



“From the GM’s Desk” 9th November 2017



The Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, the Hon. John Barilaro, MP and Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Gabriele Upton, MP on Friday announced the NSW Government will introduce new laws to allow Councils in NSW to voluntarily create new Joint Organisations (JO’s) in 2018.

Details of how the JO’s will operate, once established, are very limited at this stage. In the joint press release from the Ministers it says “*Joint Organisations bring together Local and State Governments to focus on the issues that matter most to regional communities such as building strong businesses, creating jobs, securing water supplies, improving regional transport and developing community infrastructure services and facilities. Councils choosing to take up this option will get a seat at the table in planning infrastructure and investment for their region with support and funding from the State Government.*”

The concept of Joint Organisations is not new and it had been expected that the proposal may have been rolled out in 2017.

It is interesting to note that the press release also indicates that JO’s would be ready to start in July 2018 and will comprise a minimum of three member Councils and align with NSW Planning Regional Boundaries.

The New South Wales Regional Boundaries has Bourke in the Far West Region along with Brewarrina, Walgett, Central Darling, Cobar, Broken Hill, Balranald and Cobar.

Local Government NSW has indicated that they will continue to advocate that Councils are best placed to know which regional communities are most relevant to their needs and interests. Bourke Shire Council will follow with interest the development of the concept of JO’s and ensure that any benefits to Council are maximised.

The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is due for introduction on the 1st December 2017 but the information on how it will operate and how people can return their containers to receive the deposit is at best sketchy.

It would appear that the drink manufacturers started to charge an additional 14 cents per container as of 1st November with the 14 cents being the 10 cent deposit plus an administration fee.

Bourke Shire Councils a very strong supporter of the CDS and has been active in providing submissions in relation to its introduction and on the issues that would be encountered in the far west of the state and those places with small populations where the introduction of Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) would not be economically viable.

Under Return and Earn, most empty 150-millilitre to 3-litre drink containers will be eligible for a 10-cent refund when presented to an approved NSW collection point. Container materials that may be eligible for a refund include:-

- PET
- HDPE
- Glass
- aluminum
- steel
- liquid paperboard

There is some information about the CDS on the EPA's '[Return and Earn](#)' web pages and interested persons can access that page at

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/return-and-earn>

Council has received a number of enquiries regarding the implementation of the CDS and will be doing our best to be able to provide answers to those questions.

The CDS issue was raised with LGNSW during our visit last week and they are also following up the matter with the EPA.

The introduction of the CDS will hopefully see a dramatic reduction of waste and litter within our community with an estimated 40% of the current waste being attributed to those items to which a deposit will apply. It is hope that the CDS will result in the 40% reduction of waste once introduced and that will have flow on reduction in some clean-up costs for Councils.

This Saturday is Remembrance Day, a day on which we remember all those who served our nation in conflicts in which Australia has been involved over the years and in particular those who paid the supreme sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedom and way of life we have today.

The Bourke Remembrance Day Ceremony will be at the Cenotaph in Central Park and everyone is welcome to attend. It would be appreciated if you could be at the Cenotaph at 10.45am.

Annette and I will be travelling up to Hungerford along with Victor and Donnas Bartley.

Victor in his role as President of the Bourke RSL had been asked to help coordinate the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Hungerford for this year and asked Annette to play the bagpipes as part of the ceremony with the addition of live music welcomed by the Hungerford community.

I will represent Councils part of the ongoing commitment to forge a stronger relationship between Bourke and Bullo Councils.

I was in Sydney last week to catch up with a number of organisations with whom we have a close working relationship to go over a few issues that are best handled in a face to face forum. Whilst in Sydney I took the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of the NSW Water Directorate on Thursday morning, with the water Directorate's membership including all but two (2) News South Wales Councils.

I accepted an invitation to attend a dinner hosted by the Chair of Country Mayors Association, Councillor Katrina Humphries from Moree. It provided a good opportunity to meet with a number of Mayors and General Managers from right across NSW together with other organisations. The NSW Minister for Roads, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP was in attendance and I took the opportunity to speak with her for the first time and it will hopefully be the first of a number of conversations with road maintenance a critical issue for Bourke Shire and others in the western area of the State.

Manager of Corporate Services, Leonie Brown travelled to Sydney on the Thursday and we met with Industrial, Legal and Environment Staff of Local Government NSW on a number of issues and we also caught up with the CEO of LGNSW, Donna Rygate who at the time had just received the news in relation to the establishment of JO's and was able to share that news with us.

We also were able to meet with StateCover, our Workers Compensation Insurers, StateWide Mutual who do all our other insurances, Infrastructure NSW in relation to the Administration of our Grants through Restart NSW, the Auditor General's Office who are now Council's Auditors regarding the conduct of the 2016/2017 Audit and plans for the 2017/2018 Audit and representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet who are looking after the Growing Local Economies Funding for which Bourke Shire Council will be lodging applications.

A revised Code of Conduct for NSW Councils has been circulated for comment. During our discussions with Bruce McCann the Legal Officer for LGNSW we sought to identify possible implications for Councils following the proposed introduction of the revised Code of Conduct and he indicated that LGNSW would be preparing a submission on behalf of all Councils which will highlight any concerns. It is interesting to note that the Code of Conduct applicable to our State Parliamentarians is only two and a half pages long but the Code of Conduct for Local Government is in excess of 40 pages.

Submissions by Councils in relation to the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct for Local Government are due on the 4th December 2017.

Nomination forms for the 2018 Australia Day Awards are now available from Council Offices and can also be down loaded from Council's website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

If you think there is someone, an organisation or an event that you feel is worthy of a nomination **don't say "someone should nominate them- be that someone."**

Quote of the Week!

"Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life"

Ross Earl
General Manager