



MEDIA RELEASE

DARLING RIVER AT BOURKE HAS NOW CEASED TO FLOW AT BOURKE FOR 142 DAYS THE SECOND LONGEST PERIOD IN SINCE 1944

The Darling River at Bourke stopped flowing over the weir in August 2018 and has now ceased flowing for 142 days which is the second longest period recorded since 1944 according to available records.

The longest recorded period from available records is 196 days from 20th September 2006 to 4th April 2007 and this saw the river level drop to 2.58metres

The water level gauge is currently at 2.85 metres, however, and without any substantive inflow will continue to fall.

Whilst the river has ceased to flow for 142 days during this period of dry it should be remembered that the river received a supplementary environmental flow provided by the Northern Connectivity Event last year.

The Northern Connectivity event was supported by the Commonwealth Environment Water Holder and the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage with the cooperation of the various state water agencies

The current extended period without a flow could have been much greater if were not for that environmental flow being made available via the Northern Connectivity event.

Deputy Mayor of Bourke Shire Lachlan Ford said Bourke Shire Council is extremely concerned at the rapidly diminishing water levels and will be making representations regarding both the identification and implementation of a strategy to ensure a much more consistent flow in the Barwon Darling River system is able to be obtained.

General Manager of Bourke Shire Council Ross Earl said this period of extended cessation of flow only serves to highlight the extent of, and impacts created by, the current drought and the resultant dire state of the Barwon Darling River system.

End

Further Media information contact the General Manager Ross Earl 0409362307 or Manager of Works Peter Brown 04882906620.