



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017



Bourke Shire received great news last Friday when it was announced that Council will receive \$11,162,000.00 in funding to assist the reconstruction and sealing of three (3) identified areas of the Bourke to Wanaaring Road. The funding which was announced last week will see the following work being undertaken:-

- Reconstruction and sealing of 12.8kms in the area of Gumbalie
- Reconstruction and Sealing of 16.6 kms across the area known as Poison Point Plain
- Reconstruction and Sealing of 7.0kms at Wongareena Plain

Council has lobbied hard for a number of years to secure funding for this area, the fact that it will have significant impact on residents giving them better access is great news.

All three (3) areas have long been regarded as among the worst stretches along the road and the news that they will be sealed will be warmly welcomed by those from the Wanaaring area and beyond.

Funding has been secured from the Fixing Country Roads Program, Council will hope to be able to commence undertaking the work in the early part of 2018/2019 financial year. Water will be a big issue in the reconstruction phase and a significantly increased focus will be on the establishment of a water supply in order to reduce the high cost of carting water which is an important component.

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Council has also received confirmation that two (2) of its projects submitted under the Stronger Country Communities Funding have been approved and work should now be able to be commenced. The projects are as follows:-

**1. Davidson Oval and Coolican Ovals Improvements which will see**

- Upgraded Lightning at Davidson Oval
- Installation of Training Lights at Coolican Oval
- Refurbishment of the Canteen Facilities at Davidson Oval

**2. North Bourke Improvements which will see**

- Toilets in the North Bourke Oval Precinct
- New Playground Equipment, shade and associated landscaping in the same precinct
- Upgrade to the Boat Ramp and Landscaping

The total of these grants is \$506,000

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Council was at this stage unsuccessful in its application for improvements to the facilities in Central Park which would have seen the installation of a toilet, repairs to the tennis court fencing, Improvement to the lighting at the Tennis/Netball Courts, Installation of a shade sail over the skate park, construction of a ½ size Basketball/Netball Court and repairs to the tennis clubhouse with a total value of \$259,000.00.

While unsuccessful in Round 1, Council will still be able to resubmit the application with any additional supporting documentation required in round 2. The value of the projects submitted in Round 1 was \$765,000.00

It should be noted that much of the allocation for funding mirrored the priorities identified in the development of a masterplan for the sporting and recreational facilities in Bourke. Applications for Round 2 will likely be called in February, Council would like to be able to undertake the upgrade to the lighting in particular in time for the 2018 winter sports season. Round 2 will see the availability of another \$765,000.00

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Council is still experiencing difficulties in ensuring that people and organisations wishing to utilise Council's Sporting Facilities/Ovals are making the appropriate bookings and detail their requirements for the event/function that they may be hosting.

If you wish to use Council's Sporting Facilities/Ovals in Bourke you need to contact Bourke Shire Council by phone on 0268308000, email at [bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au), fax on 0268723030 or by writing to the General Manager at Bourke Shire Council, PO Box 21 Bourke NSW 2840. Your call/correspondence will be forwarded to the correct person to respond to your request.

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Last Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 the Mayor, Councillor Hollman and I attended the Orana Regional Organisation of Council's (OROC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) prior to the Ordinary Meeting held in Trangie. At the AGM of the Organisation the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair for the next 12 months was undertaken. Councillor Doug Batten, Mayor of Gilgandra was elected to the position of Chair and Councillor Barry Hollman, Mayor of Bourke was elected to the position of Deputy Chair.

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Earlier this week Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman and I attended the 2017 Annual Conference of Local Government NSW in Sydney and whilst there attended other meetings including one with the other Councils still remaining as members of the Western Division of Councils on the Monday night.

The Conference had a range of speakers including the Deputy Premier for NSW, the Hon John Barilaro, MP and the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP, the Minister for Local Government.

Bourke Shire Council had one (1) motion at the Conference and it was submitted in response to the number of concerns raised by local landowners regarding the increase in wild dog numbers and the damage that was being caused to both domestic and native animals.

The motion was as follows:-

*"That the New South Wales Government be congratulated on the release of the Wild Dog Management Strategy 2017—2021 which closely aligns with the national strategy.*

*That the New South Wales Government now be called upon to ensure that adequate funding is available for the implementation of each component of the Wild Dog Management Strategy 2017-2021 to ensure its long term effectiveness".*

The motion passed without opposition.

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The conference also saw the elections of Office Bearers take place for the ensuing two (2) years. The tenure of the current board members was impacted by both some voting issues at the election regarding the classification of Councils as Regional or Metropolitan and then the amalgamations which saw some of the then board members become ineligible. The board in my view has done a good job under difficult circumstances with retiring President Keith Rhoades providing strong leadership and has always been very approachable and made himself available to Councils across the State. He was also cognisant of the problems and issues facing the Councils in the Far West of the State. At the time of writing the election of office bearers for 2018/2020 had not been announced, however, in accordance with the constitution, the President for that period will come from a Metropolitan based Council with the position alternating between a Regional based Councillor and a Metropolitan based Councillor.

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Nomination forms for the 2018 Australia Day Awards are now available from Councils Offices and can also be downloaded from Council's website [www.bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://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."**

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A wide group of organisations including Councils are invited to apply for grants of up to \$250,000.00 through the NSW Community Safety Fund for infrastructure and projects with a crime prevention focus.

The fund aims to reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour and is particularly geared towards disadvantaged, regional and remote communities.

Funding is available for projects that:-

- Address local crime hot spots
- Address anti-social behaviour in communities
- Promote safe and inclusive use of public space
- Promote collaborative approaches to community safety and crime reduction, prevention and detection initiatives.

Infrastructure projects can include improvements to pedestrian routes, signage or lighting.

Service delivery projects can include:-

- Community development and social cohesion projects
- Diversion projects for youth at risk
- Drug and alcohol treatment and counselling
- Treatment programs for youth and adult offenders
- Diversionary programs for offenders at risk of recidivism.

More information including a copy of the NSW Community Safety Fund 2018 'Applying for a Grant' guide to completing your Application is available via:

**Website:** [www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Pages/cpd/protectcommunity/communitysafefund.aspx](http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Pages/cpd/protectcommunity/communitysafefund.aspx)

Applications close 5.00pm on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

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While it is a few weeks off yet I would like remind everyone of the changes to the Council operations over the Christmas/ New Year Period.

The Administrative Office will close at 4.30pm on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 with staff returning on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 opening at 8.00am.

Service NSW will close at 3.45pm on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 and reopening on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at 8.30am.

The Exhibition Centre will be closed from the 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, inclusive and re-open on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

The Waste Depot will be closed on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> December 2017 being Christmas Day, Boxing Day and will also be closed on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 for New Year's Day but otherwise it will be business as usual.

The Water & Wastewater team can be contacted for *emergencies* on the public holidays by calling the Duty Officer phone 0419 722 055.

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Council has received a grant of \$102,857.00 to assist in preparation of a Flood Study at Louth with the funding formula requiring Council to contribute an amount of \$17,143.00. Council should now also form a Flood Plain Risk Management Committee to advise on the Louth Flood Study. The proposed Committee structure calls for two (2) Councillor representatives, one of whom will be Chair, two (2) Council staff representatives and two (2) Community representatives.

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## Quote of the Week!

*"Every time you are tempted to react in the same old way, ask if you want to be a prisoner of the past or a pioneer of the future"*

Ross Earl  
General Manager