



BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL
MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL ALLOCATES \$250,000 TO ENGAGE CONSULTANTS TO DEVELOP SHOVEL READY PROJECTS TO ENHANCE THE LONG TERM WATER SECURITY FOR TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITHIN ITS AREA ALONG THE DARLING RIVER

At the Ordinary Meeting of Bourke Shire Council held on Monday, 28th October 2019 Council received a Noticed of Motion signed by the Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lachlan Ford, calling for Council to take a more pro-active approach in relation to the identification of strategies that can be undertaken to improve the water security for towns and villages within the shire located along the Darling River.

The motion calls for the allocation of up to \$250,000.00 from the Bourke Water Supply Fund to help fund the project with Council to ask the State Government to contribute a similar amount to the project.

Council recognised that there have already been a number of studies been undertaken in relation to the development of initiatives to improve water security and these studies would be made available for further evaluation and updating of cost estimates.

The motion calls for the evaluation of both existing concepts and new ideas that may be identified recognising the changes in a number of factors over the years, including construction techniques and environmental considerations.

The Motion also calls for the study to be undertaken in a timely manner noting that there has been unprecedented concern regarding the lack of a flow in the Darling River System and this provides an ideal time to lobby for the support of the State and Federal Government for the funding to bring any feasible concept to a reality.

Councillor Hollman said that while Council is extremely appreciative of the support given by both the State and Federal Governments to date the emphasis has been on the development of an emergency supply to overcome the current crisis whilst the motion calls for the development of a strategy that will provide a longer term solution. Councillor Lachlan Ford agreed that the support to date, had been of great benefit and supported Councillor Hollman in his comments and noted that Bourke Shire Council was committed to providing assistance and being part of the solution adding that the future economic growth of Bourke was dependent on a reliable water supply both for domestic and agricultural purposes.

The motion received unanimous support from Councillors present at the meeting. Council will now develop a scope of works which will provide a framework for suitably qualified consultants to be able to submit proposals.

END

3rd November 2019

Media Contacts

Mayor Barry Hollman on 0409037903 and General Manager, Ross Earl on 0409362307