



## MEDIA RELEASE

# BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAN UP DARLING RIVER

The Darling River at Bourke stopped flowing over the weir in early August and the river level at Bourke has now dropped to 2.81 metres which is the lowest level for some time. This has resulted in a considerable amount of rubbish being exposed.

Bourke Shire Council will be joining with representatives of other organisations in conducting a clean-up on the river and river banks with a focus on the areas around the Bourke Wharf Precinct through to the Bourke Weir and around the Bourke Boat Ramp.

The presence of the rubbish is not only unsightly but can pose a danger to recreational users of the river and create environmental issues.

Work will commence at 6.30am on the morning of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to try and beat the heat later in the day.

Council has had offers of assistance and equipment from the State Emergency Services and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service with a number of others organisations expected to come on board to assist on the day.

Included in the debris exposed due to the low river levels are car parts, shopping trolleys, bottles, a wheel chair and bicycles plus a wide array of other things all of which are better placed in landfill rather than adversely impacting the river system.

Deputy Mayor of Bourke Shire Lachlan Ford said that the clean-up was a great initiative and possibly one of the only positives to come out of the low river levels.

Councillor Ford expressed his appreciation to the other agencies that have come forward to assist in the clean-up in a demonstration of community pride and spirit.

Councillor Ford said other volunteers are welcome on the day to assist with the clean-up of the river banks, however, indicated that only trained staff would be allowed in boats to remove rubbish from the river itself.

Anyone who would like to assist is asked to meet with council staff at the Wharf area on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 after 6.30am for an induction.

Volunteers should register and are asked to ensure that they have appropriate sun protection and sturdy footwear and gloves.

Council will be providing bags for the collection of rubbish and vehicles to cart the rubbish away on the day

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Further Media information contact the General Manager Ross Earl 0409362307 or Manager of Corporate Services Leonie Brown 0409 953 748.