



“From the GM’s Desk”

21st September 2017



Blair Comley, Secretary of Premier and Cabinet visited Bourke this week.

Each year Blair schedules a number of visits to the regions across the state, and provides an opportunity for the Regional Coordination arm of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Regional Development to showcase some of the NSW Government initiatives across our region. In the case of the Bourke area this included the suite of existing programs and activities happening around the establishment of the abattoir, the regional skills analysis project (RDA), that the work State Training Services are leading to encourage local skills development and training, the Far West Aboriginal Employment Pilot Project and the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy.

The Mayor Barry Hollman, Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown and the Manager of Tourism and Economic Development, Charles Liggett joined with Mr Comley and other representatives from the various Government Departments for discussions on Monday evening.

Also in town last week was the New South Wales Ombudsman John McMillian and Deputy Ombudsman Aboriginal Programs Danny Lester together with members of their staff. The Ombudsman’s Office has taken a very keen interest in Bourke over the past few years and the assistance of the office has been very much appreciated.

Danny Lester was instrumental in assisting the Maranguka Hub and Council and in developing and obtaining funding for the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy. Danny was able to coordinate the meeting which brought together the Deputy Premier Hon John Barilaro MP, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hon. Sarah Mitchell MP and Minister for Finance Hon. Victor Dominello MP with a delegation from the Bourke Community at which the Strategy was explained and resulted in the funding being provided.

While in town the party took the opportunity to meet with Council representatives and also visited the construction site for the new goat Abattoir.

Applications have been called for the new position of Senior Project Manager for the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Strategy aimed at increasing employment opportunities within Bourke Shire.

Funding for the position has been made available by the New South Wales State Government for an initial two (2) year period.

The position will be within Council and details relating to the job including the position description and selection criteria can be obtained from Councils Website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

The Enngonia Races held at the weekend and they were once again very successful with a good crowd on hand to witness the days racing. Congratulations to all those involved making the day such a success.

A reminder that the 2017 Tour de OROC will stay overnight in Bourke on Thursday, 5th October 2017 and there will be a function at the Port of Bourke Hotel in the evening with music, raffles and auctions.

Mayor Barry Hollman, will be joined by the Manager of Roads, Mark Gordon and other local riders in accompanying the peloton into Bourke.

As part of the fund raising for the Tour de OROC the local riders will be seeking sponsorship. The Tour de OROC is being coordinated by the Rotary Club of South Dubbo and Bourke Shire Council and Bourke Rotary Club are pleased to be able to assist in the coordination of the event in Bourke with the funds raised providing a benefit to all people in the western section of the state.

The next meeting of Bourke Shire Council will be held on Monday, 25th September 2017 commencing at 9.00am and as normal will incorporate a Public Forum at 10.00am. Members of the public are invited to attend all Council meetings. If you would like to speak at the public forum you are encouraged to contact Kai Howard-Oakman at Councils Offices so that any special requirements can be put in place.

The Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool will be opening this Saturday, 23rd September 2017 and with the increasingly hot temperature being experienced, it will be welcomed by the children as we move into the school holidays.

Council has received advice that the Minister for Regional Water, the Hon. Niall Blair, MLC has given approval for the carting of water to the village of Byrock should the need arise.

At this stage there is only enough water to last for the next week or so and the approval from the Minister is timely. Once the level drops below that which prevents pumping carting will commence.

The residents of Byrock have in the past being very conscious that only a limited amount of water is able to be carted under the subsidy agreement and the water carted is for internal use only and I look forward to a similar level of cooperation if carting needs to be commenced. The water in Byrock like all of the villages is of course a non-potable supply.

I note that the recent Local Government Elections held in Dubbo, that some of the wards had experienced an informal vote of over 15% which is a huge amount. Such a high level of informal vote can have a significant impact on the outcome of the results. By comparison in the Bourke Shire Elections last year the informal vote was only 3.6%.

Lachie Cosser who is the principal of the Outback Show which has been a feature at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre over the past few months, has finished for the season in Bourke and is heading down to Melbourne to perform at the Melbourne Show. Negotiations are in place to have Lachie return to Bourke next year and he will add to the ability of the town to retain tourists for the extra day so and in turn increasing the economic input.

Whilst on tourism, most operators of tourist related facilities in town have reported very good numbers over the past few months as Bourke continues to establish itself as a tourist destination capitalising not only on its iconic status but also the attractions and facilities it is able to provide. Tourism is a growing and important part of our economy and there are benefits to all sections of the community and in particular the hospitality sector.

At an Extraordinary Meeting held last week, Council approved the undertaking of the emergency works to repair the Cuttaburra NO 2 Bridge on the Hungerford Road. The work will involve the replacement of the existing steel piers which have been significantly affected by corrosion with concrete piers. There will also be a review of the condition of the Cuttaburra NO 1 Bridge as a precaution and if needed remedial work will also be undertaken in that bridge. A side track remains in place and will do so until the repairs are completed. Work should commence inside the next two (2) weeks.

The 2017 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for 29th October 2017. Bourke Shire will be working with Bourke Rotary Club in the coordination of the day which is a state wide initiative which has attracted a great deal of corporate sponsorship including the supply of graffiti removal kits free of charge so that all that is needed is manpower.

Bourke Shire will also dedicate resources to the day and in the week leading up to the day and it is hoped that other groups will consider joining in to assist in ridding the town of this unsightly vandalism.

Any enquires can be directed to the Council Offices.

Quote of the Week!

"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it." - Lou Holtz

Ross Earl
General Manager