



“From the GM’s Desk” 8th October 2015



There has been a very positive response from the community following the announcement that plans are being progressed for the establishment of a small stock abattoir in Bourke. The abattoir will create 200 jobs when fully operational. A Planning Focus Meeting was held last week to provide the opportunity for the relevant agencies who will be involved in the approval process to detail the matters that they would like to see addressed in the Environment Impact Statement that will need to be prepared by the proponents to accompany the Development Application for the facility.

As the value of the development exceeds the threshold of thirty million dollars it will be deemed as State Significant and the Development Application will be referred to the Department of Planning for consideration and they will be the Consent Authority.

Council has been working closely with the CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd for a few months now and will continue to assist where possible to both facilitate and expedite the project.

As the summer approaches there will be an increased demand on the water supplies right across the Shire. Residents are reminded to be “Water Wise” and ensure that water is not wasted. Far too often water can be seen to flow down the gutters or ponding. If possible, water in the evening or early in the morning and not in the heat of the day to maximise the benefit and reduce evaporation.

The “Garage Sale Trail” is fast approaching and is all set for Saturday, 24th October. Bourke Shire Council urges all local businesses, community groups and residences to jump online and register your garage sale. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of this new incentive to de-clutter your place of any unwanted treasures. Anyone not registering for a garage sale should visit the “Garage Sale Trail” website (www.garagesaletrail.com.au) the morning of Saturday, 24th of October to see where and who is holding a garage sale.

The Annual Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for 18th October 2015 and will be coordinated locally by Bourke Rotary Club with Phil Johnston acting as the coordinator. I would like to encourage all members of the Bourke Community to get involved.

In the lead up to the day Bourke Shire Council will be undertaking a targeted removal programme and looking at some of the Graffiti on its own property. Graffiti is a blight on the landscape and everyone should do their bit in its removal. Of course it would be much easier for the whole community if person creating the graffiti would cease with this ongoing mindless sort of vandalism.

I will be travelling down to Dubbo later this afternoon to attend the October meeting of the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils then heading down to the Annual Conference of Local Government New South Wales which will commence on Sunday 11th October and then continue for a further two(2) days. The Conference will be held at Rosehill Racecourse.

The conference will also be attended by Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis and Cr Cec Dorrington. The conference will see the election of the Executive for the next two (2) years and with the Local Government Reforms that have been talked about, each of those elected to these important positions will have a huge responsibility in ensuring that the interest of all Local Government bodies are properly represented.

Wally Mitchell, a former President of the Shires Association of NSW will also be attending the conference in his role as a Patron of Local Government New South Wales. Wally had a long and distinguished career in Local Government and is a very well- known identity in Local Government circles and he will no doubt renew many old friendships.

On Wednesday, 13th October 2015 the Inaugural Meeting of the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee will be held under the chairmanship of John Williams. All eight (8) Councils proposed as members of the Far Western Initiative have been invited to attend along with a number of other agencies who will take their place on the Advisory Committee.

Council is able to send one delegate as well as an advisor, with the Mayor, Cr Lewis being the Delegate and I will attend in the advisory role.

This meeting will be held at the Offices of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in Parramatta.

The initial meeting will be an important one and Bourke Shire Council is keen to ensure that any changes resulting from the establishment of the Far West Initiative have a positive outcome for our community.

The Bourke Shire Council staff Union Picnic Day will be held on Friday, 30th October 2015 and all Council Offices and the Library will be closed on that day. Council will have staff on call for any emergency situation that may arise and can be accessed by calling 0419 722 055.

The Waste Management Facility will be operating as normal.

A reminder that nominations for the 2016 Australia Day awards are open and can be lodged at Councils Offices.

Nicole Payne a Project Officer with Regional Development Orana visited Bourke on Tuesday to discuss the work that has been undertaken on the Orana and Far West Infrastructure Masterplan which is the process of being developed. Nicole sought the input of Bourke Shire into the plan with her visit to Bourke one of several stopovers planned for the regions' Councils to ensure she was able get the views of all involved. The plan doesn't focus on local issues but is aimed at projects on a more regional level.

The football knockout at Dubbo last weekend went well with the local side acquitting themselves quite well.

I heard a number of comments regarding the economic boost to Dubbo as a result of the knockout and the number of visitors to the city. It demonstrates that tourism can be generated in many forms and visitors to towns for sporting events, conferences, reunions etc. generate significant income via accommodation, food and fuel sales. The whole community gets a spin- off either directly or indirectly.

There is still no more news in relation to the re-establishment of an air service for Bourke but the information I have received is that the matter is still very much on the agenda and hopefully we will hear some positive news over the next few weeks.

The Louth celebrations for the sesqui centenary of the village are planned for the 31st October 2015. It should be a good weekend for the village and no doubt many ex-residents and others with ties to the village will take the opportunity to participate in the celebrations.

The sale of another four (4) blocks at North Bourke has been approved by Council. The blocks have created a lot of interest over the past few months and this interest is starting to result in sales, justifying Councils decision to make additional blocks available in the area.

IPART are expected to report to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Paul Toole, MP next week regarding the results of their assessment of the "Fit for the Future Proposals" which were required to be submitted by the 144 Councils who are not part of the Far Western Initiative. It is not known when the Minister will make the results of the assessment public; however, they will certainly generate some interest when it occurs.

Quote of the Week!

"Spending today complaining about yesterday won't make tomorrow any better"

Ross Earl
General Manager