



Press Release

Western Division of Councils Annual Conference to be held in Bourke 24th 25th and 26th February 2019

The Western Division Conference at Bourke later this month has attracted a number of excellent speakers with a wealth of knowledge on topical issues facing Local Government in New South Wales.

Minister for Regional Water Hon. Niall Blair MLC will represent the Deputy Premier Hon. John Barilaro MP at the conference. He's contacted us in advance to apologise for not being able to attend.

The conference will also be attended by the Parliamentary Secretary for Western New South Wales Hon. Rick Colless MLC. Minister for Early Childhood and Aboriginal Affairs Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Shadow Minister for Local Government Hon Peter Primrose MLC and Hon. Rob Borsak MLC from the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party and President of Local Government New South Wales, Councillor Linda Scott.

A full program as at 8th February is appended.

The presence of the Minister for Regional Water will create a lot of interest with water issues including the lack of flow in Barwon Darling System a cause of great concern to many of the Councils which have indicated they will be attending the conference. The lack of flow in the river system has meant that many towns within the region are having difficulties in maintaining normal water supplies.

In all there will be representatives from sixteen Councils from the Western area of New South Wales and representatives of a number of State and Federal agencies in attendance. Around 150 delegates have registered, which is one of the largest attendances for some time.

Councils attending include Western Division member Councils of Balranald, Bourke, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett and Wentworth together with Gilgandra, Warren, Carrathool, Bogan, Coonamble, Warrumbungle, Brewarrina, Moree Plains and Mid-Western Regional Council based in Mudgee.

The large attendance has stretched accommodation in Bourke, but everyone has been catered for which has been a welcome boost to the town's hospitality industry.

Among the speakers will be the New South Wales Drought Coordinator Jock Laurie and the newly appointed Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator James McTavish whose presentations will reflect the problems being faced by many farmers and residents in this part of the state.

As part of the Conference, Bourke Shire Council will be hosting a Barwon candidates' forum over breakfast on Tuesday 26th February 2019 and at this stage three (3) of the six (6) candidates have indicated their attendance.

Each of the candidates will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves and detail their motivation for standing, and their priorities for the electorate of Barwon. This will be followed by a question and answer session.

Councillor Barry Hollman Mayor said he was delighted with the response by all sectors of the broader Local Government Community and was pleased with the way arrangements for the conference had progressed.

He said that there are a number of issues impacting on Local Government at the moment and with the problems created by water shortages in the Far West of the State being of significant concern and this will no doubt be a major topic of conversation and debate.

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Contacts

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