



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 30th June 2016



The filtered water to Bourke will be turned off between 10.00am and 1.00pm this Sunday, 3rd July 2016 to allow permanent repairs to take place to the large main which burst a few weeks ago causing an extensive supply interruption.

Council apologises for the anticipated supply interruption which has been scheduled to minimise impact on residents and the business community and at the same time ensuring the safety and health and well-being of staff.

---

The official naming of the Bridge over the Bogan River at Beemery as the Wayne O’Mally Bridge will take place tomorrow (1st July 2016). The official naming ceremony will be undertaken by the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and will also be attended by the Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries. The opening is planned for around 1.00pm. Members of the public who would like to attend are quite welcome.

---

In welcome news, Council has received advice that it will receive funding under Round 2 of the Safer Streets Programme.

The program implements the current Government’s \$50 million commitment to deliver effective solutions to areas experiencing problems with criminal or anti-social behaviour.

Council will receive funding of \$146,000 which will be supplemented with \$45,000 of its own funds for a total of \$191,000 which will be utilised to replace seven (7) of the existing CCTV cameras and install an additional six (6) new cameras both of which will utilise state of the art technology.

CCTV acts both as a deterrent for crime and also provides valuable assistance in catching offenders. The vast improvement in technology will be welcomed by the police who regard the CCTV as a great resource.

---

Funding under the Local Government Innovation Fund was announced last week with Bourke Shire being successful in having two (2) projects funded. The first was as the lead Council in a joint proposal with both Brewarrina and Walgett Shires looking at Aboriginal Community based Environment and Waste Management for which total funding of \$380,000.00 with the program to be rolled out across the three (3) Councils.

The second was a programme to commence the implementation of the integration of all the software utilised by Council across its operation and funding for this project totalled \$75,000.00.

---

The Seminar on Drug and Alcohol Awareness conducted by the Lyndon Community in Association with Council held last week was attended by seven (7) people from the community and each indicated that they had receive a greater awareness of the issues which was the aim of the seminar. Council appreciates the opportunity to work with organisations such as Lyndon to facilitate seminars such as this, which are beneficial to the community and importantly negates the need for travel.

Council also held a seminar on Drug and Alcohol First Aid for staff on Friday morning, this seminar was well attended and positive comments were received from those who participated.

---

The New South Wales Electoral Commission has asked Council to assist in raising the awareness of potential candidates for the upcoming Local Government Elections in September 2016.

They are keen to ensure that any individuals or groups who are considering nominating as a candidate/group of candidates know their funding, disclosure and compliance obligations. The relevant information for candidates and groups can be found on their event website ([www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info)) or can be discussed via their call centre on 1300 135 736  
The NSWEC have started preparations for the elections which are only ten (10) weeks away.

---

The sale of the blocks at North Bourke is progressing well with eleven (11) of the sixteen (16) blocks initially available for sale now having been sold or in the process of sale. The remaining five (5) blocks are still available for sale at \$46,000 which represents extremely good value for anyone looking for a block to build and given they are each around 2000 square metres, this allows a little additional space, than a traditional size block which is around 1000 square metres. A number of the blocks will have houses built on them shortly.

Council still has a number of blocks available in its Industrial Subdivision in Peter Bryant Way at North Bourke.

---

A mid-year meeting of Western Division Councils will be held in Cobar on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and Bourke Shire Council will be following up on a number of issues including the proposal for a Fresh Water Research Station at Bourke, the need for the retention of State Government Departments in rural areas the problems caused by persons who repeatedly breach bail conditions. Council also indicated its support for the proposal being promoted by Griffith City Council to look at ways of making more water available to farmers and communities along the Murray Darling Basin including the possibility of diverting water from the Clarence River region to the west of the divide. Council considered the proposal submitted from Griffith Shire Council and agreed that it was worthy of the further feasibility study proposed.

---

Mayor Andrew Lewis and I will be travelling to Gilgandra next Friday to attend the quarterly meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Council's (OROC). It is likely that OROC will become a Joint Organisation of Councils if the current direction of the State Government is followed

---

The "Discussion Paper" In relation to the Far West Initiative (FWI) is due to be released early in July and prior to its release the eight (8) Councils involved in the FWI will have the opportunity to

participate in a webinar during which the consultation strategy in relation to the "Discussion Paper" will be outlined.

The Webinar will be held prior to the Western Division Meeting in Cobar on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

---

There were around 380 persons who signed the Petition in relation to the need for improved mobile telephone services that is to be presented to Parliament after the July 2 elections. It has been a good response from the Bourke Shire Community and I would like to thank all those who assisted in the collection of the signatures.

Bourke Shire Council will continue with its ongoing efforts to secure markedly improved mobile service for the residents of the Shire with large areas without any service at all.

---

Whilst in Dubbo for the Meeting of the General Managers Advisory Committee (GMAC) of OROC I took the opportunity to accept an invitation from TAFE western to visit the Dubbo Campus of TAFE to be given a tour of the facility and to try and get a feel for what TAFE plan for Bourke.

I suggested that now that TAFE are firming up plans that they should take the opportunity to again visit Bourke and fully detail their plans for the new facility to the broader community. It is hoped that representatives from TAFE will be able to visit sometime during July.

---

The rain has had an impact on the ability for Council crews to undertake work on much of the roads network in the short term. However, the rain is extremely beneficial and will generally do the roads more good than harm, with the amount of moisture now present; grading will give a very good result. The Wanaaring Road has recently had some major grading work undertaken between Pine View and Gumbalie, and travellers utilising the road should notice a significant improvement

---

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Councillors considered a report prepared by Peter Brown, Manager of Works whose area of responsibility includes parks and gardens, which detailed in part the reasons behind the decision to close Councils ovals during wet weather. Generally a decision to close the grounds will only be undertaken in consultation with the affected sporting body having regard to the safety of the participants and potential damage to the ground surface. At times whilst the grounds may be available for competition they can be closed for training and this is largely to protect the surface. Council is conscious of the fact that closures can impact on the scheduling of and disruption to competition matches and quite often people are travelling long distances.

Council resolved to look at strategies to try and improve the condition of the grounds and in particular to ensure that the drainage is more effective.

---

Quote of the week!

"Procrastination; is the art of keeping up with yesterday".

Don Marquis

Ross Earl  
General Manager