



# “From the GM’s Desk”

## 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2020



### IPART REVIEW OF REGIONAL AND RURAL BUS FARES

The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is currently undertaking a review of rural and regional bus fares for the 2021-2025 period. The aim of the review is to set fares so that people with limited transport options, such as those who can't drive or can't afford a car, have access to services. As a result, the review will have a specific focus on people facing transport challenges.

IPART is keen to hear from people across regional NSW about their views on local bus services and fares. They wish to hear what the key issues facing the community are.

Feedback can be provided to IPART in a number of different ways including making a submission or completing the bus use survey on the IPART website ([www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au)). Feedback closes on Friday, 7 August 2020.

I encourage residents to participate in this review and have their say on the issue.

### JULY COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting of Bourke Shire Council will be held on Monday, 27 July 2020 and it is again likely that members of the public will be unable to attend but will have the opportunity to submit matters for the public forum and to follow the meeting via live streaming, depending on what changes are made to the COVID-19 Public Health Orders.

The meeting will commence at 9.15am and will again be live streamed with the link for the livestream being advised on Councils Website at approximately 9.00am on the meeting day.

Whilst there is no public forum planned to be held at this stage, should any resident like to raise an issue in relation to an item on the agenda they are invited to do so by forwarding the matter they wish to raise to Council via email: [bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au) by completing the “Request to Address Council in Public Forum” form which is available at Council’s Office and can be picked/mailed to you or accessed on line at <https://bourke.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Request-to-Address-Council-in-Public-Forum.pdf> or via telephone 68308000, ensuring that the matter to be raised is with Council by 8.30am on meeting day.

### TOURISM NUMBERS

Data collected from the Back O’ Bourke Centre since resuming tourism operations from the 1<sup>st</sup> June is showing domestic travel intentions are on the rise and that nearly half of the visitors (48%) had only planned to take their trip less than a month ago.

On what is normally our busiest season for tourism anyway, the COVID pandemic has seen an explosion of visitors (77% from NSW) that have opted for a short break around NSW because of either border restrictions or their overseas trip has been postponed or cancelled.

This is consistent with data from Destination NSW that is showing more than one-quarter of visitors (29%) planned to take either a domestic overnight trip within the next month and over half (53%) planned to take a domestic trip within the next three (3) months and most (80%) intended to undertake a domestic trip within the next 12 months.

### LIBRARY NEWS

The library has plenty of great new books available for loan. Some of the new fiction books include the latest from Clive Cussler, Nora Roberts, Michael Connelly, Jeffrey Deaver, Jayne Ann Krentz, Lisa Jackson, Alistair Reynolds, Wilbur Smith and many more. The Library also has the last title in the Wolf Hall series by Hillary Mantel, The Mirror and the Light, which covers the final days of Thomas Cromwell.

In the non-fiction section, there are new titles on computers, photography, weight loss and exercise, and some great new cooking titles including The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook, Mediterranean Lifestyle Cooking and Eat Well for Less Every Day. The Library has also added new updated titles to the Find Legal Answers collection.

Don't forget to also check out the library website [www.bourkelibrary.com.au](http://www.bourkelibrary.com.au) to access the fantastic online resources, or download the Bourke Public Library app, available on the App Store and Google Play. If you would like more information, don't hesitate to contact the library on 0268722751 or [bpl@bourkelibrary.com.au](mailto:bpl@bourkelibrary.com.au) and one of the friendly staff will be happy to help you.

### **WATER FORUM CONDUCTED BY LGNSW**

Staff last week attended an online Water Forum as convened by Local Government New South Wales. The purpose of the forum was to examine how regional solutions and investing in water utility resilience is vital for NSW communities particularly given the severe challenges of bushfires, droughts and contaminations in the last 18 months.

Special guest for the forum was the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing who discussed the NSW Government's strategy to achieve a sustainable water supply.

Dr Jim Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, Water Department of Planning Industry and the Environment, and Professor Stuart Khan, School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of NSW also presented to the forum sharing their perspectives on future investment in water sustainability, (both water supply and demand) and what this means for local government. A Q&A session also took place enabling attendees the opportunity to ask questions to each of the speakers.

### **LGNSW ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE**

In October this year the Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW) Annual Water Management Conference will again be held, this time at the Crossing Theatre in Narrabri with Narrabri Shire Council joining with LGNSW to co-host the event.

This Conference will present a broad range of information from a local government perspective on water management, issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities.

The event attracts delegates from NSW and interstate including Councillors and general managers, water managers and professionals, policy makers from government agencies and key industry stakeholders.

The conference is an important one for all Councils who have the responsibility for water supply and provides delegates with the opportunity to find out about the latest water policy initiatives and trends, receive updates on emergent technical issues, benchmark, network and further their professional development and team building capabilities.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS - EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Bourke Shire Council was a finalist in this year's Local Government Professionals – Excellence Awards in the category of Special Project Initiative for Councils with a population under 100,000 for the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity.

Unfortunately, whilst we weren't successful, it is important that Council supports these types of awards and at the same time demonstrate that despite Councils size and isolation, Bourke Council can introduce initiatives and projects worthy of consideration for such awards and that these projects can be replicated in other Councils across the state.

### **COVID-19 NEW RESTRICTIONS**

Tighter COVID-19 restrictions for indoor hospitality venues in NSW will come into effect from tomorrow.

During a media conference held last Friday, Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that the restrictions previously in place for pubs will be extended to clubs, restaurants, cafes and all indoor hospitality venues.

These restrictions limit group bookings to a maximum of 10 people and cap the number of customers inside a venue to 300 people.

The new rules also require hygiene marshals to patrol venues to oversee social distancing, cleaning and hygiene and further ensure the mandatory implementation of a COVID-Safe Plan, including the requirement that all patrons must sign in and provide contact details.

The new requirements provide that there cannot be group bookings above 10 people. In addition, patrons are to be seated with no mingling.

Everyone is subject to the four-square metre and 1.5 metre social distancing rules.

If you have a smaller space, you might only be allowed, for example, to only have 20 people in your space. Premier Berejiklian also announced that wedding and corporate event numbers would be capped at 150 people and they must be seated and there can be no dancing, singing or mingling.

Funerals and places of worship are limited to 100 guests.

### **ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

The dangers and threats to our community in relation to the potential spread of COVID-19 remains real. It is essential that we all remain vigilant in relation to those risks and all members of the community work together to ensure that the virus is not provided with an opportunity to spread within our community.

We should all continue to be aware of and continue to comply with the recommendations of Health Authorities and directions as contained within the Public Health Orders including:-

- Practicing social distancing and staying 1.5 metres away from other people at all times;
- Ensure that you comply with any limits on the numbers of persons in a venue at the one time in accordance with the one person per 4 square metre rule;
- Don't share eating utensils or drinks;
- Don't shake hands but utilise other methods of greeting;
- Practice good personal hygiene including washing your hands regularly, particularly when you get home;
- If you display any symptoms of the virus seek medical advice; and
- Don't go to work, or go out, if you are unwell.

The recent and rapid spread of COVID-19 in parts of Victoria and Western Sydney clearly demonstrates that as a nation, as communities and as individuals, we cannot afford to be complacent. All members of the community have a role to play to do their best to minimise the spread of the virus.

Those charged with the responsibility of designing and implementing strategies to assist in combating the spread of the virus have based many of these strategies on a high degree of community compliance with restrictions that are put in place.

It is indeed disappointing to see reports of many people putting their own self-interest in front of the overall need of their community and in doing so unnecessarily magnifying the potential for the virus to spread.

I urge all members of the community and businesses to do everything they can to ensure compliance with the new restrictions at all times which can only serve to reduce the risk of spreading the virus within our communities.

### **LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 22<sup>nd</sup> TO 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

This year's Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference will be held from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 till Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Lovedale. This is located within the Cessnock City Council area with Cessnock being the host Council.

The Conference is held in the Sydney area one year and in a regional centre in the next. Last year's conference was held at Warwick Farm whilst the last regional host was Albury in 2018

The Annual Conference is the main policy making event for the NSW local government sector. It is Council's opportunity to submit motions for consideration and debate by delegates. Motions passed at Conference become Resolutions, which LGNSW takes forward as part of the sector's advocacy agenda.

Over the past few years Bourke Shire Council has lodged a number of motions for consideration at the conference - all of which have been carried.

### **POOL UPGRADE**

The upgrade of the 50m pool at the Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool continues. Formwork is currently being assembled at the shallow end of the pool with a concrete pour planned for early next week. Works on the filtration room exterior are also underway with the old building undergoing a major facelift with the roof and exterior walls being replaced. Works are also continuing with the filtration upgrades with pipes being installed along the southern side of the pool to the shallow end to increase water turnover to filter the pool.

### **LITTER REDUCTION AT WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY**

Council has been successful with grant funding from the NSW EPA Landfill Consolidation Stream 2 Grants program.

The funding will be used to purchase mobile litter control fencing for the Bourke Waste Depot.

The litter fencing will be placed in strategic areas of the working cell face to catch windborne litter to reduce the environmental impacts.

Council has received some very positive comments regarding the presentation of the Bourke Waste Management Facility and the installation of the fencing will only serve to reduce the spread of paper, plastic and other similar rubbish.

### **COUNCIL LOOKING TO REPURPOSE OLD RAIL CARRIAGE**

In acquiring a property recently, Council also acquired an old railway carriage which had been converted to a granny flat.

Council is looking at options for the future use of this carriage with a number of suggestions being put forward ranging from sale via an expression of interest process through to preserving it in recognition of the contribution of rail transport to Bourke.

Council's Acting Manager of Infrastructure and Projects has been able to gather the history of the carriage, which was ultimately identified as Parcel Van No 3654, via Mr James Dalton who is the Railway Resource Manager of the Australian Railway Historical Society of NSW in Alexandria, Sydney.

Mr Dalton was kind enough to advise:-

*"3654 began its career as a suburban motor car built by Clyde Engineering in Sydney, delivered in December 1928 as part of a contract of 100. It had a seating capacity of 71 passengers. It operated suburban services in Sydney for many years until it was displaced by new double-deck cars on 21 February 1975. In August 1976 it re-entered service as car 3554, a parcels van. These vans operated dedicated parcels services across the Sydney metropolitan area. It was one of ten such vehicles, although the original three of 1928 were supplemented by an additional seven, converted from passenger cars in the years 1975-1978. These services continued until 1989 when they were abandoned. This car was renumbered 3774 in 1983 and 3654 in 1991. It was used as a shunter at Flemington in its final years before being officially condemned in January 1993".*

Council staff are continuing enquiries as to the significance of the carriage prior to making any decision on the future of the carriage.

### **WANAARING HALL**

Council has allocated around \$120,000 towards improvements to the Wanaaring Hall with the major component of works being the replacement of the roof which was made of asbestos.

Work commenced last week and will continue over the next couple of weeks and will also include improvements to the hall including the kitchen area.

### **ENNGONIA HALL**

Work will also commence on improvements and repairs to the Enngonia Hall. Works will include the upgrading of the kitchen, improved lighting, painting and the replacement of damaged panels. An amount of \$100,000.00 has been budgeted for the work on Enngonia Hall.

### **HISTORY OF WANAARING AND ENNGONIA WAR MEMORIAL HALLS**

Both the Wanaaring and Enngonia Halls are War Memorial Halls. They are an important reminder of the contribution and sacrifices made by those who fought in the various conflicts across the globe to retain the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today and in particular to remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Council has also sought funding to undertake work to preserve the honour rolls and other tributes to those who served.

A War Memorial was built adjacent to the Enngonia Hall some four (4) years ago and it has a plaque acknowledging those from the Enngonia District who served in World War 1 and a second plaque has now been ordered and will depict the names of those from the Enngonia District who served in World War II.

When it is finished the additional plaque will be placed on the existing memorial.

ANZAC Day Commemoration Services in Enngonia continue to attract very good attendance numbers and although curtailed in 2020 due to COVID-19, I am sure the district's resident's will again respond with their attendance to show their respect in 2021, when the new plaque will be part of the ANZAC DAY Ceremony for the first time.

### **USE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES**

Anyone who wishes to utilise Council facilities should book with Councils Engineering Support Officer to ensure that the facilities are ready to use and there are no clashes of dates with other organisations.

This particularly applies to those participating in regionally based competitions.

Those making bookings should ensure that they are aware of the need to ensure all activities are conducted in a COVID-19 safe environment and that a COVID-19 Safety Plan has been developed. All requirements in relation to restrictions on numbers and social distancing are to be met including the one person per four (4) square metre guidelines.

Council staff can assist with the provision of signage and copies of the COVID-19 Safety Plan templates if required.

### **DEVELOPMENT CONSENT PROCESS**

Council regulates building and development (commercial, industrial and residential) on behalf of the community. Each Development Application (DA) is assessed on its merits, using relevant Environmental Planning Instruments, Development Control Plans, and other relevant policies.

Council consent for most types of development is required by law, under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. There are some minor works that do not require development consent and further information on these can be obtained from Council.

Council encourages all those planning to submit a DA, whether in the early or late stages of preparation to meet with Council staff for a confidential pre-lodgement meeting.

A pre-lodgement meeting provides the prospective applicant with the opportunity to discuss and receive feedback from Council on the technical and merit aspects of a development proposal. This occurs following a preliminary assessment by staff of submitted plans and documents detailing the proposal.

### **CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATES**

A Construction Certificate (CC) is required *before work commences*, and can be issued by Council or obtained from a private registered certifier. A CC cannot be issued for retrospective works.

Please contact Council for further information on any planning or building requirements.

If you are not sure if you require the consent of council or approval to build something, please contact Council's staff on 6830 8000 for advice

### **AIRLINK COURTESY VEHICLE**

Airlink Airlines who operate the air services to Bourke from Dubbo and return, each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, have recognised that there is a need to be able to provide their passengers with the opportunity to have access to a vehicle whilst in town, particularly those persons with no real connections in town. In this regard Airlink have decided to provide a courtesy car for that purpose.

Airlink are keen to increase patronage on the service and feel that this additional service would provide a benefit for their passengers and hopefully result in more regular passengers. Details in respect of the flights are available at: [www.airlinkairlines.com.au](http://www.airlinkairlines.com.au)

### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK!**

*"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance, determines your destiny."*

*Aristotle*

Ross Earl  
General Manager