



## “From the GM’s Desk” 26th November 2015



James Price the representative of CAPRA Pty Ltd which is the proponent company of the proposed abattoir to be built north of Bourke will be in Bourke on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015. He will join with Council in conducting a series of information sessions to detail to Councillors and various sectors of the Bourke Community further information in respect of the proposed small stock abattoir and the planning and approval process that needs to be undertaken prior to construction. The opportunity will be available for all members of the community to attend one of the sessions.

Meetings scheduled to date include a meeting with the Bourke Business Houses at 5:15pm on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December and a general community meeting to be held with CAPRA at 6:00pm, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Both meetings are planned to be held at the Council Chambers.

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On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 TAFE Western will be holding a public meeting to discuss plans for the future of the TAFE Campus at Bourke. The meeting will be hosted by Kate Baxter the CEO of TAFE Western and she will be joined by other officers of TAFE.

The Bourke Campus has been one of the campuses identified for potential sale although the recent identification of structural issues may impact on those plans and plans for the Bourke Campus generally. The meeting will be held at the Bourke bowling Club at 1.30pm and is open to all members of the community.

The erosion of the services offered by TAFE over the years has in my view had a detrimental effect in both the educational and training opportunities for rural communities. Reduced services have also affected the availability of “leisure and hobby” courses which were important from a social perspective and the learning of traditional crafts and skills so important to the people on the land and rural communities generally.

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To provide the opportunity for residents to rid their homes and yards of unwanted rubbish prior to Christmas a “Fee Free Day” will be held 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015. All domestic rubbish will be able to be deposited free of charge on that day. There are some minor exceptions, with a charge still applying to tyres, asbestos, chemicals, liquid waste, building and commercial waste.

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SafeWork NSW will be visiting some towns in the far West as part of their Safer Community/Safer Towns Days Program. They will be in Bourke on Tuesday 15th December and Brewarrina on Wednesday 16th December. SafeWork NSW Inspectors will be in the towns to provide information, guidance and advice on Work Health and Safety, Return to Work and Workers Compensation.

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The Department of Premier and Cabinet will be joining with the Office of Local Government for a series of Stakeholder meetings to detail the concept of the Far West Initiative more fully to the communities of the eight (8) Councils involved.

As part of the Stakeholder meetings they will meet with all Councils and also try and meet with representative groups including business groups, progress associations, social groups and other interested parties. The stakeholder meeting for Bourke will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December whilst Brewarrina consultation meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

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Bourke Rotary Club will be hosting the Annual Senior Citizens Christmas luncheon at the High School Multi- Purpose Hall on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Invitations have been sent out, however, there may be people who are new to town or changed address and may have been missed. If this is the case please contact Helen Keane at the Post Office who will provide you with the necessary information regarding time, date, transport arrangements etc.

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As has traditionally been the case Bourke Shire Council Offices and the Library will close at 2.00pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open on the first working day in 2016 which will be 4<sup>th</sup> January. Other areas of Council will operate with a skeleton staff over that period. Council will have staff available to cater for emergencies and the contact number for the "on-call Officer is 0419722055.

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Bourke Public Library will tonight be joining with Wakefield Press in hosting Author Adrian Mitchell at the Library. Adrian will present an address and also conduct a book signing. Books will be available for purchase on the night.

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Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis, Deputy Mayor, Cr Barry Hollman and Manager of Roads, Mark Gordon attended the National Roads Congress in Ballarat last week. The Congress brings together Councils from across Australia. Amongst the speakers at the congress were the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Warren Truss, MP who is also the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Paul Fletcher, MP the Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects and Anthony Albanese, MP, the Opposition spokesperson for Infrastructure Transport and Tourism.

Mayor, Cr Andrew Lewis will represent Council at the NSW Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards to be held in Sydney on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

Bourke Shire Council is a finalist in the Community Sharps Management section of the Awards for those Councils with a population of up to 20,000. Council's nomination is based on its involvement in the Bourke Community Sharps Interagency Group and its coordination of a regional education strategy across Western New South Wales which resulted in 285 staff from 19 Councils undertaking an accredited course in the Safe Collection and Disposal of Community Sharps.

It is great to see smaller Councils being recognised for some of these awards as often a nomination doesn't get submitted due to the lack of resources.

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Manager of Roads, Mark Gordon has been selected to represent 28 Councils in Western News South Wales on a Roads and Maritime Services Task Group to review the current RMCC Contract model.

The Task Group will consider the strength and weakness of the current model. It will also identify those features that should be retained and strengthened and opportunities for improvement.

The area Mark represents will include Mudgee, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Parkes, Broken Hill, Moree and Central Darling Local Government areas which is a significant part of New South Wales and contains very large lengths of roads.

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At the ordinary meeting of Council meeting held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 Councillors observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect to those members and former members of our community who had passed away over the last month as is the case at each monthly meeting.

Before observing the minute silence, at the November meeting the Mayor noted the horrific and devastating terrorist attack in France and Councillors and staff also acknowledged the needless deaths of so many innocent people and the impact both on their families and the entire French nation.

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One of the matters considered at the meeting of Council were the tenders received for the construction of replacement bridges for the Len Mallon Bridge, Whiskey Creek Bridge and the Cuttaburra No. 2 Bridge.

The contract was awarded to Murray Constructions who have constructed other bridges within the Shire. The completion of the contract will see all timber bridges within the shire being replaced. As I have said previously this is something that the current Council and previous Councils can be proud and has involved work over a number of years.

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Quote of the Week!

*"It is much better to be on the ground wishing you were in the air than to be in the air wishing you were on the ground" - Aviation adage*

Ross Earl  
General Manager