



MEDIA RELEASE

BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL WELCOMES ADDITIONAL FIXING COUNTRY ROADS FUNDING FOR WANAARING ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND SEALING WORKS

Mayor of Bourke Shire Council, Councillor Barry Hollman, has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Roads, the Hon. Paul Toole, MP, that Council will receive a further \$9.45m in funding under the Fixing Country Roads Initiative of the NSW Government to continue work on the reconstruction and sealing of Main Road 404 between Bourke and Wanaaring.

In recognising the importance of this funding, Councillor Hollman noted that during the recent round of community consultation meetings held at Wanaaring and other locations within the Shire, the Wanaaring Road Project was highlighted as one of the most significant road reconstruction projects undertaken within the shire in many years.

Councillor Hollman said he could not thank the State Government enough for their commitment to this project and the social and economic benefits it brings.

The new section of work to be undertaken is a 29.17km section of road between Romani and Wongamana.

The Fixing Country Roads Funding will be supplemented by \$800,00.00 from other sources, making this stage of the project, \$10.25m in total.

Council construction crews will shortly commence the finalisation of the reconstruction of an 8km section between Goonery and Barakee in preparation for sealing. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the end of August 2020, whereupon the Romani to Wongamana works will commence.

Once the Romani to Wongamana section is completed in 2021, only three (3) sections of the Wanaaring Road, totalling 36.39 km, remain to be reconstructed and sealed.

With the new funding being made available it will mean that a total of total of 95 km of the Wanaaring Road has been subject to reconstruction and sealing since the introduction of the Fixing Country Roads Program by the NSW Government.

General Manager of Bourke Shire Council, Ross Earl, said that the work on the Wanaaring Road was something that many residents of the area thought would never be undertaken in their lifetime and that community members west of Bourke will be ecstatic with the new funding announcement.

He added that the sealing of the road had been life changing for those residents and had dramatically increased access, freight movement of livestock and general produce along with reducing travel times.

Councillor Hollman commended the State Government on the introduction and success of the Fixing Country Roads Program and the benefits it had brought to many rural communities. He said that Council would seek further funding under future rounds of the Program with a view to completing the remaining 36.39 km of the roadway. Councillor Hollman said he looked forward to the day when Council in partnership with the NSW Government was able to bring the reconstruction and sealing of the Wanaaring Road to fruition.

End

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Further information contact Mayor Barry Hollman 0409037903 or General Manager Ross Earl 0409362307.