



“From the GM’s Desk”

11th October 2018



The Member Councils of the Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils (JO) continue to liaise with the Department of Premier and Cabinet in relation to the establishment of an air service for Bourke, Walgett / Lightning Ridge and Cobar.

The tender documents are currently being prepared and will be reviewed by the JO prior to their release which will hopefully be at the end of the month or early next month.

It is my understanding that there has already been some interest expressed in the tender which is certainly encouraging.

The rain received last week was extremely welcomed by all residents within the shire and in particular those with little feed or water for stock. The rain has dramatically improved the moisture content in the soil and has allowed for some more effective grading of the rural road network to take place.

Council is mindful of the need to maximise the benefit of the available moisture and has engaged additional contract graders to supplement their existing fleet of graders as a number of these are involved on the Wanaaring Road project.

Darriea Turley, the endorsed Labor Party Candidate for the seat of Barwon at the State Election, scheduled for March next year called in to Bourke on Monday and met with the Mayor, Councillor Barry Holman and other Councillors and staff.

With the election only a little over five (5) months away it is expected that the campaign of all candidates will be stepped up a notch. Council has resolved to prepare a listing of the issues impacting on Bourke in particular, no doubt many of these will also impact on many other remote and regional shires.

The draft listing of these issues formed the basis of the discussion, many of which Councillor Turley as the current Mayor of Broken Hill and a member of the Board of Local Government New South Wales would be well aware. However, it is important that Council is able to articulate its concerns to all candidates.

The Darling River height is around 3.68 metres in Bourke at the moment with no flow in the upper reaches of the system, things are looking reasonably bleak at the moment.

The town of Bourke and North Bourke continue to be on Level one (1) water restrictions and the cooperation of all residents is sought in adhering to those reductions. As we move into the hotter

weather we will see a substantial increase in evaporation which will in turn see a further decline in the river height.

The lack of flow in the river coupled with the hot weather will unfortunately increase the risk of the presence of algae blooms in the river and residents and landowners should be mindful of the risks these can present.

A reminder that organisations or individuals wishing to use any of Council's facilities ovals or parks for functions and or events they should book that proposed use with Council's Engineering Support Officer. This will ensure in the first instance that the facility is available and secondly that it is prepared to meet the requirements of your proposed use including arrangements for the opening of toilets, lighting etc.

On completion of the function all facilities should be left in a clean and tidy condition and all rubbish placed in the bins provided. Additional bins can be made available prior to the events if required

The work in the main street continues to progress well and is gradually taking shape, when completed it will give the CBD a dramatic lift in appearance and functionality. Already there have been a number of positive comments regarding the work.

One of the pleasing factors from Council's point of view is that the project is employing all local labour which is in keeping with the objective of the funding to stimulate the economies of town impacted by the introduction of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Bourke Memorial Pool has been open for the past two (2) weeks and despite the cooler than expected weather seems to be attracting good numbers. For those who are keen to improve their fitness and swim a few laps, the pool is open in the morning between 6.00am and 8.00am from Monday to Friday. The pool also opens at 10.00am on weekends and lap swimmers can generally have the opportunity to do laps at this time.

The 2018 Graffiti Removal Day is scheduled for Sunday, 21st October 2018. Bourke Shire will be working with Bourke Rotary Club in relation to the coordination of the day. The state wide initiative has attracted a great deal of corporate sponsorship including the supply of graffiti removal kits free of charge so all that is needed is for the manpower. Individuals and Organisations within the community are asked to consider assisting on the day. Any enquires can be directed to the Council Offices.

If you notice that a street light is out you can report it directly to Essential Energy.

Please call 13 20 80 (24 hours/7 days a week) to report the outage. It will greatly assist if you can give a street reference.

By reporting broken or faulty streetlights you help Essential Energy create and maintain a street lighting system that is reliable, energy efficient and safer for the community.

Essential Energy recommend downloading the mobile phone app called *NeatStreets* which can be utilised to report street light outages from iPhone or iPad, Android and Windows Phone.

Blayney's Mayor, Councillor Scott Ferguson has been elected as the new Vice-President of Local Government New South Wales, representing Rural/Regional Councils across the State. Cr Ferguson brings many years' experience to the position, having served on Blayney Shire Council since 1999 as a Councillor, interim Mayor and Mayor.

To assist in providing that extra incentive to residents who are thinking about undertaking their spring cleaning chores and getting rid of unwanted clutter, Bourke Shire Council will be holding a **FEE FREE TIP DAY** weekend for household items on Saturday, 20th and Sunday 21st October 2018 from 9.30am to 5.00pm. The fee free arrangement applies only to residential properties including, furniture, whitegoods, household refuse and green waste.

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 and Liquid Waste.

Council staff will be holding their Annual Picnic Day on Friday, 19th October 2018 the Office, Service New South Wales and Library will all be closed on that day. There will be no alteration to the operating hours of the Waste Management Facility or Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and the garbage collection will be as normal.

Council staff will still be available for emergencies, the after hour Duty Officer's contact number is 0419 722 055.

The "Breeze into Bourke" promotion created by the Bourke Shire Council staff, in association with local businesses has been well received by visitors and locals alike.

The promotion was aimed at catering for families and children during the school holidays and involved the development of a package of entertainment and activities. In addition to those who participated this year there has been interest from others who are keen to come on board with the initiative.

Regional Development Australia Orana (RDA Orana) are formally seeking input and submissions to allow the preparation and lodging of the proposal to request a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) which we intend to lodge by the 14th November 2018.

RDA ORANA is running a number of seminars seeking stakeholder consultation for proposed Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) for RDA Orana.

DAMAs are custom-designed arrangements which support a tailored, regional response to labour needs. They are an important tool in assisting regions to manage workforce strategies that support local growth. The over-arching nature of these agreements allows employers streamlined access to a broader range of overseas workers than allowed under standard skilled migration programmes, without the need to individually negotiate terms and conditions.

RDA Orana has been working on the issue of the workforce for our region and has identified that there are critical labour shortages holding back business growth.

They have also identified a project pipeline of \$7.9 Billion that is a mix of mining, infrastructure, renewable energy, manufacturing and health projects between now and the next five (5) years.

With five (5) of 12 LGA's in the RDA Orana Region recording full employment, an ageing regional population and declining participation rates, access to and availability of labour is a critical factor in all employer feedback. This is across the board and no industry is unaffected. (Full details of our research can be found in our "Bracing for Change" report, which is available to view on their website) www.rdaorana.org.au

To address the critical shortages being experienced by business, RDA Orana has been in discussion with the Commonwealth Government and is preparing to lodge a proposal for a DAMA for the Orana region.

All meetings will run from 6-8pm. If you access the RDA website and click on the links below it will provide additional information.

- [Mudgee Council Chambers - 10th October](#)
- [Dubbo Commercial Hotel - 11th October](#)
- [Nyngan RSL Club - 16th October](#)
- [Cobar Council Chambers - 17th October](#)
- [Narromine United Services Memorial Club - 18th October](#)

To assist in recognising the significance of Remembrance Day it is proposed that knitted or crocheted poppies be made and displayed at the Remembrance Day service in Bourke.

It is hoped that at least 267 poppies are able to be made and displayed with 267 being the number of persons from the Bourke area who enlisted to serve their Country in World War I in the quest for peace. Patterns and wool are available free of charge from Carole's of Bourke.

The latest count shows that around 150 poppies that have been made locally still leaving approximately half the required number to be made. The project has attracted considerable interest within the community and I am confident that the target will be reached.

In Canberra 62,000 handmade poppies will be displayed at the National War Memorial recognising all those brave men and women who lost their lives during the quest for peace during World War 1.

To provide those involved in sporting groups and other organisation within the town the opportunity to access funding via one of the numerous grant opportunities that become available Bourke Shire will be hosting a Grant Writing Workshop to be held on **Saturday, 20th October 2018 commencing at 10.00am.**

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

There will be no charge for the workshop with Council keen to see all community groups maximise their chance of funding being obtained via successful grant applications.

The Facilitator will be Belinda Colless who has a great deal of experience in the area of grant writing and Belinda will also provide participants with some valuable reference material.

Anyone who would like to participate is invited to leave their name and contact details at Council Offices.

Council will be hosting a Community Consultation Meeting at Enngonia on the 31st October to discuss the chlorination of the Enngonia Water Supply and the upgrade of the playground equipment in the park adjacent to the Memorial Hall.

Council's Application under the Stronger Country Communities Funding was successful with one (1) of the projects providing \$200,000 for improvements within our villages. It is Council's intention to apply for a further \$100,000 under the Federal Government Drought Community Program for the villages.

Council proposes to hold the annual round of Village Tours in November this year to provide the residents of the villages and surrounding areas the opportunity to have an input how these funds would be best spent bearing in mind the priorities already identified in the Bourke Shire Council Community Strategic Plan and the Delivery Program.

The Consultation Meeting at Enngonia will now also incorporate the presentation normally undertaken during the annual Community Consultation Meetings and the meeting at Enngonia on the 31st October will be the first of these meetings for 2018.

A full timetable relating to the balance of the meetings will be included in a future edition of my column and will also be advertised in the Western Herald and on 2WEB.

The Department of Planning and Environment will on Tuesday, 16th October 2018, be conducting a workshop entitled "Bourke Building Future Communities Workshop". The workshop will be held at the Council Chambers, 29 Mitchell Street and commence at 5.30pm. The Workshop is aimed at assisting in the shaping of an action plan that maximises opportunities for Bourke in such areas as education, tourism and agriculture.

Everyone is welcome to attend and those persons who have attended previous sessions are encouraged to come along and continue to be part of this planning process which will be replicated throughout the Far West Planning Region. Light refreshments will be provided.

The construction of the new boat ramp at North Bourke which has been funded by the Roads and Maritime Services, under "Better Boating Program" is taking shape and all work is being undertaken by local contractors and Council staff. It is hoped to have the project finished over the next few weeks, and the new ramp will be in operation before the summer skiing and boating season begins in earnest.

Quote of the Week!

"The strong bond of friendship is not always a balanced equation; friendship is not always about giving and taking in equal shares. Instead, friendship is grounded in a feeling that you know exactly who will be there for you when you need something, no matter what or when"- Simon Sinek

Ross Earl
General Manager