



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019



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Contractors are currently finalising the installation of a pipeline from the newly constructed bore back to Walkden’s Bore and upgrading the pumping facilities at Walkden’s Bore. This will enable the water to be transferred directly into the Bourke Water Treatment Plant and then reticulated around the Bourke and North Bourke townships when the ability to pump from the river ceases. This is expected to be within the next 60 days.

Council is confident that the works undertaken to date will provide sufficient water for the domestic and commercial needs of the Bourke and North Bourke townships.

As part of the bore water access strategy, Council has secured licence entitlements to extract water from the aquifer to supplement the existing licence of 100ML.

The work involved to ensure ongoing water availability has taken considerable resources and time. It has involved a team effort from Council staff, working closely with a number of Government agencies who have been extremely helpful and have gone above and beyond to provide assistance.

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Council’s Corporate Planning Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 was postponed until Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 due to not having a quorum on Thursday. The committee met to review the Draft Operational Plan (Budget) for 2019/2020 and with the minor amendments made at that meeting the Committee have recommended that the Draft Operational Plan go to Council so that it can be approved for advertising.

The Draft Operational Plan is required, under the provisions of the Local Government Act to be advertised for a period of at least twenty eight (28) days during such period members of the public are able to make submissions. Any submission received by Council during the consultation period and must be considered by Council prior to the formal adoption of the Operational Plan.

There is a considerable amount of work that goes into the preparation of the Operational Plan each year and as far as possible, the suggestions that have come from the recent round of Community Consultation meetings are included in the budgetary decision making process. Councils Community Strategic Plan (CSP) provides the foundation of the budget document.

Council has a number of very comprehensive and well developed plans in relation to its operations and as far as possible the budget process incorporates the consideration of the Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan.

Council staff, assisted by visiting consultant Brian Tickle, have been busy over the past month preparing the budget for 2019/2020. Councils' rate increase in the General Fund has been capped at 2.7% and there has been a freeze on the level of the Financial Assistance Grant, limiting Councils available 2019/20 income. The task to balance the budget is always difficult given the increases in wages and in most instances, goods and services exceed the 2.7% allowable rate increase. Management is constantly looking for efficiencies to ensure that Council and the community get the best value for money.

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The "Welcome to Bourke Night", held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, at the Port of Bourke Hotel was well supported, with around 70 people in attendance. It was also good to see a number of representatives from Bourke sporting and community organisations, welcoming new residents to town.

The function was hosted by Bourke Shire Council in conjunction with Bourke Rotary Club. Representatives of both organisations were on hand to welcome newcomers to town, with each new resident receiving an information pack.

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Bourke's Senior Citizens Week will be held from Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 to the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The first function is Sunday Lunch, on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 12.30pm, at Renshaw pavilion. There are activities on each day over the week with the exception of the Saturday. Contact Letitia Tiffen on 0438 566 118 for more information and to confirm your intention to attend activities.

Every year Senior Citizens appear to enjoy the week of partying and participating in arranged activities. Activities this year will keep our seniors busy, with a number of different community groups contributing to the organization of events and activities. Many thanks to all who have offered their assistance.

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The RSPCA is holding a Dog and Cat program on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, in Bourke. The program allows Bourke residents who have a health or pension card to take their dogs or cats for a free health check. The program will also allow eligible people to have their pets de-sexed, microchipped and vaccinated.

The RSPCA will also be available to provide information about general pet health care. You will be able to surrender sick or unwanted dogs or cats, as part of the program. The Program will be held at the grounds of the Old Gundabooka CDEP yard, Anson Street, Bourke, on the Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and at Full Gospel Church, Tarcoon St, Bourke, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, starting from 9am each day.

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Bourke Shire Council would like to advise that the Bourke War Memorial Pool Complex will **close for the 2018/19 swimming season at 8pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

The successful application for funding to upgrade the big pool (announced late last year) will mean that plans will now commence on pool refurbishment. During the closure period, all technical plans will be completed. The pool will again re-open as normal for the 2019/2020 summer period.

Actual physical works will commence in April 2020 and the upgrade will be completed over the 2020 winter, during the pools normal closure. All works are expected to be completed in time for the 2020/21 swim season, weather permitting.

With the pool over sixty years old, it is time to look at the upgrading of the facility as funding allows. The pool is a valuable community asset and given the extremely hot conditions experienced in Bourke is regarded as an essential facility within our town.

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Council was successful in receiving funding of \$145,889.00 for Alice Edwards Village, through the 2018/2019 NSW Safer Roads Aboriginal Safety Program, to construct 803 metres of footpath and a new bus shelter. Works commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and the project is expected to be completed in early April. Works are being carried out by local contractors.

The Bourke to Wanaaring road is progressing forward smoothly with a further 6.4 km of seal completed on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March on Section 2, Poison Point Plain. Council staff are hoping to complete the further 7km of this section of road by mid May 2019 being 18.56 km in total.

As the journey to and from Wanaaring gets smoother please remember to give the road works crews plenty of room when you are passing through.

MR 404 Bourke to Hungerford has received a light grading as staff move to establish themselves for the sealing of 2.5km of road near Kia-Ora and Naree Stations. The funding to undertake this sealing works was received through an application for drought relief for roads.

The residents of Hungerford and those utilising the Hungerford Road will be pleased to hear that Council will undertake the sealing of this section of road which has been identified as one of the inferior sections of that road.

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Main Street improvement work continues with another productive week enjoyed by the crew. They have completed the install of a sitting rail at the court house corner. Followed by paving continuing with the river theme and sandstone placements in the same area. Works will now progress to the middle of the block, this will include a large garden bed and raised crossing.

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Bourke's "Park Run" is a free, 5km, timed run, held weekly, each Saturday at 8am, at the Renshaw facility. The park run is open to everyone, it is safe and easy to take part in. I encourage people within

the community of every ability to take part. You are welcome to walk, run, jog or push a pram around the course. The parkrun is a dog friendly event, but your dog must be on a short leash.

The parkrun is a great place to meet new people in our community. Every parkrun relies on volunteers and volunteering is a great way to meet new friends.

You can register on line at [www.parkrun.com.au/register/](http://www.parkrun.com.au/register/)

Come along, get healthy and enjoy a family friendly, fun event each Saturday. For more information on the Bourke parkrun visit [www.parkrun.com.au/bourkeracecourse/](http://www.parkrun.com.au/bourkeracecourse/)

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*Quote of the Week!*

*"Water is the driving force of all nature", Leonardo da Vinci.*

Leonie Brown  
Acting General Manager