



## MEDIA RELEASE

# SUNDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019 MARKS ONE YEAR SINCE WATER HAS FLOWED OVER THE BOURKE WEIR

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Sunday, 18th August 2019 marks one year since the water flowed over the Weir at Bourke has meant that Bourke and North Bourke have been on water restrictions for the entire time.

This current period of “no flow” well exceeds the previous longest period and is certainly an unwanted record.

While there has been some flow upstream of Bourke from the Environment Flow and the Flow from the Culgoa River these have been helpful but not sufficient to fill the weir pool.

Mayor of Bourke Shire, Councillor Barry Hollman said that it had been a particularly hard past twelve months but indicated that the ensuing period will be significantly harder if it doesn't rain.

Councillor Hollman said that the extended period of water restrictions had resulted in the inability for Council to be able to adequately water a number of their parks and gardens and these had suffered badly with most having died off, this is also the case with many residential lawns and gardens.

Councillor Hollman said that Council was intending to remove number of trees which had unfortunately not been able to survive the extended drought conditions. He added that most of these were established trees which will leave significant voids in parts of the streetscape.

Bourke is currently on level three (3) water restrictions meaning that watering is restricted to hand held hoses limited to two (2) hours per day.

These restrictions will be tightened as the water level drops.

General Manager of Bourke Shire, Ross Earl said that Council has contingency plans for an emergency bore supply if the river drops to the extent that water will no longer be available from the river but that supply would be limited to domestic and commercial use with no provision for garden use, save for re-use.

Mr Earl said that given the emerging criticality of the situation that Council will be monitoring water use closely and were to continuing to seek the cooperation of residents in their compliance with restrictions but have the ability to institute action against those who fail to comply.

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16<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Media Contact:

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