



“From the GM’s Desk” 15th February 2018



There seems to be no significant rainfall predicted for the far northwest area of New South Wales and little relief for farming fraternity in sight with many already experiencing a severe shortage of water and feed.

From a town water supply perspective Level 1 water restrictions are still in place and will likely remain in place unless we get substantive local falls or in the upper river catchment.

With the low level of water comes an increased level of salt in the water and unfortunately there is little Council can do about the levels of salt in the raw water supply however, Council staff are currently utilising the supply from Walkden’s Bore to mix with the raw water for the filtered water supply to reduce the impact on this supply.

It is anticipated that level 2 restrictions will come in force around the end of the month if there is no increased flow in the river in the meantime.

The water supply at Byrock which is totally dependent on ground water run -off is still okay and the supply should be adequate to last until the middle of March or a little longer depending on a number of factors including potential inflows, the weather conditions and of course usage patterns.

Bourke Shire will this week take delivery of a New John Deere grader. The new grader will replace one of the existing fleet and its purchase is indicative of Councils Strategy to have a modern and well maintained plant fleet.

The availability of a reliable plant fleet will be essential as Councils embarks on the Wanaaring Road Sealing Program as well as undertaking its routine maintenance work and the works it undertakes on behalf of the Roads and Maritime Services.

Councils Plant fleet is backed up by a modern and well equipped workshop and highly qualified tradespersons with Council also employing two (2) apprentices in the workshop ensuring that opportunities are provided for the young people within the shire to obtain a trade and at the same time ensuring that there is an adequate supply of tradespersons in the future.

Clean Up Australia day will be held on Sunday 4th March 2018 to coincide with this important Community based event Bourke Shire Council will conduct a Tip Fee - Free Weekend 3rd and 4th March 2018 to assist residents who are keen to participate in this important Annual Event.

The Day will also provide the opportunity for residents to clean up their yards in preparation for the Easter weekend and get rid of unwanted clutter.

It should be noted the Tip Fee Free Weekend applies to **Residential** properties **ONLY**, no commercial or building waste will be accepted free of charge.

The following items will **NOT** be accepted free of charge:

Tyres	Batteries
Asbestos	Chemicals
Liquid Waste	Building & Commercial Waste

Bourke Shire Council is pleased to be able to support Clean Up Australia and encourages all residents to join in "Clean Up Day".

With the calendar of events the now Annual Easter Celebrations taking shape it is anticipated that there will be a number of visitors to town and it would be great if the Community can work with Council to ensure that the town is presented to its best advantage

Council staff have commenced the preparation of the 2016/2017 Operational (Budget) and the opportunity exists for organisations and individuals to submit requests for support, nominate projects or make suggestions in relation to the level of service currently provided so that these may be considered as part of the budgetary process.

While Council has limited discretionary funds available it aims to ensure that the expenditure of these funds reflects the views of the broader community and is consistent with the established priorities within the Community Strategic Plan.

Submissions in respect of the above should be sent to the General Manager Bourke Shire Council P.O. 21 Bourke or delivered to the Council Offices 29 Mitchell Street Bourke by Monday 26th February 2018

The Community Consultation meetings for 2018 started earlier this week with Councillors and staff visiting Louth and Wanaaring on Wednesday whilst a meeting at Byrock is scheduled to start at 12.30pm on Thursday 15th 2018.

The meetings are an opportunity to have input into the compilation of the 2018/2019 Operational Plan (Budget) as well as the opportunity to bring to the attention of Councillors and staff other issues of concern.

The remaining meetings are scheduled as follows;

Tuesday	20th 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 encourages as many people as possible to attend the meetings and have their say in the operation of Council and the prioritisation of expenditure within the locality.

The Ordinary Meeting of Bourke Shire Council which was initially scheduled to be held on the 26th February will now be held on Monday 19th February to avoid a clash with the Western Division Conference in Balranald. The Meeting on the 19th will commence at 9.00 am with a public forum scheduled for 10.00am

The Welcome to Bourke Night is scheduled for Wednesday 28th February 2018 and I would encourage all new residents to come along and take the opportunity to meet representatives from the various sporting and social organisation within Bourke and find out more of what the town has to offer.

The Welcome to Bourke Night is an initiative of Bourke Shire and supported by Bourke Rotary Club.

Bourke Rotary Club will be holding a 60th Anniversary function on the Saturday of the Easter Weekend and are currently trying to contact any former members of the Club who may wish to attend. The actual charter date was the 29th August 1957, however, it was thought appropriate if the celebrations could coincide with another function within Bourke and the Easter weekend was an obvious choice

The function will be held at Back O Bourke Exhibition Centre Café Saturday 31st March 2018 @ 7.00p finger food will be provided, however, you are asked to bring your own drinks.

RSVP by 16th March 2018 to BourkeRotary@hotmail.com or Lisa Crothers 0419 291 979 or Meredith Thompson 0408 659 689

Council have begun developing its application for funding under round two (2) of the Stronger Country Communities Fund

Council will be looking to resubmit its application for improvements to the facilities in Central Park which would have seen the installation of Toilets, 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 Club House.

In the development of its application Council will no doubt consider that projects identified in the development of a masterplan for the sporting and recreational facilities in Bourke. And other projects which have been identified in the Community Strategic Plan.

The NSW Government will host a series of information sessions for existing leaseholders in the Western Division on the new *Crown Lands Management Act 2016*.

The new provisions offer a new opportunity for graziers to purchase their existing lease and include a streamlined process for the conversion of leasehold land to freehold.

Information sessions are scheduled as follows:

Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, 12 February, 6.30pm

Cobar Bowling and Golf Club, 8 March, 6.30pm

Broken Hill Racecourse Pavilion, 5 April, 6:30pm

Representatives of CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd attended the last meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and detailed the plans for the Abattoir. Members of the Committee were keen to know a little more regarding the complex particularly from an emergency point of view, should the need ever arise.

The proactive response was welcome by the CAPRA Developments Pty Ltd. representatives who were also keen to ensure that there was a degree of preparedness in case of emergency situation arising. Arrangements will be made for members of the local leaders of the various Emergency Services within Bourke to familiarise themselves with the site to readily identify access points and location of utilities such as electricity and water.

The pro-active approach by our emergency services personnel and the LEMC is to be commended.

The issue of the formation of Joint Organisation of Council (JOs) is still very much on the forefront of discussions amongst a number of Councils with several Councils keen to see the regulations that will be issued in relation to the operations of JOs prior to making a decision.

At this stage it is unclear when the regulations will be released, however, it is understood that the Office of Local Government will be doing its best to have them released as soon as possible. Matters such as new legislation and regulations are subject to review by the Parliamentary Counsel. The cut-off date for decisions to be relayed to the Office of Local Government is the Wednesday 28th February which is rapidly approaching.

I understand that a number of Councils have already sought an extension of time to more fully consider the matter given that the announcement in relation to the successful passage of the legislation was followed by the Christmas period when many Councils elect not to meet.

Bourke Shire Council will be again discussing the matter at its February Ordinary Meeting to be held Monday 19th February 2018.

Quote of the week!

You can't change how people treat you or what they say about you. All you can do is change how you react to it. —*Mahatma Gandhi*

Ross Earl
General Manager