



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

**“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
27 May 2021”**

Budget Adopted

Council met for its May Ordinary Meeting last Monday with a rather full agenda presented for discussion and determination. Council efficiently dealt with the numerous matters listed and in doing so, importantly, adopted its Operational Plan, being the Budget, for 2021/2022.

The preparation of a Councils Annual Budget is always an interesting task and I thank the various staff who were involved in its development, for their work.

Charles Street Water Reservoir

Back in 2018 the water reservoir in Charles Street, Bourke was found to be leaking. Whilst repairs were undertaken at the time, a condition report was completed by NSW Public Works Advisory (PWA) that identified that the water tower needed to be replaced. I am happy to advise that Council at its meeting this week resolved to adopt a \$2.5m tender for such replacement by engaging a firm by the name of Brockman Engineering P/L to undertake this important project.

The project, however, would simply not be proceeding without the considerable assistance of Water Minister, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP and the NSW Government. Following the closing of tenders, Council was left with a \$520,000 variance between the cost estimates as prepared by its consultants and the tender price. Following recent representations to the Minister, Council was advised last week of a further contribution of \$520,000 to this project, with such funds being in addition to the \$1.35m already contributed by Government. It should also be acknowledged that \$250,000 is being contributed to the project by the Aboriginal Communities Program and \$606,000 by Council.

In acknowledging the additional funding, Council recognised the commitment of the Minister and the Government to the “drought proofing of Bourke” and was unanimous in resolving that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Minister Pavey thanking her for the Governments funding commitment to this important water infrastructure project.

Grants, Grants and Grants

Back in August last year, Council was advised by the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, the Hon. Adam Marshall, MP, that the State Government would be funding some five (5) rounds of the Fixing Local Roads Program. Council had recently received \$5m under Round 1 of the Program. With the Ministers advice in mind, Council at its August 2020 meeting proceeded to adopt its road construction and resealing priorities for submission to Government over the expected five (5) year period.

Council was advised this week that its Round 2 application for funding under the Fixing Local Roads Program had been successful in the amount of \$4.9m. The roads identified for reconstruction and sealing as part of the grant are the Coronga Peak Rd, Tooralé Rd, Weelong Rd, Weir Rd, River Rd and Parkdale Rd, with these roads being as per Councils adopted priority list. This is a most pleasing outcome for the community.

In addition, on Federal Budget night, Mayor Barry Hollman received advice from the office of Member for Parkes, the Hon. Mark Coulton, MP that Council had received a funding allocation of \$2.4m under the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Following formal advice, I also reported this funding to Council this week with Council resolving to utilise the funds to redevelop the Program Pool at the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool and upgrade the Pool Entry and Kiosk. The result for the community in undertaking these works will be a first class swimming pool amenity which will serve Bourke for many years into the future.

Council acknowledges the inconvenience that the closure of the pool over the summer of 2020/2021 caused to the Bourke Community. With this in mind Council also resolved to scope, design, tender and be in a position for Council to determine a contractor such that physical construction works on the Program Pool and the Pool Entry and Kiosk occurs during the period March 2022 to October 2022 resulting in no inconvenience for the public.

But there's more! Round 4 of the NSW Governments \$100 million Stronger Country Communities Fund was announced on 3 May 2021 with the allocation for Bourke being near \$770,000. This round of funding has a regional sports focus, with funding made available for the delivery and enhancement of women's sporting facilities, including change rooms.

With this focus in mind Council has resolved to apply for funding under Round 4 of the program to construct female Change Rooms at Davidson Oval and also Female Jockey Rooms at J.B. Renshaw Sporting Complex.

Coupled with the funding for the reservoir, what a fantastic month for grants in Bourke.

Booking Council facilities

Should you wish to book a Council oval or park for a function, sporting event or other like activity, it is requested that a booking is made through Councils Engineering Department with at least one (1) weeks' notice. Such timing is to allow Council to take the necessary action to prepare the facilities.

Preferably please email bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au marked for the attention of Lynette Gooch. Lynette will then be in contact with you to discuss the booking and answer any questions you may have.

Illegal Dumping

Council officers will be targeting illegal dumping in and around Bourke. Officers will be conducting regular blitzes of known hot spots and issuing on the spot fines. A number of measures will be introduced by Council including the use of drones, surveillance cameras and increased patrolling of the known areas to combat illegal dumpers.

Residents dumping household waste are warned "fines" await them if they opt to ditch their trash on vacant land, rather than the Bourke Waste Management Facility. Illegal dumping cause's significant environmental damage to the land and residents are encouraged to make use of the waste services and facilities that Council provides rather than resort to dumping illegally. Council provides many opportunities for the responsible disposal of waste including free green waste and e-waste (includes old TV's) disposal at the Bourke Waste Management Facility.

Kids Development

I was interested to read that the Royal Far West is bringing the Healthy Kids Bus Stop back to Bourke Pre School from Tuesday, 22 June to Thursday, 24 June 2021. The Bus Stop is a free, developmental health screening program for 3-5-year olds.

At this stage there will be screening stations for speech pathology, oral health and occupational therapy. The program is open to all 3-5yr olds and provides a great opportunity for children to undergo a comprehensive assessment prior to starting school, or in their first year of school, to identify any potential issues with school readiness.

If you have young children in this 3-5-year-old age bracket do them a favour and consider registering them. You can register by either phoning 0408 555 249 or 8966 8557 or by accessing the following site: <https://www.royalfarwest.org.au/programs/healthy-kids-bus-stop/>

Wild Dog Trapping Techniques

The Western Local Land Services is offering an opportunity for Bourke Shire Landholders to practice wild dog trapping techniques and learn all about wild dogs and wild dog control as part of a three-day event being facilitated by the Service. The activities are suitable for landholders who are familiar with wild dogs and wild dog control and are looking to get the latest education and information. Stuart Boyd-Law from Pest Animal Control and Training is the presenter for both events.

It's not too late to make contact with the LLS and book for the three (3) day event to be held at Janina Station, Wanaaring starting tomorrow, Friday, 28 May and running through to Sunday, 30 May 2020. The cost is \$200 and this includes a wild dog trap kit to take home that retails for over \$350. Sounds like a good deal.

If you're interested in attending, contact LLS Biosecurity Officer, Brooke Anderson on mobile, 0436 475 814 or by email brooke.anderson@lls.nsw.gov.au

Race to Light

Deputy Mayor Lachlan Ford hosted discussions this week with long distance runner Pat Farmer to discuss a run that he plans to do from Broken Hill to Byron Bay, via Bourke, during mid-August.

Pat Farmer once ran from the North Pole to the South Pole, a distance of 21,000 km, which took him nearly a year to complete, averaging 85 km each and every day.

The "Race to Light" run will be 1600km in total distance and there will be two (2) teams of four (4) runners with one team representing Australia and one representing America with each team running 160km/day. Each team will consist of two (2) male and two (2)

female runners, one (1) American and one (1) Australian racing down the road at a time before handing over to another team mate every 5km.

In addition to the eight (8) runners, there will be a team of approximately 20 people assisting the run as they pass through the various towns over the 10 days that it will take to complete this journey.

The Australian army will be the support crew for the event, and they will use it as an information campaign to demonstrate to communities, like Bourke, the versatility of their work. Further information will be provided as the event draws closer.

Quote of the Week:

"I just felt like running. After that I just couldn't stop".

– Forrest Gump

Mark Riley
General Manager