



“From the GM’s Desk” 27th July 2017



At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 24th July 2017, Council considered a request from the Regional New South Wales High Productivity Road Transport Alliance to allow a trial of type 2 (triple) BAB and ABB quad 53.5 metre road trains from North Bourke to a property 4km northwest of Nyngan on the eastern side of the Mitchell Highway.

An earlier application had been made to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) which would have involved the trucks going along the Mitchell Highway but the route was unsatisfactory with trucks finding it difficult to get round some intersections and the application was unable to be granted.

The subsequent request to Council involved the utilisation of Council streets and the route would have passed in the vicinity of the Bourke High School and Bourke Public School as well as the Bourke Hospital.

After considering the report tabled, Council resolved not to support the application from the Regional New South Wales High Productivity Alliance to allow a trial of type 2 (triple) BAB and ABB quad 53.5 metre road trains from North Bourke to a property 4km northwest of Nyngan on the eastern side of the Mitchell Highway.

At the July Meeting Councillors acknowledged the efforts of both Joyce O’Shannessy and Maree Weldon who for the past 24 years have been largely responsible for the coordination of “The Biggest Morning Tea Event” in Bourke which has resulted in over two hundred thousand dollars being raised over that period in support of cancer research. Joyce and Maree have enjoyed the support of a willing and hard working group of volunteers during that period.

Both ladies were presented with a plaque in recognition of their contribution to this very worthwhile cause.

The second of the Workshops to develop a Strategic Plan for the Development of Sport and Recreational Facilities in Bourke held last Wednesday was well attended, with most sporting groups within the community represented. Mark Horton from the Office of Sport in Dubbo did a good job in facilitating the meeting. A report detailing the results of the meetings should be to hand this week.

There were a number of issues that were identified including training for volunteers that could be readily addressed and in doing so potentially, increasing the pool of volunteers. The need for an increased level of cooperation and coordination between the sporting groups was also identified.

Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton, MP, was in Bourke on Monday night and Tuesday morning. Mark took the opportunity to inspect the progress on the construction of the new Abattoir. Mark had the opportunity to meet with representatives of CAPRA Pty Ltd the proponents of the Abattoir together the consortium, who under the name of Darling River Goat Exports Pty Ltd will be involved in the operation of the abattoir once it is completed. Mark was impressed with the progress made to date and was surprised by the footprint of the complex.

I will be in Sydney next week for a meeting of the StateCover Advisory Board, of which I am a member, with StateCover being the Workers Compensation Insurer for the majority of Local Government Councils in New South Wales. The Advisory Board meets quarterly in Sydney and aims at ensuring that the service being provided meets the contemporary needs of the member Councils.

Whilst in Sydney I will also be meeting with Danny Lester the Deputy Ombudsman, Aboriginal Programmes, to further develop the position description required for the Project Officer who will be responsible for the implementation of the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy. Danny was instrumental in assisting in the development of the strategy and his ongoing input will be beneficial and very much appreciated.

Bourke Shire Council is still considering the projects which it intends to submit for funding Stronger Country Communities Fund which will see all Councils in Regional NSW receive a base funding amount of \$750,000 a year for two (2) years. Finalisation of the projects to be submitted will involve consideration both the initial costs of the projects and any ongoing maintenance costs. Councillors earlier in the year had the opportunity to participate in an Asset Management Workshop which in part highlighted the need to consider “whole of life cycle costs” when considering undertaking asset purchases ,renewal or replacement and this will form part of the decision making process.

Following the obtaining of the unanimous support of all Councils in attendance at the mid-term Meeting of Western Division Council will be writing to the Ministers for Agriculture at a State and Federal level seeking to have a more coordinated approach to the management and control of wild dogs. The increase in wild dogs has caused significant problems in the South Western areas of Queensland and North West New South Wales and the damage caused has apparently threatened the viability of some livestock producers.

Bourke Shire Council will also consider moving a motion at the Annual Conference of Local Government New South Wales in December on the issue.

The next meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils will be held in Mudgee on Friday, 4th August 2017. This will be the first time Mid-Western Regional Council have hosted a Meeting of (OROC) and it will be a good opportunity for the Council to showcase their region.

A reminder that the maintenance of street lights is undertaken by Essential Energy and any outages of streetlights should be reported to Essential Energy.

Residents can report streetlight which are not functioning correctly by contacting Essential Energy by calling 13 20 80 or by visiting www.essentialenergy.com.au/streetlight

Residents may see some advertisements in relation to Local Government Elections scheduled for the 9th September 2017. These elections are for those newly amalgamated Councils or Councils who had previously been considered for amalgamation and had their elections deferred last year. **The Elections do not involve Bourke Shire Council.**

The Housing Services Division of Family and Community Services will be conducting clean-up days during the week commencing the 7th August 2017 and skip bins will be located in certain areas with Bourke to allow residents of those areas to dispose of rubbish and/or unwanted items.

Council will conduct a **“Fee Free Weekend” on the 5th and 6th August 2017** to complement the Housing Services Initiative.

Please note that **No tyres, fibro, asbestos, white goods paint or batteries** are to be placed in the skip bins. These items are not included in the list of items able to be disposed of free of charge as part of the “Fee Free Weekend”.

If you wish to utilise Council facilities it is important that you book the proposed date and purpose of use with Council’s Engineering Support staff. This ensures arrangements can be made to have the facilities properly prepared and any additional garbage disposal facilities in place. Most importantly ensure that there is no clash with other users. There is generally no fee for the use of the facilities, however, it is a requirement that all facilities are left clean and tidy at the conclusion of your event or a clean-up fee will be charged.

The countdown is on until the Annual Louth Races to be held on the 12th August 2017 and it should be another great day. As usual Council staff will undertake a clean-up of the village and weather permitting, try and ensure that the road network in and around the Louth area is in good condition. The Louth Races results in a significant influx of tourist both on the day and during the lead up to the races and has become a “must do” for many people as its reputation as an enjoyable and well race meeting continues to grow.

Quote of the Week!

“Small daily improvements are the key to staggering long – term results”

Ross Earl
General Manager