

Date: Monday, 26 October 2020
Time: 9:15am
Location: Bourke Shire Council
29 Mitchell Street Bourke NSW

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

26 October 2020

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**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF BOURKE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW
ON MONDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2020 AT 9:15AM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Leonie Brown (Acting General Manager), Dwayne Willoughby (Manager Environmental Services), Peter Brown (Manager Works), Brian Tickle (Acting Manager of Corporate Services), Mark Riley (Manager of Special Projects) Kai Howard-Oakman (Executive Assistant / Minutes),

1 OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor then provided an Acknowledgement of Country

3 REMEMBRANCE

Council stood in silence in memory of the following recently deceased residents:-

Cheryl Ann Sharpe	Nancy McMahon	Keith (Tom) Birse
Cynthia Doreen Morrall	Roy Tiffen	Sharon Taylor

4 APOLOGIES

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Robert Stutsel declared a Pecuniary Interest in Item 20.1. of the October Council Meeting Agenda – Precis of Correspondence – Water Sharing Plan, advising that he will leave the room and be out of sight during Council’s consideration of the matter. The reason for such interest is that Councillor Stutsel’s wife is the owner of a water licence.

Councillor Ian Cole declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 20.1 of the October Council Meeting Agenda – Precis of Correspondence – Water Sharing Plan, advising that he will leave the room and be out of sight during Council’s consideration of the matter. The reason for such interest is that Councillor Cole is employed by Barwon Darling Water.

6 MAYORAL MINUTE**6.1 *** MAYORAL MINUTE - ACTIVITY REPORT**

File Number: M1.1
Author: Barry Hollman, Mayor
Authoriser: Barry Hollman, Mayor
Attachments: Nil

Date	Meeting	Location
28/10/2020	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
01/10/2020	QLD-NSW Border Closure Update - NSW Cross Border Commissioner	Microsoft Team Meeting
09/10/2020	Update on Water Advocacy	Zoom Meeting
10/10/2020	Farewell for General Manager	BOBFC
12/10/2020	Bourke Mayor/GM and Western NSW LHD catch up re Medical Services Tender	Skype
12/10/2020	Farewell morning tea for Ross Earl	Council Courtyard
Various	ABC Radio Interviews Re: Health Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC Orange • ABC Bathurst • ABC Dubbo 	Phone Interviews
16/10/2020	Farewell lunch for Matthew McCorkle & David Blackmore	Council Courtyard

Resolution 2020/344

Moved: Cr Barry Hollman

That Council notes the information in the Mayoral Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

6.2 * MAYORAL MINUTE - LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT VMO SERVICE TENDER**

File Number: H1.1-H1.6

Author: Barry Hollman, Mayor

Authoriser: Barry Hollman, Mayor

Attachments:

1. Mark Spittal - Request for Tender- Provision of Medical Services - 200917
2. Letter to Scott Griffiths PSM - 200929
3. Response from Scott Griffiths PSM - 201002
4. Response from Mr Mark Spittal - Tender- Provision of Medical Services - 201016
5. Media Release - Potential Erosion in Provision of Bourke Medical & Health Services.pdf
6. Media Release - HEALTH SERVICES CONCERNS CONTINUE 201006

Background

I refer to my Mayoral Minute as presented to the September 2020 Ordinary meeting of Council in respect of the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) inviting tenders for the provision of Visiting Medical Officer Services at the Bourke Multipurpose Service.

Councillors will recall that as part of this tender documentation, new minimum requirements for Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) coverage at the Bourke Service were proposed, with the minimum face-to-face coverage being over five (5) days from 8.00am- 6.00pm. Outside of these days and times, the documentation provides that proposals will be considered for virtual care service options.

In respect of this matter, Council resolved as follows:

1. That the actions of the Mayor in respect of this matter be endorsed.
2. That Council continue to raise its significant concerns regarding potential reductions in the availability of face-to-face medical services at the Bourke Multipurpose Service.
3. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.

Current Situation

Having regard to Council's resolution of 28 September 2020 in respect of the VMO Tender, I attach copies of correspondence from Council dated 17th September 2020 as sent to Mr Mark Spittal, Acting Chief Executive, WNSWLHD (Copy attached marked 1) and correspondence dated 29 September 2020 as sent to Mr Scott Griffiths PSM, Chairperson, WNSWLHD (Copy attached marked 2). Responses from Messrs Spittal and Griffiths have been received (Copies attached marked 3 and 4).

In addition to this correspondence, numerous conversations have been undertaken with industry representatives by former General Manager, Ross Earl.

Following an initial Media Release issued last month (Copy attached marked 5), a further Media Release was issued by Council on 6 October 2020 (Copy attached marked 6). This release

contained data in respect of in-patient presentations to the various multipurpose centres in the western area, as included in the current WNSWLHD tender.

On Monday 12 October 2020, an audio-visual meeting was held with Mr Mark Spittal, Acting Executive Officer of WNSWLHD. The Chairperson of the WNSWLHD Board, Mr Scott Griffiths was to join the a-v meeting however due to technical difficulties he was only able to phone in. Ross Earl, Leonie Brown, Mark Riley and I attended the discussions.

A report on these discussions is provided to Council in the confidential section of this agenda, given that the discussions were held in confidence.

Also on Monday 12 October 2020, an article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald under the banner, "We couldn't believe it': Woman bleeds to death in NSW hospital with no doctors on site". This article in respect of a most unfortunate incident, was written by a Ms. Carrie Fellner and given her article raised the current WNSWLHD tender, I took the opportunity to forward her the following email:

"Dear Ms. Fellner,

My name is Barry Hollman and I am the Mayor of Bourke Shire in Far Western NSW. Whilst in no way seeking to politicise the unfortunate death of Ms. Trevitt at Gulgong Hospital, thank you for your article.

Ms. Trevitt's most unfortunate passing, as brought to light in your article of 12 November 2020, "We couldn't believe it': Woman bleeds to death in NSW hospital with no doctors on site", clearly exemplifies the dangers that proposed minimum standards of services in the hospitals at Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett, Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge and Coonamble may bring.

For Western NSW Local Health District to reject suggestions that the services were being cut back, as stated in your article, is simply rubbish and a play on words when the WNSWLHD spokesperson states each hospital would continue to have full-time access to a doctor, whether physically or virtually, and the on-site hours were an "absolute minimum".

In the case of Bourke, the minimum face-to-face requirements would result in a physical doctor being available just 30% of the time. The remaining 70% could be via video. I am sure you understand my abhorrence to the proposal.

I have attached a media release I issued last week on this most important matter for the far west. I would be most happy to talk to you on this issue. My number is 0409 037 903.

Regards,

*Councillor Barry Hollman
Mayor, Bourke Shire"*

Ms. Fellener subsequently acknowledged my email.

On 13 October 2020, Acting General Manager, Leonie Brown, spoke with the Member for Barwon, Mr Roy Butler MP regarding the issue. Ms. Brown has reported as follows:

As discussed, I spoke with Member for Barwon, Roy Butler, this morning re the health tender issue. Following are the points that we discussed;

- Mr Butler has been advocating on behalf of the communities in his electorate about the Doctor tender process and the reduction of hours for emergency on call attendances in the current tender documentation.
- Mr Butler has been speaking with Mark Spittal from WNSWLHD and requested that the LHD undertake community consultation to allay community fears. This is yet to occur. Mr Butler will continue to push for this to happen – In his view the LHD needs to get a media release out to say that they will achieve an outcome to support all communities above the minimum.
- Mr Butler has requested a meeting with Minister Hazard to recommend that the Minister provide instructions to the LHD to review the situation with the current tender in regard to the emergency on call.
- There are a number of Council's involved and that at this stage LHD has only made contact with Bourke Council. Mr Butler has requested the LHD contact all Council's that are affected by the tender.
- Mr Butler asked if Council's meeting with the LHD representatives had provided an assurance that the level of service expected by the community/Council would be met. I advised that I was not confident that the expectation of the community would be met and that Council would continue to raise concerns to the minimum service levels from the perspective of the Bourke community.

Council's letter as forwarded to the Hon. Adam Marshall, MP, Minister for Western NSW in September 2020 (Copy attached marked G) has also been followed up with officers from the Department of NSW Regions. As a result of this correspondence to Minister Marshall, the Minister had made representations to the Office of the Minister for Health, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, MP. From this, a briefing was to be held between the Ministerial officials for advice to Council.

A copy of Council's Media Release dated 6 October 2020 was forwarded to our Far North West Joint Organisation Partners of Cobar and Walgett and also to Brewarrina. The Executive Officer of the Joint Organisation is preparing correspondence on the issue as, I understand, are the other Council's.

On Monday, 26 October 2020, Councillors have been invited to meet with Mick Veitch, Shadow Minister for Industry and Trade and Ryan Park, Shadow Minister for Health, whilst they are in Bourke, to discuss community health needs.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

That Council's actions in respect of this matter to date be noted.

Resolution 2020/345

Moved: Cr Barry Hollman

That Council's actions in respect of the Local Health District VMO Service Tender to date be noted.

Carried

Attachment 1

The Council of The Shire of Bourke

29 Mitchell St, Bourke, N.S.W 2840
P.O. Box 21, Bourke, N.S.W 2840
Telephone (02) 6830 8000 Fax (02) 6872 3030
Email: bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au
Web: <http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au>



Please address all
communications to
the General Manager

Our Ref: BH-20-KHO-411-M71

Office of the Mayor

17 September 2020

Mr Mark Spittal
Acting Chief Executive
Western NSW Local Health District
PO Box 4061
Dubbo NSW 2830

Dear Mr Spittal

Request for Tender – Provision of Medical Services – Bourke Multipurpose Service

I write raising significant concern regarding the minimum levels of health care services as detailed in the abovementioned Request for Tender (RFT) document as it relates to the community of Bourke. It is noted that whilst the RFT covers an area broader than Bourke, my comments at this stage relate to Bourke, which is my immediate concern.

Of concern is the defined minimum medical services which would see a significant change to the existing 24/7 access to on-site medical care at the Bourke Multipurpose Service.

As you would be aware the tender documentation proposes new minimum requirements for Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) coverage at the Bourke Service being over five (5) days from 8.00am-6.00pm. Whilst it is acknowledged that these hours are a minimum, and the final hours may vary, tender respondents are required to identify how they will provide cover outside the minimum on-site requirements. The documentation provides that proposals "will be considered for virtual care service options in addition to the minimum onsite/on call days".

To suggest that residents and visitors to Bourke are to be subjected to a five (5) day week "business hours" only face to face medical service and for the remaining hours of the week a virtual service, is abhorrent to Council. People in the far west of the State simply deserve better. Council is of the very strong view that 24/7 access to on-site medical care at the Multipurpose Service is essential for the on-going health of the community. The Shire of Bourke encompasses an

area of some 43,000 square kilometres, with the Bourke Multipurpose Service being the hub for out of hours medical services for the broad region it serves.

As per the RFT Documentation Package for this matter, Bourke's population is expected to remain steady although "the proportion of the population aged 70+ will double by 2036" with Aboriginal persons accounting for 42% of the population. These statistics coupled with the acknowledged higher rates of chronic disease in remote communities bring with them a demand for higher levels of services and not reduced levels of care, as proposed in the RFT.

Council also raises the issue of the tender process and the timeframes involved.

Council notes that a Market Sounding Process was recently undertaken with Council afforded the opportunity to review the Market Sounding document, which was primarily aimed at potential service providers. However, it would appear that no consultation has been undertaken with the Bourke Community, at any level in relation to any options identified as a result of the Market Sounding process and any impact taken in respect of the direction ultimately adopted in the RFT. This includes the Health Advisory Committee, Council or community groups.

In closing, it was interesting to read your Letter to the Editor of the Dubbo Daily Liberal, as posted on its website on 16 September 2020. Of particular interest was your ultimate paragraph where you make reference to Dubbo Hospital being where you and your family go when you need hospital level care and further that you trust yourself and your loved ones to the staff who work there. We in Bourke and surrounds acknowledge that if matters are serious enough we will be transferred to Dubbo or Orange hospitals. Not necessarily perfect, but we accept that and we do put our trust in the staff.

What we struggle with is the thought of our families needing attention outside of essentially daylight hours and on weekends and having to trust a virtual doctor. I cannot see WNSWLHD managing the community's expectations to accept virtual services, nor should the community be placed in this position.

Council looks forward to a revised RFT being issued to market that has regard to the realistic needs of the community following meaningful community consultation. The community of Bourke is most concerned at the apparent ongoing erosion of health facilities in this important regional community and seeks your assistance in this matter.

The provision of a high standard of Health Services is extremely important to all residents and I would ask that Council meets with you as a matter of URGENCY to discuss the current tender document and the potential impact on the Bourke community, should the level of service drop below the level of service that currently exists.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Barry Hollman
Mayor

cc: The Hon. John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier
The Hon. Mark Coulton, MP, Minister for Rural Health
The Hon. Adam Marshall, MP, Minister for Western NSW
Les McLeod, Chair, Bourke Local Health Advisory Committee

The Hon. Brad Hazzard, MP, Minister for Health
Roy Butler, MP, Member for Barwon

Attachment 2

The Council of The Shire of Bourke

29 Mitchell St, Bourke, N.S.W 2840
P.O. Box 21, Bourke, N.S.W 2840
Telephone (02) 6830 8000 Fax (02) 6872 3030
Email: bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au
Web: <http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au>



Our Ref: BH-MR-H11-M7.1

Office of the Mayor

29 September 2020

Mr Scott Griffiths PSM
Chairperson
Western NSW Local Health District Board
PO Box 4061
Dubbo NSW 2830

Dear Mr Griffiths,

Provision of Medical Services – Bourke Multipurpose Service

I refer to the Request for Tender (RFT) for Medical Officer Service Provision as invited by HealthShare NSW on behalf of the Western NSW Local Health District and specifically that component of the Tender that relates to the community of Bourke and the wider Bourke region.

In recent weeks it has come to Councils attention, and surprise, that the RFT was in the marketplace. This RFT provides for a minimum requirement for Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) coverage at the Bourke Service being over five (5) days, from 8.00am-6.00pm. Whilst it is acknowledged that these hours are a minimum, and the final hours may vary, tender respondents are required to identify how they will provide cover outside the minimum on-site requirements. The documentation provides that proposals "will be considered for virtual care service options in addition to the minimum onsite/on call days".

Such minimum coverage rates are of significant concern to both Council and the community. Acceptance of a tender that only provides the defined minimum medical services would see a significant change to the existing 24/7 access to on-site and face-to-face medical care at the Bourke Multipurpose Service.

To suggest that residents and visitors to Bourke may only receive a five (5) day a week, "business hours" only, face-to-face medical service, with the remaining hours of the week potentially a virtual service, is abhorrent to Council. People in the far west of the State simply deserve better.

Council is of the very strong view that 24/7 access to on-site medical care at the Multipurpose Service is essential for the on-going health of the community. The Shire of Bourke encompasses an area of some 43,000 square kilometres, with the Bourke Multipurpose Service being the hub for out of hour's medical services for the broad region it serves.

As per the RFT Documentation Package for this matter, Bourke's population is expected to remain steady although "the proportion of the population aged 70+ will double by 2036" with Aboriginal persons accounting for 42% of the population. These statistics coupled with the acknowledged higher rates of chronic disease in remote communities bring with them a demand for higher levels of services and not reduced levels of care, as proposed in the RFT.

Council also raises the lack of consultation undertaken in respect of getting to this point with the RFT. In this regard, Council notes that a Market Sounding Process was recently undertaken with Council certainly afforded the opportunity to review the Market Sounding document. However, this document was primarily aimed at potential service providers.

In addition, it would appear that no consultation has been undertaken with the Bourke Community, at any level, in relation to any options identified as part of the Market Sounding process and any impact taken in respect of the direction ultimately adopted in the RFT. This includes the Health Advisory Committee, Council or community groups.

In closing, it is noted from the WNSWLHD Board Minutes of its meeting of 3 June 2020, where the matter of Rural and Remote GP VMO Services Tender was discussed, that "Change Management will be crucial as will the management of community expectations." Whilst obviously not party to the Boards discussions, it is hard not to read into this statement that a change is coming and virtual medicine for the Bourke region is already a fait accompli.

The provision of a high standard of Health Services is extremely important to all residents. As the Chairman of our Health Board, Council seeks your assistance to ensure that the level of VMO service provision to the Bourke community does not drop below the level of service that currently exists. I would ask that Council meet with you as a matter of URGENCY to discuss the potential impact on the Bourke community of the potential minimum service provision levels.

It would be preferred that such a meeting be held in person. However, Council understands the logistics involved and the current issues associated with Covid-19 and would be happy to meet via video conferencing. Council would be happy to this meeting.

Council looks forward to your advice.

Kind regards



Councillor Barry Hollman
Mayor

- cc. The Hon. Adam Marshall, MP - Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW.
- cc. Mr Roy Butler, MP - Member for Barwon.
- cc. Mr Mark Spittal, Acting Chief Executive, Western NSW Local Health District.

Attachment 3



Our ref: D20/8683

Councillor Barry Hollman
Mayor
The Council of The Shire of Bourke
By email: khoward@bourke.nsw.gov.au

Dear Councillor Hollman

Re: Provision of Medical Services – Bourke Multipurpose Service

Thank you for your letter dated 29 September regarding provision of medical services at the Bourke Multipurpose Service.

I appreciate your concern and advocacy on behalf of your local community. Western NSW is as diverse as it is unique but this is what makes our region so wonderful. But it is not without its challenges. Attraction and retention of medical workforce continues to be an ongoing challenge not only for the public health service but also private providers.

The Board has been briefed and is aware of the current tender for the provision of medical services in the northern region of Western NSW due to the current tender expiring.

The 2014/15 tender, which current medical services are operating under, was for 24/7 service delivery. The only difference with the tender out to market is this time, in addition to requesting 24/7 service delivery, the District has set a minimum standard of physical face to face time. The minimum face to face hours was not outlined in the 2014/15 tender and was something the District felt essential to ensure communities, like Bourke, receive physical face to face care in addition to models of care such as telehealth.

It is the Board and the Districts expectation, that those who submit a proposal for the provision of medical services, do so in a way that meets, and potentially exceeds, the minimum physical face to face requirement. The diversity of our region and the advances in technology do mean that other models of care need to be considered to ensure staff and patients in the local communities are supported with medical services 24/7.

The District has worked within NSW Procurement Guidelines which did involve Industry Briefings as you have outlined. These briefings are sounding exercises with potential suppliers to flesh out any anomalies or need for clarification on the tender documentation. I understand that the District updated information following that session and have also done so during the course of the tender.

Mark Spittal, Acting Chief Executive and I are happy to meet with you virtually. Please note, as this is an active tender, there will be aspects that cannot be discussed. Could I ask you to liaise with Krissy.ukena@health.nsw.gov.au or by phone 02 6809 8700 to find a suitable time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Griffiths', with a small circular stamp containing the number '17' to the right.

Scott Griffiths PSM
Board Chair
2 October 2020

Western NSW Local Health District
ABN 50 629 556 404
Chief Executive Unit
PO Box 4061 29 Hawthorn Street
Dubbo NSW 2830
Tel (02) 6809 8700 Fax (02) 6841 2236
Website: www.wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au

Attachment 4



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

Our ref: D20/9105

Councillor Barry Hollman

Mayor

The Council of the Shire of Bourke

Email: khoward@bourke.nsw.gov.au

Dear Councillor Hollman

I am very much aware of the considerable and understandable anxiety across the northern towns in the district as a result of the current tender for medical services to support the LHD operated MPSS. The tender is necessary to ensure that these services are available when the current contract expires in February 2021.

The WNSW Local Health District does not have any plan to reduce medical coverage to these MPSSs. The current service provider delivers a mixture of onsite, on-call and telehealth coverage in all but one location where telehealth has not been actively used. In the majority of these hospitals medical staff attend the Emergency Departments on an on-call basis when people with high acuity conditions (triage 1, 2 and some 3) present and provide telehealth consults for low acuity (some triage 3, 4 and 5) patients. They also provide medical oversight of the inpatients in the MPS. It is the LHD's anticipation that a similar level of coverage will result from the current tender just as it did from the last tender conducted in 2015.

The LHD has taken the step of specifying minimum onsite requirements in the tender for the first time. The intention in doing so was to weed out potential tenderers who only wished to provide virtual coverage and to facilitate disincentives being built into the contract that will be struck with whichever tenderer is successful. Those minimum requirements differ by town because we recognise that in some towns even the temporary loss of a single doctor without notice, such as due to sickness, will make it hard for an onsite service to be replaced immediately. This has certainly been and remains the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic (for example due to staff self-isolation and testing requirements, interstate travel bans, etc). The smaller and more remote the town is, the more true this practical reality is. We acknowledge that some members of the community have interpreted this minimum requirement as a desire to reduce services. To be clear, the LHD has encouraged tenderers to offer more than the minimum requirements. Reducing services is not the outcome that the LHD is after in what are some of the most disadvantaged communities in NSW. Our genuine goal is to significantly improve the health outcomes for people in rural and remote communities, not diminish them.

The LHD has undertaken an initial evaluation of the bids received and is now working towards finalising a short list of one or more tenderers with whom the LHD will negotiate. The LHD is confident that it will be able to agree medical coverage that both meets the needs of the LHD and the expectations of the community. I cannot, for obvious reasons, indicate which organisations have tendered nor does the LHD have a final preference of provider with whom to negotiate a contract at this stage of the process.

Western NSW Local Health District

ABN: 50 629 556 404

Chief Executive Unit

PO Box 4061 29 Hawthorn Street

Dubbo NSW 2830

Tel: (02) 6841 2217 Fax: (02) 6809 7962

Website: www.wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au

Attachment 5



MEDIA RELEASE

**POTENTIAL EROSION IN PROVISION OF
BOURKE MEDICAL & HEALTH SERVICES**

Mayor of the Bourke Shire, Councillor Barry Hollman, today raised significant concerns at the service delivery specifications for the provision of medical services at the Bourke Multipurpose Service as included in tender documentation currently in the marketplace.

"The Western NSW Local Health District has invited tenders for the provision of Medical Officer Services at the Bourke Multipurpose Service". Councillor Hollman said.

"As part of the tender, the documentation proposes new minimum requirements for Visiting Medical Officer coverage at the Bourke Service with the minimum face-to-face coverage being over five (5) days from 8.00am-6.00pm. Outside of these days and times, the documentation provides that proposals will be considered for virtual care service options", the mayor added.

The Mayor acknowledged that whilst the five (5) day/8.00am - 6.00pm hours are a minimum, and that the final hours may vary, the tender documentation requires respondents to identify how they will provide cover outside the minimum on-site requirements.

"To suggest that residents and visitors to Bourke are to be subjected to a five (5) day a week "business hours" only face-to-face medical service and for the remaining hours of the week, a virtual service is abhorrent to Council. People in the far west of the State simply deserve better", he stated.

The Mayor said that the Council was of the very strong view that 24/7 access to on-site medical care at the Multipurpose Service is essential for the on-going health of the Bourke community and should be maintained.

The Bourke Multipurpose Service is the hub for out of hours' medical services for the broad region that Bourke serves. With the proportion of Bourke's population aged 70+ expected to double by 2036 and when coupled with the acknowledged higher rates of chronic disease in remote communities, the Bourke community needs higher levels of services and not reduced levels of care, as proposed in the tender" Councillor Hollman said.

"I will table a Mayoral Minute on this matter at Council's meeting to be held on Monday, 28 September 2020. In the meantime, I have written to the Acting Executive Officer of the Western NSW Local Health District raising concerns to the proposal on behalf of Council and the community and seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the matter. The issue has also been brought to the attention of those ultimately charged with Policy making in these matters".

End

Further information contact Mayor, Barry Hollman or General Manager, Ross Earl 02 68 308 000.

Attachment 6



MEDIA RELEASE

HEALTH SERVICES CONCERNS CONTINUE

With the possibility of the Bourke Community being attended by an on-site doctor for only five (5) days a week from 8.00am – 6.00pm at the Bourke Multipurpose Service, Bourke Mayor, Councillor Barry Hollman, today raised further concerns in relation to the proposed reduced levels of service.

"The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) has issued what is called a Request for Tender (RFT) inviting the medical fraternity to submit a tender to provide Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) Services to varying Multipurpose Services in the North West of the State", Councillor Hollman said.

The Mayor continued, "The Bourke Multipurpose Service is part of this tender, with the RFT providing a minimum VMO coverage at the Bourke Service being on-site over five (5) days, from 8.00am – 6.00pm. Outside of this, tenderers have to identify how they will provide coverage, with the RFT stating that proposals 'will be considered for virtual care service options in addition to the minimum on site/on call days'".

The Mayor noted that should a tender for such minimum level of service be accepted, this would mean that for only five (5) days a week and for 10 hours of each of these days, a doctor would be available at the Bourke Multipurpose Service. He further noted that outside of these periods, being five (5) days a week 14 hours a day and two (2) x 24-hour days, only a virtual doctor would be available to service what would generally be accident and emergency patients.

"In terms of a ratio, the requirements of the tender provide for the availability of a face to face doctor only 30% of a full week with the remaining 70% being a 'virtual care service option'", the Mayor said.

"Let's be frank here; accident and emergency cases at the Bourke Multipurpose Service, or for that matter at any hospital, don't just happen in business hours. Life is not simply a 9–5 service. To potentially have a Multipurpose Service that will provide face to face medical services to the 2634 residents of a Shire that covers over 43,000km², for only 30% of the time, is not just disappointing but also provides an increased risk for residents".

A review by Council of the Federal Governments, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website identifies that for 2018–2019, the Bourke Multipurpose Service attended to 3402 presentations throughout the year.

Mayor Hollman noted that in addition to the total number of presentations to the Bourke Multipurpose Service equating to every person in the Shire attending the service 1.29 times throughout 2018–2019, the combined presentations of Resuscitation/Emergency/Urgent cases totalled 1084.

"As I understand it, Resuscitation/Emergency/Urgent presentations are triage categories 1, 2 and 3 respectively out of 5 category levels. Categories 1-3 cases are the cases that require medical care ranging from requiring treatment immediately because of an immediate life threatening condition (Triage Category 1) through to requiring treatment within 30 minutes because of a potentially life threatening condition (Triage Category 3). Based on these figures, should the service levels regarding virtual services in the tender be accepted and it's a virtual medical service for Bourke 70% of the time, it is not considered unreasonable to assume that 759 of these life threatening or potentially life threatening presentations would have to be dealt with when a face to face doctor is not on site," Councillor Hollman said.

"Of course, this whole matter is further exacerbated by the lack of consultation. The WNSWLHD Board knew this issue would not go down well with the various remote communities with the Minutes of the Board's meeting held on 3 June 2020 stating, in respect of the Rural and Remote GP VMO Services Tender, that "Change management will be crucial as will be the management of community expectations", with the Health District Board also "noting the potential risks moving forward," the Mayor stated.

"The lack of community consultation is offensive to the residents of the Far North West. I call on the Health Service to cancel the current tender process and to visit the various communities the subject of the tender and meet with residents and explain the issues and discuss the various options.

There has been no consultation with the residents of any of the impacted towns and this is just another example of the erosion of services that threatens the ability of these rural communities to attract and retain residents

Unfortunately, however, unless the concerns are addressed in a timely manner, the tender will be assessed and awarded and basically by then, it's too late," the Mayor concluded.

A summary of emergency presentations for 2018-2019 in respect of the various multipurpose services that are the subject of the current tender and the definitions for hospital triage in NSW, are attached.

END

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

Emergency Department Presentations – Source:
<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/hospital/h0182>

Network	No of Triage Category 1 Presentations– Resuscitation	No of Triage Category 2 Presentations– Emergency	No of Triage Category 3 Presentations– Urgent	No of Triage Category 4 Presentations– Semi - Urgent	No of Triage Category 5 Presentations– Non - Urgent	Totals/ Daily Averages
Bourke	8	193	883	1,684	634	3402/9.32
Brewarrina	-	73	410	585	250	1318/3.61

Network	No of Triage Category 1 Presentations– Resuscitation	No of Triage Category 2 Presentations– Emergency	No of Triage Category 3 Presentations– Urgent	No of Triage Category 4 Presentations–	No of Triage Category 5 Presentations–	Totals/ Daily Averages
Walgett	9	264	646	958	1038	2915/7.98
Collarenebri	-	98	193	200	136	627/1.71
Light Ridge	9	277	782	1037	962	3067/8.40

Network	No of Triage Category 1 Presentations– Resuscitation	No of Triage Category 2 Presentations– Emergency	No of Triage Category 3 Presentations–	No of Triage Category 4 Presentations–	No of Triage Category 5 Presentations–	Totals/ Daily Averages
Coonamble	9	255	893	1343	733	3233/8.85

Hospital triage categories – Source:

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Hospitals/Going_To_hospital/Pages/triage.aspx

In hospital emergency departments, triage is done by a specialised triage nurse as soon as possible after a patient arrives. Patients are allocated a triage category based on the time in which they need medical attention.

Most NSW public hospitals use a triage scale for patients presenting to emergency and aim to achieve certain levels of performance with respect to the amount of time patients wait to be seen.

The five triage categories

Triage category 1

People who need to have treatment **immediately or within two minutes** are categorised as having an **immediately life-threatening condition**.

People in this category are critically ill and require immediate attention. Most would have arrived in emergency department by ambulance. They would probably be suffering from a critical injury or cardiac arrest.

Triage category 2

People who need to have treatment **within 10 minutes** are categorised as having an **imminently life-threatening condition**.

People in this category are suffering from a critical illness or in very severe pain. People with serious chest pains, difficulty in breathing or severe fractures are included in this category.

Triage category 3

People who need to have treatment **within 30 minutes** are categorised as having a **potentially life-threatening condition**.

People in this category are suffering from severe illness, bleeding heavily from cuts, have major fractures or are severely dehydrated.

Triage category 4

People who need to have treatment **within one hour** are categorised as having a **potentially serious condition**.

People in this category have less severe symptoms or injuries, such as a foreign body in the eye, sprained ankle, migraine or earache.

Triage category 5

People who need to have treatment **within two hours** are categorised as having a **less urgent condition**.

People in this category have minor illnesses or symptoms that may have been present for more than a week, such as rashes or minor aches and pains.

7 STARRING OF ITEMS

ITEM NO	NAME	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
21.2	ENGINEERING SERVICES – P&G	MANAGER WORKS
21.5	TOURISM & EVENTS	MANAGER TOURISM & EVENTS

Resolution 2020/346**Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford****Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton**

That the recommendations as detailed in the un-starred items contained in the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council Held on Monday, 26 October 2020 be adopted.

Carried**8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****Resolution 2020/347****Moved: Cr Ian Cole****Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 September 2020 be confirmed.

Carried**9 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

10 RESCISSION MOTION

Nil

11 BUSINESS ARISING**11.1 *** BUSINESS ARISING**

File Number: C12.1
Author: Kai Howard-Oakman, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Business outstanding from previous meetings of Council

Current Situation

KEY: Action still pending ☐ Action ☐

AGM ACTING GENERAL MANAGER	MSP MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
AMCS ACTING MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES	MW MANAGER WORKS
MES MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	MRS MANAGER ROAD SERVICES
MCE MANAGER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	

206/2013	REVIEW OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NUMBER	S6.41
DECISION	ACTION TAKEN
That the position descriptions of all employees be updated to reflect current duties performed and requirements of the organisation.	In progress

321/2018	RENAMING SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING TO BOURKE COMMUNITY CENTRE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY - MANAGER ENVIRONMENT SERVICES
FILE NUMBER	A11.2.24
DECISION	ACTION TAKEN
1. That a Plan of Management for the Bourke Community Centre be developed which details the allowable uses of the building and the fee required to be paid for the use and any bond that need to be lodged. 2. That the Plan of Management be submitted to Council on completion for their endorsement	1. Fees & Charges Report included in October 2020 Business Paper 2. In progress

362/2018	BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 2016 - UPDATE	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY - MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
FILE NUMBER	E6.1-E6.4-L8.1	
DECISION		ACTION TAKEN
1. That Council undertake a review of the potential impact on the sale of land held for industrial development including obtaining specialist advice as appropriate.		Continue to lobby Government
2. That on finalisation of that review a further report be brought back to Council		

427/2018	PROPOSED CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE PCYC	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – ACTING GENERAL MANAGER & DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
FILE NO	L1.17-Y1.7-LD-L11.14.3	
DECISION		ACTION TAKEN
That the General Manager prepare a detailed report in relation to the matter, including the seeking of legal advice if necessary		In progress Teleconference held 20/08/2020 Correspondence sent to PCYC 25/8/20 and followed up for response 20/10/20

156/2019	CONFIDENTIAL – CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT FACILITIES	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER & PETER BROWN - MANAGER OF WORKS	
FILE NO	S3.2.3	
DECISION		ACTION TAKEN
That Council continue with its representations to obtain funding for the additional costs anticipated to be incurred in the construction of the new Additional Sewage Treatment Facilities in Bourke		Ongoing

274/2019	DROUGHT – WATER UPDATE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	W2.2.9 – W2.2.9.1
DECISION	
That the General Manager write to the State Government seeking their urgent consideration of the construction of a regulator or additional weir including a fish ladder upstream of Bourke at a location identified as BU8	
ACTION TAKEN	
Letter sent & meeting held. Teleconference involving staff and Councillors held with State Water on 22/9/2020	

2019/362	NOTICE OF MOTION - BOURKE WATER SECURITY OPTIONS
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	W2.2.9
DECISION	
Council engage an appropriately qualified consultant to cost and complete a scoping/design study for a shovel ready plan to secure the water supply from the Darling River for the towns and villages situated on the river for the Bourke Shire Council area. All water supply options from previous reports and added new ideas to be discussed within Council, with agreed options forwarded to the consultants for further analysis. That the study be completed in a timely matter to allow council to lobby Federal and State Governments for Funding Assistance for water security options for Bourke Shire Council's future water needs. Bourke Shire Council allocate \$250,000 towards the scoping/design study, to be met from the Water Fund Reserve and that the State Government also be asked to make a contribution.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Teleconference involving staff and Councillors held with State Water on 22/9/2020	

2019/439	NORTH BOURKE BRIDGE REHABILITATION CONCEPT PLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK GORDON – MANAGER ROAD SERVICES
FILE NO	B6.1
DECISION	
Council continue to apply for funding to undertake the project	
ACTION TAKEN	
Ongoing	

2020/111	DUAL NAMING OF THE DARLING RIVER – DARLING RIVER BAAKA
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	R6.5
DECISION	
1. That Council forward a copy of the motion regarding the dual naming of the Darling River to the Minister for his consideration during the determination process. 2. That Council seek further clarification on which section of the Darling River will be dual named Baaka and will the name be Darling Baaka River / Baaka Darling River or	
ACTION TAKEN	
Ongoing	

Darling River Baaka.	
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2020/168	13.6 TRANSFER OF LAND TO THE WHIDDON GROUP, DARLING STREET BOURKE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY, MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
FILE NO	L1.13-L1.16
DECISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council proceed to take the necessary action to prepare a local environmental plan that seeks to reclassify community land located at 17 - 29 Darling Street, Bourke as Operational land. 2. That Council proceed to prepare and enter into a Deed for Land Acquisition with the Whiddon Group in respect of their eventual acquisition of the site at 17 - 29 Darling Street, Bourke, following the reclassification of the subject land to Operational land. 3. That if required, the General Manager be authorised to execute, on behalf of Council as the existing registered owner of land at 17 - 29 Darling Street, Bourke, owner's consent in respect of the lodgement of a Development Application by the Whiddon Group in respect of upgrading works at the facility. 4. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions held by MES with Dept of Planning Officers to Progress LEP matter Meeting with Dept of Planning will take approx 12 months to complete. 2. Draft Deed forwarded to Whiddon Group 19/08/2020. 3. Solicitors for Whiddon Group have different interpretation to Deed. 4. Awaiting advice from Booth Brown Legal.

2020/223	BOURKE AIRPORT - LEASE OF LAND – ITEM - 23.2
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY - MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
FILE NO	A6.1-F3.1-LD
DECISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Manager be authorised to take the necessary action in respect of the leasing of Lot 64 DP 1027306, Bourke Airport, to Viva Energy Australia Pty Ltd as per the terms detailed in the report of the Acting Manager of Infrastructure and Projects. 2. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council. 	<p>Email sent detailing Council's resolution forwarded to Viva Energy 07/07/2020. Viva have agreed to Lease terms. Lease prepared and to be provided to Viva 26/10/2020.</p>

2020/233	12.1 DRILLING OF NEW BORE AT TRINGADEE STATION, WANAARING ROAD	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK GORDON, MANAGER ROAD SERVICES	
FILE NO	W2.2.9-W2.2.9.1	
DECISION		
1. Council authorised the General Manager to enter into a contract with a preferred water-drilling contractor for the provision of a new water bore to be drilled at Tringadee Station on the Wanaaring Road. 2. That any necessary documents in relation to Drilling of New Bore at Tringadee Station, Wanaaring Road be executed under the Common Seal of Council.		IMPAX Drilling contracted to undertake work. Awaiting Licence approval from Water NSW before commencing drilling.

2020/234	12.2 ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY - MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS	
FILE NO	R7.4.3	
DECISION		
<div>1. That the Road Classification Review and Transfer Information Paper dated June 2020 be noted.</div> <div>2. That the actions of the General Manager in engaging Peece Consulting to prepare a submission, both as a combined Far North West Joint Organisation submission and an individual submission from Bourke Shire Council, be endorsed.</div> <div>3. That Council’s preferred position in respect of providing a submission to the Review Panel be:-<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ownership of the Bourke – Wanaaring Rd being transferred to the NSW Government, as a minimum ; and• the transfer of any Regional Roads to Government in the Bourke Shire being on the basis of Council entering into a contract with Government which would see Council continuing to undertake both improvement works and the necessary programmed and emergency maintenance works on the transferred roadway(s).</div> <div>4. That having regard to the availability of such submissions and the Independent Panels time frame for submissions, the Mayor be authorised to approve Council’s submission for presentation to the Independent Panel, if required.</div>		<div>Conditional nomination of Wanaaring Road as a road for transfer lodged as per date required.</div> <div>FNWJO made submission to Panel on issues potentially impacted by any decisions</div>

2020/236	14.2 BOURKE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY - MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS	
FILE NO	A6.1	
DECISION		
1. That Council seek quotations for the preparation of a Master Plan at the Bourke Airport to determine the availability of land for the proposed development and future developments.		1. Quotations to be called
2. That Council advise the Royal Flying Doctor Services of its agreement in principle of their proposal.		2. RFDS advised
3. That the Royal Flying Doctor Service be further advised that the siting of any proposed structure would need to be in accord with any Airport Master Plan adopted by Council.		3. RFDS Advised

2020/239	14.5 *** POTENTIAL MOTIONS FOR THE LGNSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 22 - 24 NOVEMBER 2020	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER	
FILE NO	L8.3-S1.1	
DECISION		
That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager be authorised to make minor amendments to the motions if required either prior to or at the Annual Conference.		Motions submitted as required.

2020/241	14.6 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LRCI PROGRAM)	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER	
FILE NO	G4.1	
DECISION		
1. Council endorse the recommendations within the Report being for projects 1 to 16 with actual sites for the footpath construction to be determined		Projects approved by Federal Government.
2. That an application is lodged for the 16 projects as detailed with the Australian Government		

2020/276	14.1 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER	
FILE NO	P4.1.4	
DECISION		
1. That Council provide training to both Councillors and Staff on the new Code when the opportunity arises. 2. That the General Manager take appropriate action to ensure that Council has access to a Panel of Code of Conduct Reviewers.		In progress

2020/284	15.3 *** AWNING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN, MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES
FILE NO	B3.4-G4.97
DECISION	
1. That Bourke Shire Council proceed with the development of the Main Street Awning Improvement Program as outlined in the report.	Applications being processed
2. That Council advertise the availability of the Programme as required under section 356 of the Local Government Act.	

2020/289	21.1 REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	G4.1-T2.3
DECISION	
1. That Council authorise the General Manager to negotiate with a telecommunications group which has knowledge of rural and remote internet infrastructure to ascertain the areas of priority of the Bourke Shire Council region.	Discussions with potential provider proceeding and information provided.
2. That Council agree to submit a joint application to the Regional Connectivity Program pending the requirements of the program being able to be met.	

2020/290	21.2 A SPECIAL LOCAL ROADS & TRANSPORT CONGRESS - 16 - 18 NOVEMBER 2020
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	S1.1
DECISION	
Should the Special Local Roads and Transport Congress go ahead, that Council be represented in Wagga Wagga during 16-18 November 2020	Cr Hollman & Cr Bartley attending

2020/320	14.2 LEP AMENDMENT UNDER S3.22
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
FILE NO	T5.3
DECISION	
Council request the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to rezone Lot 62 DP 1027306 from SP2 Infrastructure to IN1 General Industrial in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3.22 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.	Further report to be brought back to Council in the New Year

2020/321	15.1 AUSTRALIA DAY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	FRAN CARTER – MANAGER TOURISM & EVENTS
FILE NO	C2.3-C2.3.1
DECISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the closing date for the 2021 Australia Day Awards be the 7th December 2020. 2. That Council delegate to the Acting General Manager finalisation of the determination of the Bourke Shire Australia Day Award Recipients, having regard to the voting process to be undertaken as part of a workshop of Councillors to be convened on 14th December 2020. 3. That such workshop be held with the ability for Councillors to attend either in person or via audio-visual link. 	Invite for nominations included in Acting General Managers Column on 15/10/20. Further advertising to be undertaken in November 2020.

2020/324	16.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	BRIAN TICKLE – ACTING MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICE
FILE NO	F1.4.6
DECISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the additional funds received estimated to be \$261,919 be transferred to the asset renewal reserve. 2. That Council write to the Minister for Local Government the Hon. Shelly Hancock, MP and the Secretariat of the NSW Grants Commission expressing appreciation of the funding and noting its importance to Council. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once received, funds will be transferred as required. 2. Completed

2020/325 & 326	REVIEW OF CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2019/2020 AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS – ITEM 15.5 MOUNT OXLEY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY - MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
FILE NO	R2.5
DECISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council note the report on the responsibility and current condition of the access road to the summit of Mount Oxley. 2. That Council note the status of telecommunication infrastructure located atop Mount Oxley. 3. That following a title search discussions be held with the owners of the land and the various owners of the telecommunications infrastructure atop Mount Oxley with a view to sourcing funding for at least the \$80,000 in maintenance work and potentially a further \$110,000 for the guard rail installation, for a further report to Council including consideration to any contribution by Council. 4. That Council investigate its potential liability as a result of the public use of the access road to the top of Mount Oxley and a report be submitted back to Council. 	Title search has been extensive, however information will be available to Council in November 2020. Liability issues being pursued for further report.

2020/332	TWO (2) HOUR PARKING
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK GORDON – MANAGER ROAD SERVICES
FILE NO	R7.6
DECISION	
That Council refer the issue of the potential introduction of two (2) hour parking to the Bourke Traffic Committee for their consideration and recommendation	Letter of advice of resolution sent to Mr Crothers

2020/339	23.1 PROVISION OF MEDICAL OFFICER SERVICES AT THE BOURKE MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MAYOR BARRY HOLLMAN
FILE NO	H1.1-H1.6
DECISION	
1. Council authorised the Mayor on behalf of the Council and the community to raise significant concerns regarding potential reductions in the availability of face-to-face medical services at the Bourke Multipurpose Service. 2. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.	See Mayoral Minute included in the Mayoral Minute for October 2020

2020/341	23.4 POTENTIAL STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY - MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
FILE NO	A11.1
DECISION	
Council indicate that it is no longer interested in purchasing the property which is the subject of the report	Letter to be forwarded

2020/343	23.5 REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARK RILEY - MANAGER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS
FILE NO	
DECISION	
Council supports the next phase of the application of the grant process under the Regional Connectivity Program.	Ongoing correspondence sent 22/10/2020

Resolution 2020/348**Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel****Seconded: Cr Ian Cole**

That Council note the information in the Business Arising Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

11.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

File Number: C12.6
Author: Kai Howard-Oakman, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Information sent out monthly to advise when Council Meetings, meetings which Councillors are Delegates to and other meetings of which Council is a member of, or representatives of Council.

Current Situation

Current Situation				
Month	Date	Time	Meeting / Event	Location
2020				
October	26	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
November	11	11.00am	Remembrance Day	
	16-18	9.30am	Special Local Roads & Transport Congress	Wagga Wagga
	23	8.45	LGNSW Annual Conference	Via Video-Link
	30	9.15am	Council Meeting (changed to allow for LGNSW Annual Conference)	Council Chamber
December	7		Closing Day for Australia Day Nominations	Council Chamber
	14	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
	14	TBA	Workshop – Australia Day Awards	Council Chamber
	25	Public Holidays	Christmas Day	
	26		Boxing Day	
	28		Boxing Day Holiday	
2021				
January	1	Public Holiday	New Years’ Day	
No Meeting of Council for January 2021				
	26		Australia Day	
February	22	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
March	22	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
April	2	Public Holidays	Good Friday	
	3		Easter Saturday	
	4		Easter Sunday	
	5		Easter Monday	
	25		ANZAC DAY	
	26	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
May	24	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
June	14	Public Holiday	Queen’s Birthday	
	28	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
July	26	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
August	23	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber

Resolution 2020/349

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That Council note the information in the Calendar of Events Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

11.3 INFORMATION TO COUNCILLORS

File Number: C12.1
Author: Kai Howard-Oakman, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Each month a list of correspondence is sent out in the Business Paper to the Councillors to ensure that they have not missed any information since the last Business Paper was produced.

Current Situation

Date	Information Sent	Author	Email
22/09/2020	Invitation to the GM's Farewell	MCS	✓
24/09/2020	Business Paper & Confidential Business Paper	MANEX	✓
30/09/2020	"From the GM's Desk" 201001	GM	✓
06/10/2020	Media Release – Health Concerns Continue	Mayor Barry Hollman	✓
13/10/2020	Health Articles - Health Minister demands action over 'shocking' death in hospital	Carrie Fellner - SMH	✓
14/10/2020	"From the GM's Desk" 201015	GM	✓
15/10/2020	Minutes 200928	GM	✓
20/10/2020	"From the GM's Desk" 201022	ACTING GM	✓

Resolution 2020/350

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford
Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That Council note the contents of the Information to Councillors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

12 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**12.4 BOURKE WATER TREATMENT PLANT - CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT**

File Number: W2.2.4
Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The existing Bourke Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was constructed in 1957 with a design capacity of 3ML/d. Since its initial construction the Plant has been upgraded several times with upgrades undertaken including the construction of the raw water tank, clear water tank and standby pipe in 1988 and the commissioning of the fluoridation dosing system in 2012. In 2019 Council resolved to adopt the tender of Laurie Curran Water Pty Ltd to undertake the construction of a new treatment plant at a cost of \$10.5m.

Funding for the construction of the Plant was sourced through the NSW Government's "Safe and Secure Water Program".

Current Situation

Construction of the new Bourke Water Treatment Plant began in January 2020. The Plant has a design capacity of 3.3ML/day along with a 20% contingency plan. This accordingly, will allow for a maximum daily treatment capacity of 4ML of potable water per day for both Bourke and North Bourke. The upgrade includes the installation of a Reverse Osmosis Plant to treat high levels of sodium when needed.

Completion of the Plant is scheduled for March 2021.

To date the following components of the project have been completed:

- Clarifiers
- Sludge lagoons
- Automatic gates and fences
- Ground water tank
- Framework for wet room and offices
- Framework for chemical rooms
- Integration of pipework from the old WTP

Ongoing works in respect of the project include:

- Flash mixers
- Fit-out of the Treatment Plant building
- Pipework joining infrastructure
- Road works
- Integration of the Reverse Osmosis Plant into the new WTP
- Operational handover to Council

Attached are two (2) photos relating to the project and the site layout plan for the new Plant as per the Scope of Works for the project.

Financial Implications

The Water Treatment Plant project is currently both on time and on budget with 50% of the project budget expended to date.

Resolution 2020/351

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the Bourke Water Treatment Plant - Construction Progress Report be noted.

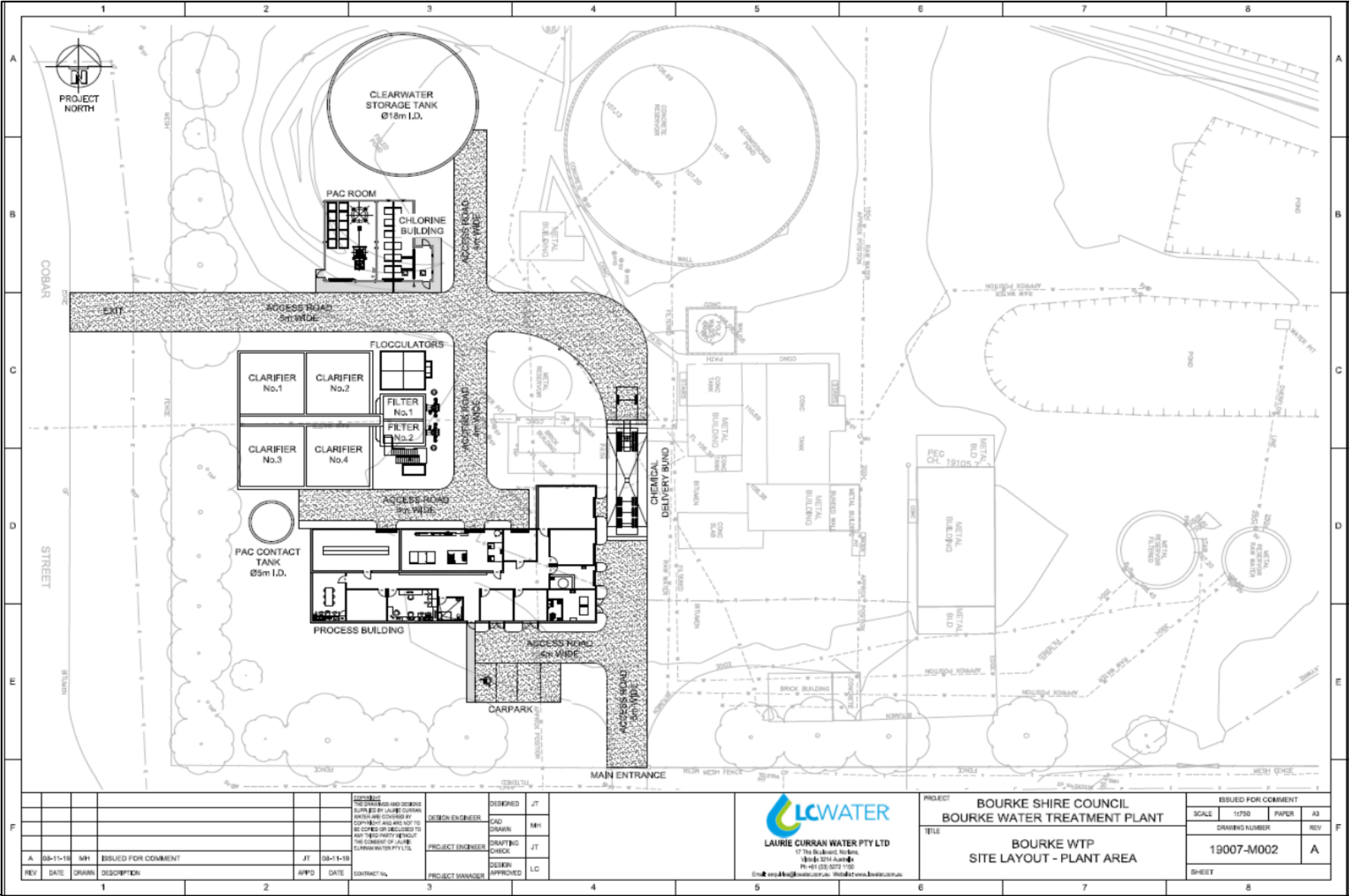
Carried

Reverse Osmosis Plant at the Water Treatment Plant



Early Stages Clarifier Pad Construction





13 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

14 ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 *** CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR CLOSURE**

File Number: A3.10.1
Author: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

As a long-established practice in common with other Council's, Bourke Shire Council has closed its Council offices between Christmas and New Year.

Current Situation

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval for the closure of Council office over the Christmas/New Year holiday period and include the annual Union Picnic Holiday on the 24 December 2020 in the holiday period.

Council in previous years closed its main Office and Library during the period between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All other facilities (including Swimming Pool, Waste Depot and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre) are closed on Christmas Day and re-open during the rest of Christmas and New Year period but may operate with changes made to the hours and days of operation, as required. Council continues to provide essential services to ensure the health and safety of the community, noting that Council's Road Crews are generally on leave during this Christmas/New Year Period and during January.

This year it is also proposed to hold the annual Union Picnic Day on the 24 December 2020. In previous years the Picnic Day has been held on the Friday prior to the October Long Weekend.

Given that Christmas Day and Boxing Day fall on a Friday and Saturday, with Monday, 28 December 2020 being declared a Public Holiday (Observance of Boxing Day, Saturday, 26 December 2020), there is an opportunity to link the Union Picnic Day with the Christmas break with minimal, if any, inconvenience to the community by closing on Christmas Eve.

Staff leave liabilities increase in value every year in line with the statutory wage increases. In order to reduce staff leave balances and leave liability costs and to support employee work/life balance, it is recommended closing the main Office and Library from 4.30pm Wednesday, 23 December and reopening at 8.00am Monday, 4 January 2021. Staff will be required to take appropriate leave during this period.

Council will continue to provide appropriate on-call officers to respond to urgent maintenance work or emergency situations.

Financial Implications

Organisational leave liabilities must be managed at sustainable levels for minimum impact on funds in reserve required for other organisation requirements. Staff will be required to take their accrued leave during this period.

Resolution 2020/352**Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford****Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

- 1. That Council's Shire Office and Library close at 4.30pm on Wednesday, 23 December 2020 and re-open at their respective regular opening times on Monday, 4 January 2020.**
- 2. That Thursday, 24 December 2020 be observed as the Union Picnic Day for relevant Council staff.**
- 3. That Council's other facilities including the Memorial Swimming Pool, Waste Depot and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre close for Christmas Day on Friday, 25 December 2020, and that dates and times of operation for these facilities during the remaining days of Christmas/New Year period be determined by the Acting General Manager, having regard to demand and operational requirements.**
- 4. That it be noted that Council will maintain a skeleton crew to provide appropriate on-call staff to respond to urgent maintenance work or emergency situations during the holiday period.**
- 5. That the community be advised of Council's Christmas/New Year holiday arrangements.**

Carried

14.2 DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND OTHER MATTERS RETURNS

File Number: S6.29
Author: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Councillors and Designated Persons are required to complete Disclosure of Interest Returns to provide them with the opportunity to disclose any items where there may be a Pecuniary Interest which may affect the decision of the person completing the return.

In this regard, Council's adopted Code of Conduct provides as follows:

4.20 A councillor:

- (a) must prepare and submit written returns of interests in accordance with clause 4.21, and*
- (b) must disclose pecuniary interests in accordance with clause 4.28 and comply with clause 4.29 where it is applicable.*

4.21 A councillor or designated person must make and lodge with the general manager a return in the form set out in schedule 2 to this code, disclosing the councillor's or designated person's interests as specified in schedule 1 to this code within 3 months after:

- (a) becoming a councillor or designated person, and*
- (b) 30 June of each year, and*
- (c) the councillor or designated person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under schedule 1 that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraphs (a) or (b).*

As per the Code, the return is to be completed by each Councillor and each Designated Person before being lodged with the General Manager by 30 September each year in accordance with Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

Once completed and lodged, the returns are required to be tabled at an Ordinary Council Meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Current Situation

While individuals are responsible for lodging their returns by the due date, the Office of Local Government (OLG) encourages General Managers to remind Councillors and Designated Persons of their obligation to lodge a return by 30 September each year. This was undertaken by way of a report to Council at the June 2020 meeting.

Returns were distributed to all Councillors and Designated Persons in August 2020. Council has procedures in place to record the lodgement of all returns.

In respect of the tabling of returns, Section 440AAB of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), states the following:

440AAB REGISTER AND TABLING OF RETURNS

- (1) The General Manager must keep a register of returns disclosing interests that are required to be lodged with the General Manager under a code of conduct.*
- (2) Returns required to be lodged with the General Manager must be tabled at a meeting of the council, being the first meeting held after the last day specified by the code for lodgement, or if the code does not specify a day, as soon as practicable after the return is lodged.*

It is noted that all Councillors and designated persons have completed and lodged their returns by the due date and these will be tabled at the October 2020 meeting, together with the register of returns.

Financial Implications

Nil

Resolution 2020/353

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That Council notes the tabled Disclosure of Interest Returns by Councillors and Designated Persons and the Register of Returns for the 2019/2020 Financial Year, in accordance with Section 440AAB of the Local Government Act 1993.

Carried

15 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**15.1 *** BANK RECONCILIATION & STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES**

File Number: F1.1
Author: Brian Tickle, Acting Manager of Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances for the period ending 30 September 2020.

Current Situation**Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30th September 2020**

Balances as per Bank Statement	\$171,757.88
Plus: Deposit not shown	\$588.00
Less: Unpresented Cheques	\$5,069.85
Balance as per Cash Book	\$167,276.03

Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 30th September 2020

Fund or Account	Current Balance	Overdraft Statutory Limit
General	\$18,263,733.08	\$200,000.00
Water	\$2,168,713.61	
Sewer	\$2,491,508.18	
Trust	\$107,567.16	
Total Funds	\$23,031,522.03	

Investments as at 30th September 2020

National Australia Bank	\$1,141,382.85	1.30%	300 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$1,092,041.99	1.04%	182 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$698,409.62	1.00%	242 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$1,711,130.64	0.95%	330 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$672,014.53	0.85%	181 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$800,093.82	0.85%	150 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$3,089,425.35	0.70%	182 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$1,076,401.54	0.75%	365 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$3,045,954.72	0.70%	182 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$453,028.80	0.73%	300 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$3,005,255.02	0.75%	330 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$6,079,107.12	Flex		
Total Investments	\$22,864,246.00			

In accordance with Clause 212 of the Local Government Act (General) Regulation 2005 it is certified that the above investments have been made under Sec 625 of the Local Government Act and Council's Investment Policy.

Reconciliation at 30th September 2020

Balance as per cash book	\$167,276.03
Investments	\$22,864,246.00
Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger	\$23,031,522.03

Statement of Bank Balances as at 30th September 2020

	Balance	Transaction	Balance
	31 st August 2020		30 th September 2020
General Fund	\$20,751,926.30	-\$2,488,193.22	\$18,263,733.08
Water Fund	\$1,297,735.55	\$870,978.06	\$2,168,713.61
Sewer Fund	\$2,414,719.57	\$76,788.61	\$2,491,508.18
Trust Fund	\$111,739.50	-\$4,172.34	\$107,567.16
Investments	-\$22,114,986.48	-\$749,259.52	-\$22,864,246.00
Totals	\$2,461,134.44	-\$2,293,858.41	\$167,276.03

Balance of all Funds as at 31st August 2020

\$2,461,134.44

Add Receipts for	
(a) Rates	\$214,444.82
(b) Other Cash	\$1,212,120.66
Deduct payments for	
(a) Payments	\$2,971,164.37
(b) New Investment	\$749,259.52
Balance as 30th September 2020	\$167,276.03

Resolution 2020/354

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 30th September 2020 be noted.

Carried

15.2 * INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

File Number: F1.1
Author: Brian Tickle, Acting Manager of Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Introduction

The investment report is submitted monthly to Council.

Background

The investment report is submitted monthly to Council.

Issues

- Investments are in accordance with Division of Local Government Guidelines and Council's Investment Policy
- Statutory obligations are being met
- Councillors roles as resource allocators and policy directors are satisfied

Assessment**Legal Implications Including Directives and Guidelines**

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

The management, of Council's investments is delegated by the General Manager to the Manager Corporate Services.

Financial Implications/Consideration

The 2020/21 Budget estimates the total investment revenue as \$295,000 which represents an estimated return of 1.475%. This revenue is split proportionally across General, Water and Sewer Funds and changes on a monthly basis in accordance with cash flow requirements.

The market value of Council's investments held as at 30 September 2020 is \$22,864,246.00.

Investment income earned as at 30 September 2020 is \$73,115.77

Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Procedure

Policy 1.8.10(v5) – Investment Policy adopted 23rd July 2020.

Ministerial Investment Order – 12th January 2011

Strategic Implications – Implications for Long Term Plans/Targets

Funds are invested in accordance with identified cash flow requirements.

Investment Portfolio**Investments as at 30 September 2020**

National Australia Bank	\$1,141,382.85	1.30%	300 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$1,092,041.99	1.04%	182 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$698,409.62	1.00%	242 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$1,711,130.64	0.95%	330 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$672,014.53	0.85%	181 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$800,093.82	0.85%	150 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$3,089,425.35	0.70%	182 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$1,076,401.54	0.75%	365 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$3,045,954.72	0.70%	182 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$453,028.80	0.73%	300 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$3,005,255.02	0.75%	330 Days	A1+
National Australia Bank	\$6,079,107.12	Flex		
Total Investments	\$22,864,246.00			

Term Deposits**Discussions/Comments**

The Investment portfolio increased by \$749,259.52 during the period.

The investment portfolio is invested in term deposits with the National Australia Bank. The investment portfolio is regularly reviewed in order to maximise investment performance and minimise risk.

The Government Guarantee on Investments up to \$1 million dollars has now expired and the new cap of \$250,000 has replaced the scheme.

Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer

I hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

Resolution 2020/355

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

1. That the report regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 30 September 2020 be received and noted.
2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted

Carried

15.3 * 2019-2020 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS**

File Number: A13.2
Author: Brian Tickle, Acting Manager of Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Introduction

In accordance with Section 419 (1) of the Local Government Act, this report is presenting Council's Audited Financial Reports and the Auditors Report to Council.

Background

The Local Government Act 1993, Section 419 (1) stipulates that Council must present its audited Financial Reports, together with the auditors reports to a meeting of Council.

Prior to the report being presented to Council, public notice in accordance with Section 418 of the Local Government Act must be undertaken. Such notice has been given by advertising in the Western Herald, on Facebook and on Council's website.

Current Situation

The Statements are prepared in accordance with the Office of Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Guidelines.

Assessment**a) Legal Implications Including Directives and Guidelines**

Local Government Act 1993 – Sections 418/419/420.

Local Government Code of accounting Practice and Financial Reporting – Update 28 issued March 2020.

b) Financial Implications/Considerations

The Annual Financial Statements reflect the transactions previously reported to Council at the Quarterly Budget Reviews and the end of year adjustments. The Financial Statements were referred to audit by Council at the 24th August 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

c) Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Practice

Nil

d) Strategic Implications – Implications for Long Term Plans/Targets

Community Strategic Plan

Delivery Program and Operation Plan

Report

Council's operating result was a surplus of \$11.0 million as compared with \$17.9 million in the previous year. The decreased operating result for the year is a result of increased expenditure for employee costs, depreciation and materials / contracts. The reduction in Council's share of the net assets of the Far North West Joint Organisation (FNWJO) amounting to \$3.1 million compared to an increase of \$3.7 million during the previous year is the main contributor to this decrease.

Summarised outlines of the operating result and financial position are detailed below:

Summary of Financial Reports
For the year ending 30th June 2020

Income Statement	2020 (\$000's)	2019 (\$000's)
Total Operating Revenues	36,541	38,453
Total Operating Expenses	25,552	20,578
Net Operating Result for Year	10,989	17,875
Net Operating for year Before Grants for Capital purposes	(3,169)	4,230

Balance Sheet	2020	2019
Current Assets	29,007	31,454
Current Liabilities	7,917	7,273
Non-Current Assets	276,454	245,690
Non-Current Liabilities	3,818	3,648
Net Assets/Equity	293,726	266,223

Other Financial Information

Note 26(a) of the Financial Statements provide performance measurement indicators and these are summarised below:

Indicator	2020	2019
Operating Performance Ratio	1.77%	2.63%
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio	24.94%	24.94%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	5.10:1	4.32:1
Debt Service Cover Ratio	5.41:1	6.40:1
Rates and annual Charges , interest and Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage	16.93%	16.62%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	13.19 months	17.65 months

Special Schedule report on Infrastructure Assets

Indicators	2020	2019
Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio	166.66%	213.73%
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	1.66%	2.01%
Asset Maintenance Ratio	96.30%	95.87%
Capital Expenditure Ratio	1.18%	1.35%

Financial Position as at 30th June 2020

Operating Performance Ratio

The operating performance ratio measures how well Council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The bench mark set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) is greater than zero percent.

Council operating performance indicator is 1.77 per cent, it was 2.6 per cent in 2018/2019. The decrease is due to a reduction in the operating result before capital items.

Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

The own source operating revenue ratio measures Council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by the OLG is greater than 60 per cent.

Council remains under the notional benchmark of 60% indicating its reliance on external funding sources to supplement operations.

Unrestricted Current Ratio

The unrestricted current ratio is an indicator that Council is able to pay its debts as and when they fall due. Council has increased the unrestricted current ratio this financial year. The benchmark for this ratio is a minimum of 1.5:1.

Council is well positioned to meet current liabilities. Council is required to hold a range of cash reserves for future needs as disclosed by internal reserves note 6(C).

Debt Service Cover Ratio

This is a ratio that measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark for this ratio is a minimum of 2:1.

Council is well above the benchmark and indicates capacity for Council to fund future capital programs though borrowings

Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio

The rates and charges outstanding ratio assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by the OLG is below 10 percent for rural Council's

The Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has increased slightly in 2019/2020 from 16.6% to 16.9%. This is due to the amount of land that the owners have effectively walked away from and will be subject to a sale for unpaid Rates. Provision is made annually to account for this amount.

Building and Infrastructure Renewal

The Building and Infrastructure renewal ratio is an indicator of the proportion of depreciation which is being funded by expenditure on new assets. A ratio greater than 100% indicates that Council is spending more on asset renewal than the depreciation charge for the year.

Council's Asset Renewal was 166.66%.

Audit Opinion

1. The Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Chapter 13 part 3 Division 2; and
2. The financial statements:
 - a. have been presented in accordance with the requirements of this Division;
 - b. are consistent with the Council's accounting records;
 - c. presents fairly the Council's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows; and

- d. Are in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.
3. All information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained; and
4. There are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial report that we have become aware of during the course of the audit.

Conclusion

The Unrestricted Current Ratio has marginally increased over the past year. The Unrestricted Current Ratio is a financial indicator and represents Council's ability to meet its debts and obligations as they fall due.

Council continues to maintain a relatively low level of debt and is in a sound financial position as reflected in our Auditor's reports and demonstrated by the financial performance indicators.

Council will need to continue to closely monitor the budget during the current and future years to ensure that the positive result continues to ensure the ongoing consolidation of the Council's financial position.

Summary

The Financial Statements were submitted to the Office of Local Government (OLG) on the 30th September 2020.

Copies of the Audited Financial Statements will be available at the meeting, and are available for viewing by the public via the Council web page www.bourke.nsw.gov.au at Council Office and the Bourke Public Library.

Section 420 of the Local Government Act stipulates that Council must allow a period of 7 days after accepting the Financial Statements for the public to make written submissions on the audited Financial Reports and/or the Auditors Report. Any submissions are referred to Council's Auditors for further comment as required.

The Council reports having met with Mr Manuel Moncada of the Audit Office of New South Wales and Mr Brett Hangar of Nexia Australia, via audio-visual means, to discuss the 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Reports

Resolution 2020/356

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That Council adopts the 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

15.4 * 2020/2021 ADOPTED FEES & CHARGES**

File Number: F1.1
Author: Brian Tickle, Acting Manager of Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Council's Delivery Programme 2017/2021 and Operational Plan for 2020/2021 (Resolution 172/2020 and the making of Rates and Charges for 2020/2021 (Resolution 177/2020) were adopted on 25 May 2020. The hire fee for the Bourke Community Centre was not included at this time.

Current Situation

The upgrade to the Bourke Community Centre are now completed. A new fee to hire the facility is now required. Users will be expected to pay for the hire of the facility to assist in the ongoing upkeep and operational costs including electricity.

It is proposed that a fee of \$50.00 per day is charged.

Financial Implications

The fee of \$50.00 per hiring of the Bourke Community Centre will assist in the upkeep to the facility.

Resolution 2020/357

Moved: Cr Victor Bartley

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

- 1. That the fee for hire of the Bourke Community Centre be proposed at \$50.00.**
- 2. That the proposed fee be advertised for a period of 28 days and that the matter be referred back to Council setting out details of any objections.**

Carried

In Favour: Crs Barry Hollman, Victor Bartley, Lachlan Ford, Ian Cole, Cec Dorrington, Sarah Barton, Sam Rice and Sally Davis

Against: Crs Robert Stutsel and John Thompson

Carried 8/2

16 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

17 TOURISM & EVENTS

Nil

18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Nil

19 POLICIES

Nil

At this juncture, the time being 9.54am Cr Robert Stutsel and Cr Ian Cole left the meeting and were out of sight during consideration of the matter having previously declared an interest in such matter.

20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

20.1 *** UNPUBLISHED CHANGES TO THE BARWON-DARLING WATER SHARING PLAN

File Number: R6.10

Author: Kai Howard-Oakman, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager

Attachments: 1. John Gordon - Unpublished Changes to the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan

Background

Council has received correspondence from John Gordon, West Mooculta, Bourke, in regards to changes to the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan.

Current Situation

Following is a detailed explanation from Mr Gordon and also attached is a letter that was requested to be tabled at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

It has come to light.... that there have been unpublished changes to the 2012 Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan. These policy changes have been executed without any community consultation which I find extremely concerning given the blood offered up by the Bourke community during the delivery of the 2006 Cap Management Strategy.

The ability to execute the "heads of Agreement" Interim Transfer Rules was principal in my family's acceptance to the new Cap Licence conditions that the Bourke Shire, along with several Bourke irrigators, were signature to. The capacity to temporary trade my family's new water account went some way in providing comfort from the loss of 71% loss of licence volume. The promise of unrestricted trade on account volume, and the river sections it could be traded to, was what would hopefully create a vigorous and productive water market. Unfortunately, this very policy mechanism is still being altered long after the Barwon-Darling WSP commenced.

On the 27th of June 2018, BDWSP policy clauses were changed without any community consultation. At the commencement of the BDWSP (4/10/2012), clause 42 allowed you to take 3x the share component, plus the net amount of any water allocations assigned to, or, from the water allocation account. Therefore, I would have been able to pump 3x the share component, plus trade the balance of my water account out. Then on the 27/6/2018 version, clause 42 was changed to say water taken and assigned under section 71T, plus the net amount of any water allocations assigned to the water allocation account. This now means that I can now only pump/trade 3x the share component, plus any water I may have traded in that water year.

In summary, prior to the clause 42 amendment, there was no limit to the amount of allocation that could be traded, or the river section it could be traded too. The new amendment in policy now considers Trade as Use, and I cannot breach my 300% of share component. This amendment has now left my carry over account water asset stranded, untradeable and worthless!

I was made aware from separate communication with NSW Regulation staff in March this year that they too were uninformed of the policy change and only become aware once trades were being refused on the basis of the implementation of the NEW rules. Undoubtedly, this rule change impacts all Licences, and corresponding classes, across the entire Barwon-Darling.

Prior to the amendments to clause 42, the BDWSP trading rules mirrored the 'Heads Of Agreement' Interim Water Transfer Rules. I believe this is clear evidence that clause 42 is in direct violation of the outcomes promised through the CAP delivery process. Not only must water now be traded within specific sections of the river, the volume is limited to 3 x the share component. By my analysis, which has been affirmed by NSW Water staff, it would take 840 years for me to temporary trade the balance of water account. An absurd and impossible outcome! The very same water that was considered high value under the 2006 Cap Strategy, 2009 Basin Tender Recovery and the 2014 Sustaining the Basin Irrigated Farm Modernisation Project, is now viewed worthless on the open market.

I have also brought this alarming policy amendment, and resulting negative impacts on licence holders, to the attention of several Politian's and government bureaucrats. These being,

- 1. Mr Keelty, Interim Inspector-General of the Murray-Darling Basin Water Resources (reply pending).*
- 2. Mr Bentley, Deputy Secretary-Water (reply pending).*
- 3. Senator Tim Ayres, Labor Senator for NSW (currently has letter tabled before Mr Bentley).*
- 4. Roy Butler, Member for Barwon (reply pending).*

*....., however, I feel it would be absent of me not to keep you, along with the currently sitting council representatives, across these amendments and their severe impacts on the Bourke farming community. I believedeserves the very minimum standards of good governance by both the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. The very same standards that we must abide by for our farming business to remain sustainable and contribute to the Bourke community for many generations to come. The very standards of **Equitable Policy, Rigorous Review and Open Transparency** have been absent from the very beginning of the CAP Strategy era and have undesirably created well documented severe socio-economic impacts on our family business and supporting Bourke community.*

If I can support you with any further information around these amendments please feel comfortable to contact me any time.

Recommendation

That Council note the information regarding the Unpublished Changes to the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan.

Resolution 2020/358

Moved: Cr John Thompson

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

- 1. That Council note the information regarding the Unpublished Changes to the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan**
- 2. That the letter received from Mr Gordon be forwarded to the Minister for Water, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP, seeking her advice as to why there has been this apparent change to the Water Sharing Plan with little or no consultation.**

Carried

19/10/2020

RE: Unpublished Changes to the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan

Dear Leonie and current Bourke Councillors,

As always, with Barwon Darling water, there have been additional developments since the lifting of the pumping embargo on the 6th of March this year on the Darling River. These NEW developments have stifled water trading markets and their potential to benefit struggling river communities. This very situation runs asynchronous to the NSW premier Ms Berejiklian comments earlier this year that "Bourke might be outback back is always at her party's front of mind"..

Notwithstanding the well published faults of the Barwon Darling Water Sharing Plan (BDWSP) creation, and its severe impacts on family units and collective farming operations, it has now come to light that NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) have implanted policy changes to the BDWSP without licence holder and/or community consultation. It is now evident trading rules have been changed along the Barwon Darling which will again have overwhelming impacts on farming operations and consequently again threaten small business survival. Unbelievably, even NSW Water Regulation Officers were not made aware of the changes to the BDWSP trading rules until they were instructed by DPIE, that trades between river sections were now not permissible. Most people in NSW would be acutely aware small irrigators suffered severely from the implementation of the 2006 CAP Management Strategy and its corresponding lack of development of trading rule required for the new water program to work. These impacts, without compensation, were ruthless on small family farms financial survival during the millennium drought. A drought that was extremely difficult as Darling River residents witnessed many of their irrigation peers lose their businesses and unfortunately exit their small river communities forever. The one dim light shining out of this devastation was that under the 2012 BDWSP all licence holders were promised they would have access to a free water trading system that would span the full length of the Barwon Darling River management zone. A promise that was broken within the current Water sharing Plan period of operation and executed before any plan review was completed.

The new clause(s) now placed in the BDWSP have left water assets, including ALL licence classes and their carry over accounts, devalued and stranded in various river sections. It had been reported by DPIE to the NSW water regulation staff in Dubbo these new clause(s) were a direct result of the 4 Corners episode "PUMPED". The interviewed regulation officer thought the new clause(s) were developed to restrict one particular licence holder from trading in water to reconcile his over pumping of allocation.

This state of affairs is extremely alarming as DPIE now instruct policy changes without any consultation, with the singular arrogance of covering up a WSP that was poorly established and delivered on the run. It was identified to both State and Federal Government officials on numerous occasions that the Barwon Darling CAP Management Strategy/2012 WSP failed the licence holders it stole water from and consequently left the communities they operated in to wither on the proverbial vine!

Again, it now appears that when the DPIE math does not add up, the difference is stripped from the water licence holders without consideration and/or compensation to them as individuals, their employees and their rural communities.

The present anxiety is that with Barwon Darling licences now being overseen by NSW Water, DPIE, NRAR, NSW Water Ministry and the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the river extraction history is being falsely rewritten. It is absolutely abhorrent that a water authority figure like the DPIE could

make changes to the BDWSP trading rules given the blood already spilt by licence holders and their communities during the development of the CAP management strategy. A strategy developed by none other than the NSW Department of Natural Resources which was rebadged as DPIE under the current government. It is no wonder that with five organisations now involved in river management the overall picture becomes distorted and the grass root river communities are once again left to inhale the toxic bureaucratic hot air that now drifts throughout the river system.

Could you imagine the uproar if a livestock producer was ordered to only sell his product between the physical boundaries of Brewarrina to Bourke? It's absolutely ludicrous...however, this very situation is accepted as water policy under the current BDWSP. Even if these newly developed rules are immediately abolished and replaced with the CAP Strategy ones, licence holders have now missed the opportunity to market carry over water to active licence holders operating outside of their river section. The very opportunity which in the past has allowed small farming operations to combat the continual challenge of climate change and remain active contributors in their river communities.

Sincerely,
John Gordon
West Mooculta, Bourke
NSW, 2840.

21 Activity Reports

At 10:03 am, Cr Ian Cole and Cr Robert Stutsel returned to the meeting.

21.1 ENGINEERING SERVICES ROAD WORKS & WORKSHOP - WORKS COMPLETED

File Number: E7.1
Author: Mark Gordon, Manager Roads
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The following information outlines works completed from the 16th of September to 15th October 2020 inclusive.

Current Situation

Road Works - Chris Morrall – Roads Supervisor	
1. NORTH SECTOR – Denis Tiffen, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
RLR 38 Turra Road	Grading completed
RLR 27 Burrawantie	Grading completed
MR 405 Wanaaring Road	Bitumen construction Romani to Wangamana commenced
MR 404 Hungerford Road	Top grade commenced
RLR 28 Janbeth Road	Grade completed
2. SOUTH SECTOR - John Reed, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
MR 405 Wanaaring Road	Bitumen construction Romani to Wangamana commenced
3. TRANSPORT SECTOR - Simon Wielinga, Team Leader	
MR 405 Wanaaring Road	Bitumen construction Romani to Wangamana commenced
4 BITUMEN SECTOR - John Bartley, Team Leader	
Bourke Township	Patching undertaken
Regional roads	Patching undertaken
State Highways	Patching undertaken
State Highways	Slashing Continuing

WORKSHOP – Brett Johnson, Acting Team Leader Tradesman Plant Mechanic			
Plant No	Rego	Description	Work Carried Out
37	AJ01DM	Isuzu 500 Long	Replace torque rod bushes, replace LH and RH front mud and inner guards, replace all mirrors, replace front brake and bearings, adjust bearings and brakes
40	CP40FZ	Isuzu NHNQR	Service carried out, carried out repairs, rego check
44	YII29T	Mazda BT 50	Service carried out
46	BX92HR	2013 Hino FC 500	Service carried out, replaced shocks, fit new roller tarp, manufacture new mud guard
49	CL84LV	Hino Tipper	Repair lights
50	CL16AC	Kenworth	Repair leak on PTO, remove o-rings, top up hydraulic oil, repair wiring and lights, replace some clearance lights and reflectors, replace all drive axle brake shoes, replace torque rod bushes, clean light lenses
51	YII29U	Mazda BT 50	Service carried out, straightened bar and tightened bolts
57	CC20UJ	2015 Hino	Service carried out, diagnose problem with back door not sealing, found door locks needed adjusting, rebuild middle broom, hydraulic oil leak, diagnose hydraulic leak found 2 blown hoses, remove water tank
58	J-43704		Service carried out
68	X50802	2011 Moore	Have trailer fully repaired at Express Trailers in Dubbo, rego check, replace torque rod bushes and bolts, replace broken leaf spring and u bolts, repair wiring for lights and replace mud flaps
69	X50803	2011 Moore	Replace axle, RH leaf spring and u bolts, repair and replace clearance lights reflectors, replace mud flaps, replace rocker box torque rod bushes and bolts
92	CA52JC	2014 Western Star	Replace rego plate, engine light on, connect lap top clear code repair, ad-blue injector leaking, repair lights, repair air inlets, repair hydraulic leaks, repair diff leak, replace turn table bushes
93	CE53WX	Colorado	Repair Anderson plug wiring, remove and replace front and rear shocks, remove and replace idler arm on steering, replace front tyres, repair air conditioner vent in rear of cab
97	YUB437	Isuzu	Diagnose lack of power and engine light, on found dirty fuel filter, replace all shocks, replace torque rod bushes
108	63723-D	Toro	Repair pins in deck lift arm, replace steering hose
114	N-37716	Freightliner	Adjust brake and repair lights
118	M-73815	2000 Holland	Adjust brake and repair lights
119	M-73810	2000 Holland	Adjust brake and repair lights, carry out welding repairs
125	YJ028X	Mazda BT 50	Service carried out, fit Anderson plug
132	CP22CH	John Deere	Service carried out, Removed and replace hydraulic fan hoses
134	94196-D	John Deere	Service carried out. Remove and replace articulation hydraulic hoses and fittings
137	DH91BK	2010 Volvo Grader	Replaced belts

139	BR53WH	Caterpillar 950H	Service carried out, seat slowly going down, replace compressor and seat kit
141	XN84BW	John Deere	Service carried out, remove and replace hydraulic fan hoses and fittings
148	TC60FS	Dolly	Replace brake shoes and weld cracks up
149	TC61FS	Moore Tri Axle Tipper	Replace tarps, replace brake, weld damaged chassis up replace bearings
170	CS74ZN	Holden Colorado	Service carried out
172	CL38AZ	Isuzu 1500	Replace all shocks, repair lights, adjust ride height wiring blower, replace drive tyres
178	CO73PY	Isuzu	Service carried out, replace shocks and radiator brackets, repair leak in gear box
181	CV24HL	Mitsubishi Triton	Service carried out
218	BR67WH	2012 Hino	Replace wiring loom on pick up arm, replace roller on pick up arm
232	N-92511	Homemade fuel trailer	Adjust brake and repair lights, replace reflectors, weld up cracks
239	TB85BR	Tri Axle Tanker	Replace brake shoes, replace bushes and rocker box bushes, clean and adjust bearings
260	CT96NB	Mazda BT 50	Service carried out
404	CI35TV	Isuzu Short 500	Service carried out
406	TF03PJ	GENSET	Service carried out
410	CS64ZN	Holden Colorado	Service carried out, diagnose noise under car- found a rock in exhaust shield
505	XN17EH	Kenworth	Service carried out
506	XN65HG	Kenworth	Replace guard on exhaust, repair grill, replace rear trailer arm rubbers
511	73229-D	Smooth Drum Roller	Flat batteries- remove batteries and charge
520	YN03BI	Moore's	Check over, grease and adjust brakes
521	YN04BI	Moore's	Tarp worn and not working, repair tarp and cables, check over, grease and adjust brakes
522	YN05BI	Moore's	Brakes seized, dismantle, clean and reassemble, weld up back mud guard, repair wiring
Staff Training		Nil	

Resolution 2020/359**Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford****Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton**

That Council note the information in the Engineering Services Department Road Works and Workshop Activity Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

21.2 PARKS & GARDENS / TOWN SERVICES / WATER & WASTEWATER ENGINEERING SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT
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File Number: E7.1
Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The following information outlines works completed from the 17/9/2020 to 13/10/2020 inclusive.

Current Situation

PARKS & GARDENS – Terry Rankmore, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
General	All parks & sporting grounds gardens, regular mowing & maintenance carried out Sporting grounds facilities cleaned & maintained Public toilets cleaned & maintained Clean facilities General graffiti removal carried out on Council facilities
Small Plant	Maintenance & service carried out on all ground plant
Works Requests	Actioned & ongoing
1 Tudor St	General maintenance carried out
Wharf	General maintenance carried out
Renshaw Complex	Grounds, facilities cleaned & maintained
Coolican Oval	General maintenance carried out
Davidson Oval	General maintenance carried out Commencement of junior cricket
Central Park	Skate Park - regular mowing & maintenance carried out, graffiti removal NAIDOC celebrations
Darling Park	NAIDOC celebrations
Villages	Mow grounds, facilities cleaned & maintained
Airport	Mowed airstrip
Staff Training	Nil
Location	Work Carried Out

TOWN SERVICES – Troy Hayman, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Actioned & ongoing
	Weekly sand footpaths
	Weekly Town mowing
	Main Street Project, daily jobs
	Relieving Staff in garbage truck
	Daily-Main street programme
	Daily airport Inspections
	Monthly airport inspections Louth & Wanaaring
	Mowing North Bourke and Tancred Drive
Cemetery	Prepare graves:- 10/9/2020 and 18/9/2020
Rest Areas	Weekly rubbish removal & cleaning along road side, removed burnt out car
	Mow & poison Sydney Road rest areas
Staff Training	Dogging and Crane
General	Crane St Ignatius School to move container
	Collect old tables from Exhibition Centre and deliver to depot
	Deliver roll of conduit to Exhibition Centre
	Crane to waterworks
	Patch holes id driveway in Adelaide Street
	Roller to Pool
	Remove tree from Sturt/Mitchell Street, replace with new tree
	Erect new signage at Davidson Oval and Waters Park
	Erect new post for new entry to Davidson Oval
	Prune trees in Coomah Street
	Erect new light poles in main street
	Remove dirt from pool
	Deliver crusher dust to pool
	Deliver soft fall to Louth Park and Public School
	Take fire truck to water works and clean out tank
	Spread more gravel at boat ramp
	Deliver tractor to Louth to mow Airstrip
	Pick up power poles from Essential Energy and take to Jandra site North Bourke
	Dug out hole in main street, fill with gravel for bitumen gang to patch
	Remove dead trees from Wortumertie Street
	Pick up rubbish along fence line North Bourke Road
	Deliver crusher dust to Renshaw Complex for plumbers
	Deliver sand for NAIDOC celebrations to 2cuz
	Crane to Exhibition Centre to erect rock into place
	Pick up pipe from Exhibition Centre
	Pick up gear community hall and take back
	Gravel holes in Anson Street water tower
	Deliver sand to Darling park fop NAIDOC celebrations
	Deliver sand to Exhibition Centre
	Deliver crusher dust to Exhibition Centre

Water & Wastewater – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance for 2020	
76 Short Street	Sewer Choke
2 Harris Street	Sewer Choke
19 Wortumertie Street	Sewer Choke
11 Hope Street	Sewer Choke
17 Sturt Street	Sewer Choke
1 Tudor Street	Sewer Choke
26 Green Street	Sewer Choke
1 Cullie Street	Sewer Choke
150 Meadows Road	Sewer Choke
70 Short Street	Sewer Choke Dug 100 raw water main and repair main
Back O' Bourke Centre	Sewer Choke Install storm water pipe at new shed location Dug 40mm raw water main and repair main
65 Mitchell Street	Repair leaking 20mm filtered water service
5 High Street	Repair leaking 20mm filtered water service
10 Hope Street	Repair leaking 20mm filtered water service
6 Culgoa Street	Repair leaking 20mm filtered water service
10 Darling Street	Repair leaking 20mm filtered water service
100 Hope Street	Repair leaking 20mm filtered water service
Airport	Repair 20mm filtered and 50mm raw water services
5 Yanda Street	Dug 5mm filtered water main and repair main
52 Short Street	Dug 50mm filtered water main and repair service
20 Tudor Street	Dug 50mm filtered water main and repair service
38 Green Street	Dug 100mm filtered water main and repair service
5 Adelaide Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repair main
Pool	Repair 50mm sprinkler line
Renshaw Complex	Locate power and water for sprinkler system
Water Meters	Reading and replacements
Water Treatment Plant	Drain and clean filtered water tower, install new 250mm valve Drain and clean raw water tower, install 300mm valve for new water treatment plant
Alice Edwards Village	Routine Maintenance & Monitoring as per ACP Management Plan
Clara Hart Village	Routine Maintenance & Monitoring as per ACP Management Plan
Training	Nil

Treatment Plant EPA Licence Compliance

Record of Effluent Analysis

Pollutant	Unit Of Measure	Licence 100 Percentile Concentration Limit	Aug 2020 TEST	Sep 2020 TEST	Oct 2020 TEST	Nov 2020 TEST	Dec 2020 TEST
Oil & Grease	<i>mg/L</i>	10	<2	<2			
pH		6.5-8.5	9.25	9.71			
Nitrogen (total)	<i>mg/L</i>	15	8.2	3.7			
Phosphorus (total)	<i>mg/L</i>	10	3.21	2.9			
Total suspended solids	<i>mg/L</i>	20	66	9			
Biochemical oxygen demand	<i>mg/L</i>	15	8	4			

Council notes the provisions of clause L2.5 (a) and (b) of its licence conditions of a chlorophyll exemption due to algal growth, which also exempts the above exceedances.

- Rainfall in Bourke for September 2020 was 16.6 mm
- Hottest day for September 2020 was 33.1 degrees
- Coldest day for September 2020 3.6 degrees

Resolution 2020/360

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr John Thompson

That Council note the information in the Engineering Services Department Activity Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

21.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: D3.1-A11.1-A8.1
Author: Dwayne Willoughby, Manager Environmental Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Activity report from the Department of Environmental Services, which includes Developments Approved, Building Services and Animal Control for the month of September 2020.

Current Situation

Development Approvals			
Delegated Authority or Council	Consent Type & Consent No.	Subject Land	Nature of Development
Delegated	DA 2021/0005	Aubrey Street Fords Bridge	Installation of Tourist Attraction (Big Yabby)
Delegated	DA 2021/0003	49 Moculta Street Bourke	Construction of Shed

Total value of Approved works for September 2020	= \$80,000
No. of Development Application Approvals for September 2020	= 2
No. of Complying Development Application Approvals for September 2020	= 0

Building Services Report	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Actioned
Risk Assessments	Completed with every job
Training	Nil
Office	Monthly check and test Emergency Generator
Contractors	Maintenance works completed as required Upgrade works completed as per Operational Plan
Buildings	Maintenance works completed as required
Grants	Sewer/Pump Shed – Renshaw Completed Commenced Toilets – Renshaw Commenced Irrigation System – Renshaw Commenced Shower Renovations – Renshaw

Animal Control		
Bourke Shire Council Holding Facility	Dogs	Cats
Animals in Pound beginning of Month	5	0
Seized	1	1
Surrendered	3	0
Dumped	0	0
Total	9	1
Euthanased	2	1
Returned to Owner	0	0
Released from Pound	0	0
Re-housed	5	0
Died in Pound	0	0
Escaped from Pound	0	0
Animals Remaining at End of Month	2	0
Total	9	1
Stock Rested in Stock Yards	518	

- Attended complaints in regards to dogs causing trouble to the general public
- Ongoing patrols of the township enforcing the Companion Animal Act
- Water sampling for the township, villages and Darling river
- Patrols of Council's Reserves

Resolution 2020/361

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the information in the Environmental Services Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020 be received and noted.

Carried

21.4 GENERAL MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: G1.1
Author: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Activities carried out by the General Manager since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 28 September 2020.

1 October 2020**BOURKE SHIRE MAYORAL ELECTION:**

The elections for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bourke Shire were held in conjunction with the Council meeting of 28th September 2020 which resulted in Councillor Barry Hollman being re-elected as Mayor for a fifth term and Councillor Lachlan Ford being re-elected Deputy Mayor for a similar period. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the general election to elect a new Council has been deferred until September 2021. Barry and Lachlan's term as Mayor and Deputy respectively is for the 12-month period ending September 2021, when the new Council is ultimately elected.

MAYORAL ELECTIONS IN SURROUNDING COUNCIL'S:

In the Mayoral elections for surrounding Shires, I note that Councillor Lillian Brady has been re-elected as Mayor of Cobar for another twelve months with Peter Abbott returned as her Deputy. Councillor Ray Donald was also returned in Bogan Shire as was Councillor Glen Neil in the role of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Phillip O'Connor was returned at Brewarrina Shire; however, Brewarrina have a new Deputy Mayor in Councillor Vivian Slack-Smith.

At Walgett Shire, Councillor Ian Woodcock has replaced Manuel Martinez as Mayor with Councillor Martinez now Deputy Mayor replacing Councillor Woodcock in that role.

FLOW IN THE RIVER:

The flow in the river remains good with the river at 4.12 metres as at last weekend.

There is a Green alert for Blue-green algae at the Bourke Boat Ramp.

The advices in relation to Blue-Green Algae provide the following information in relation to a GREEN ALERT:

Blue-green algae occur naturally at low numbers. At these concentrations, algae would not normally be visible, however some species may affect taste and odour of water even at low numbers and does not pose any problems for recreational, stock or household use.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Council's Auditor will present its Audit Report to Council at the October Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 26th October 2020.

Council is again expecting a positive audit report with Council meeting or exceeding most benchmarks with the exception of those relating to own-source revenue and the level of outstanding rates.

Bourke Shire Council has always experienced a higher than industry average in respect of its outstanding rates and charges. In addition, and like many Council's in rural New South Wales, Bourke Shire has a high reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions and as such finds it extremely difficult in meeting the benchmark of 60% as identified by the Audit Office. This ratio has also been impacted by the fact that Council has been successful in attracting a high level of grant funding over the past five years, with such funding being obviously welcome.

EXTENSION OF COVID-19 LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EMERGENCY MEASURES) BILL 2020):

The NSW government has retained COVID-19 legislative amendments (as per the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020) and emergency orders until 25 March 2021, which will continue to influence essential services delivered by Council's.

- The Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 amendments allow councillors and staff to continue to attend meetings by audio-visual links. Council and committee meetings that exclude the public must be livestreamed and those that include the public must permit four square metres of space for each person attending.
- The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces also retains Planning powers that include the power to make an order for development to be carried out without the normal planning approval. Changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 relate to construction work, temporary cycle ways, flexibility for food trucks and dark kitchens, retail trading operating hours including 24-hour delivery and waste removal, home businesses, public inspection of planning documents and timing of infrastructure contributions payments have been extended.

The extension of the period of the Bill is a very good indication that the impact from the pandemic are far from over and that all communities should maintain vigilance to reduce the possibility of the spread.

ROADWORKS:

Another 6kms of seal was applied on the Wanaaring Road last week, with another 6kms anticipated to be ready for seal in another two (2) weeks.

Graders are making their way across from Enngonia to Yantabulla with the plan being to grade Hungerford to Bourke Road in the coming weeks, followed by the roads around Fords Bridge which will be getting a maintenance grade.

The wonderful rain event the weekend before last, whilst extremely welcome, necessitated the closure of all unsealed roads with the Shire.

For most of our road users, the need for road closures is readily understood and they work around it, knowing that the council will re-open all roads as soon as staff can inspect the roads and deem the impacted road(s) in question safe for all to use. With Council being responsible for just under 2000kms of unsealed road, it takes time to cover such a large network and make an informed decision on the condition of the roads.

Unfortunately, some of the road users either don't understand or don't care if the road is open or not irrespective of the amount of rain. When vehicles travel on wet roads they can cause considerable damage, which not only makes the road unsafe until the council can repair the damage but also incurs a considerable cost.

This has a flow-on effect to the limited unsealed road maintenance budget, so some road might may miss out on routine maintenance or repairs that are needed simply because of the selfish attitude of a few people.

The damage to the road surface is magnified by heavy vehicles and those utilising four-wheel drive.

DAVIDSON AND COOLICAN OVAL FENCING:

Work has been finalised on the fencing around Coolican Oval and by the time this column goes to print the fence around Davidson Oval will also be completed.

The Contractors from Tamworth are certainly efficient and have done a good job in a very short timeframe.

The new fencing provides both additional security for the Oval Complex as well as enhancing the visual appearance of the number one sporting complex within the town. These works complete the work planned for both ovals in the short term. The refurbishment of the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool in the same precinct, is now expected to be completed by mid December.

Funding was provided under the Stronger Country Communities program and Council is extremely grateful for the level of funding it has received under the program and the resultant benefits that have resulted across the shire area.

OCTOBER - A MONTH OF STAFF CHANGES:

There will be a number of staff changes at Bourke Shire over the next few weeks. Asset Management Officer, Charlotte Finch, is leaving Council and moving to South Australia. Matthew McCorkle, Council's Engineering Technical Officer is leaving the Organisation to join the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. I thank each of these staff members for their contribution to Council and the community and wish them well for their future endeavours. I will be retiring from Council on 12th October 2020 with this being my penultimate column.

TREE PRUNING BY ESSENTIAL ENERGY:

Essential Energy will commence the pruning of tress under power lines in Bourke this week. In their advices to Council, Essential Energy have indicated that they utilise directional pruning techniques that remove branches growing towards a power line and encourage re-growth away from the power network.

Whilst this can affect visual amenity, these techniques are considered best practice through the arboriculture industry and are used by most power companies in Australia.

The visual amenity in Bourke has been disrupted by this technique in the past and unfortunately there is no guarantee that this won't be the case with this round of pruning.

Notwithstanding this reality, a meeting between Council officers and Essential Energy and their contractor was held earlier in the week, prior to commencement, to ensure all parties are on the same page and have similar levels of understanding on what the finished job will look like.

The convening of the meeting was seen as a positive move and will hopefully result in the pruning works not attracting the same level of adverse comment which has previously occurred.

Essential Energy notes that trees coming into contact with overhead power lines pose serious hazards to people, wildlife and the surrounding environment, with the potential for bushfires, damage to property, injury and unplanned power outages.

SPORT AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION FORUM:

Last Thursday night Mark Horton, Regional Coordinator – Western, NSW Office of Sport facilitated a meeting involving representatives of sporting groups within Bourke and District to look at ways in which to improve, volunteering experience, and streamlining administration of the sporting groups, including increasing the number of Active Kids Vouchers accessed in the Shire, noting that the State Government provides all students with \$100 dollar voucher twice a year to assist with registration fees, an amount equalling \$98,000 for the Bourke Shire LGA if all vouchers are redeemed.

In addition to Mark, the Office of Sport was also represented by Ronnie Gibbs well known ex Bourke resident and frequent visitor to Bourke as well as Murray Newham, Project Officer – Far West and Kris Stevens, Administration Officer - Far West, being the whole team.

During two (2) forums held in 2017, a priority listing for the improvements of sporting facilities in the Shire was established and as previously reported most of these have been achieved or are in the process of construction which includes the pool. There were nearly 40 people present at the meeting and all acknowledged the improvement the sporting and recreational facilities within the Shire since that final meeting in 2017 including:-

- War Memorial Pool Upgrade
- New Lighting at both Coolican and Davison Oval
- New Fencing around the sporting Complex including the Pool, PCYC, Davidson and Coolican Ovals
- New Canteen facilities at Davidson Oval
- New Toilets at Renshaw Oval
- New Watering System at Renshaw Oval
- New Fence around the Tennis Courts
- Toilets in Central Park
- New Cricket Pitch at North Bourke Oval
- Upgrade of the Bourke Community Centre
- The building of a spectator facility at Fords Bridge
- New Fencing around Louth Oval

The meetings in 2017 highlighted the need for improvement in the training of both administrators and coaches and this is the next phase of the overall improvement of sport in Bourke.

One of the solutions identified, at last week's meeting, was perhaps for a number of sport and recreation groups to come together under a single sport administration structure, with club

administrators, volunteers and players all gaining benefit from a more cost effective and streamlined arrangement.

For instance, if there are approx. 500 eligible children in Bourke to receive the \$200.00 per year for registration, that is \$98,000 annually that can be administered centrally and utilised by all sports, there are other avenues of funding also available. It may take some setting up, but it will be worth the effort.

COVID-19 Update:

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a tough year. With the relaxation of COVID rules more and more people are taking the opportunity to take a holiday to recharge. Already we are seeing high numbers of visitors to Bourke. These numbers are expected to increase with the school holidays.

Whether you are going away or welcoming friends and relatives, it's vital you keep doing what works to protect the community, so please stick to the rules. Remember to handwash and physically distance by staying 1.5m from others. If you're somewhere that makes it hard to stay 1.5m from others, wear a mask.

If you're feeling unwell, don't travel - stay home and get tested.

PROPOSED OPENING DATE OF POOL

The contractors are working as quickly as possible on the project and as previously advised we are looking to have the pool open in Mid- December.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins' championships".

Michael Jordan

15 October 2020

Ross Earl:

As regular readers of this column would be aware, last weeks "From the GM's Desk "column was Ross Earls last, with Ross retiring from Council this week after 8 years at the helm at Bourke Shire Council.

This week is my first column as Acting General Manager and I will be in this role until February 2021.

Ross's retirement from full time employment is the culmination of a 44-year association with Local Government in NSW which commenced in February 1976 when he took up a role as Administrative Clerk at Murrumbidgee Shire Council in Darlington Point in south west NSW.

During his career, Ross held positions at eight (8) General Purpose Council's and one (1) County Council, that being the Cudgegong (Abattoir) County Council. He also provided consultancy services to various Council's for a period of seven (7) years from January 2000 until September 2007 in the areas of governance, Work, Health and Safety and administrative procedures and compliance.

Much was achieved by Ross during his time as General Manager at Bourke Shire Council. A quick snapshot of some of his successes as General Manager include:

- Lobbying and achieving funding to “drought proof” Bourke’s water supply such that the NSW Government funded the installation of a series of water bores and relating infrastructure and also funded the construction of a new \$12m Water Treatment Plant.
- Developing a strategic list of “shovel” ready projects to take advantage of significant levels of grant funding from State and Federal Governments.
- Sourcing funding for the redevelopment of the 50-metre pool at the Bourke War Memorial Olympic Pool.
- Following canvassing by Ross, the NSW Premier decided to hold what was ultimately a very successful Cabinet Meeting in Bourke; a first for a remote locality in the State.
- Achieving grant funding to undertake the reconstruction and sealing of important transport links, such as the Bourke-Wanaaring Road, that five (5) ago, the sealing of such roadways, were but a distant dream.
- Actively involved with government agencies in working towards better outcomes for the socially disadvantaged in Bourke.
- Actively involved in Local Government affairs in general whilst displaying a very strong knowledge of the industry that is Local Government and the important role it plays within respective communities.

Bourke Council at its meeting held on 28 September 2020 resolved that Ross be thanked for his outstanding contribution to Council during his term as General Manager and further, that Council wish both Ross and his wife Annette a long and happy retirement. I join with the Council in thanking Ross and wishing him and Annette all the very best for the future.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Council has been active in recent weeks advocating on behalf of the Bourke community, raising concerns at a Request for Tender (RFT) issued by the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) which invites the medical fraternity to submit a tender to provide Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) Services to varying Multipurpose Services, including the Bourke Multipurpose Service.

The tender provides for a minimum VMO coverage at the Bourke Service being on-site over five (5) days, from 8.00am – 6.00pm. Outside of this, tenderers have to identify how they will provide coverage, with the RFT stating that proposals ‘will be considered for virtual care service options in addition to the minimum on site/on call days’ ”.

The Mayor of Bourke, Councillor Barry Hollman, in a Media Release on the issue, noted that “should a tender for such minimum level of service be accepted, this would mean that for only five (5) days a week and for 10 hours of each of these days, a doctor would be available at the Bourke Multipurpose Service.” Mr Mayor further noted that “outside of these periods, being five (5) days a week 14 hours a day and 2 x 24-hour days, only a virtual doctor would be available to service what would generally be accident and emergency patients.”

If minimum service levels were to be enacted, face-to-face doctors would only be available 30% of a full week with the remaining 70% being a ‘virtual care service option. This is of great concern.

The Mayor has called on the Health Service to cancel the current tender process and to visit the various communities the subject of the tender and meet with residents and explain the issues and discuss the various options.

I will keep residents updated as to progress or otherwise in respect of this important of matters in future publications of this Column.

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND:

The October long weekend, the school holidays and the community's general ability to travel throughout NSW following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, has seen significant numbers of tourists having visited Bourke and surrounds in recent times. Council's road construction crews have commented on the number of caravan towing vehicles passing through the current roadworks on the Bourke-Wanaaring Rd. Closer to town, it is pleasing to see trips on the PV Jandra running at passenger capacity, caravan parks near full and the Back o' Bourke Centre being absolutely inundated with tourists each and every day. I say thank you to all involved in servicing tourists to Bourke for their positivity as they assist our visitors with their knowledge and enthusiasm. Tourism is such important industry in our community and the numbers in the past months remind us of this very clearly.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Ross spoke last week of the completion of the annual audit of Council's Annual Financial Statements for 2019/2020. Further to this, it is advised that the NSW Audit Office will present a summary of its Audit Report to Council at the Council meeting to be held on 26 October 2020. This report will be presented by audio-visual link.

At this point, it would appear that the Council Meeting will again be restricted to Councillors and staff only, due to COVID gathering restrictions. Members of the public are encouraged to join the meeting via the live streaming facility and hear from the Auditors in respect of Council's solid financial position.

BOURKE WAR MEMORIAL OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL:

Works continues on the Olympic pool upgrade to be completed for everyone use this summer. The Splash Pad at the Pool opened to the public on the weekend, numbers will be restricted as part of the Pools COVID Safety Plan. Details of the opening hours will be available on Facebook – go to the "Bourke Pool" page as hours may vary.

COUNCIL WORKING CLOSELY WITH ESSENTIAL ENERGY:

As previously advised, and as part of Essential Energy's regular program of tree trimming works, Essential Energy agreed to:

- Remove dead trees from under the power lines;
- Institute a programmed tree removal strategy involving both Essential Energy and Council, which has now commenced, including removing unsightly/unsuitable trees from under high voltage power lines; and
- Replaced trees removed with a suitable tree from Council's tree list.

Trees in Sturt St, at the corner of Sturt and Hope St and on the Mitchell Highway were identified for removal due to either being dead or being an unsuitable tree species under the power line with Essential Energy removing the tree and debris with Council then responsible for the removal of the tree stumps. Essential Energy have also agreed to assist in providing some suitable replacements.

LIBRARY HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The Library has recently been compiling information on those from Bourke who served in WWII. If you have any information that you are willing to share, please contact Jodi at the Library. A slideshow has been made for WWI, and this slideshow can be viewed by visiting the Library's Facebook page at bpl@bourkelibrary.com.au

The Library is most interested in adding material to their local historical collection. If you have any photos or documents in relation to the history of our town and district that, you are willing to share, contact the Library so that arrangements can be made for the copying of the items.

Murray-Darling Association:

The CEO of the Murray-Darling Association (MDA), Emma Bradbury, will be in Bourke on Monday, 19 and Tuesday, 20 October 2020 to meet with Council and community members. Ms. Bradbury will be touring the western regions of the Barwon Darling to discuss development of an agreed standard for community consultation, and a role for Local Government in Basin policy and decision-making processes.

Brendan Murphy, Director of Regional Engagement – Northern Basin with the Office of the Inspector-General MDB Water Resources, will also be in town with the MDA, and is also keen to meet with community members to discuss local and regional issues.

Community members wishing to meet with either Ms Bradbury or Mr Murphy are requested to contact the Association direct as follows: P: (03) 5480 3805 or E: e.bradbury@mda.asn.au

COVID-19:

We all probably heard that US President, Donald Trump, on his impending release last week from hospital where he was being treated for Coronavirus, had tweeted "Don't be afraid of COVID. Don't let it dominate your life". I would follow on from previous advice from Ross and again warn against complacency in respect of the virus.

Again, the best techniques to avoid the virus are:

- Practice 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
- Do not go to work, or go out, if you are unwell.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

I understand that readers enjoyed Ross's "Quote of the Week" so I will continue to do the same. This week I will provide a quote with Ross's departure from Council and Bourke in mind.

"So long, partner"
Toy story 3

22 October 2020HEALTH SERVICES TENDER:

Council has continued to make representations regarding proposals by the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) to potentially only provide an on-site doctor at the Bourke Multipurpose Service for only five (5) days a week from 8.00am-6.00pm. Interest in these proposals has increased significantly in recent times with the Sydney Morning Herald reporting that Bourke Mayor, Barry Hollman, “slammed the proposal as abhorrent.”

LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM:

In May 2020 the Australian Government announced a new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI Program).

Through the 2020–21 Budget, the Australian Government announced a \$1 billion extension of the LRCI Program, following strong community and local government support.

This program supports local Council’s to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am happy to advise that the 10 projects identified by Council in respect of its near \$1.2m allocation under this program have now been approved.

Some of the projects to be undertaken include an upgrade of both the Pool and Golf Club carparks; construction of a shelter shed to protect the historic railway scales at Bourke Railway Yards; the relocation to of the Information Board currently at Percy Hobson Park; and the replacement of the existing toilet facilities at Rotary Park with a modular building.

Further to these projects funding has also been provided for the purchase and planting of 100 advanced shade trees as per Council’s Tree Replacement Plan. Footpath improvements consistent with Council’s Disability Action Management Plan; the development of a Health and Wellbeing Facility at the Back O’ Bourke Park and also the construction of some 4kms of compressed granite pathway to improve pedestrian and cycleway access from Bourke to North Bourke.

These are all exciting projects for Bourke and Council thanks the Australian Government for their initiative in providing this important funding.

COVID-19:

Western NSW Local Health District held another COVID-19 pop up testing clinic in Bourke this week. Whilst this clinic has obviously moved on for now, should residents have a runny nose or scratchy throat, cough, fever or other symptoms that could be COVID-19, please stay at home and do not go to work and arrange to get a COVID -19 test. You can contact the Health Direct Helpline on 1800 022 222 (Free Call) and speak with registered nurses who are available 24 hours, 7 days a week. For the latest information on COVID-19 please visit the NSW Health COVID-19 website (www.health.nsw.gov.au). This website contains a significant amount of useful information on the COVID-19 issue.

CONSTRUCTION OF BOURKE'S NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Construction of Bourke's new Water Treatment Plant remains "on time" to be completed in late March 2021 and "on budget" with 50% of the \$10.5m construction budget for this important project having been expended to date.

Some features of the progress of construction follow:

- The new concrete clarifiers are now waiting for pipework to be joined to the filters;
- Construction of the control room for the plant has the concrete pad laid and the walls erected;
- Water from the old plant has been connected to the new plant in readiness for changeover;
- The desalination plant is ready to be incorporated into the build of the new treatment plant;
- All power has been laid into position; and
- The sludge ponds have been constructed.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WATER RESERVOIR:

As part of Council's overall water strategy, a new water reservoir to replace the existing reservoir located in Charles St, Bourke is to be constructed. Tenders for the design and construction to replace the Charles Street Reservoir have now been invited. Tenders will close in November 2020 with a view to construction being undertaken in 2021.

COLIN BUCHANAN IN BOURKE:

Former Bourke resident and Golden Guitar winner, Colin Buchanan, will present a concert at the Back O' Bourke Centre on Wednesday 28 October 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

Best known for his song writing and country music, Colin was previously also a regular presenter on ABC TV's Play School. In addition, for some 20 years he hosted QANTAS' in-flight audio entertainment, predominantly "Big Country", pioneering the guest co-host format eventually adopted across all QANTAS inflight audio channels.

It will be great to see Colin back in Bourke as he grabs his guitar and along with "Outback Historian – Paul Roe, you can sit around the campfire and hear the stories and sing along. Tickets are limited and available at the Back O' Centre or by calling 68721321.

COVID restrictions will be in place for this event.

BOURKE SHIRE SUPPORTS "SMALL BUSINESS MONTH":

Don't forget that October is "Small Businesses Month". Through the work of Michael McDowell and the Bourke Aboriginal Employment Prosperity Scheme, a seminar for local businesses will be held on Tuesday, 27 October 2020 at 5.30pm at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre to celebrate the month.

Mick has worked with Megan Dixon from Regional Development Australia-Orana (RDAO) in coordinating the seminar and has been connected with Gabriel Faponle from Findex Accountants in Dubbo, who will present the seminar.

Gabriel, who has over 14 years' experience in providing and overseeing financial accounting, internal audit, external audit, consulting and risk management services, will work with local

business owners and advise on how to make your superannuation work for you, not you working for your superannuation.

To register go to: www.businessmonth.nsw.gov.au/activity/building-better-business-in-bourke/

Alternatively contact Mick by email, aes@bourke.nsw.gov.au or by phone, 0428 892 210.

VISITOR ACTIVITY:

The month of September was a very busy period for visitors travelling to and through Bourke, with the influx of visitors coinciding with the school holiday period, the easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions and beautiful weather in Bourke during the month.

At the Back O' Bourke Centre, Council's Manager of Tourism & Events, Fran Carter, has advised that staff at the Centre happily attended to 3,325 visitors in September 2020. Whilst these numbers were slightly down on the number of visitors at the same time last year, when the numbers were 3601, interestingly tourism product sales were up 383%! This was off the back of the PV Jandra operating this year, as opposed to last year when the river was essentially dry, and a large increase in the number of visitors attending the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. Well done to all the staff at the Centre for their efforts during this busy period.

With passenger numbers on the Jandra currently reduced to 45 passengers per trip in line with the vessels COVID Safety Plan, the Jandra made 56 trips in September.

Tourism activity in Bourke and the far west will only continue to grow. With the sealing of the Broken Hill to Tibooburra road and the ongoing sealing of the Bourke to Innamincka road progressing, the vision for a sealed Nyngan/Bourke/Tibooburra/Broken Hill/Nyngan circuit is coming to fruition. The ability for tourists to access the outback and experience "corner country" via sealed roads will undoubtedly be of great benefit to Bourke.

Already, Council's road construction staff have commented on the number of vehicles and caravans using the Wanaaring Road as the caravanners head west.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING

Maranguka in Bourke last week delivered its third (3rd) "Cultural Competency" training session to officers from a range of NSW Government Departments.

Sponsored by Gary Barnes, the Secretary of the Department of Regional NSW and training forms part of his commitment as the NSW Government's champion for Maranguka.

This training consists of a day of classroom content and experiential on Country learning and a day of language immersion and On Country learning. Participants are required to complete both days as part of the overall training package.

The introduction of the training follows the successful delivery of the pilot Maranguka Cultural Competency training session held in Bourke in December last year for Government employees and the subsequent reporting back to the Central West Orana and Far West Regional Leadership Executive who have supported the project.

The training fills an important void in relation to ensuring that staff of all State Government organisations, servicing communities with a significant level of Aboriginal population are aware of

the cultural issues that may impact on service delivery to those communities. The training also brings to Bourke a number of people who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to visit in the past.

With all the training courses being delivered in Bourke, Council is also taking the opportunity to meet with relevant Departmental Offices in person to discuss issues relating to Bourke. Last week it was good to meet with Graham Attenborough, Executive Director, Water Programs and Services and Edward Couriel, Director, Manly Hydraulics Laboratory both from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. DPIE Water was of great assistance to Council during the drought, both in terms of funding and advice, and it was good to be able to acknowledge their contribution to these officers in person.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL

The next Ordinary Meeting of Bourke Shire Council will be held on Monday, 26 October 2020.

The meeting will again be conducted on a face to face basis with the public only being able to participate by following the meeting via a webcast. Councillors have the option not to attend in person but to participate remotely via an Audio-Visual link.

The restrictions on space and the need for social distancing have meant that some staff are also unable to attend in person. By also utilising the Audio – Visual platform, however, such staff are both able to follow the meeting and comment on any reports they may have submitted, as required.

RABBITOHS HEADING WEST:

I was interested to read that the South Sydney Rabbitohs will play a competition game in Dubbo's as part of the 2021 and 2022 seasons. Of all the teams in the NRL competition, I would suspect that the Rabbitohs have the largest following by fans who reside in the west of the State.

Whilst it has yet to be announced as to who the Rabbitohs will be playing, undoubtedly many rugby league followers from Bourke, or for the matter from across the western area, will make the trip to Dubbo to view the game.

AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS

At the September Ordinary Meeting of Council determined not to hold a Council meeting in January 2021 bringing this meeting forward to 14 December 2020. One of the major matters traditionally considered by Council in conjunction with its January meeting is the determination of the recipients of the Annual Australia Day Awards.

The Australia Day nominations will now need to be completed and sent to Council by 7 December 2020 and voting on the nominations will take place at a workshop after the December Council meeting.

This year's categories include:-

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (18 and under)
- Emergency Service Volunteer of the Year
- Shire Village Community Service
- Sportsman of the Year

- Young Sports person (18 and under)

Nominations are now open, details on how to nominate are available on Council's website or by calling into the Council Office at 29 Mitchell Street Bourke.

Please take the time to nominate someone and ensure that the unsung heroes within our community are recognised.

Don't say "someone" will nominate a person, be that "someone"!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default."

J. K. Rowling

Leonie Brown
Acting General Manager

Resolution 2020/362

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the information in the Acting General Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020 be noted.

Carried

21.5 MANAGER TOURISM & EVENTS - ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: T4.3

Author: Fran Carter, Manager Tourism & Events

Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager

Attachments: 1. September 2020 Statistics

Background

The Bourke Shire Council's Tourism and Events Manager's Activity Report provides Council with an updated status report for September, relating to its tourism teams activities through visual data including graphs and statistic to allow for the measurement of the team progress and performance.

Current Situation**General Activities September 2020****Outback Arts**

ART4AG is a photographic exhibition by amateur and professional photographers from around the region. It is an opportunity for people living in regional agricultural communities to celebrate their lifestyle as part of National Agriculture Day. The exhibition is currently on display in the Visitor Centre of the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre until the end of October.

School Holidays- Breeze into Bourke

The "Breeze into Bourke" campaign in the September school holidays targeted the VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) market and attracted well over 1500 people to an array of events over the two (2) weeks, around the shire. Partnering with Maranguka and PCYC on promoting the event the Spring School Holiday Program although limited by COVID-19 restrictions, was always a popular time of year with families and the activities that go with it.

Jandra Paddle Vessel

Over the two (2) weeks of the school holidays, although additional cruises were scheduled for the October long weekend, this needed to be extended into the following week to keep up with demand from visitors. Currently the boat is allowing with COVID restrictions a maximum capacity of 45 passengers. This will be reviewed if and when restrictions are lifted leading up to Christmas to allow for more private functions and tours of the river.

Variety Resurrection Run November 16 & 17

The "Variety Bash" has been operating since 1985 when Australian businessman, Dick Smith, had the idea of getting people he knew to drive weird and wonderful cars around the rougher roads of New South Wales to raise money for charity.

This year's event is a little different with the current restrictions in place for the COVID pandemic, and the organisers have decided to limit their numbers in order to stay within the government and venue restrictions. We are currently working with the organisers to assist with making their event run as smoothly as possible.

Business Capability Development Programme

In partnership with Destination Country and Outback NSW (DNCO) a live webinar for tourism operators in the Bourke hub will be delivered at the beginning of November.

This opportunity will ensure businesses in the region of Bourke, Brewarrina, Nyngan and Cobar have the right systems in place so consumers will be able to book online with them. Following the live webinar, 60 hours of support per business will be delivered to ensure continuity of the program. Businesses that take up this opportunity will also be able to easily integrate their platform into our new visit Bourke website.

Visitation Numbers

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan		448	560	325	326	302	348	386	782	1109
Feb		157	397	271	373	391	220	282	1043	386
Mar	810	570	1500	1051	1342	1612	1245	1274	1021	412
April	2507	2144	3103	3146	3849	3118	3114	4024	3166	COVID-19 0
May	2656	2891	3758	3988	4602	4073	3983	4770	3693	COVID-19 0
June	2952	3216	4492	4275	5437	5199	4754	5634	4490	993
July	4362	4643	5173	6241	6002	5941	5982	7614	6834	2570
Aug	4187	4162	4410	4793	5078	4951	5051	5548	4052	1898
Sept	4295	5074	4275	4764	4489	4532	4246	4676	3601	3325
Oct	2674	3067	2383	2486	2370	2475	2463	3574	2222	
Nov	1012	930	789	671	610	1031	876	1014	1220	
Dec	386	347	207	242	272	281	255	630	860	
Total	25841	27649	31044	32253	34750	33906	32537	39454	32984	

- Visitation to the centre for September 2020 was 3325 compared with 3601 September the previous year.
- The profile of the visitor for the month of September was predominately male and from NSW (98%)- for the obvious reason of COVID, as they would normally be travelling overseas. 58% are travelling as an adult couple for a holiday (75%). (65%) are staying at a Caravan Park for up to two (2) days (63%). 20% of these visitors are from the inner and coastal Sydney region.
- September 2019 the profile of the visitor were from VIC (31%) NSW (29%) and QLD (24%). (75%) were on a holiday (70%) were staying in a Caravan at a Caravan Park for up to two (2) days (57%).
- Noticeable differences between last year and this year; Last year we had drought, no river, no boat, visitation was up- spend was on average. This year we have COVID-19 restrictions, great season, river full and boat running- numbers slightly down on last year but spend is up by more than 283%
- Interesting to note that 10% of these visitors are travelling alone- equating to around 330 visitors
- Sales for September are up by **383% on September last year**
- Jandra Paddleboat tickets are up **59% this month**, it made 56 trips in September- Jandra was not running in September last year.
- Exhibition Centre tickets are up by **32% this month**
- Incoming calls to the centre are up by **just over 100% on last month.**

- Website enquiries are up **30% on last month**
- Mount Oxley tickets are up **about 30%**
- We had five (5) Function Centre bookings and one (1) private Jandra booking.
- Storage shed next to Function Centre has been completed.
- Back O' Bourke show tickets for September were **up by 300%**. The season has now finished for the year.

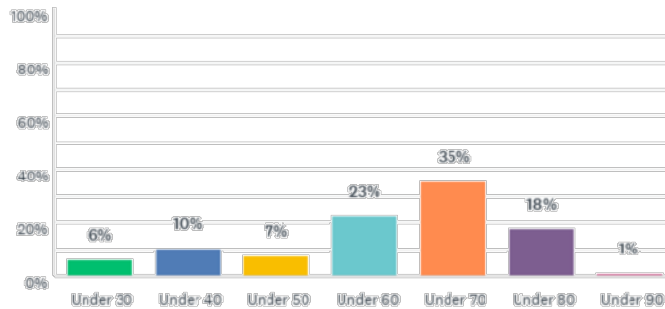
Resolution 2020/363**Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel****Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton**

That Council note the information in the Manager of Tourism & Events Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

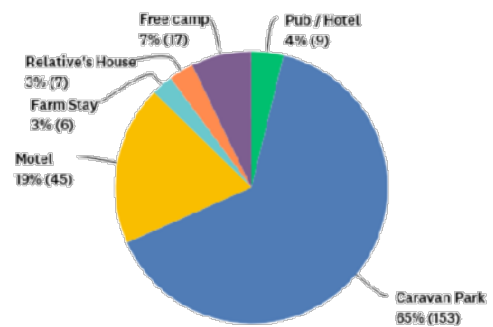
Carried

SEPTEMBER STATISTICS 2020

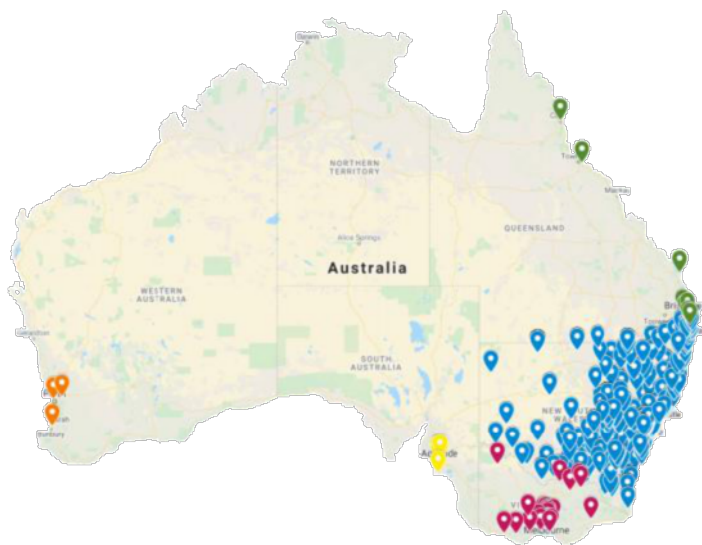
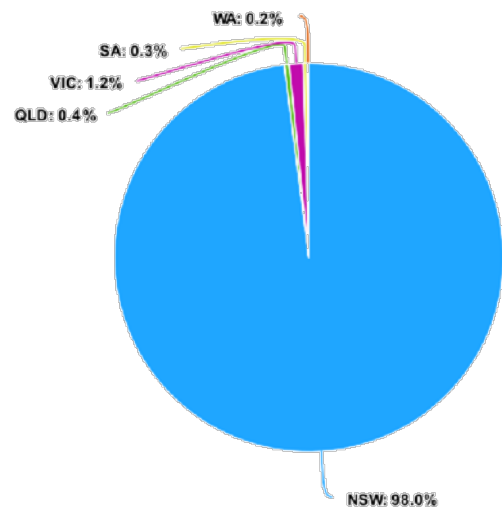
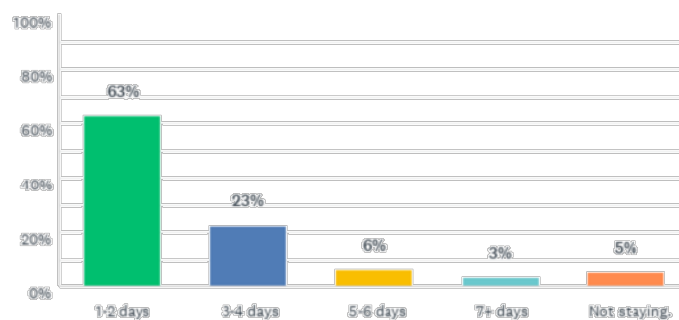
What is your age?



Style of accommodation?

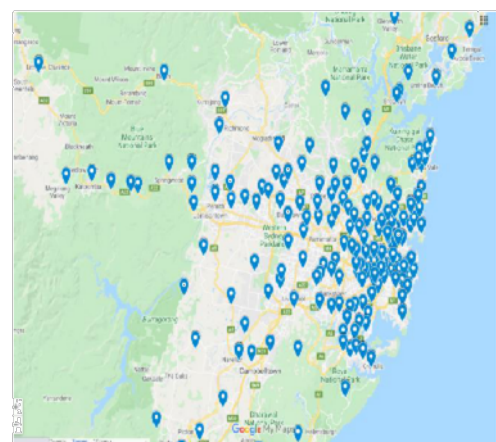


How long are you staying?

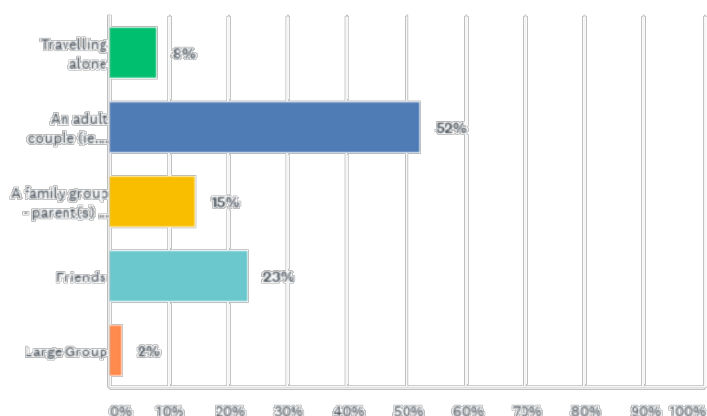


19.9% of NSW postcodes are from the Sydney Region.

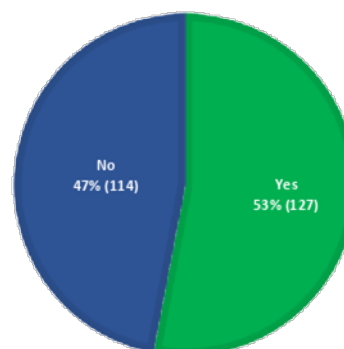
POSTCODES OF VISITORS



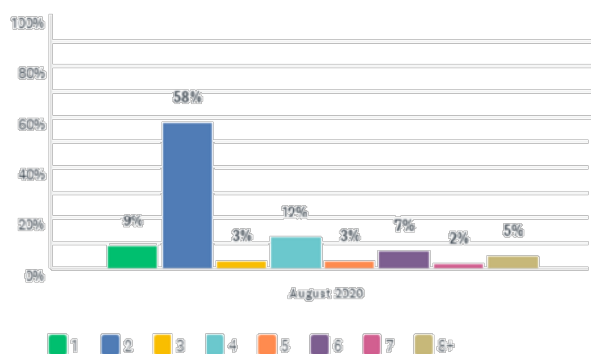
How would you describe your immediate travel party?



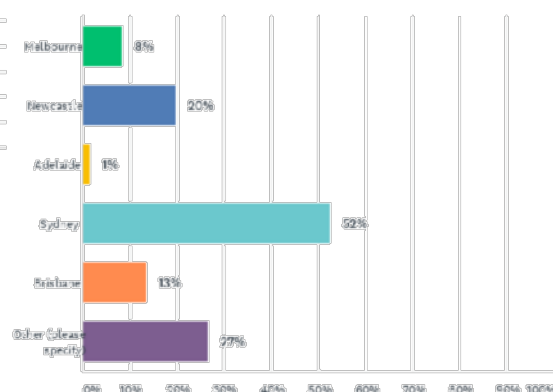
Have you been to a Caravan & Camping Show?



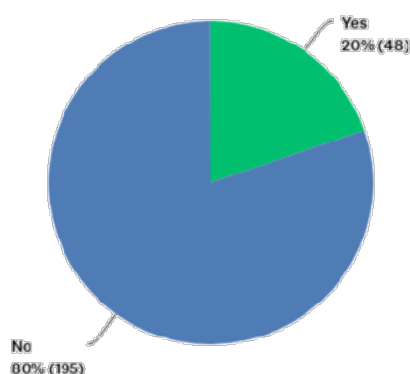
How many people are in your travel party?



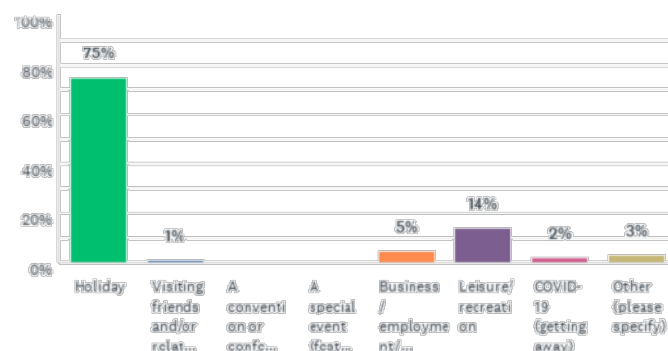
If yes, which show?



Have you been through the Back O' Bourke Centre before?



What is the main purpose of your trip?



21.6 MANAGER OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: S6.19.61
Author: David Perry, Manager of Community Engagement
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, Acting General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The Bourke Shire Council Community Engagement Report provides the Council with a status update on activities undertaken by the Manager since the last Ordinary meeting on Monday, 28 September 2020.

Current Situation

Meetings Attended-webinar, phone conferences

- Integrated Planning and Reporting Conference, community engagement
- Office of the Children's Guardian, reporting obligations in Local Government and sport
- Regional Australia Institute, Regional Recovery Fund
- Sport NSW, Sport Strategic Planning Forum
- Orana Haven & BAHS Project, addressing drug and alcohol needs in the community.(rehab centre)
- SEGRA, manage adaptive decline: change before change required

Drug and Alcohol Services in Bourke

Reference: Community Strategic Plan 2017- Liveable and Vibrant Community, Maintain a Viable Health System.

Orana Haven is a leading provider of drug and alcohol services for Aboriginal people on country in remote north western NSW. It runs a drug and alcohol residential rehab centre and a community detox program near Brewarrina. It also runs the Weigelli & Orana Haven Hub Project that provides case management, support and counselling for drug and alcohol issues in Bourke and surrounding towns.

Orana Haven is collaborating with Bourke Aboriginal Health Service to provide a range of drug and alcohol services in Bourke at the new Sturt Street premises and will include a day rehab program designed for Bourke. They will also be taking referrals for the Buvidal Opiate Replacement Program.

NSW Volunteer Strategy 2020-2030

The NSW Volunteer Strategy 2020-2030 has been developed with a purpose of taking a whole of state, whole of sector approach to support and recognise volunteers. The Volunteer Plan for the Office of Sport will align with the three focus areas of the NSW Volunteer Strategy:

1. Growth and support-to increase ongoing participation in volunteering including through improved volunteer management capacity
2. Knowledge-improved understanding of volunteering in NSW, to support a culture of innovation and excellence and
3. Value-enhanced recognition of the value of and contributions made by volunteers in NSW

4. A first year Volunteer Implementation Plan will be developed to address the impacts of COVID-19 on volunteering in the sport and active recreation industry. A further three-year implementation plan will follow.

The Office of Sport is seeking to gain an understanding of immediate issues and potential support requirements through state sporting organizations, Sport NSW, Local Governments and Sport Development Officers.

Resolution 2020/364**Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford****Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton**

That Council note the information in the Manager Community Engagement Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020.

Carried

21.7 LIBRARY MANAGER'S - ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: L4.1
Author: Jodi Hatch, Library Manager
Authoriser: David Perry, Manager of Community Engagement
Attachments: Nil

Background

The following items for the 2020/21 period are presented for your information:

Current Situation

Item	September 2019	September 2020
Loans	749	489
New Members	10	9

- During September the Library has again commenced the Tax Help program. Library staff have assisted six (6) people with their tax returns.
- Anna Brown submitted her resignation this month. We currently have two (2) casuals, Bronwyn Wood and Jane Terry, helping out until we can fill this position.

**Resolution 2020/365**

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford
Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the information in the Library Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 October 2020 be noted.

Carried

22 CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to section 10A (2) (a) (c) of the Local Government Act, the public were invited to make representation to the Council Meeting as to whether the meeting should be closed to consider the identified Items 22.1 and 22.2. No members of the public made representations thereof.

Resolution 2020/366

Moved: Cr Victor Bartley

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That Council move into Closed Council to consider the following agenda items for reasons of confidentiality as outlined, the time being 10.09am

22.1 * Deed of Agreement - CAPRA PTY LTD - Proposed Sale of Small Stock Abattoir**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (g) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with advice concerning litigation, or advice as comprises a discussion of this matter, that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

22.2 * Discussions with WNSWLHD - Health Service Provision**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Carried

23 RETURN TO OPEN COUNCIL

Open Council resumed at 10.22am.

Resolution 2020/367

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

That Council move out of Closed Council and into Open Council.

Carried

RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

The Mayor requested the Acting General Manager to read out the motions that were passed in Closed Council.

22.1 * DEED OF AGREEMENT - CAPRA PTY LTD - PROPOSED SALE OF SMALL STOCK ABATTOIR**

Resolution 2020/368

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

- 1. That the report, Deed of Agreement - CAPRA PTY LTD - Proposed Sale of Small Stock Abattoir be noted.**
- 2. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.**

Carried

22.2 * Discussions with WNSWLHD - Health Service Provision**

Resolution 2020/369

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

- 1. That the report of the Manager of Special Projects be noted.**
- 2. That the letter dated 16 October 2020 from Mr Mark Spittal, Acting Chief Executive, Western NSW Local Health District, be received and noted.**
- 3. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.**

Carried

The Meeting closed at 10.24am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 November 2020.

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CHAIRPERSON