



PRESS RELEASE  
PRESTIGIOUS A.R. BLUETT AWARD FOR 2019 WON BY BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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Bourke Shire Council was announced as the recipient of the 2019 Bluett Award for Rural Councils at the Gala Dinner held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 as part of the Annual Conference of the Local Government New South Wales.

The A R Bluett Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1945.

The Award is contested each year by Councils in NSW recognised as being the most progressive in the state.

It is generally acknowledged that the Bluett Award is "*The greatest accolade a Council can achieve*" and "*The pinnacle of local government achievement*".

Mayor of Bourke Shire Council, Councillor Barry Hollman said to receive the award was indeed an honour and a reflection of the hard work that has been undertaken by Council at all levels over the past few years and the support that Council has received from all sections of the community.

Council was one (1) of three (3) finalists in the rural division along with Bellingen and Narromine Councils.

Councillor Hollman offered his congratulations to the other finalists and acknowledged their achievements that led to them being shortlisted as a finalist.

Mayor Barry Hollman and General Manager of Bourke Shire Council, Ross Earl were on hand to collect the award from the Trustees and President of Local Government New South Wales Councillor Linda Scott.

General Manager of Bourke Shire Council said that the members of the AR Bluett Trust, Chairman Les McMahon and fellow Trustees Allan Ezzy, APM AM and Mike Montgomery, AM will be coming to Bourke in February 2020 to make the official award presentation to Bourke Shire Council including the presentation of a plaque which will be erected as a permanent record of Council's achievement. Councillor Hollman added that Bourke Shire Council would be hosting a function as part of the presentation with all staff to be invited with the award recognising the achievements from the entire organisation.

This was only the second time that Bourke has won the Award with the previous time being in 1970 when the award went to the then Darling Shire which was the predecessor to Bourke Shire Council.

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