



## MEDIA RELEASE

# ROLL OUT OF ELECTRONIC WATER METERS IN BOURKE AND NORTH BOURKE – 10/3/2020

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General Manager of Bourke Shire Council, Ross Earl has announced that Council has resolved to proceed with the implementation of a Smart Water Meter Program for Bourke and North Bourke comprising the acquisition and installation of Smart Meters and associated telemetry components.

“Council has resolved to take the next steps to roll out the full implementation of a Smart Water Meter Program for Bourke and North Bourke.” Mr Earl said. He continued, “This is an exciting project for Bourke as the Council looks to ensure long term sustainable outcomes in respect of its water infrastructure and delivery.”

Mr Earl noted that Councils Water and Wastewater Team had been systematically changing Councils Water Meter Fleet from the old style grenade water meters to the new style smart meters over the past two – three years.

“To date some 350 meters, or some 28% of the Meter Fleet, have been replaced. At this point, the new meters that have been installed continue to be individually read on a quarterly basis by staff”. Mr Earl stated.

The next phase of the project is to undertake full implementation of a smart water meter system which includes the purchasing and installation of meters for the balance of properties in Bourke and North Bourke along with the purchase and installation of the necessary telemetry equipment.

Mr Earl advised that following the installation of the meters and the telemetry equipment, which is expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year, numerous benefits to both Council and its customers are achievable.

“Following the full installation of the system, customers and Council will be able to identify any water leaks early within properties with external monitoring that can detect changes occurring within the system that require attention, e.g. Leakage detection, broken pipes, empty pipes, back flow, low battery and meter tampering.” Mr Earl said.

"In addition customers will be able to monitor their own usage through an online portal should they choose and in doing so they can avoid bill shock with near real-time data on consumption and the use of excess use alarms." he added.

Mr Earl further noted that water meter readings will be achieved utilising data that is electronically provided to a "gateway" at Council at any one point in time. This avoids the need for meter readers to physically read the meters or undertake walk by or drive by readings.

Installation of the new meters will be progressively undertaken over coming months, with the system expected to be fully operational by the end of this calendar year.

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Further information contact General Manager Ross Earl on 0409362307.