



MEDIA RELEASE

Drought Communities Extension Program

\$200,000 of Grant Funding available to Bourke Shire Village and Community Groups

Bourke Shire Council was successful in its application for the one million dollars available to it under the Drought Communities Extension Program.

One of the projects for which a successful application was lodged by Bourke Shire Council for funding under the Drought Communities Extension Program was the “Bourke Community Drought Stimulus Program”.

The program is designed to allow village and community groups to improve their facilities and at the same time provide an economic stimulus within the community and achieve one of the goals of the Drought Communities Program of improving the liveability of the area.

Bourke Shire allocated \$100,000 of the project monies to the villages within the Shire and has asked the various village community committees to submit projects for consideration. The remaining \$100,000 is being made available to all not for profit, community and sporting groups within the shire to undertake predominately infrastructure projects.

Councillor Hollman said that the village areas had been impacted by the drought and the decision by Council to allocated \$100,000 of the available funding to villages was an easy one, with the social amenity provided by the village organisations extremely important in improving the liveability of those areas. Villages often missed out on accessing the availability of grants

Mayor of Bourke, Councillor Hollman said that the funding is great news for our community and Council is in a position to be able to allocate \$200,000 to assist the broader Bourke Shire community, as part of the Australian Government’s Drought Communities Program. Councillor Hollman invited applications from all the village committees and not for profit, community and sporting groups to lodge applications for funding from the “Bourke Community Drought Stimulus Program.”

Councillor Hollman said the timeline for this project is incredibly tight as projects for consideration needed to be lodged by the 21st January 2019 and should be completed by the 31st May 2019.

He added that the funding would result a number of significant and beneficial outcomes and was confident that applications for a number of very worthy projects would be received, with a number of projects already identified as priorities during a recent round of village consultation meetings

Projects that will be approved by Council will include;

- Infrastructure projects that provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought;
- Stimulate local economy through local spending;
- Use local resources, businesses and suppliers;
- And/or provide long-lasting benefits to communities and the agricultural industries on which they depend.

Examples of projects that will be considered include; sports grounds – new fence or toilets, club houses / halls – WHS compliant kitchen, disabled toilets, disabled access ramps, meeting rooms – painting rooms or purchase furniture

Organisations considering lodging applications are encouraged to contact Councils' Manager of Environment, Mr Dwayne Willoughby to discuss project eligibility and ensure their project will "fit" into the Drought Communities Program Criteria and are able to be undertaken within the required timeframe

Details of the Bourke Drought Communities Fund can be found on Councils web site at <https://bourke.nsw.gov.au/council/drought-communities-information/>

Applications for Funding close 21st January 2019 and all village committees, not for profit, community and sporting groups should be mindful of this date to ensure their applications are considered.

Further Media information contact the General Manager Ross Earl 0409362307