



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

“From the
General Manager’s Desk”
2 June 2022”

Federal Election

The 2022 Federal Election has been run and won. Whilst the nation has a new Prime Minister leading a new Government, closer to home, the seat of Parkes has been retained by the incumbent member, Mark Coulton. The Australian Electoral Commission has noted that Mark received 49.94% of first preference votes out of the 80,757 votes counted at the time of writing. Interestingly, 7.81% or 6,845 votes were informal. There were 9 candidates in the election for the seat of Parkes. Apart from candidates Mark Coulton and Jack Ayoub, who received 40,330 and 16,503 votes respectively, the third highest number of votes recorded went to the informal pile. An informal vote is one that does not follow instructions and is not counted. Whilst those informal votes won't impact the results in the Parkes Electorate, at the previous Federal Election, there were apparently six (6) seats across the nation that were won with margins smaller than the number of informal votes.

Spar Supermarket

Council met for its May monthly meeting recently and one of the major items on the agenda was the Development Application for the rebuilding, and minor expansion, of the Spar Supermarket in Warraweena Street, Bourke. Destroyed by fire on 27 December 2021, Council was unanimous in its support to approve the application. The proposed works include a rectangular main retail building in the south-western corner of the Warraweena/Darling St site with an attached storage and loading building to its south-west. The main retail building has a 39.48-metre-long frontage to Warraweena Street including the primary pedestrian entrance and 15.88-metre-long frontage to Darling Street. A vehicular manoeuvring area including a loading zone and parking for seven light vehicles is located west of the main retail building and north of the storage building, accessible via an existing driveway from Darling Street. A 5,000L grease trap is located in the south-eastern corner of the vehicular manoeuvring area. 15 angled on-street parking spaces are proposed beside the site including four along Darling Street and 11 along Warraweena Street. The proposed development includes an awning over the adjoining pedestrian footpath to Warraweena Street.

The Development Application was lodged with Council on 1 April 2022. Having regard to the requirements of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, Council was required to give written notice of the application to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and Essential Energy within seven days of the application being made and take into consideration any submission that TfNSW and Essential Energy provided within 21 days after the notice was given. Timely responses by these Organisations allowed Council to determine the matter in some seven weeks. I acknowledge such timely responses and further thank Councils Manager Environmental Services, Dwayne Willoughby, and Councils Development and Regulatory Coordinator, Carolyn Crain, for their good work in getting this DA assessed and before Council in a most timely manner. As Mayor Barry said at the meeting, “whilst all DA’s are important to our community, this one is particularly so” as the Bourke Community needs two (2) supermarkets to meet the needs of the community.

Budget on Exhibition

Don't forget that Councils 2023-2027 draft Delivery Program, 2022/2023 draft Operational Plan (the budget) and 2022/2023 draft Fees and Charges documents are all on public exhibition for the purposes of seeking community comment. Copies of the documentation are available on Councils website: www.bourke.nsw.gov.au Alternatively, a hard copy of such documents is available from the Council offices or from the Bourke Library, both located in Mitchell St Bourke. Time to lodge a submission in respect of any of the documents is running out as they close next Monday, 6 June 2022 at 4.30pm. The Local Government Act requires that Council must consider submissions received in respect of the documentation before adopting any of the suite of documents, so I encourage the community to review the documents and have a say in respect of the direction of Council.

Losing the plot

I read during the week that the National Rugby League had increased security at its matches, after a man was charged by police with making a credible death threat towards a referee. Whilst it can be frustrating when a refereeing or bunker call is wrong, at the end of the day, it is a game of rugby league, please. One has to wonder what drives a person to get to the point of threatening another person's life over sport. I can only imagine that the financial stakes are such that a bad call can be the difference between a big gambling collect or not. The adage that says "money is the root of all evil" certainly springs to mind.

Rising River

The State Emergency Services (SES) last week issued a Flood Bulletin advising that floodwaters from the Culgoa River combined with floodwaters from the Barwon River have the potential to cause minor flooding along the Darling River at Bourke from early this week. Minor flooding is also possible along the Darling River at Louth and Tilpa. The SES advised that the river at Bourke was likely to reach the minor flood level (9.50 m) on Monday this week with further rises to 10.00 metres being possible in the next few days. In respect of the Darling River at Louth, it may reach the minor flood level (8.60 m) this week, whilst at Tilpa, the river may also reach a minor flood level (9.00 metres) in the second week of June. Further rises are possible. As always it will be interesting to see what river heights are ultimately achieved.

On the topic of the river, I read that service delivery to the state's largest water users has been simplified with responsibility for the management and approval of water licences having been moved from the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE). DPIE will also now manage all integrated development referrals for works on waterfront land, and applications for controlled activity approvals.

My understanding is that the transfer will align licensing approvals more closely with the technical, scientific and water planning expertise that resides within DPIE's Water group. The administrative change will affect state significant developments, mining operations, irrigation corporations, government entities and all applicants undertaking works on waterfront land.

WaterNSW will continue managing water licences and approvals for all other water users in NSW, including private entities such as rural landholders, rural industries and developments. These make up approximately 96 per cent of the state's water access licences. All water users can use the NSW Water Assist tool to find more information about how to apply for a water approval or licence by accessing <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade>

Cyber Attacks

Over the past month, two (2) friends of mine have witnessed chaos as the companies that they work for fell victim to computer system cyber-attacks. Coincidentally, GovTech Review has this week reported that cyber-attacks continue to increase in both frequency and impact, as attackers use more sophisticated and dangerous methods. One of the most common types of attack uses what's called ransomware, with the Australian Cyber Security Centre recording a 15 per cent increase in ransomware cybercrime reports in the 2020–21 financial year. Ransomware is a type of malicious software (malware). When it gets into your device, it makes your computer or its files unusable. Cybercriminals use ransomware to deny access to files or devices. The criminals then demand you pay them to get back your access. However, it's getting worse as more sophisticated and savvy cyber attackers are now moving to a new weapon called disruptionware. Disruptionware aims to sabotage critical networks and operations. Unlike ransomware, disruptionware targets its victims' information and operational technology networks. This means it attacks the integrity of data, systems, and networks along with the physical infrastructure that allows a network to operate. It cannot be reversed like ransomware because the goal is not to receive a ransom but to destroy and disrupt. It can completely cripple networks. From what my mate told me, his organisation experienced a disruptionware attack which brought the international company to a standstill for essentially a week and led to widespread bedlam in the organisation and significant disruption even when they got back up and running as they had apparently lost a lot of data. Local businesses can take steps to prevent these types of attacks or, at least limit their impact. I would encourage businesses to work with their IT providers to take action to position your operations against such a situation.

Quote: "Victory is also humbling and always should be" Outgoing Prime Minister, Scott Morrison as part of his concession speech on election night.