomed through the program.

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 'Recovery Shop' continued to be operated at the Bourke Waste Depot and has gained significant community acceptance, appreciation and importantly diverts waste from landfill to encourage reuse. Goods are selected, 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 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 (3) more communities. The Waste Aid model consists of two (2) parts, Aboriginal Community Cleanup 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 five (5) Aboriginal communities, supply of infrastructure to communities, and employment of Aboriginal Waste Liaison Officers and Community Environment Advisors in all three (3) Councils and five (5) 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 Decemebr2017. 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 six (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.

Bourke Shire Council once again was an active participant in the Asbestos Awareness month in November, Council staff through the month of November actively promoted the importance of Asbestos Awareness across our LGA not only households but for businesses and trades people.

A key component of the campaign is the community education tool, Betty. Betty is a house on wheels designed to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos in homes and buildings and she's very effective. Bourke Shire Council Staff secured Betty to visit the township as part of Asbestos Awareness Month.

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, 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 the Bio Security Act which has replaced the Noxious Weeds Act. 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 were successful in gaining funding through the ClubGrants Category 3 Fund to build a new zero depth Splash Park. The Splash park construction was completed throughout the year and was commissioned in January 2017 for use. The Splash Park consists of state of the art water filtration, water features and toys, surrounding concourse pavement, social seating zone and shade structures that cover the Splash park and seating areas. 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 27 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 Staff represented on the committee which instigated an action plan for a plan of management to be developed for the Byrock Rock Holes.

Council were successful in gaining funding through the Social Housing Community fund to improve its community infrastructure and facilities. New playground equipment was installed at Jones Park and a Multi-generational fitness park installed at Central Park.

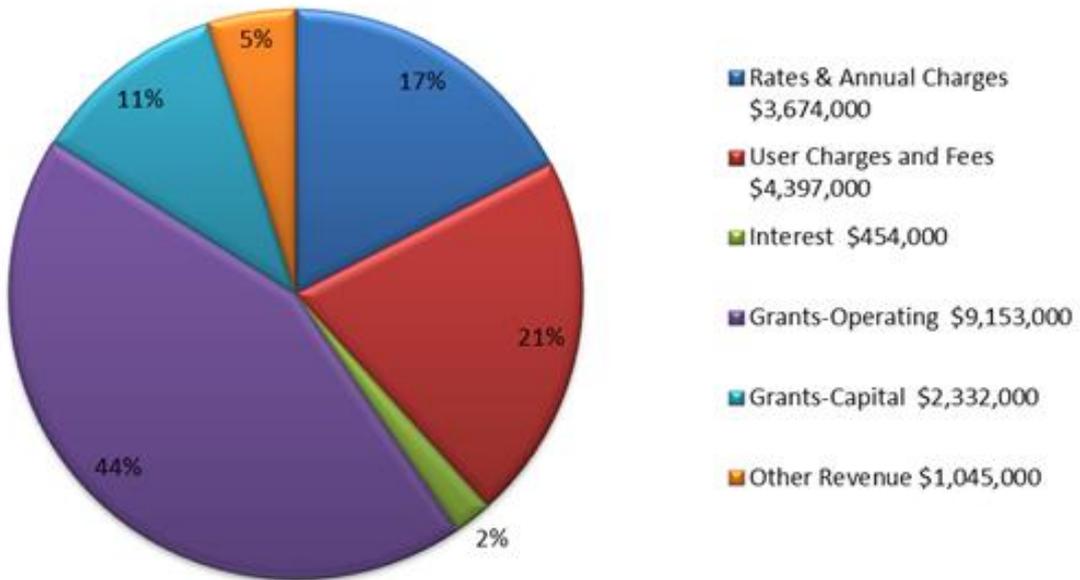
COUNCIL BUILDINGS

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. A new crib/training room and a caretakers dwelling were installed at the Council Depot.

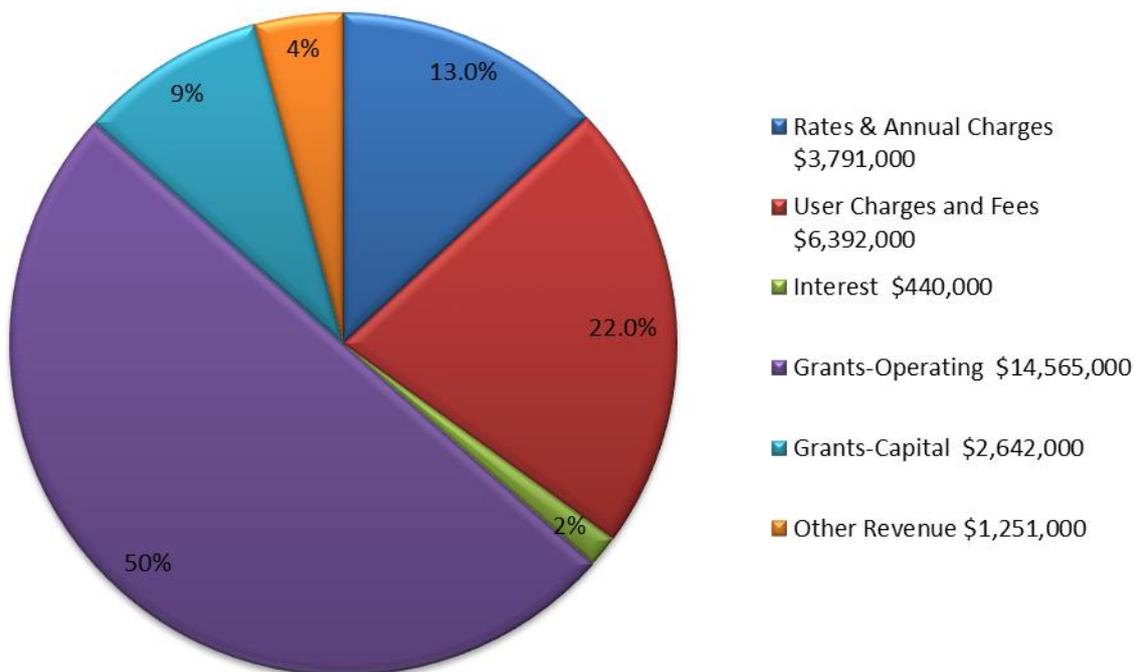
Dwayne Willoughby

Manager Environmental Services

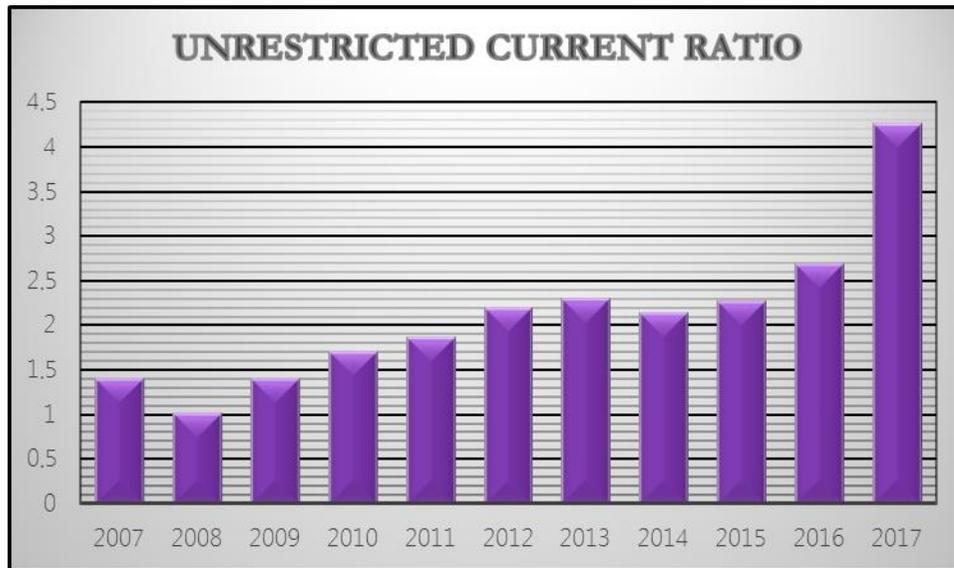
**2015-2016 REVENUE
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Revenue - \$21,082,000**



**2016-2017 REVENUE
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS
Total Revenue - \$29,081,000**



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

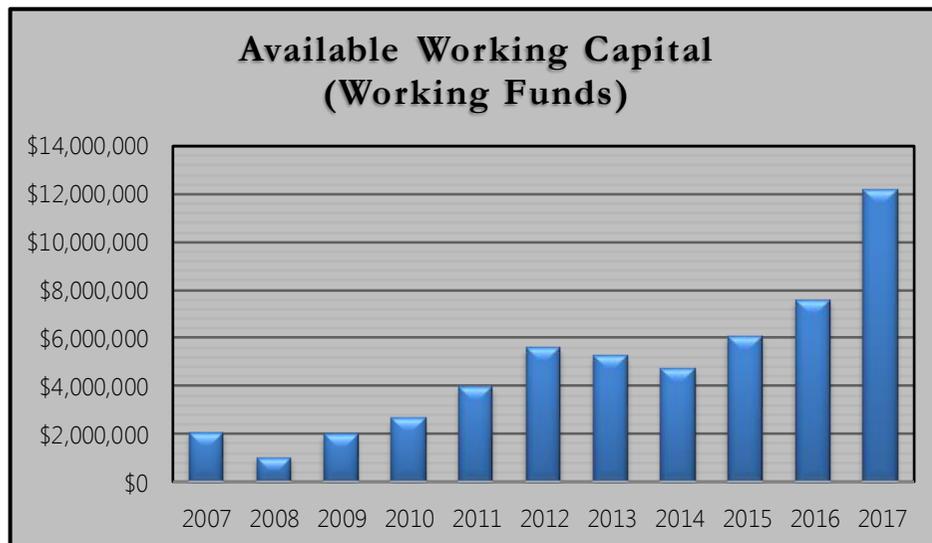
1:1 = **RED** Remedial action required

1:1 to 2:1 = **AMBER** Must monitor trend closely

Over 2:1 = **GREEN** Acceptable

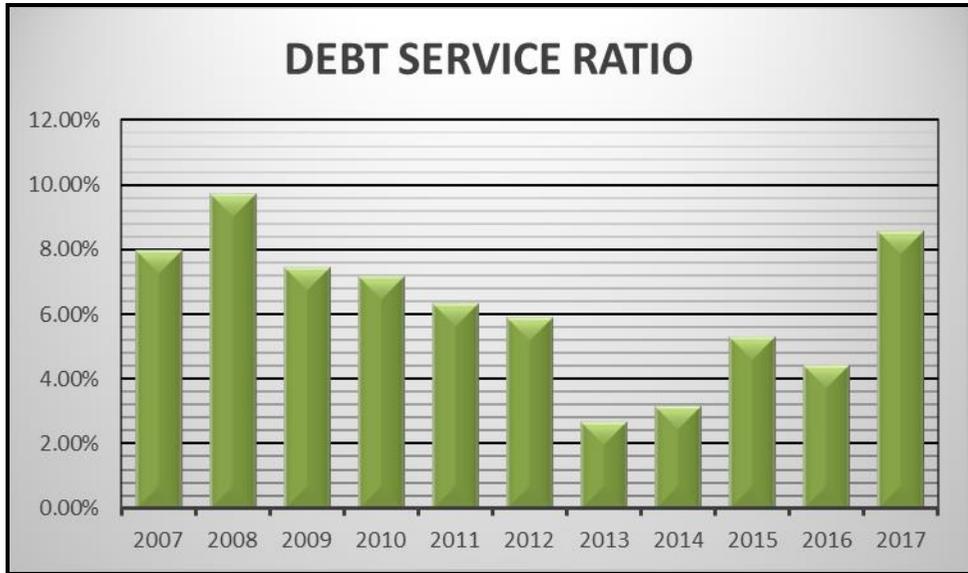
Over 10:1 = **RED** Remedial action required

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



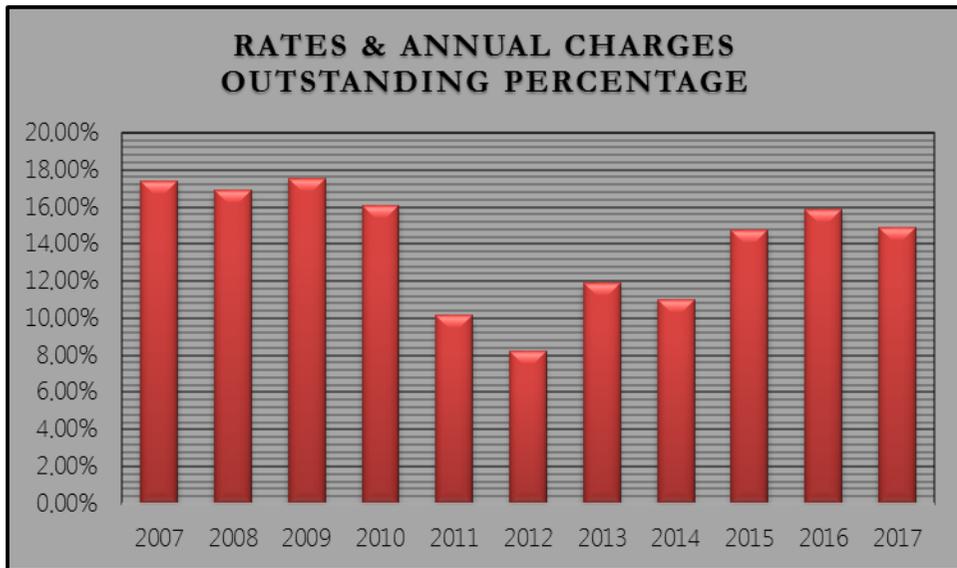
Available Working Capital – (Working Funds)

- 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



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

OLG BENCHMARK = >2%

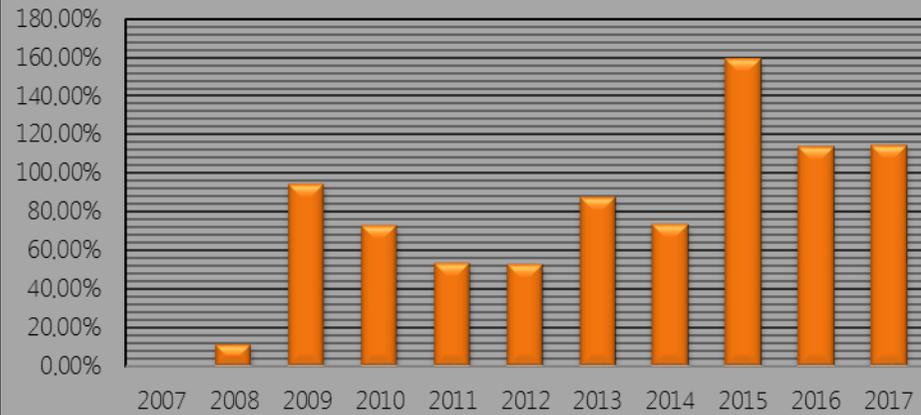


Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio.

- 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%

OLG BENCHMARK = <10% IN RURAL COUNCILS

BUILDING & INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWALS RATIO

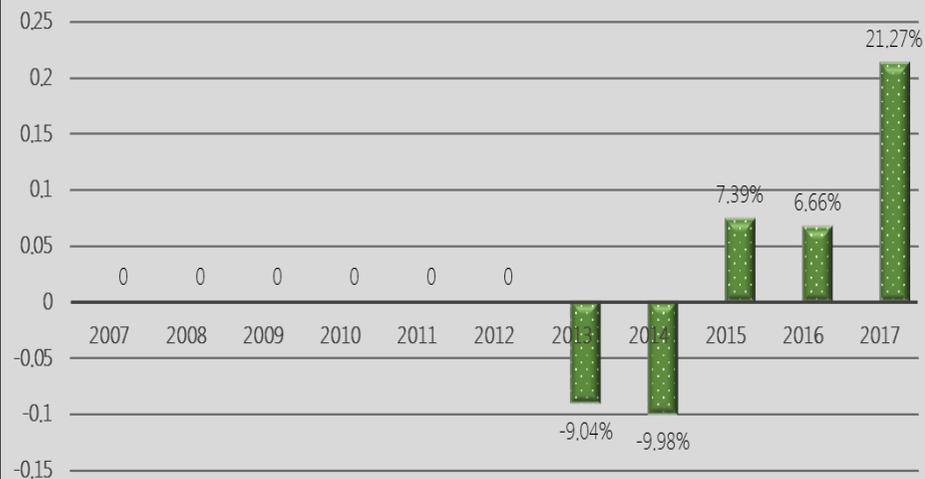


Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio

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.

OLG BENCHMARK -100%

OPERATING PERFORMANCE RATIO



Operating Performance Ratio

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

OLG BENCHMARK > 0%

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: | 84 | |
| Salaries & Wages: | \$5,395,000 | |
| Income: | \$29M | |
| Rate Income: | \$3.8M | |
| Rate in Dollar | Town | 1.51 cents per dollar of land value |
| | Village | 4.84 cents per dollar of land value |
| | Rural | 0.726 cents per dollar of land value |
| Total Operating Expenditure | \$21M | |
| Land Valuation: | \$154,644,230 | |
| Rates Assessments: | 1,736 | |

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Audited Financial Reports LGA s428 (2)(a)

Bourke Shire Council has improved its financial position for the 2016/2017 financial year.

The NSW Auditor General is Council's appointed Auditor. 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

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

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 | \$32,397.60 |
| Sparke Helmore Lawyers Library Lease | Completed | \$2,157.27 |
| Booth Brown Legal Ambulance Transfer | Completed | \$494.87 |
| Land Sales | Completed | \$13,647.35 |
| Marsdens Law Group Legal Advice – Various EPA, Development Advice | Completed | \$22,834.74 |
| | Total | \$71,531.83 |

Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities – 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 – cl 217 (1)(a1)

Council expended \$113,202.72 on Mayoral fees and Councillor Fees during 2016/17

The distribution was as follows:-

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Mayoral Fees | \$25,091.79 |
| Councillors Fees | \$88,110.93 |

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 \$24,961.24. The breakup of this expenditure is as follows:-

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Provision of dedicated office equipment to Councillors – cl217(1)(a1)(i) | \$6,120.50 |
| Telephone calls made by Councillors – cl217(1)(a1)(ii) | Nil |
| Attendance of Councillors at Conferences and seminars – cl217(1)(a1)(iii) | \$16,114.01 |
| 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) | \$2,726.70 |
| 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 2016/17

Senior Staff Remneration – 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 2017. 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.

General Manager's Remuneration – REG cl 217 (1)(b)

During 2016/17 the total remuneration package of the General Manager was \$206,118.91.

This figure includes salary paid, fringe benefit tax expenses, private use of a Council motor vehicle, employer's superannuation contribution, housing subsidy and employee 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 | \$1,816,976.50 |
| A Ryan | Road Works | \$483,327.73 |
| Caltex | Fuel Purchase | \$496,664.56 |
| Stabilised Pavements | Road Works | \$421,207.10 |
| Super Sealing | Road Works | \$216,852.00 |
| NAK Graders | Road Works | \$266,540.91 |
| Boral Resources | Road Materials | \$462,977.84 |
| Murray Constructions | Bridge Building | \$931,626.82 |
| Aqua West Pty Ltd | Emergency Bore Trans Sys | \$552,224.05 |
| Inland Truck Centre | Motor Vehicles | \$283,963.58 |
| Lionel Moore Trailers | Motor Vehicle/Trailers | \$275,252.60 |
| Origin Energy Holdings | Electricity Supply | \$213,586.33 |
| Hydrocare Pool Services | Splash Park Pool | \$578,614.68 |
| Saunders Electrics | Aerodrome Lighting | \$322,909.09 |
| Simtec Surveillance & Security | CCTV Cameras | \$170,775.00 |
| Tracserv | Motor Vehicles | \$422,750.53 |
| West Orange Motors | Motor Vehicles | \$207,013.85 |
| Westrac Equipment | Motor Vehicles & Parts | \$190,970.06 |
| Bourke Waste Management | Road Works | \$178,180.75 |

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 2016/17.

Contributions and Donations REG 217 cl(1)(a5)

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993 was \$41,249.41.

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

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
- Council throughout 2016/ 2017 has continued to ensure all elements of Council's Equal Employment Management (EEO) Plan have been implemented and importantly that all employees are aware of the EEO Plan.
- All Councils advertisements reference Council's commitment to EEO and the understanding of each applicant of EEO is assessed via the application stage and interview stage of employment and is also addressed during the induction phase of new employees.
- EEO is a standing item on the agenda of the Management Executive Team (Manex)
- Council along with the Councils of Brewarrina and Walgett submitted an application under the Department of Local Governments Innovation Fund to enhance its Human Resources Policies and Procedures and included in those will be a strong reference to EEO. Advice has subsequently been received of the success of that application.
- Council seeks the guidance of both Local Government New South Wales and the respective Unions in ensuring that adequate resources are available to give employees an adequate understanding of the EEO legislation.

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
- Local Government NSW
- Western Division Councils of NSW
- Outback Shires Alliance (Walgett, Bourke & Brewarrina Shires)

Rates & Charges and REG cl(132) the following amounts of Rates & Charges were written off during the period

| Pensioner Concessions | \$ | Written Off \$ |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| General Rate - Pensioner | 32,971.76 | |
| Water – Pensioner | 12,140.64 | |
| Sewer - Pensioner | 10,150.01 | |
| Sub Total Gross Pensioner Concessions | 55,262.41 | |
| State Subsidy Refund to Council | 30,555.81 | |
| Net Loss to Council for Pensioner Rebate Concessions | | 24,706.60 |
| General Rates & Charges | | 1,225.57 |
| Total Rates & Charges Write Off | | 25,932.17 |

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 2016/17 the subsidy amounted to \$30,555.81.

Stormwater Management – Local Government Regulation 217(e)

A significant portion of the revenue derived from the stormwater levy goes towards the repayment of loans utilised in previous years with the balance utilised for general maintenance works.

Council has acknowledged that the flat terrain in Bourke makes the implementation of stormwater drainage at best very difficult and has sought to address the issue within the limitation of the funding available.

Council has also secured a loan subsidy under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) which is initiative of the State Government.

A number of small projects have been implemented including the renewal of stormwater outlet which had shown signs of deterioration and posed an potential problem with the integrity of the facility.

Council will utilise the balance of the available loan funding obtained under LIRS to install pumping stations with the results of the tenders for this work to be known in the later part of 2017.

Council as part of the LIRS scheme commissioned a study from recognised consultants to assist with the formulation of a strategy for stormwater management.

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 \$ \$167,360.00 was levied and apportioned as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Maintenance | 20,000.00 |
| Capital | 39,000.00 |
| Loan Repayments | 108,360.00 |
| Total | 167,360.00 |

Further works was undertaken to complete both the short and long term strategies for stormwater upgrade works as detailed in the Geolyse report in 2015/2016. Theses works include:-

- Richard Street Stormwater drain outlet upgrade
- Horsefalls drain cleaning
- Cleaning Drains from Meadows Road to Brewarrina Road

Other works completed include:-

- Maintaining Stormwater Infrastructure within budget limits
- Effective kerb and gutter replacement.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Council received two requests in 2016/17.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ACCESS APPLICATIONS (SCHEDULE 2)

| Table A. Number of applications by type of applicant 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 |
| 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 | 1 | 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 | 1 | 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 | 1 |
| Environment, culture, economy and general matters | 1 |
| 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) | 1 |
| Decided after 35 days (by agreement with application) | 1 |
| Not decided within time (deemed refusal) | 0 |
| Total | 2 |

| 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 | 1 | 1 |
| 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 | 1 | 1 |

*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 | 2 |
| 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.

Community Strategic Planning summary

The Development of the Community Strategic Plan in 2012 and the implementation of long term financial and asset planning has made a significant change in the way that Bourke Shire Council consults with the community and commits to its yearly operational plans.



Over the past four years the strategic planning process has allowed the development of a four year delivery plan and also ensured at least yearly consultation with the Bourke community and within the Villages of Byrock, Fords Bridge, Enngonia and Louth.

A number of groups were consulted during the development of the Community Strategic Plan and subsequent Delivery Plan. Feedback was also gained through surveys. Overall the level of engagement with the community was high.

These groups included:-

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sport | Crime Prevention |
| Healthcare | Human Services & Churches |
| Education | The Arts |
| Aged Care | Bourke Shire Council Staff |
| General Community, Volunteers, P&C Committees | Business Houses |
| Wanaaring Village | Fords Bridge Village |
| Louth Village | Enngonia Village |
| Byrock Village | Utilities & Water Agencies |
| Environment | Farmers |
| Emergency Services | School SRC, Prefects, House Captains |
| Community Groups/Organisations | |

Four (4) major themes were developed during the consultation phase with each of these having several objectives for achievement. Targeted strategies were then developed in order to achieve these objectives which were acted on by staff and guided Councillors in their decision making processes. Each of the themes and objectives are set out below.

Theme 1. Working effectively to ensure a harmonious and sustainable community

- Strive for population growth and the maintenance of our community values
- Improvement in job opportunities, health outcomes and representation for the community
- Provide a high standard of infrastructure to support community needs

Theme 2. Ensure the long term economic sustainability of residents and businesses within the Shire

- 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
- Advocating the iconic regional benefits of Bourke Shire areas, its people and resources

Theme 3. Sustaining the Environmental Qualities of the Shire

- Managing the natural and built environment responsibly
- Securing a sustainable water and wastewater services for all users

Theme 4. Working Effectively with our Community to Achieve Our Long Term Vision

- Taking leadership with our community and governments, to improve social issues in the region
- Promoting participation and coordination between the community and Council
- Pursuing continuous improvement in the business of Council
- Providing strategic leadership for the community

Of the approximately one hundred actions within the past four year Delivery Plan most items have been completed, several have made significant progress and only several which have not commenced at all.

Progress Year by Year

The 2013 - 14 financial year was of significance in the Bourke community as work was undertaken on the Bourke Skatepark and the upgraded Children's playground was installed in Central Park. These two (2) items highlighted the importance of the Community Strategic Planning process as these ideas were largely driven by the young people of Bourke and those that Council met with during meetings with young families who highlighted the importance of fencing around Children's play equipment when adjacent to the Highway.



Work on the maintenance of Regional Roads also continued with a significant contribution towards the Warrego River Bywash Bridge and \$3,000,000 in works undertaken by Council on the Mitchell and Kamilaroi Highways.

The development of the Resource Strategy also highlighted the need for additional staff housing resulting in the purchase of one additional house utilised largely to assist in the attraction and retention of key staff.

The image above shows work underway on the Warrego River Bywash Bridge. An \$800,000 project undertaken by Bourke Shire Council.

The image below shows the works developed on the walkway from the Bourke main street to Alice Edwards Village. The walkway was identified as a priority by the residents of Alice Edwards Village and included the installation of lighting and traffic calming measures.





The images below shows the Bourke Skate Park nearing completion and the new Children’s playground developed adjacent to the Skate Park in Central Park.



In the 2014/15 financial year Bourke Shire Council committed to a number of projects that had been developed as part of the Community Strategic Planning process and resourcing strategy. Of particular note was the upgrade of one of the second major sewerage pumping station in the Bourke township at the Mertin Street Well.

This project valued at over \$1.1M was undertaken by Lucas Engineering with significant assistance from staff at Bourke Shire Council and Public Works. Bourke Shire Council also further prioritised the redevelopment of its timber Bridges and made significant purchases of heavy fleet.

Two (2) community projects highlighted important aspects of the Community Strategic Plan with support shown to the early childhood sector through the redevelopment of the Bourke Pre School while the supply of available land for residential accommodation was also enhanced through the development of sixteen large house blocks at North Bourke.

Bourke Shire Council also continued its investment in the tourism industry through significant support for the Back to Bourke Reunion and also the development of the Outback Show which proved to be an important tourist attraction at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre.





In 2015 the Back to Bourke Reunion was held which saw the return to Bourke of several thousand visitors. The images below shows the Reunion Dinner and Wool Bale Rolling in Oxley Street.



The Community Strategic Plan has a number of actions which encourage Community Development and bringing the Community together. The image below shows successful local Australia Day recipients with 2015 Ambassador for Bourke, John Dee.



The image below shows work underway on the Cuttaburra Creek Bridge.





The redevelopment of the Mertin Street Well was an important long term improvement in Bourke's sewer asset.

In the 2015-16 financial year Bourke Shire Council continued with further developing the priorities which had been established in the Community Strategic Planning process. The Community had prioritised the seeking of grant funding on long term projects for the benefit of the Bourke Shire community and in this 15/16 financial year over \$700,000 in funding was announced for the development of the Bourke Splash Park, almost \$500,000 for the upgrade of the Bourke airstrip and \$10,000,000 in funding for the Bourke Small Stock Abattoir.

Important works commenced on the Walkden's Bore pipeline which would help in drought proofing the Bourke community connecting the bore to the town's water supply and work also continued on the timber bridge replacement program.

Bourke Shire Councillors also welcomed the Hon. Duncan Gay and Local Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries in opening the Wayne O'Mally Bridge over the Bogan River at Beemery,



The image above shows a young Bourke community member at the popular Back O' Bourke Races. The Races are part of the Back to Bourke weekend supported by the Bourke community.

The image below shows the Bourke Seniors community participating in the Bourke Seniors week.



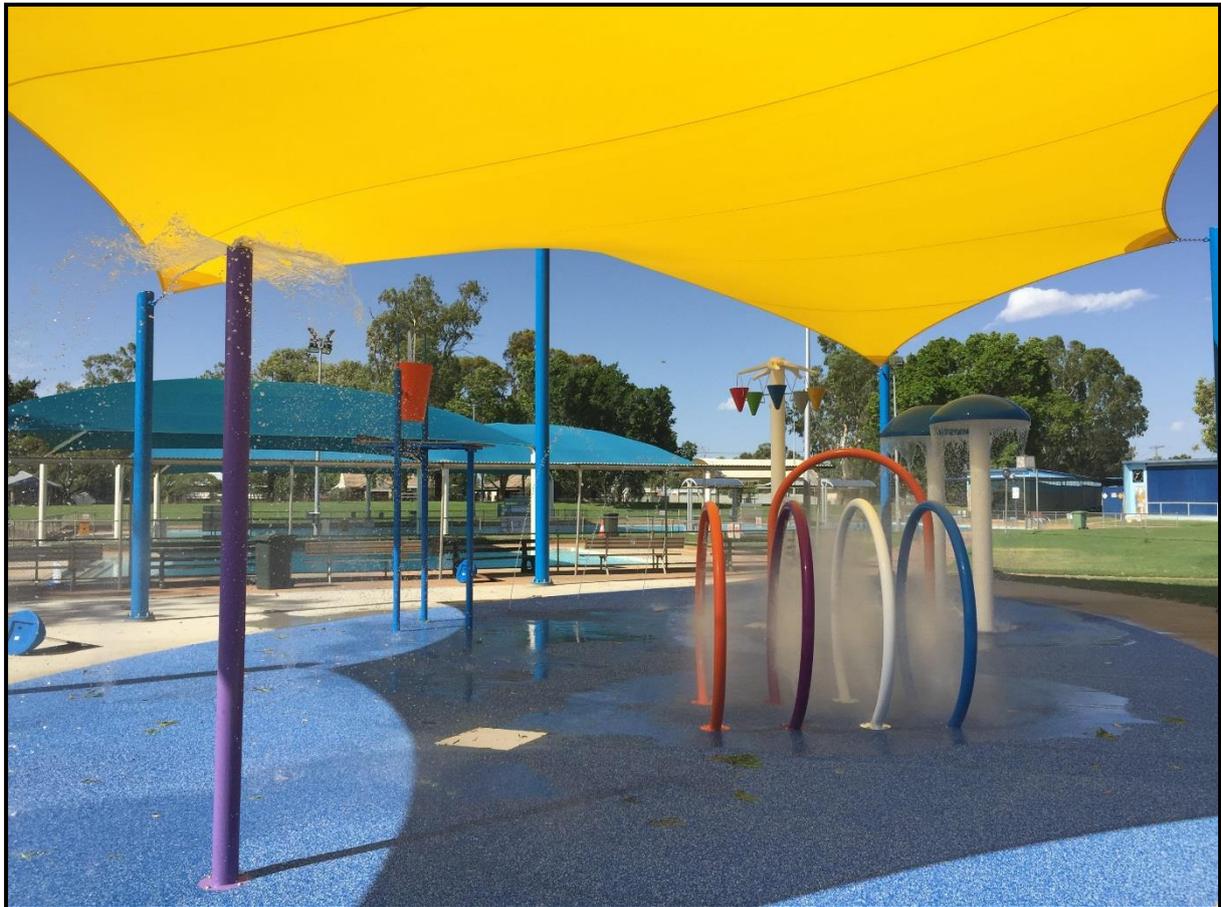
The image below shows the Byrock water tank dry during the 15/16 year. Long term water security is an important issue within the Delivery Plan. The second image shows work on the Walkden's Bore pumping station underway.



The 2016-17 year has proven to be one of the most significant years in the Delivery Plan of the last four (4) years. The Bourke Small Stock Abattoir started construction and this \$60M construction is due to open in 2018 and employ up to 200 people across a number of roles. The abattoir project is an important development for the employment prospects of the local community and has the opportunity to diversify the Bourke economy.

Also of particular importance the final timber Bridge within the Bourke Shire has now been replaced meaning valuable resources can be put towards other road projects. Bourke Shire Council staff also finalised the construction of the Bourke Splash Park at the Bourke Memorial Pool and plans commenced for the redevelopment of the Bourke Main Street.

Each of these projects have been developed and shown to be important through the Community Strategic Planning Process and have now come to fruition during this 2016-7 financial year.



The Bourke Splash Park has already proven to be popular with the Bourke community and is the next stage of the detailed Bourke Memorial Pool Strategic Plan.

The image below shows the recent development of the Bourke Abattoir Project. A project that has the potential to lift average household income in Bourke by 20%



The Community Strategic Planning process and subsequent development of the Delivery Plan has seen many project developed and delivered that were prioritized by the Bourke Shire community. Overall progress towards achieving the objectives of the plan have been positive with all but a small number of projects progressing.

The Delivery plan beginning in 2017-18 has now been developed and we look forward to the actions contained within this next plan being undertaken.