



## “From the GM’s Desk” 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015



The much anticipated release of the IPART assessment of the New South Wales Council Fit for the Future Proposals occurred on Tuesday with all Mayors invited to a “webinar” prior to the public release of the document.

IPART assessed the proposals against the following criteria:-

- Scale and Capacity
- Financial Criteria
  - Financial sustainability
  - Infrastructure and service management
  - Efficiency

IPART received 38 proposals from metropolitan Councils and of those proposals 9 were deemed as fit and the remaining 29 deemed to be unfit. In the rural areas 101 proposals were received including 20 rural council proposals and of these only 43 proposals were assessed as fit for the future.

The Councils who were involved in the “fit for the Future “ process will now each receive a letter from the Department of Premier and Cabinet detailing the courses of action open to them and they have 30 days to respond.

Bourke Shire Council has been earmarked for membership of the Far western Initiative and as a result did not participate in the “Fit for the Future” process and will be working with the Far Western Initiative Advisory Committee to develop a new model for this part of the state.

The full reports can be accessed at [www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au)

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The Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis, Cr Cec Dorrington and I attended the Annual Conference of Local Government New South Wales last week and as was expected the addresses by the Premier, the Hon Mike Baird, MP and the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Paul Toole MP focussed on the current Local Government reform process and it was made very clear that change was in the wind.

Both the Premier and Minister fielded a number of questions from the floor in relation to the process and the indicative timeframes. The Minister indicated that by Christmas this year each Council should be aware of the direction they should be taking in the future.

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Whilst in Sydney Mayor, Cr Lewis and I also attended the inaugural meeting of the Far Western Initiative Advisory Committee on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October with Cr Lewis being the delegate and I was able to attend as an observer. There is a considerable amount of work still to be undertaken in the establishment of the Far West Initiative which aims to deliver a new governance and service delivery model to apply across all levels of government to secure better outcomes for local communities.

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The election for Officer Bearers for Local Government New South Wales took place in conjunction with the Annual Conference and the following persons were elected

President, Councillor Keith Rhoades, Councillor Coffs Harbour City Council  
Vice President (Metro) Councillor Bill Pickering Ryde Council  
Vice President (Rural/Regional) Councillor Greg Mathews Dubbo City Council  
Treasurer Councillor Scott Bennison

Directors (Rural/Regional)

1. Councillor Denise Osborne Greater Hume Shire Council
2. Councillor Lindsay Brown Eurobodalla Shire Council
3. Councillor Phyllis Miller Forbes Shire Council
4. Councillor Darriea Turley Broken Hill City Council
5. Councillor Mark Troy Bellingen Shire Council
6. Councillor Ben Shields Dubbo City Council
7. Councillor Ruth Fagan Cowra Shire

Directors (Metropolitan)

1. Councillor George Glinatis Botany Bay Council
2. Councillor Mazhar Hadid Liverpool City Council
3. Councillor Julie Hegarty Pittwater Council
4. Councillor Leo Kelly Blacktown City Council
5. Councillor Yvonne Keane The Hills Shire Council
6. Councillor Paul Hawker Campbelltown City Council
7. Councillor Linda Scott The City of Sydney

The next twelve months could be a busy period for Local Government and those elected will have the responsibility to ensure that Local Government remains an effective and strong third tier of Government.

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The current dry weather is making things extremely difficult for road maintenance activities and consideration is being given to suspending the grading program until there is sufficient moisture in the soil.

Work is continuing at the moment on rural Local road (RLR) 27 which is the Burrawantie Road and RLR 26 which is the Mascot Road and these should be finished this week.

Work has also been undertaken on RLR 13 which is Landsdowne Road.

Work will commence shortly on the preparatory work for the resealing works on the State Highways which is scheduled for early December.

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The Garage Sale Trail is on this Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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 initiative to de-clutter your place of any unwanted treasures. You can find out the locations of Garage Sales or register your own sale at [www.garagesaletrail.com.au](http://www.garagesaletrail.com.au)

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The Annual Graffiti Removal Day was held last weekend, attracting a good response, Phil Johnston who acted as the coordinator was very pleased with the level of participation and amount of graffiti removed.

The materials used for the graffiti removal Day are donated by generous companies and locally Wood Bros Mitre 10 was responsible for the receipt and distribution of the goods. A big thank you to all those persons who helped in any way.

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The Bourke Shire Council Staff Union Picnic Day will be held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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A reminder that nominations for the 2016 Australia Day Awards are open and can be lodged at Councils Offices. It is important that we recognise those persons who assist our communities in so many ways and I encourage everyone to think about nominating someone for the awards especially those quiet achievers.

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The Louth celebrations for the sesqui centenary of the village are only a little over a week away and will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. It should be a good weekend for the village and no doubt many ex-residents and those with ties to the community will take the opportunity to participate in the celebrations.

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The news that tenders will be shortly called for the establishment of a Regular Passenger Service (RPT) for Bourke was very welcome and is a project that Council has supported for a long while. The service will link Walgett, Bourke and Dubbo and will be a great boost for all sections of the community. With the air service out of Dubbo now linking Dubbo with

Brisbane and Melbourne the access to Bourke to the whole eastern section of Australia will be easier and will have a very positive impact on tourism.

The press release in relation to the calling for tenders indicates that the NSW Governments current and future travel demands between the three centres will provide a seat guarantee, supporting the services over the next four years and assisting in providing stability during the start -up phase.

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Council's October meeting will be held this Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and will commence as normal at 9.00am.

During the meeting a naturalisation ceremony will take place for well-known radio announcer David Sharp from 2WEB. Friends of David are able to attend the ceremony which is scheduled for 10.30 am

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The Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis and Manager of Tourism and Economic Development, Phil Johnston will travel to Griffith on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October to give evidence to the Senate Select Committee on the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The Inquiry will look at both the positive and negative impacts of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and associated Commonwealth programs on regional communities.

Bourke Shire Council has for a number of years used every opportunity to highlight the detrimental economic impact on Bourke Shire as a result of the Murray- Darling Basin Plan and will be utilising its time before the senate inquiry to again highlight the impact.

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Bourke Shire Council has been advised that they are a finalist in the 2015 Local Government New South Wales Excellence in the Environment Awards for the Community Sharps Management. Bourke Shire Council coordinated a regional initiative involving the installation of sharps disposal facilities in Bourke, the clean up of contaminated areas as well as increasing the level of training locally. Council has been concerned at the potential hazards being created by the indiscriminate disposal of sharps and this concern developed into a regional leadership role.

The presentations will take place at Darling Harbour on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

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Quote of the Week!

“Life was much easier when Apple and Blackberry were just fruits”

Ross Earl  
General Manager

