



“From the GM’s Desk”

18th January 2018



Unfortunately the flow in the Darling River has dropped to a level where the water has ceased to flow across the Bourke Weir which is the trigger for the introduction of water restrictions

Level 1 Water Restrictions are now in place which means:-

- The use of fixed sprinklers is limited to two (2) hours per day either between the hours of 6.00am to 8.00am or 6.00pm to 8.00pm daily.
- Hand held sprinklers can still be used at other times.
- The washing of paved areas and filling of new swimming pools is prohibited in accordance with Councils adopted policy.

Water restrictions will also apply to watering of public parks, recreational areas and sporting ovals and where possible the hours will be varied from residential allocated periods to ensure, as far as possible, water pressure is maintained for all residents during the times allowed for watering under the restrictions.

Over the past few years I have asked that all residents be mindful of their water usage and don't allow water to simply flow in the gutters and be wasted. Not only is there a cost to Council in the pumping and reticulation of the water, the fact that Bourke is extremely flat means that drainage is difficult and water ponding in gutters and the roadway leads to a deterioration of the road surface.

Water conservation and the elimination of wastage is particularly important in times of water restrictions.

A number of retail outlets in town sell timer taps which are a great option, should you have difficulty in remembering to shift or turn off you hoses.

Council has received advice that an application for funding under Round 2 the NSW Boating Now Project has been successful with an \$86,550.00 grant being made available to upgrade the boat ramp at North Bourke.

There is a high level of boat ownership in Bourke and with an increase in popularity of other various water craft the upgrade to the boat ramp will be welcomed by all users. It is hoped that the area can be further developed with the assistance of further grant funding opportunities as they become available.

Residents who have been to the CBD over the past few days would have seen a surveying team undertaking work in the area. The work is the preliminary stage of the main street redevelopment which will be undertaken this year.

Sketch Plans for the redevelopment works are available at the Council Offices should anyone wish to review them.

One of the priority actions identified in the Far West Regional Plan 2036 is the undertaking of modelling with local communities to provide a better understanding of the factors contributing to population change and the resultant implications for Councils and their communities.

Bourke Shire Council has been selected as the pilot Council in a Project with the Department of Planning Western Office in Dubbo.

The impact of the drop in population has long been an issue for not only Bourke Shire Council but all Councils in the Far West Planning Region, with the possible exception of Wentworth.

The loss of population has been of major concern across the region but equally of importance is the way in which any substantial population increase is handled and ensuring that the infrastructure is in place to handle that increase.

I am of the opinion that the study can only result in positive benefits for Bourke and then in turn the other Councils within the Far West Region and am happy to be part of the pilot.

As part of the celebration of Australia Day in Bourke and in consultation with the lessees of Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool, Council advises that there will be free entry to the Pool on Australia Day.

The lessees have also advised that they will have available a large inflatable obstacle course for use on the day, however, a charge will be applicable to the use of this attraction.

The Far West Algal Coordinating Committee has released their latest report with green alerts being issued for Bourke Wharf and Bourke Weir areas whilst an amber alert has been issued for the area near "Rose Isle".

Presently the river systems in the far west of the state are experiencing very low flows, these low flows coupled with the recent hot weather is likely to promote rapid algae growth.

A brief explanation of what the respective alert levels mean is as follows:-

Amber Alert

Blue-green algae may be multiplying and the water may have a green tinge and musty or organic taste and odour. The water should be considered as unsuitable for potable use and

alternative supplies or prior treatment of raw water for domestic purposes should be considered.

Green Alert

Blue-green algae occur naturally at low numbers. At these concentrations, algae would not normally be visible; however some species may affect taste and odour of water even at low numbers and does not pose any problems for recreational, stock or household use.

Full details are available at www.watersw.com.au/water-quality/algae

Following detection of e-coli at the Enngonia Water Supply, a precautionary "Boil Water Alert ", was issued for the Enngonia Water Supply following consultation with the NSW Department of Health.

Whilst the water supply at Enngonia, like in all Bourke Shire villages, is a **NON POTABLE** supply and as such not approved for human consumption, as a precautionary measure Enngonia residents were notified of the guidelines that should be followed if any water was being used for human consumption.

Council staff reacted quickly to the problem and it is anticipated following the corrective action undertaken taken the problem has been resolved and the "boil water alert" will be able to be lifted following the next testing which should be undertaken early this week.

Winton Consulting who are the firm selected to undertake a Human Resource Improvement program for Bourke Walgett and Brewarrina Shires with funding allocated from the Innovation Fund provided by the NSW Office of Local Government will be in Bourke on 22nd January to meet with the staff involved from each of the Councils.

Bourke Shire Council is the lead Council in the project which involves the development of policies and procedures that will have a positive impact on the Human Resources systems of each of the three (3) Councils. The three (3) Councils have worked together on other projects over the last few years, each of which has had a positive impact, providing an excellent example of regional collaboration.

I am pleased to be able to announce that the Australia Day Ambassador for Bourke in 2018 will be Katryna Robinson.

Katryna Robinson is an incredibly proud Australian who believes every Australian should have regular access to a toothbrush and a bar of soap. She is the Founder and CEO of the charity Every Little Bit Helps which helps homeless people in Australia.

Katryna leads a team of inspirational volunteers who, through their efforts and the donations of others, have distributed over 25,000 care packs in just over 3 years to people in need who are homeless.

The Australia Day Celebrations will again be held at the Wal Mitchell Wharf Precinct commencing with breakfast at 8.00 am with the ceremony to start at 9.30am.

Breakfast will be provided by Bourke Rotary Club for the nominal cost of \$5.00

Nominations are still open for the 2018 Australia Day Awards and will be received up until the close of business Friday 19th January 2018.

Nomination forms are available at Council's Offices and on the website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

The Draft Timetable for the village consultation meetings for 2018 has been developed and the proposed schedule of visits is as follows:-

Day	Date 2018	Location	Time
Wednesday	14 th February	Louth - Breakfast at 8.00 am	Meeting 9.00am – 11.00am
Wednesday	14 th February	Wanaaring - Lunch 1.00 pm	Meeting 1.30pm-3.30pm
Thursday	15 th February	Byrock - Lunch 1.00pm	Meeting 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Tuesday	20 th February	Bourke	Meeting 6.00 pm – 8.00pm
Thursday	22 nd February	Enngonia - Breakfast 8.00am	Meeting 9.00am -11.00am
Thursday	22 nd February	Fords Bridge - Lunch at 12.15	Meeting at 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Council in conjunction with Bourke Rotary will be hosting the "Annual Welcome to Bourke Night" with the tentative date and location being Wednesday, 28th February 2018 at the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool. Further details will be made available closer to the date; however, it would be appreciated if all newcomers to town can be made aware of the function.

Quote of the week!

Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings

Salvador Dali

Ross Earl
General Manager