



“From the GM’s Desk”

4th May 2017



Bourke Shire Council is working with the Roads and Maritime Services to name each of the rest areas within the Shire area which are currently not officially named. Council invites members of the public to submit suggestions for the names of these rest areas. The rest areas to be named are as follows;

State Highway 7 (Mitchell Highway) towards Nyngan

- Kenilworth Rest Area
- Byrock Rest Area

State Highway 7 (Mitchell Highway) towards Barrington

- North Bourke Rest Area
- Lila Hill Rest Area

Main Road 421 (Kidman Way) towards Cobar

- Prattenville Hill Rest Area
- Kinchela Rest Area
- Mulgowan Rest Area

State Highway 29 (Kamilaroi Highway) towards Brewarrina

- Bogan Bridge Rest Area

A map detailing the location of each of the Rest Areas is on display at the Bourke Shire Council Chambers and the Bourke Public Library.

Submissions providing suggestions for the naming of the rest areas will be received up until Thursday 25th May at 4.00pm and should be addressed to the General Manager, Bourke Shire Council PO Box 21 Bourke.

The Manager of Economic Development and Tourism Phil Johnston has tendered his resignation from Bourke Shire Council and will be taking up a similar role with Narromine Shire Council with his last day at Bourke Shire being Friday, 26th May 2017. Phil has been with Council for around eighteen (18) years in total and has made an excellent contribution to Council and the community during that time.

Phil has not only been involved with matters locally but also on a regional basis and in particular assisting in the coordination of Regional Tourism activities such as the Kidman Way Promotion Committee. Whilst he will no doubt remain active in Orana Regional Tourism issues his input into tourism in the Far West will be missed.

Also leaving Council’s employment is Joedy Cooper and she will be joining Community Corrections in Bourke.

A reminder, that Council has reverted back to the 4th Monday of the month for the conduct of its ordinary monthly meetings. However, to allow for statutory advertising periods to be met and further consideration of the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents including the consideration of any submissions received in respect of the Operational Plan 2017/2018 and Delivery Program 2017-2021, the June meeting has been brought forward. The June meeting day has been changed to Tuesday, 20th June 2016.

The Mayors and General Managers of most of the NSW Western Division Councils will be meeting in Broken Hill this afternoon to develop a Strategic Plan for the organisation. The need for the plan was identified at an earlier meeting of the Executive Members of Western Division and there will be some discussion on the need for an Executive Officer on a full time basis. There was a general consensus that the Western Division was in need of rejuvenation to ensure it was meeting the contemporary needs of its members and is a respected and influential advocacy organisation.

Bourke Shire Council in conjunction with the RSPCA and Kidman Way Veterinary Surgery is running a de-sexing program as part of a Healthy Pet Ownership Program. Council was fortunate to secure funding for the program which enables residents of Bourke Shire who hold a pension or Healthcare card to access this scheme which will see the de-sexing of both dogs and cats undertaken at a significantly subsidised rate. There are some conditions attached and places are limited. To date there have been 34 dogs and nine (9) cats which have been part of the program which is designed to reduce the number of unwanted pups and kittens within the community. If you think you may be eligible and would like to take advantage of the program please contact either Bourke Shire or the Kidman Way Veterinary Clinic.

The fixed rates and ad valorem rates for the calculation of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) have been determined for the 2017-2018 year and are detailed below. Every ratepayer will have received a letter recently that identifies the classification of their property and would have also received early this year a notice of valuation from the Valuer General

You can use these to calculate your FESL:-

Residential	\$100.00 plus \$21.90 per \$100,000 of land value
Farmland	\$200.00 plus \$23.50 per \$100,000 of land value
Public Benefit	\$100.00 plus \$21.90 per \$100,000 of land value
Commercial	\$200.00 plus \$179.10 per \$100,000 of land value
Industrial	\$200.00 plus \$268.70 per 100,000 of land value

To make it easier to calculate your anticipated FESL Treasury have developed a calculator which is available on their website http://fesl.nsw.gov.au/rates_and_calculator

For vacant land, simply divide the total FESL i.e. (fixed + ad valorem) by two.

Eligible pensioners will get a \$50.00 rebate on the FESL; this rebate will also apply when an eligible pensioner is a part owner.

The FESL is designed to take the place of the levy which was previously attached to insurance policies and is deemed to be a fairer method of collection of funding required to finance the ongoing operation of the Emergency Services in NSW.

As I have stressed on a number of occasions previously whilst the FESL will be collected in conjunction with Local Government rates, each of the Councils is only acting as an agent on behalf of the State Government and **WILL NOT** retain the funds with these being forwarded to Treasury.

The ANZAC Day Services within the Shire were again very well attended and I would like to congratulate all those involved in the organisation of each of the services. Annette and I attended both the Dawn Service and the March and Service in Bourke in the morning before travelling out to Enngonia for the dusk service.

One of pleasing features of all the services was the involvement of the younger members of the community.

Council has received a request from the Local SES to provide garaging facilities for a new vehicle that they expect to receive shortly. The design of the new vehicle is such that it is higher than the current vehicle and will not fit into the existing facility. The existing facility is in need of considerable work and a new facility would be a better option rather than renovating the existing facility. The primary SES headquarters is located at North Bourke but the primary response vehicle is located in Bourke to provide for a quicker response time which is vital in times of an accident or emergency.

In addition to the basic storage facility for the vehicle amenities are needed to cater for the volunteers. Representatives of the Local SES addressed Council on the issue and Councillors were receptive to the proposal and have asked staff to identify potential funding options.

The fourth instalment notices for rates were posted last week as were the water accounts for the period ending 31st March 2017. Both of these accounts are due at the end of the month.

The introduction of online purchasing has had an impact on many businesses in rural areas and continues to threaten the viability of many small businesses which provide valuable input to our communities by the provision of back-up and warranty services and repairs, not to mention their support by way of sponsorship for local organisations and events.

It is great to be able to visit a business, bank or similar personally, when you have a problem and it is this ability to access a service locally and get a solution locally we all miss when it is gone.

You can pay a number of accounts for various organisations at various outlets within Bourke which at times seems inconvenient when compared to paying online but it does help keep jobs within our community.

Sometimes it is not all about saving money, ensuring the preservation of locally based services has become increasingly important.

Quote of the Week!

"You either get bitter or you get better. It's that simple. You either take what has been dealt to you and allow it to make you a better person or allow it to tear you down. The choice does not belong to fate; it belongs to you"

Josh Ship

Ross Earl
General Manager