

*“If you know  
Bourke, you  
know*



*Australia”*

*Our Guiding Operating Principal*

*“Building a strong united community, proud of our past and committed to our future”*



# **Bourke Shire Council Annual Report 2018/2019**

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The 2018/2019 Financial Year has been another great year with a number of significant highlights and achievements many of which will form part of this report.

To be announced as the winner of the A.R. Bluett Memorial Award for Rural Councils for 2018/2019 was a great reward for the hard work that has been put in by Council staff at all levels.



The A.R. Bluett Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1945 and is contested each year by Councils in NSW who would like to be recognised as being the most progressive in the state.

*The AR Bluett Memorial Award is regarded as "The greatest accolade a Council can achieve" and "The pinnacle of Local Government achievement".*

The community of Bourke Shire can be justifiably proud of what this Council with the support of the community has achieved over the past few years, which has seen a number of larger projects delivered with others in the planning stages and a general improvement in overall amenity of the area.

One of the overarching reasons for the success of Council is the willingness of Councillors and the Management Team to work cohesively and let achieving the outcomes for the community be the basis for its decision making and not individual agendas.

Though our decision making is not without a divergence of opinions and accompanied at times by a degree of robust debate there still remains a strong philosophy of responding to the community needs, within the financial constraints faced by Council.

We go out to the community to ask them what they need and it would be remiss of us to ignore the high level of consultation undertaken and tell the community what we think they need.

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) underpins the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) of Councils and whilst like in many Councils it was initially thought IP&R to be yet another level in the governance imposed on Local Government, however, it has proved to be a tremendous asset to Councils in achieving their strategic goals and future financial sustainability.

Bourke Shire Council has embraced the concept of Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP & R) and that is one of the major reasons we were able to submit an application for the 2019 Bluett Award with a degree of confidence.

One of the keys to being able to provide services and facilities to the community is to have adequate funding and with a low rate base, Council's ability to attract grant funds is extremely important.

I am pleased to say that our applications over the past few years have met with a high degree of success due to both the fact that staff produce high quality submissions and Council generally enjoys a reputation of being able to deliver projects "on time" and "on budget"

Council is very much a regional leader and has been responsible for being a lead Council on a number of projects, the preparation of a number of submissions and the coordination of a number of regional meetings to get a collective position on regional issues.

Council has embraced the concept of Joint Organisations and as a result will not only work well with the other members of the Far North West Joint Organisation on issues of mutual concern but has also been able to secure the return of an air service for Bourke and almost \$1.5 million for tourism promotion which is so important for our region.

Council prides itself on being pro-active and not re-active and recognise that if rural communities are to survive and prosper it is an effective level of Local Government which will be instrumental in making this happen.

Councils proactive approach to economic development saw the opening of a "state of the art" Abattoir in early 2019 and although season conditions have seen the temporary closure of the facility, it is an industry that once again fully operational will provide employment for up to 200 people and be a game changer for the Bourke district.

The drought conditions that plagued the shire for the bulk of the period had caused a considerable amount of stress for staff as they tried to ensure that an emergency water supply was available to meet the demands of for the Bourke community.

I am happy to say that the emergency water supply was secured and I would like to make public acknowledgement of the support provided by the State Government and in particular the Minister for Water, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP and the staff from within the various departments under her direction.

Council adopted a pro-active role regionally in addressing the issue of water security and those efforts will continue as we try and encourage both the State and Federal Governments to adopt a longer strategy in relation to water security and the State Government has indicated that they will develop a Western Weirs Strategy as they promised as part of their election commitments.

In March we saw long term Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries retire and I would like to thank Kevin for the work he did on behalf of the people of Bourke Shire.

We welcome new Member for Barwon, Roy Butler, MP and I look forward to working with him over the next four (4) years.

Our Federal Member, Member for Parkes, the Hon. Mark Coulton MP continues to provide us with excellent representation at that level and despite the additional ministerial responsibilities he remains very accessible and continues to advocate on our behalf and again I look forward to working with Mark for the next four (4) years.

Over the past 12 months we have had the opportunity to host a number of State Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers including the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP. The Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro, MP, Treasurer, the Hon. Dominic Perrottet, MP, Minister for Water, Property & Housing, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP, Attorney General

and Minister for Domestic Violence, the Hon. Mark Speakman, MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon, Dan Harwin, MLC. Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women and Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education, and Shadow Minister for the Hunter, Mr Clayton Barr, MP.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the success of the 2019 Conference of the Western Division Councils held in Bourke in February 2019 which saw an excellent representation of politicians from all Parties, Departmental Heads surrounding Councils and others from within the broader Local Government Community.

The Conference was regarded as the best held for a number of years and was a credit to Bourke and I would like to thank all the staff who worked so hard to make it so successful.

I would like to reassure all residents that Council is in a very strong financial position and continues to receive positive Auditors reports and the strong financial control is one of the factors that has influenced Councils strong performance over the past few years.

Bourke Shire Council has punched well above its weight in 2018/19 and we have the award to prove it!

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their willingness to play a proactive role in ensuring the longevity and sustainability of their community. We don't always agree, but we always respect each other and put the community's interests first.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of Ross Earl and overall guidance provided to Council.

Supporting the General Manager is the Executive Management Team – Leonie Brown, Mark Gordon, Dwayne Willoughby and Peter Brown – we have “grown our own” managers in Bourke and you would not find a more dedicated team, committed to their community as this group.

Finally, our staff. The past 12 months has provided some HUGE challenges however our dedicated team have worked together to demonstrate their ability, tenacity and resilience.

Bourke Shire Council achievements over the past 12 months include:-

#### Capital Works and Services

##### Roads and Streets

- Maintain local and rural roads - 44.5km of regional roads have been re-sealed and \$25M in roadworks have been undertaken on State Highways in the Bourke LGA during 21018/19.
- 8.5Km of additional bitumen on the Darling Track (Hungerford Rd)
- All timber bridges have been replaced in the Bourke LGA
- Louth Road – Additional 4.3km seal in 2018/19
- Wanaaring Road – Additional 65.25Km seal in 2018/19
- Hungerford Road – Additional 8km seal in 2018/19
- Alice Edwards Village, street sealing, footpaths and drainage completed - \$767,000
- Clara Hart Village street sealing, footpaths and drainage completed - \$315,000,

- Annual Management Schedule for regional roads maintained

### Water

- 2018/19 saw the unprecedented lowering of the town foot valve to access river water for town supply
- Walkden's Bore and Stoney Rise Bore drilled / piped and commissioned to provide sustainable water for Bourke township
- Dredging Darling River to increase access to town water supply
- Increase Bourke weir pool height - funding secured for \$70K to scope project

### Sewer

- Funding application lodged for extension of ponding dams at Bourke Water Treatment Plant and in final assessment stages
- Funding application lodged for replacement of Charles Street Reservoir and in final assessment stages
- Part Funding secured for new sewer treatment plant

### Other Services

- Bourke, Louth and Wanaaring airport runway re-seals completed -
  - Louth Airstrip re-seal – 1.1km
  - Bourke Airstrip Re-seal – 2.44km
  - Wanaaring Airstrip Re-seal – 1.2km
- Cemeteries
  - New toilets at Bourke Cemetery (\$25K)
  - New fence at Barrington Cemetery (\$10K)
- Improve Street Lighting
  - Funding for Solar lighting secured (\$227K, NSW) funding being sought for additional LED lighting (Com)
- Community Facility Upgrades
  - Enngonia and Wanaaring Hall upgrades
  - BOB Conference Centre - \$150K spent to create community meeting space

### Culture and Heritage

- Bourke Shire Council has assisted cultural and heritage groups by;
  - Auspice funding for the Bourke Arts Group to create an art space in an unused shed at the Bourke Airport
  - Auspice funding for Muda Aboriginal Corporation to purchase a building at 26 Oxley Street to create an Indigenous Art Centre and Gallery
  - Bourke Shire Council purchased and manages Bourke Men's Shed for men's activities
- Bourke Shire Council is supporting Aboriginal Culture and Heritage, with projects developed for;
  - Indigenous story telling sculptures along river walk
  - Percy Hobson memorial artwork on water tower

These projects will be commenced on confirmation of funding:-

- Develop Aboriginal Cultural Centre for Bourke - Funding proposal for \$2.4M Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Back O Bourke pending and in final assessment
- BSC supporting touring artists;
  - Burger Joint, Kerbside Collective and Murray Hartin tours organised by Bourke Shire Council and funded through Drought Communities Fund
- Bourke Shire Council supports Outback Arts activities including "Flicks in the Sticks" and workshops / artists to the Bourke LGA

### Sport and Recreation

- Central Park Upgrade - completed (skate park, basketball court, new toilets, shade structure, new tennis court fence)
- Development of the Bourke Sporting Precinct including:-
  - Coolican Oval
    - New goal posts - completed
    - New training lights - completed
    - New Canteen - completed
    - Funding being sought for new fence
  - Davidson Oval
    - Replacement of lights - completed
    - Canteen update - completed
    - New Cricket nets - completed
    - Funding being sought for new fence
  - Bourke Swimming Pool
    - Fence Replacement - completed
    - New Swimming Pool - \$1.5M funding secured
    - Funding being sought for new program pool \$1.2M
- Town levee walkway - 250mt concrete levee walkway completed, funding secured for additional 800mt and funding being sought for North Bourke Bridge to Kidman Camp (3500m) and west of Wharf (420mt)
- Development of North Bourke Boat Ramp Reserve – completed 2018/19;
  - Replacement of boat ramp
  - Additional furniture / safety railings
  - New toilets
  - Addition of solar lighting
- Installation of play equipment and shade at;
  - North Bourke
  - Enngonia
  - Louth
  - Wanaaring

- J.B Renshaw Sporting Complex improvements (\$400K) include:-
  - Painting of buildings
  - New Secretary's office and facilities
  - New disabled toilet / shower
  - New Commercial kitchen
  - Landscaping / garden upgrades

#### Economic and Social Development

- Promote business opportunities - Bourke Goat Abattoir operational 2019
- Oxley Street \$1.5M upgrade 80% completed
- Sturt Street - \$350K funding secured
- Commercial air services will be available in 2019/20 - FNWJOC tender awarded - completed
- Funding of \$1.5M secured for improvements to Bourke Tourism Product through FNWJOC
- Bourke Shire Council has been a driver behind Bourke Easter Festival since 2015 to encourage additional visitor numbers to the region
- Bourke Shire Council organise and promote community events such as Community Markets and Community Christmas Party

#### Built & Natural Environment

- Improve telecommunications - Increased mobile service coverage to communities of Wanaaring and Louth
- Access to high speed broadband - NBN rolled out in Bourke

#### Environmental Initiatives

- Replace Water Treatment Plant, raw water pumping and raw water trunk mains - funding application lodged
- Bourke was the first Council in this part of the state to develop a Local Strategic Planning Statement
- 2018 River Clean up instigated by Bourke Shire Council and supported by National Parks and Wildlife

#### Health & Community Services

- Bourke Senior Citizens rooms are owned and maintained by Bourke Shire Council for Community use
- Bourke Shire Council support the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Bourke AMS in providing Dental Services
- Bourke Shire Council organises and/or promotes the following community activities;
  - Australia Day Celebrations
  - NAIDOC Week Celebrations
  - Community Christmas Party
  - Seniors Week Activities
- PCYC building gifted to PCYC and \$500K secured for facility upgrades
- New Pre-school facility built for BDCS with assistance from BSC

## Corporate & Governance

- Install of new computer Finance / Asset Management System 2018/19
- Ensure Council meets community & legislative expectations with its governance standards and maintains all audits undertaken
  
- Relationship Management
  - Bourke Shire Council proactive in regional and local networks (Orana Water Users Group, Western Shires Association, FNWJOC, NSW Local Government Finance Group)
  - Bourke Aboriginal Employment project is hosted by Bourke Shire Council
  - NSW Premier and Cabinet Officer for the Western Region is hosted at Bourke Shire Council Offices
  - Hosted successful Western Shires of NSW Conference, Bourke 2019 and maintains proactive relationships with Industry leaders and peers
  
- Communication with the public
  - Weekly GM column in Western Herald
  - Regular radio interviews / Press Releases distributed by 2WEB and ABC Radio
  - Bourke Shire Council has up to date Facebook and webpage content
  
- Organisational HR review completed 2018/19 resulting in:-
  - Reviewed Organisational Structure, Position Descriptions, Policies and Procedures, Training Plans
  - Required recruitment and selection completed
  
- Training provided to Councillors, Management and Staff to ensure compliance and professional development

On behalf of the Councillors of Bourke Shire Council, I commend the 2018/19 Bourke Shire Council Annual Report to you.

Councillor Barry Hollman  
Mayor

**OUR GUIDING OPERATING PRINCIPLE**  
(Our Motto)

Building a strong united community, proud of our past and committed to our future

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**WHAT WE WANT OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY TO BE**  
(Our Vision)

Bourke Shire will continue to grow as an iconic, outback, regional community and destination, which is united and productive, thriving on practical access to all modern services

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**OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE AND FOCUS**  
(Our Mission)

To provide leadership and initiative in maintaining and improving services and opportunities that meet the needs of the communities in the Shire, through proactive Councillor Representation, responsible asset management and efficient, effective service delivery by staff.

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## OUR STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

### Growing Prosperity

- Improving the economic prospects for people who live in the region
- Promoting Bourke as a regional service centre
- Developing industry and business
- Promoting population growth

### Enhancing Community Wellbeing

- Taking leadership with our community and governments, to improve social issues in the region
- Encouraging and supporting initiatives with local indigenous communities, particularly through the Community Working Parties
- Promoting participation and coordination between the community and Council
- Encouraging and supporting community initiatives to enhance community benefits

### Living in the Environment

- Managing the natural and built environment responsibly
- Securing a sustainable water supply for all users
- Considering future generations in all our decision making

### Delivering Better Services

- Providing infrastructure to support community needs
- Effectively managing Council's assets
- Planning for future service needs of our communities
- Pursuing continuous improvement in the business of Council

### Promoting Leadership

- Advocating the iconic regional benefits of Bourke Shire areas, its people and resources
- Providing strategic leadership for the community
- Being recognised as an employer of choice

## OUR PLATFORM FROM WHICH WE OPERATE (Our Strategic Pillars)

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Community: primary stakeholders and service recipients

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Councillors: provide governance, representation and leadership

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Staff: manage assets; deliver services to the community and to Councillors.

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Assets: roads; water and sewerage; plant, equipment and machinery; community facilities and service buildings; staff and finances

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Legislation: meet all legislative requirements

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## STATEMENT OF VALUES

Everyone who deals with Council or works in Council has the right to expect that Councillors and Council staff will make decisions based on consistent and high ethical standards in line with the principles of Council's Code of Conduct:-

- Openness
- Honesty
- Respect
- Accountability
- Objectivity
- Leadership
- Selflessness
- Integrity

To realise our Strategic Directions for the next 10 years, all Councillors, staff and agents of Council will act in a manner which:-

- Provides sound civic leadership to the communities in Bourke Shire
- Continually strives for improvement in every aspect of Council's activities
- Focuses on our customers
- Protects and enhances the environment for future generations
- Recognises initiative
- Is fair, equitable and does not discriminate.



## COUNCILLORS

Since the September 2016 Council elections, Council has comprised of:-

Cr Barry Hollman (Mayor)	Cr Lachlan Ford (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Cecil Dorrington	Cr Ian Cole
Cr John Thompson	Cr Robert Stutsel
Cr Sally Davis	Cr Sam Rice
Cr Sarah Barton	Cr Victor Bartley

### Role of Governing Body (Sect 223 LG Act)

(1) The role of the governing body is as follows:-

- (a) To direct and control the affairs of the Council in accordance with this Act,
- (b) To provide effective civic leadership to the local community,
- (c) To ensure as far as possible the financial sustainability of the Council,
- (d) To ensure as far as possible that the Council acts in accordance with the principles set out in Chapter 3 and the plans, programmes, strategies and policies of the Council,
- (e) To develop and endorse the community strategic plan, delivery programme and other strategic plans, programmes, strategies and policies of the Council,
- (f) To determine and adopt a rating and revenue policy and operational plans that support the optimal allocation of the Council's resources to implement the strategic plans (including the community strategic plan) of the Council and for the benefit of the local area,
- (g) To keep under review the performance of the Council, including service delivery,
- (h) To make decisions necessary for the proper exercise of the Council's regulatory functions,
- (i) To determine the process for appointment of the general manager by the Council and to monitor the general manager's performance,
- (j) To determine the senior staff positions within the organisation structure of the Council,
- (k) To consult regularly with community organisations and other key stakeholders and keep them informed of the Council's decisions and activities,
- (l) To be responsible for ensuring that the Council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately.

2. The governing body is to consult with the General Manager in directing and controlling the affairs of the Council.

### Public Forum

Members of the public can make representation to Council at the Public Forum which is held at 10.00am at each Ordinary Meeting of Council. Anyone wishing to take the opportunity is asked to contact Council's Executive Assistant on 68308000 and advise of their intention, giving as much notice as possible to Council. The provision of notice will allow staff to research any information that may assist in Council's understanding of the issues raised. Ordinary Meetings of Council are normally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Any changes to this schedule are advertised in the Western Herald, broadcast on Radio Station 2WEB and will also be advertised on Council's website.

### Standing Committees of Council

Council has the following standing Committees:-

- Corporate Planning Committee      Roads and Plant Committee
- Town and Villages Committee      Tourism and Economic Development Committee

All Councillors are members of these standing Committees.

## Representation of other Organisations

Bourke Shire Council has delegates who sit on a number of committees external to the operation of Council. Council is invited to provide representation on the committees, many of which provide important advisory functions.

COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE		
GENERAL MANAGER ROSS EARL	<b>MANAGEMENT TEAM</b>	
	<b>MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b> <b>Dwayne Willoughby</b>	
	Development Assessment Officer	Weeds Officer
	Admin Officer Trainee (PT) (Vacant)	Environmental Operator - Waste
	Environmental Operators x 2	Ranger
	Environmental Services Officer	Cemetery Operator
	Environmental Services Operator	Building Maintenance X 2
	<b>MANAGER OF ROADS</b> <b>Mark Gordon</b>	
	Engineering Support Officer	Maintenance Relief Operators x 3
	Roads Maintenance x 8	Transport Services x 5
	Bitumen Maintenance x 3	Roads Assistant
	Workshop x 4 School Based Trainee X 2	Roads Inspector (RMCC)
	Works Supervisor	Depot/Store/Fleet Coordinator
	<b>MANAGER OF WORKS</b> <b>Peter Brown</b>	
	Town Services x 7	Parks & Gardens X 4
	Services Technical Officer x 1	Water & Wastewater Services X 5
	<b>MANAGER OF TOURISM &amp; EVENTS</b> <b>Fran Carter</b>	
	Coordinator Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre	
	Captain x 1	Administration/Retail Assistant
	Deckhand x 1	Deckhand Casual X 5
	General Hand x 1	
	VIC Guides Casual x 5	Volunteers
	<b>MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES</b> <b>Leonie Brown</b>	
	Senior Finance Officer	Executive Assistant
	Human Resource Officer/Payroll	IT System Administrator IT Support Officer
	Rates & Water Billing Officer	Records Coordinator/Customer Service Officer x 1
	Finance Officer /Creditors/Payroll	Customer Service Officer
	R&MS Officer	Admin/Finance Trainee x 1
	Community & Governance Officer	Library Manager x 1 (PPT)
	WHS/Risk Inspection Officer	Library Assistants x 2 (PPT)
	Cleaner	

### OVERVIEW

#### Performance in Terms of Principal Activities

##### LGA s428 (2) (b)

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, reports have been submitted to Council on a quarterly basis as to the extent to which the performance targets set by the 2018/2019 Operational Plan have been achieved during the year.

#### Governance

To ensure the sound management of Council and the promotion of a favourable image of Council and its staff

#### Strategies

- Ensure Council's organisational structure is effective
- Ensure policies are relevant and meet objectives
- Ensure the objectives and targets identified in the Delivery Programme are met
- Establish Bourke Shire Council's Strategic Directions for the next decade
- Establish a Community Integrated Planning & Reporting Strategic Planning Process

#### Progress

- Policies are being methodically reviewed, amended or developed as identified
- Management Plan reviewed quarterly
- Strategic Directions document reviewed, endorsed and publicised.

**ADMINISTRATION**

To provide effective administration support services to the Council, Mayor, General Manager and Departments and to fulfil Council’s broad range of services and activities.

**Australia Day Celebrations**

Australia Day was held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Bourke War Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool with Jay Allen representing as the Australia Day Ambassador. A breakfast was held in conjunction with the Rotary Club and the recipients of the 2019 Australia Day Awards were as follows:-

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Citizen of the Year	Patricia Mann
Young Citizen of the Year	Isaac Ford
Sportsperson of the Year	Clay Simmonds
Young Sportsperson of the Year	Archie Nott
Emergency Service Volunteer	Rodney Vincent





## Seniors Week

Seniors Week celebrations were held from Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 through until Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and what a great week it turned out to be!

It started with a BBQ Luncheon on the first Sunday which was provided by Bourke Shire Council and the CWA at the JB Renshaw Sporting Complex Pavilion followed by a spectacular performance from the Bourke Local Line dancers showing off their dancing skills for the seniors to enjoy.

Monday was the usual get together at Day-Care for games, morning tea and BBQ lunch at the Bourke District Hospital with long stay patients and to sit around and catch up with friends.

On Tuesday the seniors were treated to a Mystery Tour where we headed out to Rose Isle Station which is on the Louth Road, situated on the banks of the Darling River. The Host's Gary and Samantha Mooring provide a beautiful morning tea; with the seniors sitting and enjoying each other's company over a cuppa, scones and cakes. After morning tea they were able to walk down to rivers edge and walk through the beautiful garden that the Mooring family maintain.

Wednesday was trivia and morning tea at the Bourke High School Multipurpose Centre which was provided by both the Bourke Garden Club and Bourke High School Hospitality Class. There were trivia questions and other games with lots of prizes to be won.

Thursday the seniors were provided with a beautiful luncheon and music with Mark Gordon (a favourite with everyone) at the local Bourke Bowling Club.

Friday morning the seniors were treated to a cruise along the Darling River enjoying the scenery and morning tea. After the seniors disembarked from the Jandra they were driven out to the new Abattoir site to see the progress of the building stage of the Abattoir at North Bourke.

Saturday is a scheduled rest day to recuperate from the weeks activities and prepare for the final activities on the Sunday with Seniors Week finishing off with a BBQ luncheon back at the JB Renshaw Sporting Complex Pavilion provided by Bourke Shire Council and the Rotary Club.

The weeklong activities were enjoyed by all the seniors from the Bourke and surrounding areas and they all are eagerly looking forward to what the planned activities for 2019 will be.

Bourke Shire Council has had long association with Seniors Week and it is certainly one that provides staff with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction.

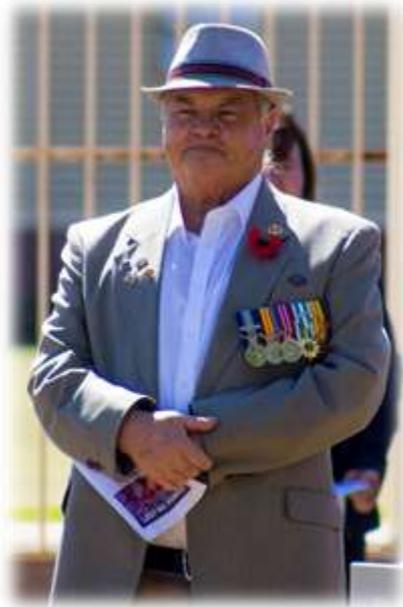
## ANZAC Day/Remembrance Day

Council takes part every year in the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Bourke by placing a wreath at the Cenotaph in memory of the fallen. Council also participated in the ANZAC Service at Enngonia and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Hungerford.



GOWER, H.	HONEYMAN, H. G.
GOWER, R. F.	HONEYMAN, R. A.
GRAY, E.	HONEYMAN, W. H.
GRAY, F.	HOPLEY, W. D.
GRAY, J. W.	HORSLEY, C. H.
GRAY, P. J.	HORTON, C.
GRAY, TED	HOSICK, F. A.
GREEN, S. R.	HOSICK, R. D.
GREEN, V. R.	HOWARD, G.
GUTERIDGE, V. R.	HOWCHIN, E. K.
HAGEN, A. C.	HOWELL, C.
HAGEN, R.	HOWELL, F.
HAIGH, R. W. H.	HOWELL, H.
HALLORAN, W.	HOWELL, J.
HANNS, K. J.	HOWSE, P. L.
HARDY, W.	HUDSON, A.
HARDING, T. A.	HUDSON, J. H.
HARPER, J.	HULL, K. L.
HARROD, E. C.	HUNTER, C.
HAYMAN, F. A.	JACKSON, H.
HAYMAN, W. A.	JAMES, H. M.
	JEFFERIES, W. J.





(All ANZAC Day photos are courtesy of "Things I See – Mrs B" Keren Barker and are used with her permission.)

## Bourke Public Library

The following items for the 2018/2019 period are presented for your information:-

Item	2017/18	Item	2018/19
Audio Visual	3056	Audio Visual	2185
Adult Fiction	3126	Adult Fiction	2824
Non-Fiction	1183	Non-Fiction	874
Junior Fiction	2416	Junior Fiction	2300
Magazines	833	Magazines	550
eBooks/eAudio	474	eBooks/eAudio	935
Interlibrary Loans	25	Interlibrary Loans	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>11113</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9674</b>

Other statistical information:

	2017/18		2018/19
New Members	111	New Members	105
Internet/Word Processing	1355	Internet/Word Processing	881
Wireless Tickets	210	Wireless Tickets	184
Number of Visitors	15613	Number of Visitors	12265*
Scans	269	Scans	320
Information Requests	941	Information Requests	884
Technical Assistance	321	Technical Assistance	676
Faxes	108	Faxes	102

\* Note: Visitor statistics are lower due to a number of periods where the door counter was out of action.

## Highlights for the Year

### Children's Services

- Children's Book Week was celebrated in the Library in August. Competitions were run throughout the month, and prizes were given out at a party at the end of the week. We had 26 children attend the party.
- During September we had illustrator Craig Smith visit the library to conduct drawing workshops with local school students. Students from the Bourke Public School, St Ignatius, Koinonia, Wanaaring and Louth schools attended for sessions, during which they learned about the process of illustration and some techniques for drawing. There were some amazing drawings produced during the sessions, and everyone attending had a great time.
- In November we had children's author Frances Watts visit for two days. Approximately 120 children from Bourke Public School and St Ignatius visited the library over the two (2) days to listen to Frances reading her books and to learn about the process of writing books.
- A new after school craft group was started in March, and since then we have held six (6) sessions with between three (3) and five (5) children attending each session.
- In May, we started an afternoon coding club for children. Our first session had four (4) children attend.

- In June we had a visit from popular children and young adult author Deborah Abela. Deborah visited for two (2) days and had sessions with seven (7) classes from Bourke Public School and St Ignatius, as well as Koinonia School. The sessions were very successful, with all the kids and teachers having a great time and learning about the writing process.
- Children's Craft and story time sessions have been held regularly on a monthly basis, with extra sessions in the summer school holidays. A total of 189 children attended these sessions.
- The Books for Babies program is still running, with 20 bags distributed this year.
- We had a number of school visits this year. Koinonia visited for stories and a library for their eight (8) children. We also had a visit from Preschool, with 15 children enjoying stories and craft. The Early Years Transition Centre had two groups visit, with a total of 31 children listening to stories and learning about the library.

### Programs and Services

- Jodi Hatch visited Day Care in December to talk about the Be Connected Program, which is now available in the library. Be Connected is a Government program aimed at helping older people to improve their skills with technology. An introductory session was held this month, with five (5) people attending and signing up for the program. Seven (7) sessions have been held, with an average of three (3) people per session.
- The Tax Help program was held again in the library this year, and staff assisted with the completion of 17 tax returns.

### Events

- Two (2) murder mystery evenings were held this year, the first in December, with 20 people attending, and the second in June, with 14 people attending.

### Grants

- The library was successful in obtaining a grant of \$2000 from the Good Things Foundation to help set up the Be Connected program in the library. We have purchased five (5) iPads with grant funding. These will be used in training sessions with older people, and will also be used in programs for older children and teenagers to learn computer programming.
- The RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology, which was obtained thanks to an Infrastructure Grant from the State Library of NSW, was installed in the library this year and has been running successfully.

Jodi Hatch  
Library Manager

Although the drought is having a significant impact on the local economy, tourism has been crucial to Bourke, supporting many small and medium size businesses across a range of sectors including tourism, hospitality, retail, arts and culture and transport.

The Bourke Shire Council has invested three million dollars into turbocharging tourism in the last 12 months. This action aims to stimulate the visitor economy and accelerate tourism growth.

In 2018/2019, 37,251 people visited Bourke. Together, with industry and other key partners, Bourke tourism has achieved some significant outcomes that will strengthen and enhance tourism in the region in the short, but particularly in the medium to longer term. The future has its challenges however, there are exciting times ahead.

Meetings, events and VFR-(visiting friends and relatives) sector has played an important role in increasing the appeal and publicity of Bourke as a destination for new and repeat visitors. The message is quite clear-expand into these niche sectors of the market that create specific reasons to visit as well as offers Bourke the potential to help tackle seasonal issues like droughts and generate additional tourism in the on/off season. Positioning the Back O Bourke as a leader in this sector will not only help to establish a revitalised public image of Bourke and the region, but also help to develop a proud social fabric within the community.

### Highlights 2019

Bourke Shire Council organised the Bourke Wharf Christmas markets that transformed the wharf area precinct into a Christmas wonderland with activities abound. Light displays and a giant Christmas tree, complemented by free Christmas Carol entertainment, creative handcrafted stalls and food and beverage outlets. Santa Claus and the Mayor officially switched on Bourke's Christmas lights.

After engaging the services of a Structural Marine Boat Specialist to carry out its annual Safety Survey and progress with the review of its Safety Management Systems. Council was successful in the outcome of the Jandra's inspection.



**BOURKE WHARF CHRISTMAS MARKETS**  
14th of December from 6-9pm

**JOIN US FOR A FAMILY NIGHT OF:**  
DINNER • CANDLE LIGHT CAROLS ON THE WHARF MARKET STALLS • SANTA! • ENTERTAINMENT  
LOADS OF GIVEAWAYS • LUCKY DIPS  
MAYOR TO "LIGHT UP THE TOWN"  
MEN'S SHED CHRISTMAS BIKE RIDES  
JUDGING OF THE "LIGHT UP THE TOWN" COMPETITION AFTER CAROLS

 **Back O' Bourke** **DON'T FORGET YOUR RUG AND CHAIRS!**  
For Enquiries contact: Bourke Shire Council  
(02) 6830 8000



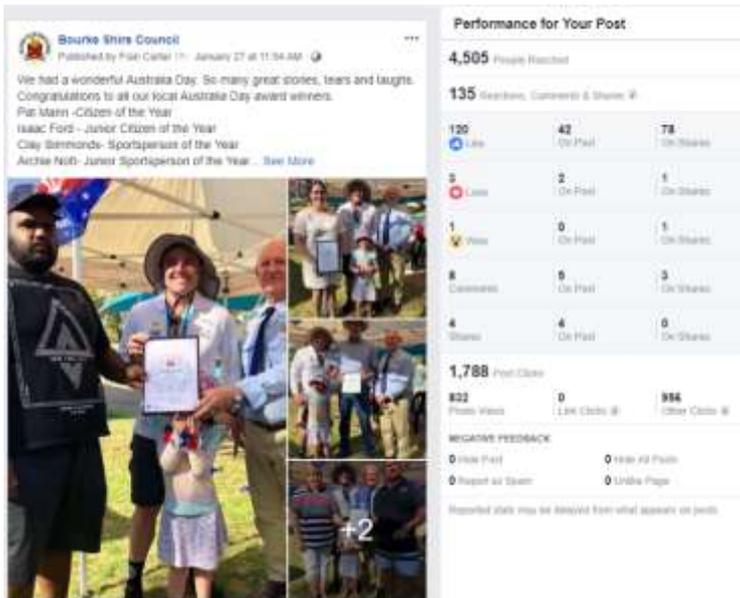
The season finished for the PV Jandra on the 2nd November with 7046 passengers for the year 2018.

Before the 2019 season could commence the river had dropped so much that it was unfortunately confined to a small stretch in the river and the Jandra did not operate in 2019.

2019 Australia Day was the highlight event for January with the new location at the Bourke War Memorial Pool. The theme was "Pool Party" and had an array of giant inflatables, Pavlova Pie Face, Dash for Cash and a lamington stack to celebrate.



The "Breeze into Bourke" campaign in the September 2018 school holidays targeted the VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) market and attracted well over 2000 people to the event over the 2 weeks. The Spring School Holidays are always a popular time of year with families and the activity program successfully captured those visitors to explore and indulge in our region.



Extensive promotional coverage of Bourke and the Back O Bourke Information & Exhibition Centre in the RM William's Outback Magazine, Australian Traveller, The Wanderer- CMCA, 2GB- Camping & Off-Road Radio Show, Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventures, Kidman Way Brochure, Matilda Country Magazine, Darling River Run brochure, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane Caravan & Camping Shows.



Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre's new Function Centre has been completed after a refurbishment to redesign the old Café to a Function Centre. The centre is a versatile venue and can adapt to just about any function including; weddings, parties, conferences, coach groups, fundraising events, community functions, live performances and mini expos. The function centre comes with free WIFI, white board, audio visual and data projection equipment along with crockery, cutlery, tables and chairs with full use of a commercial kitchen. The large outdoor deck and a number of picturesque natural settings around the Back O' Bourke Exhibition/ Function Centre are also a bonus to consumers wanting to book.

Guided Tours at the Back O' Bourke Centre have commenced. Visitors are greeted by our local Tour Guide and accompanied throughout the Exhibition Centre where the 45-minute tour provides information on the history of the building, explanations of exhibits, information of the area and general matters of interest to the visitor.

Compliance for accreditation at the Back O' Bourke Visitor Information & Exhibition Centre has been met. Accreditation provides consumers and the industry with an assurance that an AVIC is committed to quality business practice and professionalism. The primary focus is to ensure that standards of service delivery meet and, where possible, exceed the visitor's expectations.

This year's Back O Bourke Easter Festival - 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd April 2019 program saw over 5,000 free and ticketed attendances across 34 music, sporting, art and cultural events. With 10 local and interstate music artists appearing over three (3) locations in Bourke.



The Back O' Bourke Easter Festival continues to attract a loyal audience of returning festival patrons- including the Visiting Friends and Relatives market (VFR) and the local community who have preferred to have a "staycation" – preferring to holiday in their hometown and be involved in day trips to local attractions and events.



## Regional Road Block Grant

**Budget:** \$2,499,359.00 includes \$53,359.00 carry over from 2017/2018

**Sealed Road** – 157.11 km    **Unsealed Road** – 413.50 km

Roads under Regional Road Block grant: MR 68 Sth Bourke – Tilpa, MR 407 Louth – Cobar, MR 405 Bourke – Wanaaring & MR 404 Bourke – Hungerford.

**Expenditure - General Maintenance on these roads:** (\$1,512,366.44) this includes grading, clearing of table drains, grid maintenance, signage, bitumen patching, reformation, clearing mitre drains.

**Expenditure - Reseals:** (\$254,202.82)

## Regional Road Repair Program (MR 405 Bourke Milparinka) Wongareena Plain

**Expenditure:** (\$800,000.00)

Council received \$400,000.00 for the Repair Program 50% and used the supplementary Component \$144,000.00 and a further \$256,000.00 from the Regional Road Block Grant to complete a further 5 km of seal on Wongareena Plain.

The Repair Program was combined with the Fixing Country Roads stage three project to increase the sealing length from 7.02 km to 12 km. The \$800,000 was used to complete the formation of the whole 12 kilometres of road and some importing and winning of base material.



MR 405 Repair program (Wongareena Plain)

## MR 405 Bourke Milparinka Fixing Country Roads Projects

### Stage 1 Gumbalie

Budget: \$4,110,000.00

Project Length: 12.79 km

Expenditure: \$3,348,365.35

Seal Completed: 12.79 km

Council staff and contractors completed 12.79 kilometres of new sealed road to connect the link between sealed sections 34.98 km – 45.8 km. This included a seal width of 7.2 metres wide, replacement of all culverts and installation of one new grid.



### Stage One (1) Gumbalie Bourke Milparinka Road

The biggest problem for Council due to drought conditions was the availability of a reliable source of water to complete the project. Council received three quotes to drill a bore at Gumbalie to supply water for the Gumbalie and poison Point projects.

The winning quote was from IMPAX Group who carried out the drilling of the bore in July and August 2018. The bore depth was 333m and supplied Council with the help of a submersible pump a rate of 5.5 litres per second. Council is also planning to install a further bore at Argyle Station for the Wongareena Plain Section.



IMPAX Group Drilling Gumbalie Bore

## Stage Two (2) Poison Point Plain

Budget: \$4,650,000.00

Project Length: 16.55 km

Expenditure: \$3,822,397.24

Seal Completed: 18 km

Council Staff and contractors completed 18 kilometres of new seal to extend the section from 54.84 km to 72.84 km. Works included the installation of two (2) floodways, new culverts, one (1) new grid replacement and a sealed width of 7.2 metres. Floodways were sealed at 9m width.



Sealing of Stage Two (2) Poison Point Plain

## Stage Three (3) Wongareena Plain

Budget: \$2,352,000.00 + \$800,000.00 from Regional Road Repair Program

Project Length: 12 km

Expenditure: \$737,739.13

Seal Completed: km

To secure water for the project Council had to engage IMPAX Group to drill a new replacement bore at Rainbar Station due to local bores and the flow in the Paroo not being able to supply the current demand for the road construction. The drilling of the bore would secure future water supply for construction and maintenance projects.

The bore was completed on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 drilled to a depth of 386 metres and supplied Council with a flow of 3 Litres per second. The Paroo also peaked at minor flood level in May 2019 to supply enough water to complete the Wongareena Plain Project.

Road construction commenced at the end of June 2019 with reformation of the pavement and some minor gravel works.



IMPAX Group Drilling Rainbar Bore

## MR 404 Drought Relief Program Naree S/Bends

Allocation: \$300,000.00

Expenditure: \$300,164.13

### Why are roads getting funding in drought?

Poor sections of road, particularly those with corrugate, can have a huge impact on poor condition stock being transported and can add extra time to trips.

### What roads are going to be upgraded?

All Council roads are eligible. The application for funding will be communicated direct to Councils.

Council applied and was successful under the program and received the maximum allocation of \$300,000.00 to seal the corrugated S/Bends at Naree on MR 404 Bourke Hungerford road. Council sealed 2.8 km of road to give relief for graziers to transport their stock in drought conditions.

## Rural Local Roads including Town Streets (49 km Town Streets)

**Budget:** \$1,506,400.00

**Sealed:** 11.29 km

**Listed Roads:** 48

**Unsealed:** 1,834.96 km

Expenditure: \$1,551,528.36

These figures provide for routine maintenance for, grading, signs, minor gravel resheeting, reseals and patching, grid and culvert repairs etc.

## Roads to Recovery

Expenditure: \$580,163.50

### MR 68 South Sealing at Clover creek

Expenditure: \$81,259.79

Construction and sealing of S bends carried over from 2017/2018 financial year.

### MR 405 Sealing S Bends at Wongamana

Expenditure: \$250,000.00

Construction and sealing of S/Bends at Wongamana 1.5 kilometres.

### RLR 29 Amaroo Road:

Expenditure: \$103,757.00

Full formation grade completed with some minor gravel resheeting

### RLR 49 West Culgoa Road

Expenditure: \$145,146.71

Replacement of full Bridge Culvert and sealing of road over the top of culvert.

## NSW SAFER ROADS PROGRAM

### Road Safety Infrastructure for Aboriginal Villages

#### Alice Edwards Village Footpaths & Bus Stop

Council received \$145,889.00 from this program to build three new sections of footpaths around Alice Edwards Village.

1. Alice Edwards Concrete Path (1) 372 m x 1.5 m wide x 100 mm deep – 558m<sup>2</sup>
2. Alice Edwards Concrete Path (2) 315 m x 1.5 m wide x 100 mm deep – 473m<sup>2</sup>
3. Alice Edwards Concrete Path (3) 116 m x 1.5 m wide x 100 mm deep – 174m<sup>2</sup>
4. Alice Edwards bus Shelter

Alice Edwards Footpaths

New Bus Shelter Alice Edwards



## State Roads

Sealed Road: 357 km

Unsealed: Nil

RMCC Routine Budget: \$594,000.00

Expenditure: \$595,084.72

Routine activities carried out were pot hole patching, edge patching, sign & guide post maintenance, correct surface shape, shoulder grading, rest areas and rubbish removal, ground vegetation control, repair wearing surface, grid repairs and restoration of stock pile sites.

The over expenditure was a result of extra shoulder grading required and was paid by RMS under the RMCC contract.

## RMCC Works Orders

### Funding Received:

Council received approximately \$803,269.22 in works orders for the financial year including accruals for works completed during the months of July and August.

## Plant M & R

Expenditure: \$3,496,746.52

### Small Plant Replacement Maintenance & Repair

Budget: \$35,000

Expenditure: \$40,411.93

### Light Plant Replacement 2018/2019

Budget: \$180,000.00

Expenditure: \$158,977.00

### Heavy Plant Replacement

Budget: \$1,608,000.00

Expenditure: \$1,590,023.00

Kenworth T659 Prime Mover	\$221,914.00
Kenworth T659 Prime Mover	\$279,010.00
Ammann Padfoot Roller ASC150D	\$162,000.00
Ammann Padfoot Roller ASC150D	\$162,000.00
Ammann AP 240T3 Multi Tyre Roller	\$154,000.00
John Deere Grader	\$342,090.00
Three bedroom Accommodation	\$22,800.00
Three bedroom Accommodation	\$22,800.00
Moore Triaxle Side Tipper	\$98,636.00
Moore Triaxle Side Tipper	\$98,636.00
Moore Tandem Axle Converter Dolly	\$26,136.00
<b>Total Heavy Plant</b>	<b>\$1,590,023.00</b>

## New Council Plant

New Multi tyred Roller



New Padfoot Roller



New John Deere Grader

New Accommodation Dongers Yandaroo



New Side Tipper

New Side Tipper & Dolly



New Kenworth Prime Mover

New Kenworth Prime Mover

### Aim

To provide a cost effective Water and Wastewater Service that meets customer service standards and complies with all Health and Environmental Guidelines and Regulations

To continue to upgrade the town water storages and systems to fight against the ongoing drought. Bourke has not seen its weir flow for a record 400 plus days which started on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

### Strategy

- Construct a new water treatment plant for Bourke and North Bourke
- Installation of a new sewerage cell at the Bourke Sewerage Treatment Works
- Evaluate options and the availability of funding to drought proof Bourke and North Bourke which includes the raising of the existing weir by one (1) metre or more, the possible construction of a second weir upstream of the current Bourke Weir, the construction of a dam or turkeys nest to hold 10GL and the further development of the Walkden's Bore Project with a 4<sup>th</sup> bore to secure the towns water supply in times of drought.
- Regulate the Darling River
- Meet all Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) Standards where possible and practical
- Meet Best Practice Guidelines set out by NSW DPI - Water
- Explore measures to reduce Council expenditure
- Reduce water demand with implementation of Water Wise education activities
- Continue to upgrade Council's ageing Water and Sewerage Infrastructure
- Secure village water supplies and increase storage capacity



Darling River foot valve drought placement to remove remaining water

### Progress

The most significant development was the announcement that the New South Wales Government has recognised the importance of the upgrade of the Bourke Water Treatment Plant and has agreed to fund the renewal of the plant to the total value of **\$10,548,792** which includes an amount of **\$175,000.00** which has already been committed from the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewage Program. The balance of the funding of **\$10,373,792** will be provided under Restart NSW.

Council has been working closely with New South Wales Public Works to complete the plans and specifications for the new plant, tenders have been awarded and construction will start in February 2020.

Council are also seeking funding under the Safe and Secure Water Programme to construct new bores at all the villages within Bourke Shire.

Council has received funding for a new potable water reservoir for the Bourke Township to replace the existing tower in Charles Street. Tender specifications are currently being developed, work should commence before 2021.

### Ongoing Strategies

- Plan developed for the sinking of two (2) auxiliary bores to supplement the Walkden's and Stoney Rise Bores
- Continue to investigate cost effective methods to meet EPA Licence Standards
- Maintain a Sewerage Manhole Lid Replacement Programme
- Continue to replace all troublesome sewerage boundary traps
- Comply with key customer service performance requirements



Water & Wastewater Manhole replacement

### Asset Improvement/ Replacement

- Raw water supply valve system being upgraded to monitor output with new ipearl water meters being installed
- Upgrade of Council telemetry system
- New Water Treatment Plant
- Replacement of raw water pipes

Best practice is implemented and the following are to be reviewed:-

Policy/Plan	Abbreviations
Integrated Water Cycle Management	IWCM
Demand Management Plan	DMP
Strategic Business Plans	SBP
Drought Management Plan	DMP
Drinking Water Quality Management Plan	DWQMP
Liquid Trade Waste Policy	LTWP
Pollution Incident Response Management Plan	PIRMP

### Town Streets, Footpaths & Levees

- Reconstruction and sealing of programmed street shoulder works completed in accordance with programme
- Upgrade of the Richard Street stormwater outlet
- Upgrade of the Bourke Wharf
- Funding for the Bourke Boat ramp replacement was received and work completed
- Programmed routine repairs and maintenance on streets, footpaths and lanes completed
- Kerb and gutter replacement
- Installation and maintenance of back lane gates in line with adopted plan
- Installation of new trees on footpath to replace Queensland Fig trees that have been removed
- Plan developed for the upgrade of Bourke Stormwater System
- Graffiti removal programme ongoing
- Cricket pitch upgrade at Fords Bridge
- Back lane cleaning
- Tree trimming for street sweeper access
- Rest area rubbish control continued
- Street Tree Policy reviewed

*Upgrade to top deck of the Bourke Wharf*



*Upgrade of the Bourke boat ramp*



## **Parks, Gardens and Sporting Grounds**

- Programmed routine repairs and maintenance undertaken
- Upgrade of Central Park watering system undertaken
- Shade trees planted in strategic locations at Davidson Oval, Central Park and around Bourke
- Parks and Gardens Management Plan reviewed

## **Airport**

- Routine maintenance works undertaken
- Maintenance to the fence to keep vermin out and off the airstrip
- Yearly technical structural inspection completed
- Yearly Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) survey completed
- Ongoing lobbying for the reintroduction of a passenger service for Bourke
- Ensure adequate numbers of trained Airport Reporting Officers (ARO's)
- RPT Accreditation maintained

## **Village Amenities**

- Routine repairs and maintenance undertaken
- Assistance provided by village communities
- Continued support during village functions
- Village Street reseals undertaken in accordance with programmes

## STATUTORY INFORMATION

### STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT S 428A (1)

With changes to the reporting requirements under the Act and the introduction of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework, the requirements for State of the Environment (SoE) reporting were changed. This change meant that a comprehensive State of the Environment Report is required to be included in the annual reporting for Councils in the year in which a Council election is held.

Bourke Shire Council participated in producing a Regional Report of the State of the Environment in a joint venture coordinated by the Central Tablelands and Central West Local Land Services. This report covered the Local Government areas of Bourke, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Warren, Narromine, Mid-Western, Dubbo, Lachlan, Warrumbungle, Blayney, Oberon, Cabonne, Bathurst, Wellington, Weddin and Orange. A copy of this report can be obtained by contacting Council's Office on 02 68308000, or from Council's website, [www.Bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.Bourke.nsw.gov.au)

Council participated in this joint report with the expectation that a collaborative approach to what are mostly region wide issues might assist in making the reports a more useful tool in assisting Council to measure and act against the community impacts on the environment.

### Environmental Planning & Assessment ACT 1979 (S93g.5)

The Bourke Local Environmental Plan was gazetted for Bourke Shire Council in January 2013. Council complied with the plan in the reporting period. Development and Planning issues are assessed in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and any other legislative act that may be relevant.

### Land Use Planning and Regulation

Council continued to adhere to its principal land use planning and regulation instrument in the reporting year, the Bourke Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Development applications approved for 2018/19 totalled 12, Section 96 applications one (1) with Complying Developments applications approved for 2018/19 being one (1). The total value of projects amounted to \$2,048,500.00.

The Far West Regional Plan 2036 applies to the Bourke Local Government Area. The Regional Plan is the NSW Government's planning blueprint for the Region. The vision of the Plan is to create a diverse economy, supported by the right infrastructure, an exceptional natural environment and resilient communities. It is anticipated that the vision will be delivered through three (3) goals:-

- A diverse economy with efficient transport and infrastructure networks
- Exceptional semi-arid rangelands traversed by the Barwon-Darling River
- Strong and connected communities

The Far West Regional Plan 2036 identifies that there are many successful examples of collaborative partnerships and innovative solutions to meet the challenges of demographic change and service delivery in rural and regional communities. It further identifies that proactively planning for change can provide the most benefit to communities. Action 20.2 'Undertake modelling with local communities to better understand the implications and factors contributing to population change', is a priority action for 2017-2019.

Together, the Department of Planning and Environment (Western Region) and Bourke Shire Council have prepared a localised action plan which brings together the numerous actions contained in the Far West Regional Plan 2036 and the Bourke Community Strategic Plan. It has also been informed by the outcomes of the Population Insights Workshop.

Through the Building Future Communities Project, the community has identified that the Local planning priorities for Bourke are:-

- Industry Diversification
- Youth and Education
- Liveable and Vibrant Community

These priorities reflect the topics discussed during the Population Insights Workshop, as well as areas highlighted in the Bourke Community Strategic Plan and the Far West Regional Plan 2036, these priorities highlight the strategic focus areas for Bourke to build community resilience.

Council and the communities developed a targeted action plan that intends to effectively manage change. The action plan has not been endorsed by Council at this stage, the action plan finalisation is on the agenda for 2019.

The Project was recognised by the Secretary of the Department of Planning at the 2018 Staff Awards. The project was runner up and highly commended in the collaboration category from 48 other nominations. This award reflects the value of the project for NSW as an example of State and Local Government working in partnership with the community.

Bourke Shire Council was chosen by the Western Region Department of Planning and Environment to be the pilot Council to draft and Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). Council Staff have worked with the department staff on the drafting of the document.

Local Strategic Planning Statements will be a pivotal tool for local strategic planning in NSW.

They will inform local statutory plans and development controls, and give effect to regional and district plans. The LSPS can also identify where further strategic planning effort may be needed.

The statements will act as a unifying document. Drawing together and summarising planning priorities identified through State, regional, district and local strategic work. They provide the local context and local-scale expression of actions and priorities from these plans. In practice, the statements will shape how the local environmental plan (LEP) and development control plans (DCP) evolve over time.

The statements will be the primary resource to express the desired future for the LGA as a whole and for specific areas. This will guide and indicate what significant changes are planned for the LEP and DCP to deliver the vision. The LSPS will identify the need for further local strategic planning effort such as precinct and master planning, local character statements, and local housing and infrastructure strategies.

The LSPS will assist Councils in their consideration of infrastructure needs to support growth. This will promote transparency and clarity by identifying upfront the strategic infrastructure priorities for an area, which can then be delivered through a range of methods such as Government funding or planning agreements.

An LSPS will be a succinct and easy to understand document that will allow community members to contribute to and understand the future direction of land use in their area. This future direction should be framed in the LSPS as a 20-year vision for the LGA, which builds on the 10-year vision in Council's Community Strategic Plan. Importantly, it must be a planning vision, emphasising strategic land use, transport and environmental planning, clearly demonstrating how the area will change to meet the community's needs in 20 years' time. The 20-year vision may be derived from a community strategic visioning process conducted as part of the Community Strategic Plan prepared under the Local Government Act 1993, or from a separate engagement process.

The Statement included a very specific vision for Bourke Shire in that Bourke Shire will continue to establish as an iconic, outback, regional community and destination, focusing on engagement and unity within the Shire to foster sustainable prosperity and productivity.

Our unique environment and remote location are key assets to further promote and utilise as a major tourism draw card. Using current trends in experiential tourism and supporting value add opportunities will be a priority for Council.

Continuing to value and protect our natural environment including the majestic Darling River, iconic National Parks and diverse landscape is vital to the sustainable prosperity and productivity of our region. These natural assets are core to the everyday livelihood of our communities.

Diversification in primary production and continued tourism focus will be pivotal to the sustainability of local industry and employment opportunities. Building resilience and adapting to climate change and natural hazards will continue to be an ongoing focus for Council.

Establishing water security for our villages and the Bourke Township is essential to secure the longevity of the community. Bourke is a major thoroughfare for several arterial roads.

Representing the central access point to major cities including, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Darwin, investigating and promoting Bourke as a potential freight and logistics hub for Western NSW is an opportunity for industry development.

Council recognise that our population is declining. Our core aim is to ensure we stabilize change for our community, across the LGA and optimize services available to our residents for the next 20 years. We are committed to supporting key opportunities that will support our villages, particularly tourism.

Bourke Shire Council was the first Council in Regional NSW to adopt their Local Strategic Planning Statement.

### Heritage Conservation

Council continued its commitment to providing Heritage Services in the reporting period, by funding the employment of a Heritage Advisor to continue work in Heritage Services. The Heritage advisor role in Council included providing advice to owners of heritage listed buildings, assisting owners and Council with grant applications, providing comments with development on heritage buildings. The Heritage Advisory Service, along with Councils annual \$15,000 Local Heritage Fund, is funded jointly by the NSW Heritage Office and Council. Council continued to offer the Local Heritage Assistance Fund for residents to apply for funding of restoration and to undertake routine maintenance of older buildings, this is offered on a dollar for dollar basis with grants up to \$2000.

Council was fortunate to receive \$40,000 funding from the Office of Environment to complete the Bourke Aboriginal Heritage Study.

The completion of the study allowed a better understanding of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites and values within the Bourke Local Government Area (LGA). The Bourke LGA Aboriginal Heritage Study staff and consultants worked with the Aboriginal community to identify and record places of significance and develop recommendations for their management and conservation.

The Aboriginal Heritage Study provided the Aboriginal community and the Council the opportunity to work together to achieve meaningful long-term outcomes for Aboriginal community cultural heritage in the Bourke LGA.

The Aboriginal Heritage Study was partially completed in 2007 and consisted of two (2) volumes, with the current works carried out the study being incorporated into one (1) document. The document was completed by OzArk Environmental and Heritage in 2019, with the final document being adopted by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Council are proud of the document produced, and are hopeful of further funding to build on the study in the future.

### Ranger Services

Animal control and regulatory services continued to be the main focus in the provision of ranger services for the year. In 2018/19 Council spent \$145,456 on companion animal management and regulatory related activities.

Year	Animals Impounded
2016/17	224
2017/18	193
2018/19	262

A strong focus in the financial year was placed on greater liaison and more positive relationships with the community, particularly in relation to assisting in capturing stray animals, surrendering of unwanted pups and educating the broader community on responsible pet ownership.

Bourke Shire Council continued its alliance with Rural Outback Animal Respite (ROAR). ROAR is a registered not for profit business and a registered animal shelter that is situated in Cobar.

ROAR rescues companion animals that are due for euthanasia after being held in the Council pound for the required legislative time. The animals are collected from the Bourke pound and transported to the rescue centre in Cobar. Before the animal leaves the pound the animal is microchipped by the Ranger and the necessary Companion Animal paperwork is filled out and handed over to ROAR. Once at the rescue centre the animals are assessed for re-homing.

Temperament checks, de-sexing, flea/tick control and vaccinations are undertaken at the facility also. Once this is completed the animals are picked up by an animal transport service and taken to the larger city animal rescue centres where they are foster cared until rehomed. Council euthanasia rate for impounded animals has significantly dropped due to the rehoming of the impounded animals through ROAR, seeing 130 animals being rehomed through the program.

### **Waste Management**

Council continued its Waste Management (collection and disposal) operations for the period. The operation continues to be structured on a cost recovery basis, as provided for under the reasonable waste charges of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Sound management practices, including the separation of some recyclable materials from the waste stream and sustained compaction techniques will increase the operational lifespan of the cell in regards to the forecasted lifespan in the environmental impact statement for the landfill.

Village Waste Facilities were kept to a good standard, clean-ups of cells took place, including removal of scrap metal from the cells at the various village waste facilities. The 'Recovery Shop' continued to be operated at the Bourke Waste Depot and has gained significant community acceptance and appreciation and importantly diverts waste from landfill to encourage reuse.

Goods are selected and diverted by staff and re-sold through the shop at very reasonable prices. Council continue to separate scrap metal from the waste stream and sells the metal for recycling as part of the NetWaste Regional Contract.

Council once again was a participant in the NetWaste Group which is focused on collaborative approaches to waste and resource management, Council benefits significantly from being a part of the NetWaste Group and were proactive in participating in regional contracts and education strategies through the group.

Bourke Shire Council is a very active member of the Bourke Waste Advisory Committee. This committee plays a key role in working with the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal Communities with the discrete aboriginal communities clean-up program, this program improve waste and recycling services, reduce and prevent litter, bulky waste and illegal dumping through a combination of community stewardships, education, sustainable infrastructure, strengthened partnerships and service agreements between the Council and other government departments. The project aims to achieve positive health, economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal communities.

Council was successful in receiving grant funding through the EPA's Waste Less Recycle More initiative. The funding will be used to install litter fencing for wind borne litter at the Bourke Waste Facility with an audit conducted on the site of the operations identifying wind-blown litter as an issue.

### **Environmental Health – Administration, Inspection, Control**

Routine water sampling continued throughout the year, for sampling and testing to ensure Council's potable water supply meets the NSW Health and *Australian Water Quality Guidelines*. Samples were collected weekly and sent to the Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL) in Sydney for microbiological analysis. Chemical samples were collected every six (6) months and Fluoride Sampling was taken monthly to be analysed by DAL. Non-compliant samples were acted upon. Routine water sampling of the untreated non-potable village water supplies, as recommended by NSW Health was undertaken and analysed by DAL. Village residents are reminded that it is a non-potable supply and should not be used for human consumption.

Council also assisted the NSW Office of Water in collecting raw river samples and sending to Hunter Laboratories for analysis, and for the monitoring and control of Blue Green Algae under the *River Watch* scheme.

Council continues to apply its On Site Sewerage Management Policy, with all new applications for onsite sewerage management systems requiring applications, assessment and approval under relevant guidelines and legislation. Council has a register of systems, and a routine inspections of existing systems is programmed as outlined in the policy on a risk priority basis.

Council staff have been proactive with its swimming pool barrier inspection program that meets Council's obligation under the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* and *Swimming Pools Regulation 2008*, increasing pool safety awareness and to reduce infant drowning and near drowning events within the Bourke Shire Local Government Area. Council utilised local media outlets promoting safety for pools and also promoting the NSW Swimming Pool Register. Council staff undertook mandatory inspections as part of the Swimming Pool Inspection Program with two (2) inspections carried out at Tourist and Visitor Accommodation sites, five (5) inspections carried out on residential swimming pools with two (2) of these swimming pools issued with a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the Swimming Pool Act, three (3) inspections carried out on residential pools resulted in the issuing of non-compliance certificates under clause 18BA of the Regulation but later inspections for these pools resulted in the issue of certificates of compliance. No inspections were carried out on premises with two (2) or more dwellings.

### **Cemeteries Administration and Maintenance**

Grave location queries are mapped, and as a result visitors that pass through Bourke, wishing to locate relatives or friends graves, receive a map of the area with the grave clearly marked. The Mud Map Tours continue to be an integral part of the Cemetery with tourists and visitors. The graves that are part of the mud map tour are clearly marked for the ease of people to find and learn about the vast and rich heritage of people who lay at rest at the Bourke Cemetery.

Council Staff has seen the continue rise in genealogy requests in the past year, with larger numbers of people enquiring about burials and history of the people buried at the Bourke Cemetery.

Maintenance of the Cemetery was undertaken to keep the area in a clean and tidy state, roads and the watering system are continually upgraded. This year also seen the installation of an accessible public toilet at the Cemetery.

The replacement of damaged crosses continued, with new painted crosses installed to replace old damaged ones, new name tags were put on making it easier for family, friends and visitors to read burial information.

As Bourke Shire Council is a registered operator of a Cemetery, Council completed its legislative obligation in completing the statutory operator activity report for the prescribed reporting period.

### **Noxious Weeds Management**

Council continued its progress in ensuring it meets its responsibilities in noxious weeds management under the Weeds Action Program. Funding cutbacks have seen some targets under the WAP 1520 program reduced. Regular inspections were conducted of Council owned/controlled property to ensure the obligations under the Bio Security Act. Regular property inspections were also undertaken to provide advice to land owners with respect to noxious weeds control. Council continues their membership with the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee, by attending meetings and participating in regional programmes.

### **Council's War Memorial Swimming Pool Complex**

The pool continues to present a financial challenge to Council, given its aging infrastructure, however, it is nevertheless one of the most important and most frequented facilities in the town, and Council is committed to its future. Regular daily and hourly testing and analysis is undertaken on site, and samples are also sent to an independent laboratory to confirm the onsite data.

Council has worked in conjunction with the pool contractor in implementing the guidelines for safe pool operations distributed by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia and Practice Note 15 Water Safety distributed by the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier of Cabinet. Continual improvements were undertaken throughout the year at the Pool complex to enhance the user's satisfaction.

The Splash Park continued to be a major drawcard to users of the pool complex with continued great comments being passed back to Council on the Splash Park, with users enjoying the many toys and water features within the covered area. The Splash Park Precinct is stage one (1) of the Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool Masterplan to develop new and upgraded facilities onsite.

The Pool complex will see a significant make over in the next few years with Council committing money to match funding to see the refurbishment of the 50M pool, Council staff have been working with a consultant on the design for the refurbishment of the 50M pool at the Swimming Pool Complex it is anticipated that the construction will start in February 2020.

A new pool fence was erected around the entire boundary of the Swimming Pool Complex this was achieved through funding received from the Reserve Management Fund Program through Crown Lands.

## Food Premises

Bourke Shire Council is an active member of the combined North West/Central West and Far West Regional Food Group who meet regularly with the NSW Food Authority to discuss issues concerning food premises. Being part of the group enables Council staff to keep abreast with new legislation and procedures and provides Council staff with a good network of colleagues with whom food related issues can be discussed. Bourke Shire Council is a Category B Enforcement Agency in food safety with the NSW Food Authority partnership model.

The Food Regulation Partnership clarifies the responsibilities of local government in relation to food regulation, improves food safety coordination between Councils and the Food Authority in several areas, including food inspections, enables quicker responses to food emergencies and food recalls, enables all Councils to recover the costs of food regulation enforcement and provides a food regulation forum for consultation with Councils and the retail food sector.

Category B is the most common level of food regulation responsibility. It is the duty of a Category B enforcement agency to exercise the functions within "the area" conferred on, and delegated to, them through their instrument of appointment (s.111D of the Act). Like Category A, these enforcement agencies and their authorised officers act where there is an imminent threat to public health and safety or the health of any individual in connection with food; and exercise functions with respect to retail food businesses. For example, routinely inspecting retail premises and examining food. All required food premises were inspected in Bourke with 25 inspections being undertaken.

Overall the standard of food premises in the Bourke Shire Council was generally good with an education based enforcement practice generally works well. The NSW Food Authority standard assessment inspection report books were used in food shop inspections, which provide a consistent approach throughout. These assessments are signed off by the proprietor and a copy provided to them at the end of the inspection, the details of which are discussed on site negating the need for additional letters to be sent out.

## Crown and Public Land

Council continues with the challenge relating to administration and management of the many parcels of Crown Land within the shire. It strives to ensure all Crown and Public Land under Council's control is managed in accordance with the Crown Lands Act and the Local Government Act 1993. A register of all land is maintained to assist with planning for the future requirements.

Council continued to develop its Plans of Management for all Crown Land under Bourke Shire Council management, in line with the new legislation.

Continual improvements on Council Managed Crown Land included:-

- New infrastructure in the Central Park which included a shade sail over the skate park, accessible public toilets, solar lighting, upgrade of tennis clubhouse, basketball court, tennis court fencing
- Upgrade of lighting and canteen facilities Davidson Oval, new cricket nets
- Upgrade of lighting Coolican Oval
- Upgrade to the Bourke Boat Ramp Precinct
- Upgrade to secretary's office including new toilet and shower amenities at the J.B. Renshaw Sporting Complex

- Louth playground shade cover, tennis court fencing, cricket ground fencing
- Enngonia playground equipment installation, shade cover and signage
- Barringun Cemetery fencing
- Fords Bridge tennis court fencing, accessible toilet
- Wanaaring child safety fencing around playground, covered picnic tables



*Central Park - shade sail over the skate park*

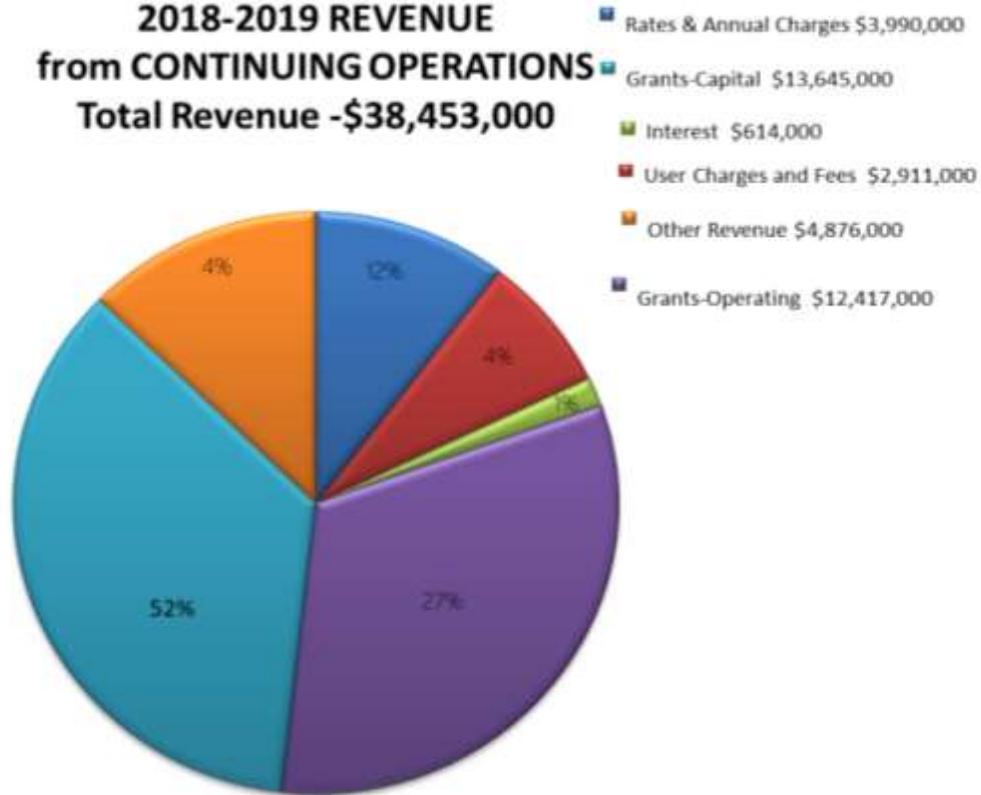
### **Council Buildings**

Council continued maintenance on all Council owned buildings, improvements this year have seen works undertaken with village hall upgrades, renovations to staff housing and other Council owned building included.

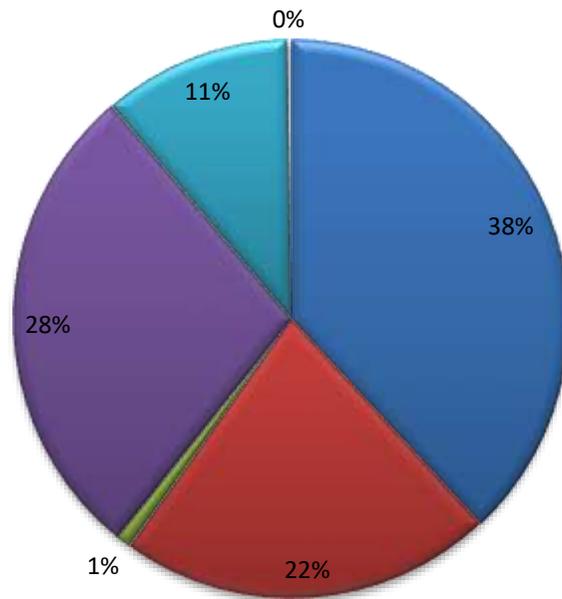
Dwayne Willoughby  
Manager Environmental Services

FINANCIAL INDICATOR TRENDS OVER 15 YEAR PERIOD

**2018-2019 REVENUE  
from CONTINUING OPERATIONS  
Total Revenue - \$38,453,000**



**2018-2019 EXPENSES**  
**from CONTINUING OPERATIONS**  
**Total Expenses \$20,578,000**



- Employee Costs \$7,831,000
- Materials, Contracts & Other \$4,493,000
- Borrowing Costs \$181,000
- Depreciation \$5,769,000
- Other Expenses 2,247,000
- Net Losses from Disposal of Assets \$57,000

## Unrestricted Current Ratio



### Unrestricted Current Ratio:

The Unrestricted Current Ratio is a financial indicator specific to Local Government and represents Council's ability to meet its debts and obligations as they fall due. Its purpose is to assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities

Acceptable Measures for Unrestricted Current Ratio:

Less than

1:1 = **RED** Remedial action required

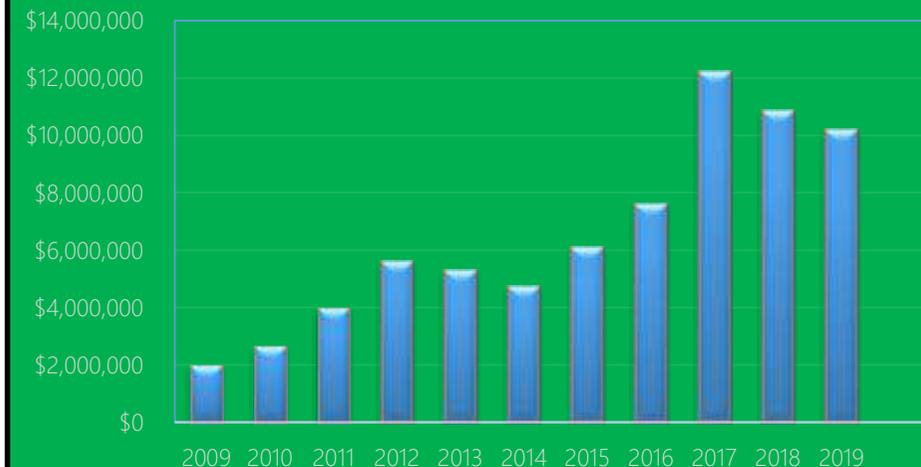
1:1 to 2:1 = **AMBER** Must monitor trend closely

Over 2:1 = **GREEN** Acceptable

Over 10:1 = **RED** Remedial action required

Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Over 2.0:1

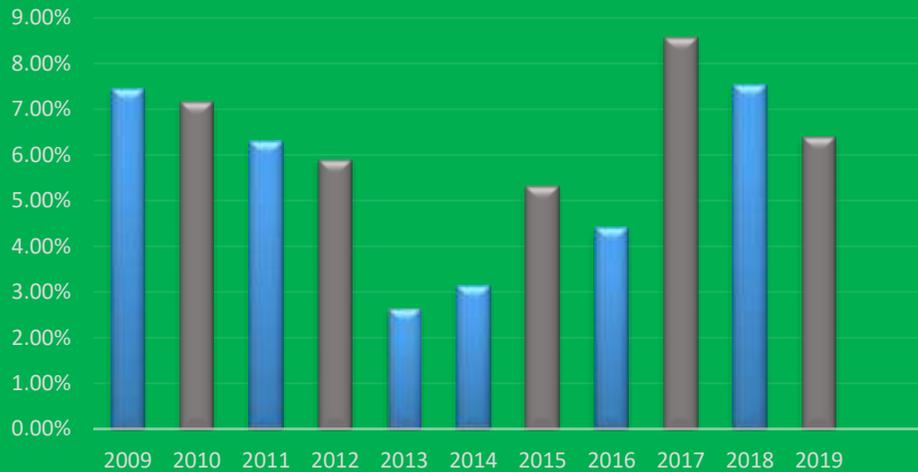
## Cash Expense Cover Ratio



### Available Working Capital – (Working Funds)

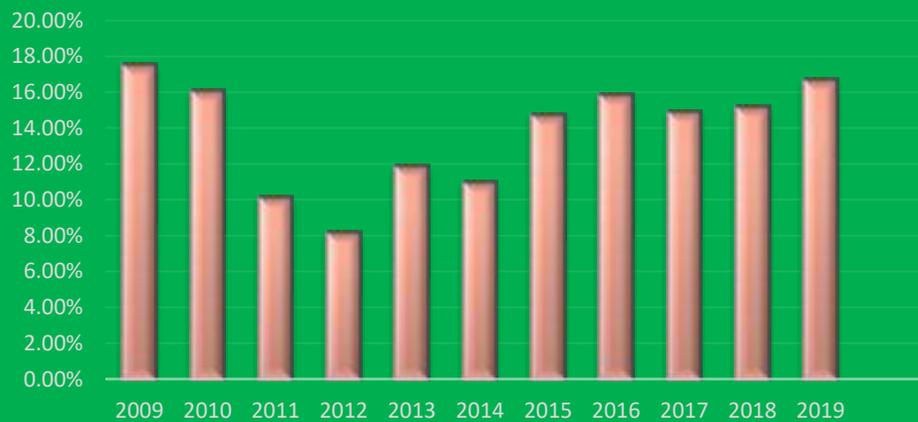
- The Available Working Capital is a more meaningful financial indicator specific to Local Government.
- Net Current Assets are adjusted by eliminating both external and internal reserves held for future purposes.
- Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Greater than \$4,500,000

## Debt Service Ratio



**Purpose of the Debt Service Ratio:** The purpose of the Debt Service Ratio is to assess the impact of loan principal and interest payments on the discretionary revenue of Council

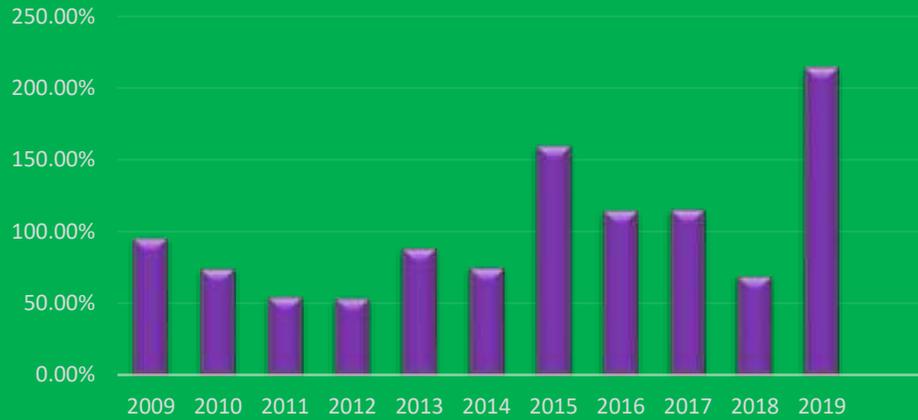
## Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage



### Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio:

- The purpose of the Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio is to assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.
- Two year forward target for Bourke Shire Council: Less than 9%

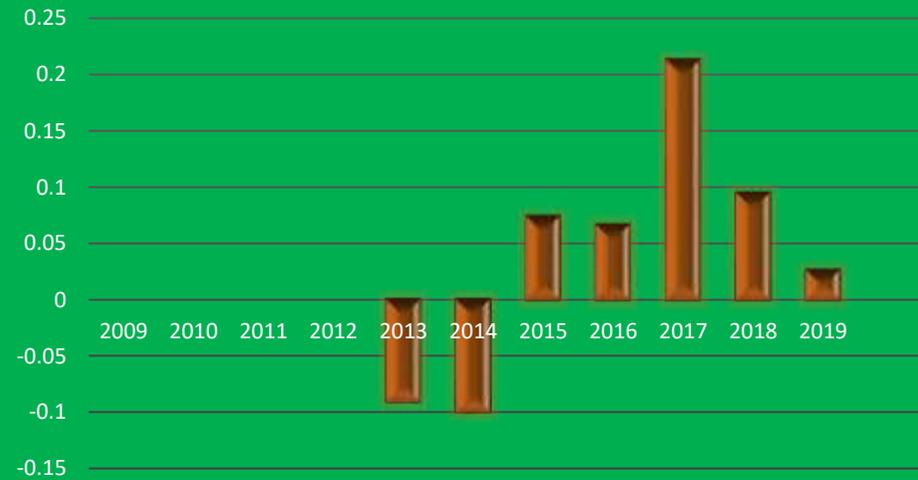
## Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio



### Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio:

The purpose of the Building & Infrastructure Renewals Ratio is to assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.

## Operating Performance Ratio



### Operating Performance Ratio

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

## BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Population:	2695 (June 2017)	
Area:	43,116sq km	
Address:	PO Box 21	
Postal Address:	29 Mitchell Street	
	Bourke NSW 2840	
Phone:	02 68308000	
Fax:	02 68723030	
Email:	<a href="mailto:Bourkeshire@Bourke.nsw.gov.au">Bourkeshire@Bourke.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Web:	<a href="http://www.Bourke.nsw.gov.au">www.Bourke.nsw.gov.au</a>	
Employees:	89	
Salaries & Wages:	\$6,722,000	
Income:	\$38M	
Rate Income:	\$3.9M	
Rate in Dollar:	Town	1.584 cents per dollar of land value
	North Bourke	1.317 cents in the dollar of land value
	Village	3.092 cents per dollar of land value
	Rural	0.5020 cents per dollar of land value
Total Operating:		
Expenditure:	\$21M	
Land Valuation:	\$214,120,870	
Rateable Land Valuation:	\$203,315,840	
Rates Assessments:	2064	

**Audited Financial Reports**

**LGA s428 (4) (a)**

Bourke Shire Council has improved its financial position for the 2018/2019 financial year. The NSW Auditor General is Council's appointed Auditor. A full copy of the Financial Statements are included as an appendix to this report and are available for viewing from Council's Office, Library or on the Webpage [www.Bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.Bourke.nsw.gov.au)

**Performance against Plan**

**LGA s428 (4)(b)**

Refer to "Principal Activity Section" within this Annual Report.

**Condition of Public Works**

**LGA s428 (2)(d)**

The Audited Financial Reports (Special Schedule No7, Condition of Public Works), contains the relevant information and is included as an appendix to this report.

**Legal Proceedings**

**LGA s428 (2)(e) REG cl 217(1)(a3)**

**Rates and Charges**

Council retains a debt recovery service to assist in the recovery of outstanding rates and charges. All charges incurred in using the service are recovered as a charge against the ratepayers.

Legal proceedings incurred by Council during this reporting period.

**Legal Costs:**

Organisation	Status cl 217(1)(a3)	Amount cl 217(1)(a3)
S R Law Debt Recovery	Ongoing	\$55,490.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,490.72</b>

**Councillor Expenses and Provision of Facilities**

**LGA s428 (2)(f) & REG 217 (1)(1a)**

Councils Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayors and Councillors Policy allows for the payment of expenses incurred by, and the provision of facilities to the Councillors in relation to their roles as elected persons and members of the governing body of the Council. The policy is included as an appendix to this document.

**Councillors Expenditure**

**Sec 428 2 (f), cl 217 (1)(a1)**

Council expended \$144,480.00 on Mayoral fees and Councillor Fees during 2018/19.

The distribution was as follows:-

Mayoral Fees	\$25,880.00
Councillors Fees	\$118,600.00

Total amounts of money expended during the year on the provision of facilities for use by Councillors and the payment of Councillor's expenses was \$54,593.47. The breakup of this expenditure is as follows:-

Provision of dedicated office equipment to Councillors - cl217(1)(a1)(i)	\$6,129.67
Telephone calls made by Councillors - cl217(1)(a1)(ii)	Nil
Attendance of Councillors at Conferences and Seminars - cl217(1)(a1)(iii)	\$44,534.91
Training of Councillors and provision of skills development - cl217(1)(a1)(iv)	Nil
Interstate visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket expenses - cl217(1)(a1)(v)	\$3,928.89
Overseas visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket expenses - cl217(1)(a1)(vi)	Nil
Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor - cl217(1)(a1)(vii)	Nil
Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a Councillor - cl217(1)(a1)(viii)	Nil

### Overseas Visits

#### REG cl 217 (1)(a)

Councillors and staff were not involved in overseas travel on behalf of Council in 2018/19

### Senior Staff

#### LGA s428 (2)(g), Sec 332 REG cl 217 (1)(c)

The General Manager is the only designated Senior Staff member as prescribed by Section 332 of the Act as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Council also has a flat structure that includes five (5) Management Staff. The term 'Management' is used within Council and by the Councillors to describe the Management Executive, including the General Manager.

### Senior Staff Remuneration

#### REG cl 217 (1)(b)

During 2018/19 the total remuneration package of the General Manager was \$255,680.16.

This figure includes salary paid, fringe benefit tax expenses, private use of a Council motor vehicle, employer's superannuation contribution, housing subsidy and employee contribution to superannuation.

Salary	\$228,588.27
Other Payment	\$680.16
Superannuation	\$22,123.29
Housing Subsidy	\$4,288.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$255,680.16</b>

## Contracts Awarded

### REG cl 217 (2) (a)

The following contracts/tenders for \$150,000.00 or more were awarded during the year:

Name of Contractor cl 217(1)(a2)	Nature of Good or Services Provided cl 217(1)(a2)	Total amount payable under the contract cl 217(1)(a2)
Fulton Hogan Industries	Road Works	\$1,929,164.31
A Ryan	Road Works	\$204,295.00
Caltex	Fuel Purchase	\$911,655.36
NAK Graders	Road Works	\$506,018.75
Boral Resources	Road Materials	\$538,676.35
Hitachi Constructions	Supply Motor Grader	\$344,650.77
Origin Energy Holdings	Electricity Supply	\$241,272.55
Bourke Waste Management	Road Works	\$449,459.11
Mac Mining & Civil	Road Works	\$452,331.36
B M & H A Bowden	Road Works	\$283,801.25
J P & T K Bowden	Road Works	\$222,541.13
J & B Consolidated	Road Works	\$337,971.36
J A Cronin	Road Works	\$190,509.50
Sanford & Duncan	Road Works	\$296,987.50
Rollers Australia	Road Works	\$228,275.60
Darling Irrigation	Water Supply Equipment	\$235,787.51

### Section 67 Work on Private Land LGA s67 (3) cl 217(1)(a4)

No resolutions under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land were made and no works of this nature were carried out during 2018/19.

### Contributions and Donations (S.356) REG 217 cl (1) (a5)

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993 was \$14,789.86.

### Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Programmes cl 217 (1)(a9)

#### LGA s428 (2)(n)

Council has a comprehensive EEO Management Plan, with some of the objectives from the plan noted below:-

- To ensure that management and all employees understand EEO and Anti-Discrimination principles and their responsibilities in relation to them, and the EEO and Anti-Discrimination Management Plan, and its implementation
- To ensure the active participation of all employees and relevant unions in decision making about the EEO and Anti-Discrimination Management Plan and its implementation
- To review recruitment policies and practices to ensure they conform with EEO and Anti-Discrimination principles and to demonstrate fair practice. It will also provide opportunity for increased representation of EEO and Anti-Discrimination target groups in the various areas of Council employment
- To ensure that the Selection Committee members have sufficient skills and are fully aware of, and implement the principles of EEO and Anti-Discrimination

- To ensure that the various Council workplaces and facilities are accessible to people with physical disabilities
- To give the opportunity for people with a physical disability to gain a place in Council's workforce
- To ensure that appointment, promotion and transfer policies and practices conform with EEO and Anti-Discrimination principles and to demonstrate fair practice
- To increase the representation of women and other minority groups, in which they are currently under represented in Council
- To implement and maintain an accessible and effective grievance procedure

#### External Bodies Exercising Council Functions cl 217(1)(a6)

No external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council during this period.

#### Companies in Which Council has an Interest cl 217 (1)(a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any company during this financial reporting period.

#### Partnership, Cooperatives and Joint Ventures cl 217 (1)(a8)

Partnerships, Cooperatives and Joint Ventures have included the following:-

- Australian Airports Association
- Barwon Darling Rural Fire Service (Brewarrina and Bourke Shires)
- Barwon Darling Water
- Far North West Joint Organisation
- Kamilaroi Highway Committee
- Kidman Way Tourist Committee
- Orana Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee
- Orana Economic Development Officer Network
- Outback Arts
- Regional Development Australia – Orana Region
- Shires Association of NSW (Local Government NSW)
- Western Division Councils of NSW
- Outback Shires Alliance
- Statewide Mutual
- Statecover Mutual

Rates & Charges Written Off LGA s428 (a) and REG cl (132) the following amounts of Rates & Charges were written off during the period

Pensioner Concessions	\$	Written Off \$
General Rate - Pensioner	30,666.03	
Water – Pensioner	11,141.39	
Sewer - Pensioner	9,260.13	
<b>Sub Total Gross Pensioner Concessions</b>	<b>51,067.55</b>	
State Subsidy Refund to Council	28,087.16	
Net Loss to Council for Pensioner Rebate Concessions		22,980.39
General Rates & Charges		48,092.40
<b>Total Rates &amp; Charges Write Off</b>		<b>71,072.79</b>

*It should be noted that Council received a subsidy payment from the Division of Local Government for 55% of the pensioner write offs for the year. In 2018/19 the subsidy amounted to \$28,087.16.*

## Stormwater Management

### LGA 428 (2) and REG cl 217(1)(e)

A significant portion of the revenue derived from the stormwater levy goes towards the repayment of loans utilised in previous years with the balance utilised for general maintenance works.

Council has acknowledged that the flat terrain in Bourke makes the implementation of stormwater drainage at best very difficult and has sought to address the issue within the limitation of the funding available.

Council has also secured a loan subsidy under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) which is an initiative of the State Government.

A number of small projects have been implemented including the renewal of stormwater outlets which had shown signs of deterioration and posed a potential problem with the integrity of the facility.

Council has utilised the balance of the available loan funding obtained under LIRS for installation of electrical works.

The current annual maintenance budget of \$50,000 will keep all upgraded infrastructure up to date.

Council has previously undertaken loan funded works in relation to the improvement to stormwater infrastructure and part of the stormwater revenue is applied to loan repayments. Council levies an Urban Drainage Charge which is applied to urban properties in Bourke. A total of \$167,128.90 was levied and apportioned as follows:-

Maintenance	\$20,132.90
Capital	\$10,000.00
Loan Repayments	\$136,996.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$167,128.90</b>

Further works were undertaken to complete both the short and long term strategies for stormwater upgrade works as detailed in the Geolyse report in 2015/2016. These works include:-

- Sydney road stormwater upgrade
- Horsefalls drain cleaning
- Cleaning drains from Meadows road to Brewarrina road

Other works completed include:

- Maintaining stormwater infrastructure within budget limits.

**Statement Detailing Coastal Protection Services Provided (if levied) cl217(1)(e1)**

N/A

**State of the Environment Report S428a (1)**

Refer to page 40

**Details of Inspections of Private Swimming Pools s22F (2)**

Refer to page 45

**Particulars of any Environmental Upgrade Agreement Entered into, in Accordance with any Requirements Imposed Under s406 s54P**

Nil

**Report on Special Variation Expenditure if Required to do so by the Instrument Made by the Minister S508(2) & A**

Nil

**Capital Expenditure Guidelines Report on Capital Works Projects**

Nil

**Statement on Activities Relating to Enforcing and Ensuring Compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation cl217(1)(f)**

Refer page 44

**Particulars of Compliance with and Effect of Planning Agreements in Force during the Year s57.5(5)**

N/A

**Report on Compliance with the Carers (Recognition) Act s8(2)**

Council is not a Human Service Agency under the Act; however Council has formulated a policy on our obligations under the NSW Carers (Recognition) Act 2010.

All Employees have the same rights, choices and opportunities. Allowance is also made to refund Councillors expenses involved in the provision of care for an immediate family member to allow the Council to undertake their civic duty.

**Information on the Implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Plan s13(1)**

Council recognises its obligation in respect of the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 adopted a Disability Inclusion Plan consistent with the requirements of that Act.

Council in the undertaking of planning for the construction and/or upgrade of facilities gives consideration to ensuring that the facilities are able to be utilized by all members of the community.

Council has developed a Pedestrian Access Management Plan (PAMP) in association with the Roads and Maritime Services. In the planning of the upgrade of the CBD, the provisions of the PAMP have been considered.

Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans  
S220ZT

Council has not been identified in a recovery and threat abatement plan under the Act.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Council received nil requests in 2018/19

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ACCESS APPLICATIONS (SCHEDULE 2)

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal Information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

Reason for Invalidity	No of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act	
	Number of times consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet Information	0
Executive Council Information	0
Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0

*\*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.*

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to Section 14 of Act	
	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0
Business interest of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information	0

Table F: Timeliness	
	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	0
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with application)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)			
	Decision Varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by ADT	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

Table H: Applications for review under part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)	
	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

### Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998

No reviews were conducted by, or on behalf of Council under Part 5 of the PPIP Act 1998.

### ICAC Statistics

Council had no formal request from ICAC, in the reporting year.