



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

**“From the  
General Manager’s Desk”  
25 Movember 2021”**

**Road Works**

For the time being, Councils Road Construction Crews have ceased reconstruction and sealing works on the Wanaaring Road. Further works to complete the final 36 kilometres of this important project are pending the receipt of additional grant funding from Government. Applications have been submitted for the additional funding with Council in regular contact with the relevant funding body to lobby for the required funding to complete the works. In the past year an additional 23.7 kilometres of reconstruction and sealing works has been completed. This was the Romani to Wongamana section of the roadway.

During a visit to Bourke in August 2020, the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, the Hon Adam Marshall, MP, confirmed funding of an additional five (5) rounds of the Fixing Local Roads Program. This followed Councils success in receiving funding of \$4.6m for the reconstruction and sealing of a large section of Caronga Peak Road under Round 1 of the Program, as jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments. I am happy to advise that the sealing of the Coronga Peak Road at Byrock is progressing very well with 15 kilometres of works having been completed to date with another 5 kilometres expected to be laid prior to Christmas..

Following Minister Marshalls visit and advice, Council adopted various road construction and resealing projects as its priorities in respect of the submission of further applications at the appropriate time for funding under this program for the period 2021/2022 to 2025/2026.

This strategic list of projects resulted in Council obtaining funding under Round 2 of the Program with a number of Local Roads within the Shire having also recently received upgrades with reconstruction and sealing works undertaken in recent months. These roads include River Road, Polygonum Swamp Road, Parkdale Road and Weir Road. These roads are all located relatively close to Bourke with a number of residences and tourist attractions being accessed via these roads.

Council’s maintenance crew has now completed roadworks on the Tarcoon Road and are now moving to the Lower Lila Road to start maintenance grading. There is also a crew completing a maintenance grade on the Bourke to Louth Road, MR68 South.

Bridge upgrades have recently been completed on the Bourke to Wilcannia Road. The two bridge upgrades were in respect of the Compodore Creek Bridge and the Jandra Creek No. 2 Bridge. These two projects were funded under the Fixing Local Bridges Program of the NSW Government.

Council staff are also undertaking work on the State Highways. This work includes widening of Highway 7 South (Bourke to Byrock) as part of Councils RMCC contract with Transport for NSW and roadside slashing on MR 421 (Bourke to Cobar).

All in all, Councils roads crews have had a very busy year to date!

**Road Closures**

Whilst on roads, Council again request that residents and visitors alike take the time to ascertain the status of road closures in the Shire following rain. If roads are closed, please do not drive on them. Roads are closed to ensure the safety of the travelling public in the first instance, but secondly, to

protect the road surface and minimise the community's exposure to expensive repair bills. Travelling on wet gravelled roads damages the roads surface and makes it difficult to drive along when it dries out and also then necessitates costly repairs to be undertaken which in turn impacts Councils restricted roads maintenance budget.

Quite often, it only takes a short period for the road to dry out if the conditions are right. Council's road condition report can be accessed on [www.bourke.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au) The report has been revamped and the roads are colour coded depending on their status and is generally much easier to follow.

### **Mosquito risk around the home**

With the wet and impending hotter weather, the conditions are pretty good for mosquitos to breed. You can stop adult mosquitoes entering your home by using flyscreens on windows and doors, and by screening chimneys, vents and other entrances. Repair any damaged screens. Consider also using a surface insecticide spray in areas where mosquitoes like to rest. During the day, mosquitoes rest and hide in cool shady areas such as in and around the home before emerging at dusk to feed. Make sure you avoid aquaria and fishponds as fish are acutely sensitive to these insecticides.

Mosquitoes need water to breed and some mosquitoes can breed in very small amounts of water, such as in the water that collects in a discarded soft drink can. Measures to reduce the risk of mosquitoes breeding in around the home include:

- Cleaning up your backyard and removing all water-holding rubbish, including tires and containers
- Keeping your lawns mowed
- Flushing and wiping out bird baths and water features once a week.
- Filling pot plant bases with sand to avoid standing water
- Storing anything that can hold water undercover or in a dry place, and keeping bins covered
- Flushing out the leaves of water-holding plants such as bromeliads once a week
- Keeping drains and roof guttering clear to avoid standing water
- Covering or securely screening the openings of septic tanks and rainwater tanks.

Properly cleaned and chlorinated swimming pools are rarely a source of mosquito breeding but neglected pools can be a haven for mosquitoes.

### **Swimming Pools**

A reminder that all Swimming Pools in NSW must be registered, Swimming Pools are to be registered at [www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au](http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au). Bourke Shire Council can assist and complete the registration process for a fee of \$10. The process is relatively simple where you will be required to enter your name, address, contact details, the type of pool, and the approximate age of the pool. You will need to complete a self-assessment checklist about your pool. The self-assessment entails the use of a simple checklist to self-assess if your pool meets the appropriate Australian Standards. Councils authorised officers *may* fine pool owners if their pool is not registered on the NSW Swimming Pool Register.

### **Asbestos**

November is National Asbestos Awareness Month which aims to alert Australians to the dangers of working with asbestos during home renovations and maintenance and educate them about where asbestos might be lurking in and around homes and on properties. Many wrongly believe only fibro homes contain asbestos. Asbestos products can be found in ANY home built or renovated before 1990 including fibro, brick, weatherboard, clad homes and apartments. Asbestos can be lurking in kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, under floor coverings, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, garages, ceilings and ceiling space (insulation), eaves, fences, extensions and backyard

sheds. Asbestos could be anywhere! Anyone thinking of renovating should download the Residential Property Checklist from [www.asbestosawareness.com](http://www.asbestosawareness.com) to protect themselves and their families from asbestos. Don't play renovation roulette! Visit [www.asbestosawareness.com](http://www.asbestosawareness.com) learn what you need to know to manage asbestos safely because it's not worth the risk!

### **Driver Testing**

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Service NSW has recently announced the resumption of driver testing for all customers. Test bookings are open to everyone with appointments being made up to five weeks in advance. Due to high demand for driver testing there may be delays.

Those taking a driver test need to:

- show evidence they are fully vaccinated, or
- have received a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test result no more than three days before their driving test. Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) results are not accepted.

Face masks, disposable seat covers, hand sanitiser and other personal protective equipment will remain in place during driver tests. For more information about booking a driver or rider licence test:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/book-driver-or-rider-licence-test>

### **Dine & Discover NSW**

The NSW Government has created Dine & Discover NSW to encourage the community to get out and about and support dining, arts and tourism business's. Residents aged 18 years and over can apply for 4 x \$25 vouchers, worth \$100 in total, with use of the vouchers extended until 30 June 2022. 2 x \$25 vouchers can be used for dining in at restaurants, cafes, pubs or clubs. 2 x \$25 Discover NSW Vouchers can be used for entertainment and recreation, including cultural institutions which in Bourke include the Jandra Cruise or Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre Tours.

### **Lighting at Davidson Oval**

Council is currently upgrading the power supply at Davidson Oval for this year's cricket season to ensure that the new lights are working to full capacity. Work on the lights is expected to be completed by the end of the month. The oval is currently looking in great condition with Council staff completing an extensive fertilizing program.

**Quote: "William's family, and so much of NSW, and I dare say Australia, would like closure on this."**

Forensic expert Tony Lowe commenting on the search for William Tyrrell last week at Kendall on the NSW Mid North Coast.