



“From the GM’s Desk”

25th January 2018



Water restrictions have been in place for a little over a week now and there seems to be a good level of compliance, however, there a few people who are seemingly unaware that restrictions are in place

Council staff watering parks and facilities do so where possible away from the hours designated for watering domestic gardens to ensure that pressure during that period is maintained at its optimum level.

Once again I ask that residents be mindful of the restrictions and take extra care to ensure that the use of the water available is maximised.

Water restrictions start at level one when the river stops flowing over the weir at which time the weir pool would be approximately 3.95 metres and level two (2) restrictions would not be invoked until the weir pool drops to 3.5 metres. The only significant change to the current level one (1) restrictions to level two (2) is the watering by sprinklers would be reduced to one (1) hour per day.

I have been asked on numerous occasions how long the restrictions will be in place and the simple answer is, until we have a significant rain event in the catchment. The river level at the weir has dropped by approximately 1cm per day over the past week.

Cobar Shire Council have taken the initiative to host a meeting regarding the potential membership of Joint Organisation of Councils and what it will mean for Councils who elect to be part of a JO and more importantly what it will mean for those Councils electing not to join a JO.

Their meeting is scheduled to be held early February and they have invited the Acting CEO of The Office of Local Government Tim Hurst to attend, and have also invited representatives from Local Government New South Wales being the peak representative body.

Broken Hill City Council has a similar seminar scheduled for the 5th February and Bourke Shire will be joining that seminar via our video conferencing facility.

Councils at this stage have until the 28th February 2018 to advise the Office of Local Government of their intention to join a Joint Organisation or alternatively advise that they will not be joining. A number of Councils have already signalled their intention to form a JO whilst many more have yet to resolve that intention. A number of Councils do not meet during January and their decision will be made at the February meeting of those Councils.

Bourke Shire is still considering its options in regarding its membership or otherwise of a JO.

The Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for last Monday 22nd January was adjourned until the 31st January 2018 due to the absence of a number of Councillors. The meeting on the 31st will commence at 4.00pm. The meeting is open to the public as normal and will include a public forum at 4.30pm.

Australia Day celebrations on Friday will be held at the Wal Mitchell Wharf Precinct and I encourage everyone within the community to come down and participate. Breakfast will be provided for the nominal fee of \$5.00 from 8.00 am with the formal part of the proceedings commencing at 9.30 am.

The Australia Day celebrations provide an opportunity to recognise those people from within the community who have made a significant contribution to our town and have had that contribution recognised.

It is also an opportunity to reflect on the freedom, liberty and way of life we enjoy in Australia and ensure that these are to be appreciated and not taken for granted

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.

The Far West Algal Coordinating Committee released their latest report last Friday with the following areas within or adjacent to Bourke Shire subject to an alert

Bourke Wharf- Green Alert
Bourke Boat Ramp- Green Alert
Bourke Weir- Amber Alert
River at Rose Isle – Amber Alert
Louth- Green Alert
Tilpa Weir - Green Alert

An explanation of what the respective alerts mean is on the Water NSW Website www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/algae

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.

Bourke Shire Council is seeking nominations from members of the community to sit on a Flood Plain Risk Management Committee (FPRMC) to advise on the Louth Flood Study, Floodplain Risk Management Study and Floodplain Management Plan.

Council has received funding from the Office of Emergency Management to undertake the work and the Committee to be formed will comprise Council representatives and representatives from various government agencies, together with two (2) community representatives, for which nominations are being called.

The principal objective of the FPRMC is to be a forum for discussion of technical, social, economic and ecological issues and for the distillation of possibly differing viewpoints on these issues.

Nominations will be received up until Friday, 2nd February 2018.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Manager of Works, Peter Brown on 02 68308000 and are also available on the Council website www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Bourke is one of five (5) towns nominated for the Healthy Town Challenge which is designed to improve the health of the residents within the towns. Each town has received sponsorship of \$15,000.00 to participate and each will be vying for the \$5,000.00 first prize.

A committee has been established to coordinate the challenge with representatives from Bourke Hospital, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service, PCYC, Bourke Shire Council, Rural and Remote Medical Services.

One of the key features of the Challenge in Bourke is the establishment of a "parkrun" for the town. "parkrun" is an initiative established in a number of countries and across many parts of Australia when people meet at 7.00am on a Saturday morning to enjoy a 5km run/walk depending on your fitness level. There are currently "parkrun" events held in Dubbo and Broken Hill.

The course for the run is still being finalised and will try and minimise as far as possible the need to cross over streets. The run is predominantly a social event aimed at getting people within the community out and active.

All runners register and times are kept so you can assess your level of improvement noting that whilst times are kept it is effectively aimed for comparative data on a personal basis only.

While the Healthy Town Challenge commenced on Monday, 22nd January 2018 the parkrun component will not commence until early April once the required registration and document requirements are completed.

As soon as the details are finalised for the commencement of "parkrun" locally they will be publicised in the local media.

Ian and Nan Langdon-Smith and their team have been once again very busy with their maintenance program for the trees that they have planted in and around Bourke. Ian and Nan once again travelled up from their Sydney residence for most of the first week of January and despite the extremely hot weather conditions continued with their excellent work. Their project has now seen trees planted and maintained on Tancred Drive, Vision Way, the entrance to Renshaw Oval and around the Oval surrounds generally and also around the perimeter of North Bourke Oval.

All the trees are thriving under their care and I am sure that the community shares the appreciation of Council on the efforts of Ian and Nan on behalf of the Bourke Community, particularly when they drive all the way from Sydney at their own expense to undertake this voluntary work. A great effort!

The Annual Conference of the New South Wales Western Division Councils will be held on the 25th, 26th and 27th February 2018 with The Minister for Regional Water, the Hon. Niall Blair, MLC representing the Government at the conference and the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Local Government, Tim Hurst will also be in attendance. The conference is being hosted by Balranald Shire Council with Bourke Shire to host the Conference in 2019 if the current hosting order is maintained.

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

Quote of the week!

A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks extraordinary results.

Wade Boggs

Ross Earl
General Manager