



“From the GM’s Desk” 23rd November 2017



The legislation in regards to the establishment of the Joint Organisation of Councils (JOs) has been introduced into Parliament and it is anticipated that the legislation will be finalised in the current sitting of Parliament. As I mentioned in last week’s column at this stage the legislation includes provision that any JO would have to be within the existing Regional Planning Boundaries as determined by the NSW Department of Planning with the exception of the Far West Region.

Council will be keen to monitor the outcome of the legislation and see how it impacts on Bourke Shire and its relationship with other Councils.

The formation of a Joint Organisation or Organisations in the Central West Orana Region will no doubt be on the agenda of the meeting of the Orana Regional Organisation of Councils to be held in Trangie on the 1st December. Joining the OROC Councils for the meeting will be both Kevin Humphries, MP the Member for Barwon and the Hon. Rick Colless, MLC who is the Parliamentary Secretary for Western New South Wales.

Bourke Shire Council have again had to start to cart water to the village of Byrock after the ground water tank that supplies the town dropped to a level where pumping is unable to continue.

Council looks forwards to a continuation of the cooperation of the Byrock residents in restricting usage whilst carting takes place. The water carted is for internal domestic use only and residents and visitors are reminded that the water supply at Byrock is a non-potable supply.

The Minister for Water, the Hon. Hon Niall MLC has previously given approval for a subsidy to be applied to the cost of carting water with that approval being applicable up to the 30th June 2018.

The Manager of Tourism & Economic Development, Charles Liggett has indicated that he will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday, 29th November 2017 at 5.30pm to discuss plans and possible events for the 2018 Easter Weekend.

Over the past few years the Easter Weekend in Bourke has become a “must do” on many calendars and has been very successful and brought a number of people to Bourke. Bourke Shire has assisted in the coordination of the events but it has been very much a community event and if the success is to be replicated the ongoing support of organisations and individuals is important. The major attractions over the past few years included the Back of Bourke Race Club Meeting, the Wool Bale Rolling and the re-opening for the Easter 2016 weekend of the Wonderland Theatre. All organisations and individuals are invited to come along and put forwards their suggestions/ ideas/events for the weekend so that planning for the weekend can commence.

James Price who represents CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd the developers of the new small stock Abattoir will be in Bourke on the 27th and 28th November 2017. James is available to meet with members of the Bourke Business Group and other interested persons at 5.30pm on Monday, 27th November 2017 to provide an update in relation to the construction of the abattoir and some likely milestones in relation to the construction process.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, 29 Mitchell Street Bourke.

At this stage it is not known who will be operating the collection point in Bourke for the receipt of containers under the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) despite the anticipated starting date only a little over a week away. Bourke has been identified as a Remote Area Collection Point - Remote Area Collection Points will be open at least 16 hours over a fortnight, including, at least eight (8) hours on the weekend during that fortnight.

There will be no collections points established in the villages within the shire with the criteria for the establishment of remote area collection points needing to have a population of at least 500 people.

A representative from Cleanaway was in Bourke last Thursday to identify and talk to potential operators of the collection point and it is hoped that the visit may have successfully identified a potential operator.

If you are interested you can register your interest visit the TOMRA-Cleanaway website and fill out their online form at: <http://www.tcnsw.com.au/>

Operators of collection points will receive 3.5cents per container in a handling fee.

If you wish to obtain further information about Return and Earn visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au or www.returnandearn.org

Bourke Shire Council over the past few years has provided in its Operational Plan (Budget) for a small contribution to be made to each of the schools within the Shire towards the cost of awards presented at each of the Annual Presentation functions and is pleased to once again to be able make the contribution in 2017.

The National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) team, will be hosting an information afternoon for Bourke residents to discuss carp control options, focusing on the use of a species-specific virus known as Cyprinid herpesvirus 3 (the carp virus) as a biocontrol agent.

When: 12 - 2pm, Wednesday 29th November Where: Diggers on the Darling 23-25 Sturt St, Bourke.

Mayor Barry Hollman, and Councillor Victor Bartley travelled to Hungerford last Tuesday to attend a meeting of Bulloo Shire at the invitation of that Council. Bourke and Bulloo Shire have signed a memorandum of understanding in relation to the further development of tourist activities and promotions involving the two (2) Councils. The visit by Mayor Hollman and Councillor Bartley will assist in the development of this cross border relationship.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Monday, 27th November at the Council Chambers, 29 Mitchell Street Bourke commencing at 9.00am.

This meeting will be the last meeting for Council in 2017.

Council officers will be targeting illegal dumping in and around Bourke. Officers will be conducting regular checks of known hot spots and issuing on the spot fines. A number of measures are being considered by council including the use of drones, surveillance cameras and increased patrolling of the known areas to combat illegal dumpers. Residents are warned "significant fines" await them if they are caught dumping rubbish on the road side or on vacant land, rather than the Bourke Waste Management Facility.

Illegal dumping can cause significant environmental damage and can increase the risk of fire as well as placing an unfair burden on the owner of the land to clean it up. I would encourage residents to make use of the waste services and facilities that council provides rather than dumping illegally. Council provides many opportunities for the responsible disposal of waste including the free disposal green waste and e-waste (including old computers and televisions) at the Bourke Waste Management facility.

As we move into the hotter weather I would ask residents to be aware of the bushfire danger that can exist and be mindful of that danger when undertaking work or recreational pursuits that can increase the danger of fire. Although in many instances the level of fuel for fire is low it does not negate the need to adopt precautionary measures.

Quote of the Week!

Life's problems wouldn't be called "hurdles" if there wasn't a way to get over them"

Ross Earl
General Manager