



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017



Richard Stutchbury, the Landscape Architect responsible for the design of the redevelopment of the main street has been in Bourke to conduct a series of briefing sessions with Council representatives and members of the broader community in relation to the project.

The funding for the project has been made available from the Murray Darling Diversification Fund funded by the Commonwealth Government and administered by the State Government. The funding provided to Bourke Shire Council is \$1.5 million dollars.

One of the key areas discussed was the proposal to have Oxley Street between Richard and Sturt Streets becoming a one-way Street. The proposal was first raised at a meeting of the business community and met with overwhelming support at that meeting, with the proposal providing the opportunity to readily increase the amount of green space in the area and at the same time allowing sufficient room for the planting of trees and the maintaining sufficient car parking spaces.

A two-way option allows less room for the creation of street character and shade, which in turn requires more space in the parking areas for tree planting, hence less parking spaces and less space for shaded retreat and seating.

The maintenance of car parking is one of the concerns of the shop owners and the community and every effort is being made to address this in the planning.

A number of options have been put forward to increase the amount of parking in ready access to the CDB and these have included the more clearly designated parking available in Sturt and Richards Street, the establishment of additional parking facilities, encouraging employees of businesses within the main street not to park in that area and look to alternatives close by and a suggestion has been put forward that the introduction of two hour time limit be investigated. The enforcing of the time limit would be critical to its success in assisting to increase the availability of parking spaces.

Another critical element of the redevelopment will be the division in relation to the species of tree to be planted as a number of factors need to be considered, including the rate of growth, the canopy provided, whether or not the trees should be deciduous or evergreen and any potential hazards created if they drop berries, etc.

A considerable amount of research has already been done in relation to the way in which the trees would need to be planted in order to overcome some problems in relation to damage to infrastructure and the installation of root guards is being considered as is the provision of deep watering. In order to get advice on the matter a number of other Councils who have undertaken similar street beautification projects have been contacted including Dubbo Regional Council.

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A reminder that the 2017 Tour de OROC will stay overnight in Bourke **TONIGHT** (Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017) and there will be a function at the Port of Bourke Hotel in the evening to welcome the riders to Bourke with music, raffles and auctions.

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

It is anticipated that the group will arrive in Bourke at 2.00pm on Thursday and will depart at 6.50am on Friday morning.

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, 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.

Bourke Rotary will be providing meals and accommodation for the group whilst they are in Bourke.

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The break in the water line last Wednesday night involving the main line from the filtered water reservoir, provided some inconvenience particularly when it happened at a time when many people were preparing or cleaning up after their evening meal and others getting children ready for bed. The staff did a good job in making temporary repairs that night to minimise the time of the loss of supply and then worked in the early hours of Thursday to effect permanent repairs to as to minimise further disruption to all sections of the community. Water breaks are a fact of life particularly in the reactive soils that we have in Bourke and the staff are generally able to undertake repairs very quickly and do so in all sorts of weather conditions.

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The 2017 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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 of removal kits free of charge so that all that is needed is manpower on the day.

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.

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All roads will lead to Fords Bridge this Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 for the "Back to Fords Bridge" function which will incorporate the official opening of the new cricket pitch at the Fords Bridge Oval.

The organising committee have been able to put together some memorabilia in relation to the Fords Bridge Cricket Club which will be on display at the Warrego Hotel.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Tim or Sue Davis on 02 68 747 640.

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Council staff will be holding their Annual Picnic Day on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The Council Office, Service New South Wales, Council Depot and Library will all be closed on that day. There will be no

alteration to the operating of the Waste Management Facility and the garbage collection will be as normal.

Council staff will still be available for emergencies and the afterhours number is 0419 722055.

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Bourke Shire Council will be changing its accounting package and will be changing from Fujitsu 2000 to Practical Plus this month.

The change has been undertaken primarily due to the fact that the number of users of Fujitsu 2000 had dropped to a level that made it unviable for the software suppliers to continue to update the system to ensure that it meets contemporary accounting and reporting requirements.

The changes will impact on all staff. Suppliers will notice some changes in which the payments are processed. Council staff members have put a considerable amount of work into the transition between the two (2) systems and hopefully the changeover will be relatively seamless.

The **“go live”** date is Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and if anyone experiences any issues with the processing of either payments or receipts please contact Councils Offices by calling 0268308000.

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Mayor Barry Hollman has written to both, newly elected Mayor of Dubbo Regional Council, Councillor Ben Shields, and Deputy Mayor Councillor Anne Jones congratulating them on their election to these important positions.

Dubbo City Council is by the far the largest Council in the OROC region, plays an important leadership role within the Region and the ongoing success of OROC has been greatly enhanced by that leadership and the advocacy role.

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I am heading to Dubbo early tomorrow morning to attend a meeting of the OROC’s General Manager’s Advisory Committee (GMAC). In the afternoon I will be joining with my peers from both Walgett and Brewarrina Shire Councils for a meeting with the consultants who will be undertaking the work on the Human Resource Management Systems of each of the Councils to ensure that they remain legislatively compliant and also meet current best practice. The review of the Human Resource Management Systems of each of the Councils attracted funding from the Office of Local Government’s Innovation Fund and is being undertaken as a collaborative project between the three (3) Councils.

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### **Quote of the Week!**

*“Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” —Vince Lombardi*

Ross Earl  
General Manager