



“From the GM’s Desk”

27th April 2017



Bourke Shire Council advises that a proposal has been put forward by the Transport Industry to allow access for Type (2) Road Trains (BAB Configuration) from North Bourke to Nyngan and Trangie.

The proposed route would utilise Moculta and Tarcoon Streets past the High School and Hospital and would involve three (3) intersections in Bourke each of which has been determined as suitable following recent trials:-

- Intersection of Mitchell Highway, Moculta Street and Tarcoon Street, Bourke
- Intersection of Kamilaroi Highway, Mitchell Street and Tarcoon Street, Bourke
- Intersection of Mitchell Highway, Morven Street and Tarcoon Street, Bourke

Maps of the proposed routes are on display at the Bourke Shire Council Chambers and the Bourke Public Library.

All enquiries in relation to the proposal should be addressed to the attention of the Manager of Roads at Bourke Shire, Mark Gordon PO Box 21 Bourke NSW 2840, or email bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au or phone 0268308000

Bourke Shire Council is seeking comment from the public in relation to the proposal.

Submissions in relation to the proposal will be received up until Tuesday 16th May at 4.00pm and should be addressed to the General Manager Bourke Shire Council PO Box 21 Bourke NSW 2840.

This week Council will be sending out the fourth instalment notice to all ratepayers plus where applicable, the water consumption accounts for the period ended 31st March 2017. Included in the envelope will be a letter detailing the classification of the property for the purposes of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) with that letter also providing a detailed explanation as to why the FESL was introduced, the way in which the FESL will work and how it is calculated. The classification details and explanation details have been forwarded at the request of State Treasury.

If any ratepayer has a query in relation to their classification they should contact Council staff, who will explain the classification system.

Also included in the envelope is a letter written by Council which details that the introduction of the new valuations for the shire was a result of the introduction of the FESL and to ensure equity across the state with everyone having the same base date for valuations. The letter also details the impact of those new valuations on rates for individual properties.

It is important that all ratepayers read the information so they fully understand the changes.

Those persons whom have already paid their rates in full will still receive the letter detailing their classification and the letter detailing the impact of the valuation changes.

As I have indicated on a number of occasions whilst the FESL will appear on the rate notice and be collected by **Council**. **ALL THE FESL WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT WITH COUNCIL ONLY COLLECTING IT ON THEIR BEHALF.**

Some properties which are non-rateable will receive a rate notice for the first time as the FESL relates to the obligation of the property to contribute to the funding of the Emergency Services which was previously done by a contribution via insurance policies.

Given some of the differences in the way in which the databases work for the rates and the FESL it proved very difficult to try and ensure that persons who receive multiple notices could have these collated and sent in a single envelope and as such people who are multi owners will receive a number of advices.

The Manager of Economic Development and Tourism Phil Johnston together with REMPLAN has developed an economic profile for Bourke Shire providing a summary of important data for those considering expanding a business, establishing a business or proposing in other ways to undertake development within the Shire.

The publication draws on a lot of information from a variety of sources including census data and it provides information in relation to such things as employment levels in various business sectors, median rentals, agricultural production, current and projected demographics and also provides a valuable insight into the value of tourism to Bourke Shire. The profile outlines those areas where business is imported into the area and where local business growth can be considered.

The publication is available from Council's Offices and is also on the Council Website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au.

All enquiries in relation to Economic Profile should be directed to Council's Manager of Tourism & Development, Phil Johnston.

It was pleasing to receive the positive comments in relation to the appearance of the town over the Easter period and the recognition of the considerable amount of work that was undertaken by Council staff. Their efforts in no small way contributed to the overall success of the weekend.

A reminder, that Council has reverted back to the 4th Monday of the month for the conduct of its ordinary meetings.

Mayor Hollman is generally available between **2.00 pm to 3.00 pm** of a Monday at the Council Chambers to discuss any issues with residents, except the 4th Monday of each Month which of course is Council Meeting Day. He is also available for interview by appointment by contacting Kai Howard-Oakman by email khoward@bourke.nsw.gov.au or at Council's Offices or by calling on 68308000.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held yesterday, Wednesday, 26th April 2017, Councillors considered the Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for 2017/2018 and it will now be put on public exhibition from the 1st May until the 5th June 2017, during that time residents are able to make submissions in relation to the Plan. Once the period for submissions is closed the submissions will be collated and presented to Council at its next ordinary meeting proposed for the 19th June 2017 with Council having to consider all submissions prior to adopting the operational Plan.

In addition to the Operational Plan work has been undertaken on:-

- The Community Strategic Plan
- Delivery Program
- Disability Inclusion Access Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Work Force Plan

Again these documents will be advertised to enable comments from ratepayers and residents where applicable.

The Darling River continues to rise with the reading on Monday morning showing a height of 4.35 metres with 1891 megalitres going across the weir at Bourke which is excellent and the flows will be welcomed by those downstream.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lachlan Ford and I represented Council at the ceremony to mark the unveiling of the headstones of Wally Byers and Bill and Marjorie Reid on Monday, 24 April 2017 at the Bourke cemetery. Former Bourke Doctor, Max Kamien was the driving force to have the monuments erected. Dr Kamien is based in Western Australia these days but is currently in Bourke doing locum work.

As the winter sports season approaches it is important that the various sporting groups to ensure that they confirm their ground bookings with Council's Engineering Services Department. This will prevent any instances of potential clashes of bookings and importantly to make sure that the grounds can be properly prepared and provision be made for things like additional garbage bins and have the appropriate makings in place.

The General Manager of Warren Shire Ashley Wielinga has announced his retirement and will finish with Warren Shire early in July. Ashley is a former Bourke resident and commenced his career with Bourke Shire Council.

Bourke Public Library offers a wide range of services. In addition to our books, we have an extensive collection of DVDs which are available for loan free of charge after paying a \$30 deposit.

The library also has a range of audio books and eBooks available. If you would like to borrow an eBooks, drop in to the Library or give them a call to arrange a password. You can then access the eBooks from wherever you are.

If you have any questions about the Library and its services, please call into the Library at the corner of Glen and Mitchell Streets or give them a ring on 0268722751.

Quote of the Week!

"You can't have a good day with a bad attitude and you can't have a bad day with a good attitude"

Ross Earl
General Manager