



**I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:**

**Date: Monday, 31 October 2022**  
**Time: 9.15am**  
**Location: Bourke Shire Council**  
**29 Mitchell Street Bourke NSW**

# **BUSINESS PAPER**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**31 October 2022**

**Leonie Brown**  
**General Manager**

| Time           | Event   | Representative  | Organisation                     |
|----------------|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>9.00am</b>  | Community Open Forum for members of the public to address Council |   |                                  |
| <b>9.30am</b>  | Auditors Presentation   | Brett Hanger and<br>Manuel Moncada                        | Auditor General                  |
| <b>10.30am</b> | Monthly Update  | Superintendent<br>Tim Chinn and<br>Inspector Peter Walton | Central North Police<br>District |



# DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM COUNCIL OFFICIAL

FOR USE AT COUNCIL AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

|   |
|---|
| <b>NAME OF COUNCIL OFFICIAL DECLARING INTEREST:</b>   |
|   |
| <b>ACTION PROPOSED:</b>   |
| <p><b>Tick one box only:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In my opinion, <b>my interest is pecuniary</b>, and I am therefore required to take the action specified in Part 4 of Council’s Code of Conduct.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In my opinion, <b>my interest is non-pecuniary but significant</b>. I am unable to remove the source of conflict. I am therefore required to treat the interest as if it were pecuniary and take the action specified in clause 5.10 of Council’s Code of Conduct.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In my opinion, <b>my interest is non-pecuniary and less than significant</b>. I therefore make this declaration as I am required to do pursuant to clause 5.11 of Council’s Code of Conduct. However, I intend to continue to be involved with the matter.</p> |
| <b>COUNCIL OFFICIAL</b>   |
| <p>I, _____ (name of COUNCIL OFFICIAL ) disclose the above interest and acknowledge that I will take appropriate action as I have indicated above.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>   |
| <b>GENERAL MANAGER – required for all declarations:</b>   |
| <p>I have noted the above declaration and I note your opinion and/or the action you have proposed.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>   |
| <b>DEFINE YOUR INTEREST:</b>  |
| <p>Is your interest:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pecuniary (see dealing with pecuniary interests)?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non pecuniary (see dealing with non-pecuniary interests)</p>   |
| <b>MATTER IN WHICH YOU HAVE AN INTEREST:</b> (Please provide full details, including item number on Council agenda)   |
|   |
| <b>NAME OF THE INTEREST:</b>  |
| <p>Be specific and include information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The names of any person or organisation with which you have a relationship;</li> <li>- The nature of your relationship with the person or organisation;</li> <li>- The reason(s) why you consider the situation may (or may be perceived to) give rise to a conflict between your personal interests and your public duty as a COUNCIL OFFICIAL .</li> </ul>   |
|   |
|   |

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>MANAGING LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</b></p> <p>Clause 5.11 of Council’s Code of Conduct provides that if you determine that a non-pecuniary conflict of interest is less than significant and does not require further action, you must provide an explanation of why you consider that conflict does not require further action in the circumstances.</p>   |
| <p><b>IS YOUR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT?</b></p> <p>If you are of the view that your non-pecuniary interest is less than significant, please provide your explanation directly below (only complete if you are claiming that your non-pecuniary interest is less than significant).</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>  |
| <p><b>DEFINITIONS:</b></p> <p>A <b>PECUNIARY INTEREST</b> is an interest that a designated person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person (see Part 4 of Council’s Code of Conduct).</p> <p>A <b>NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</b> is a private or personal interest that does not amount to pecuniary interest as defined by Part 5 of Council’s Code of Conduct.</p>  |
| <p><b>MANAGING PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</b></p> <p>Part 4.10 of Council’s Code of Conduct requires designated persons to declare in writing to the General Manager the nature of a pecuniary interest the person has in any Council matters, as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the interest.</p>  |
| <p><b>MANAGING SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</b></p> <p>Clause 5.10 of Council’s Code of Conduct provides that you must manage a significant non-pecuniary interest by not participating in consideration of, or decision making in relation to, the matter in which you have the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest and the matter being allocated to another person for consideration or determination, or if the significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to a matter under consideration at a council or committee meeting, by managing the conflict of interest as if you had a pecuniary interest in the matter by complying with clauses 4.28 and 4.29 of the Code.</p>   |
| <p><b>MANAGING NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</b></p> <p>Clause 5.8 of Council’s Code of Conduct states that how you manage a non-pecuniary interest will depend on whether or not it is significant. Clause 5.9 of Council’s Code of Conduct states that, as a general rule, a non-pecuniary conflict of interests will be significant where a matter does not raise a pecuniary interest but involves:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a relationship between a council official and another person who is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly close, such as a current or former spouse or de facto partner, a relative for the purposes of clause 4.4 of the Code or another person from the council official’s extended family that the council official has a close personal relationship with, or another person living in the same household;</li> <li>b) other relationships with persons who are affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that are particularly close, such as friendships and business relationships. Closeness is defined by the nature of the friendship or business relationship, the frequency of contact and the duration of the friendship or relationship;</li> <li>c) an affiliation between the council official and an organisation (such as a sporting body, club, religious, cultural or charitable organisation, corporation or association) that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration that is particularly strong. The strength of a council official’s affiliation with an organisation is to be determined by the extent to which they actively participate in the management, administration or other activities of the organisation;</li> <li>d) membership, as the council’s representative, of the board or management committee of an organisation that is affected by a decision or a matter under consideration, in circumstances where the interests of the council and the organisation are potentially in conflict in relation to the particular matter;</li> <li>e) a financial interest (other than an interest of a type referred to in clause 4.6 of the Code) that is not a pecuniary interest for the purposes of clause 4.1 of the Code;</li> <li>f) the conferral or loss of a personal benefit other than one conferred or lost as a member of the community or a broader class of people affected by a decision.</li> </ul> |

**Statement of ethical obligations**

In accordance with Councils adopted Code of Meeting Practice (Clause 3.23), Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Local Government Act and their obligations under the Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.



**Order Of Business**

|           |  |            |
|-----------|--|------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Opening Prayer</b> .....  | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....                                    | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Remembrance</b> .....   | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence</b> .....               | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Attendance By Audio Visual Link By Councillors</b> .....                | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Disclosures of Interest</b> .....                                       | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Mayoral Minute</b> .....  | <b>10</b>  |
|           | 7.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Activities .....                              | 10         |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Starring of Items</b> .....   | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....                                       | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Notices of Motion</b> .....   | <b>32</b>  |
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Rescission Motions</b> .....  | <b>32</b>  |
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Business Arising</b> .....  | <b>33</b>  |
|           | 12.1 *** Business Arising .....  | 33         |
|           | 12.2 Calendar of Events .....  | 51         |
|           | 12.3 Information to Councillors .....                                      | 52         |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Engineering Services Department</b> .....                               | <b>54</b>  |
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Environmental Services &amp; Development Department</b> .....           | <b>55</b>  |
|           | 14.1 Food Surveillance Activity Report 2021/2022 .....                     | 55         |
|           | 14.2 Draft Far West Regional Plan 2041 .....                               | 57         |
| <b>15</b> | <b>General Manager</b> .....   | <b>120</b> |
|           | 15.1 Disclosure of Interest in Written Returns .....                       | 120        |
|           | 15.2 *** Christmas - New Year Closure .....                                | 122        |
|           | 15.3 *** Geographical Names Board - The Pound Yard .....                   | 124        |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Corporate Services Department</b> .....                                 | <b>128</b> |
|           | 16.1 *** Bank Reconciliation & Statement of Bank Balances .....            | 128        |
|           | 16.2 *** Investment Report as at 30 September 2022 .....                   | 130        |
|           | 16.3 *** 2021/2022 Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Reports ..... | 133        |
|           | 16.4 *** Quarterley Budget Review to 30 September 2022 .....               | 147        |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Economic Development Department</b> .....                               | <b>166</b> |

|           |  |            |
|-----------|--|------------|
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Delegates and Councillors Reports</b> .....   | <b>166</b> |
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>19</b> | <b>Policies</b> .....  | <b>166</b> |
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Précis of Correspondence</b> .....  | <b>166</b> |
|           | Nil  |            |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Activity Reports</b> .....  | <b>167</b> |
| 21.1      | Activity Report - Engineering Services Road Works & Workshop - Works Undertaken.....                             | 167        |
| 21.2      | Activity Report - Parks & Gardens / Town Services / Water & Wastewater Engineering Services Activity Report..... | 170        |
| 21.3      | Planning, Regulatory & Environmental Services Activity Report .....  | 177        |
| 21.4      | General Manager's Activity Report .....  | 179        |
| 21.5      | Library Manager's Activity Report for September 2022 .....   | 189        |
| 21.6      | Tourism & Events Manager's Activity Report .....   | 191        |
| <b>22</b> | <b>Closed Session</b> .....  | <b>201</b> |



- 1 OPENING PRAYER**
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
- 3 REMEMBRANCE**
- 4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 5 ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS**
- 6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

## 7 MAYORAL MINUTE

### 7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

**File Number:** M2.1  
**Author:** Barry Hollman, Mayor  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

The Activities of the Mayor from 26 September 2022 to 27 October 2022 are as follows:

| Date          | Meeting  | Location  |
|---------------|--|---|
| 26/09/2022    | Bourke Shire Council Meeting   | Shire Chambers  |
| 11/10/2022    | Meeting with representatives of the NSW Geographical Names Board   | Shire Chambers  |
| 12/10/2022    | Meeting with the Hon. Mark Coultan MP, Member for Parkes.<br>Visited to the Bourke Childcare Centre, Olympic Pool and Abattoir | Shire Chambers<br>Childcare Centre, Olympic Pool and Abattoir |
| 17/10/2022    | Far North West Joint Organisation Board Meeting  | Virtual Meeting via Teams                                     |
| 23-25/10/2022 | LG NSW Annual Conference   | Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley                                   |

#### Recommendation

**That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be noted.**

**8 STARRING OF ITEMS**

**9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Ordinary Council Meeting - 26 September 2022



# **MINUTES**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**26 September 2022**

## Order Of Business

|           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Opening Prayer</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....                                 | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Remembrance</b> .....  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence</b> .....            | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Attendance By Audio Visual Link By Councillors</b> .....             | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Disclosures of Interest</b> .....                                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Mayoral Minute</b> .....   | <b>5</b>  |
|           | 7.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Activities .....                           | 5         |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Starring of Items</b> .....  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....                                    | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Notices of Motion</b> .....  | <b>6</b>  |
|           | 1. Nil  |           |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Rescission Motions</b> .....   | <b>6</b>  |
|           | 2. Nil  |           |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Business Arising</b> .....   | <b>7</b>  |
|           | 12.1 *** Business Arising .....   | 7         |
|           | 12.2 Calendar of Events.....  | 7         |
|           | 12.3 Information to Councillors .....                                   | 7         |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Engineering Services Department</b> .....                            | <b>8</b>  |
|           | 3. Nil  |           |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Environmental Services &amp; Development Department</b> .....        | <b>8</b>  |
|           | 14.1 Continuation of Alcohol-Free Zone - Village of Enngonia .....      | 8         |
|           | 14.2 Far West NSW Councils - Planning Issues .....                      | 8         |
| <b>15</b> | <b>General Manager</b> .....  | <b>9</b>  |
|           | 15.1 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress.....              | 9         |
|           | 15.2 Australia Day.....   | 10        |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Corporate Services Department</b> .....                              | <b>10</b> |
|           | 16.1 *** Bank Reconciliation & Statement of Bank Balances .....         | 10        |
|           | 16.2 *** Investment Report as at 31 August 2022 .....                   | 11        |
|           | 16.3 *** Financial Assistance Grant.....                                | 11        |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Economic Development Department</b> .....                            | <b>12</b> |
|           | 17.1 *** Visitor Enhancements at Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre ..... | 12        |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Delegates and Councillors Reports</b> .....                          | <b>12</b> |
|           | 4. Nil  |           |

|           |  |           |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>19</b> | <b>Policies.....</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| 5.        | Nil  |           |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Précis of Correspondence .....</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| 20.1      | *** Financial Assistance - Bourke High School - Year 12 Formal.....  | 12        |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Activity Reports.....</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| 21.1      | *** Activity Report - Engineering Services Road Works & Workshop - Works Undertaken.....                         | 13        |
| 21.2      | Activity Report - Parks & Gardens / Town Services / Water & Wastewater Engineering Services Activity Report..... | 13        |
| 21.3      | Activity Report - Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services .....  | 14        |
| 21.4      | General Manager's Activity Report .....  | 14        |
| 21.5      | Library Manager's Activity Report for August 2022 .....  | 14        |
| 21.6      | Tourism & Events Manager's Activity Report .....   | 15        |
| <b>22</b> | <b>Closed Session .....</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| 22.1      | *** Bourke Emergency Water Supply Bores - Tenders .....  | 16        |
| 22.2      | *** Proposed Integrated Primary Health Care Centre .....   | 17        |
| 22.3      | *** Write-off outstanding Debtor accounts .....  | 19        |

**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF BOURKE  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW  
ON MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 9.15AM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Lachlan Ford (Deputy Mayor - Chair), Cr Victor Bartley, Cr Sally Davis, Cr Cec Dorrington, Cr Sam Rice, Cr Grace Ridge, Cr Nathan Ryan, Cr Robert Stutsel

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Leonie Brown (General Manager), Peter Brown (Manager Works), Paul Flanagan (Manager Roads Services), Dwayne Willoughby (Manager Environmental Services)

**1 OPENING PRAYER**

Councillor Dorrington opened the meeting with a prayer

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Deputy Mayor then provided an Acknowledgment of Country

**3 REMEMBRANCE**

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

|                 |                   |                    |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Jean Buckley    | Aileen Field      | Merle Elsie Fraser |
| Lionel Johnston | Suzanne Mansfield | Lance Molloy       |

**4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Requests for Leave of Absence were received from Councillor Sarah Barton and Councillor Barry Hollman who were absent from the meeting for personal reasons.

**Resolution 2022/198**

**Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington**

**Seconded: Cr Grace Ridge**

**That the apologies received from Councillors Barton and Hollman be accepted and leave of absence granted.**

**Carried**

**5 ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS**

Nil

**6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cr Victor Bartley declared a pecuniary interest in Item 22.2 of the Agenda – Proposed Integrated Primary Health Care Centre. The reason for such interest is that Cr Bartley is a Director on the Board of Management for the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service. In making this

declaration, Cr Bartley advised he would leave the Chamber and be out of sight when Council considered this matter.

Cr Sally Davis declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12.1 of the Agenda – Business Arising, North Bourke Storm Water Drainage. The reason for such interest is that Cr Davis owns land adjacent to the land the subject of the report and has a friendship with the landowner (Mr G Seiler). In making this declaration Cr Davis advised she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider Item 12.1 of the Agenda.

Cr Grace Ridge declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12.1 of the Agenda – Business Arising, North Bourke Storm Water Drainage. The reason for such interest is that Councillor Ridge and her family have a business relationship with the owner of the land detailed within the report. In making this declaration Councillor Ridge advised that she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider Item 12.1 of the Agenda.

Cr Nathan Ryan declared a non-pecuniary and less than significant interest in Item 22.2 of the Agenda – Proposed Integrated Primary Health Care Centre. The reason for such interest is that Cr Ryan is a contractor to the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS), providing yard and property maintenance to Doctor's houses and is known to the Chief Executive Officer of the BACHS, Mr John Ireland. In making this declaration Cr Ryan advised that he would remain in the Chamber but would not contribute when Council considered this matter.

## **7 MAYORAL MINUTE**

### **7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - MAYORAL ACTIVITIES**

**File Number: M2.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Mayor regarding the Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Activities.

**Resolution 2022/199**

**Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington**

**Seconded: Cr Sally Davis**

**That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**



## 8 STARRING OF ITEMS

Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides that Council may at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda by way of a single resolution.

In this regard the Council had before it a list of reports, unstarred, with such items proposed to be adopted by Council in a single resolution. The following additional report was identified by Council to be starred for individual consideration.

| Item No | Name of Report              | Officer      |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 21.2    | Engineering Activity Report | Leonie Brown |

### Resolution 2022/200

**Moved:** Cr Victor Bartley

**Seconded:** Cr Robert Stutsel

**That the the recommendations as detailed in the un-starred items as contained in the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on Monday, 26 September 2022 be adopted save and except for Item No 21.2 of the agenda, with such item to be considered seperately.**

**Carried**

## 9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### Resolution 2022/201

**Moved:** Cr Cec Dorrington

**Seconded:** Cr Sam Rice

**That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 August 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as correct minutes and signed by the Mayor and the General Manger.**

**Carried**

## 10 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

## 11 RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

## **12 BUSINESS ARISING**

### **12.1 \*\*\* BUSINESS ARISING**

**File Number: C12.1**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Business Arising.

**Resolution 2022/202**

**Moved: Cr Sam Rice**

**Seconded: Cr Sally Davis**

**That the information in the Business Arising Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

### **12.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**File Number: C12.6**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Calendar of Events.

**Resolution 2022/203**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That the information in the Calendar of Events Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

### **12.3 INFORMATION TO COUNCILLORS**

**File Number: C12.1**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Information to Councillors.

**Resolution 2022/204**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That the contents of the Information to Councillors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

**13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Nil

**14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**14.1 CONTINUATION OF ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE - VILLAGE OF ENNGONIA**

**File Number: H1.5**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Environmental Services regarding the Continuation of Alcohol-Free Zone - Village of Enngonia.

**Resolution 2022/205**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That Council approves the continuation of the Alcohol-Free Zone within the village of Enngonia from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2026 and to notify the public in accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines.**

**Carried**

**14.2 FAR WEST NSW COUNCILS - PLANNING ISSUES**

**File Number: T5.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Environmental Services regarding the Far West NSW Councils - Planning Issues.

**Resolution 2022/206**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That Council note the information in the report regarding the Far West NSW Councils Planning Issue paper.**

**Carried**

**15 GENERAL MANAGER**

**15.1 2022 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS**

**File Number: R7.6-G2.2-M2.2**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

**Resolution 2022/207**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

- 1. That the Mayor and General Manager, or nominee, attend the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held 2-3 November 2022.**
- 2. That Councillors who wish to attend the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held from 2-3 November 2022 nominate to the General Manager prior to Wednesday, 5 October 2022.**

**Carried**

## **15.2 AUSTRALIA DAY**

**File Number: C2.3-C2.31**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding Australia Day.

### **Resolution 2022/208**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**1. That award categories for the 2023 Australia Day Awards be maintained as follows:**

- **Citizen of the Year;**
- **Junior Citizen of the Year**
- **Sportsperson of the year**
- **Junior Sportsperson of the year**
- **Village Service Award**
- **Emergency Services Volunteer of the year**

**2. That nominations in respect of the 2023 Australia Day Awards open on Tuesday 1 November 2022 and close at 4.30 pm on Friday 2 December 2022.**

**3. That Council delegate to the General Manager the role of finalising the determination of the Bourke Shire Council Australia Day Award Recipients, having regard to deliberations to be undertaken as part of a Workshop of Councillors to be convened following the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 19 December 2022.**

**Carried**

## **16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **16.1 \*\*\* BANK RECONCILIATION & STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES**

**File Number: F1.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Acting Manager Corporate Services regarding the Bank Reconciliation & Statement of Bank Balances.

### **Resolution 2022/209**

**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 31 August 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

**16.2 \*\*\* INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

**File Number: F1.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Acting Manager Corporate Services regarding the Investment Report as at 31 August 2022.

**Resolution 2022/210**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

- 1. That the report regarding Council's Investment Portfolio 31 August 2022 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

**Carried**

**16.3 \*\*\* FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

**File Number: F1.4.6**

The Council had before it the report of the Acting Manager Corporate Services regarding the Financial Assistance Grant.

**Resolution 2022/211**

**Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**Seconded: Cr Grace Ridge**

- 1. That Council notes the report detailing the Financial Assistance Grant recommended allocation for 2022/2023.**
- 2. That the additional funds received, estimated to be \$652,140.00 be transferred to Councils Asset Renewal Reserve.**

**Carried**

**17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**17.1 \*\*\* VISITOR ENHANCEMENTS AT BACK O' BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE**

**File Number: T1.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Economic Development regarding the Visitor Enhancements at Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre.

**Resolution 2022/212**

**Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**Seconded: Cr Grace Ridge**

- 1. That an application for funding of \$506,000 be made to the Regional Tourism Activation Fund for visitor enhancements to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre.**
- 2. That should the grant application be successful, Council make a co-contribution of \$168,000 towards the proposed enhancement works at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre from Councils Infrastructure Renewal Reserve fund.**

**Carried**

**18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Nil

**19 POLICIES**

Nil

**20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**20.1 \*\*\* FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - BOURKE HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 12 FORMAL**

**File Number: A3.14-E1.2**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Financial Assistance - Bourke High School - Year 12 Formal.

**Resolution 2022/213**

**Moved: Cr Nathan Ryan**

**Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley**

**That Council accede to the request of Bourke High School to waive the hire fees and the lodgement of a bond in support of the 2022 Year 12 Formal.**

**Carried**

## **21 ACTIVITY REPORTS**

### **21.1 \*\*\* ACTIVITY REPORT - ENGINEERING SERVICES ROAD WORKS & WORKSHOP - WORKS UNDERTAKEN**

**File Number: E7.1**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Activity Report - Engineering Services Road Works & Workshop - Works Undertaken.

**Resolution 2022/214**

**Moved: Cr Sally Davis**

**Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley**

**That Council note the information in the Roads Department Road Works and Workshop Activity Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022.**

**Carried**

### **21.2 ACTIVITY REPORT - PARKS & GARDENS / TOWN SERVICES / WATER & WASTEWATER ENGINEERING SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT**

**File Number: E7.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Works regarding the Activity Report - Parks & Gardens / Town Services / Water & Wastewater Engineering Services Activity Report.

**Resolution 2022/215**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That Council note the information in the Parks and Gardens, Town Services and Water and Wastewater Engineering Services Department Activity Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022.**

**Carried**



### **21.3 ACTIVITY REPORT - PLANNING, REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**File Number: D3.1-A11.1-A8.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Environmental Services regarding the Activity Report - Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services.

**Resolution 2022/216**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That the information in the Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be received and noted.**

**Carried**

### **21.4 GENERAL MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**File Number: G2.1**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the General Manager's Activity Report.

**Resolution 2022/217**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That the information in the General Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

### **21.5 LIBRARY MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2022**

**File Number: L4.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Library Manager regarding the Library Manager's Activity Report for August 2022.

**Resolution 2022/218**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That the information in the Library Manager's Report for August 2022 as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

## **21.6 TOURISM & EVENTS MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**File Number: T4.3**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Tourism & Events regarding the Tourism & Events Manager's Activity Report.

### **Resolution 2022/219**

**Moved: Cr Victor Bartley**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That the information in the Tourism and Events Manager's Activity Report for August 2022 as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**Carried**

## **22 CLOSED SESSION**

At this juncture, the Council gave consideration to moving into Closed Session of Council.

### **Resolution 2022/220**

**Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington**

**Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:**

#### **22.1 \*\*\* Bourke Emergency Water Supply Bores - Tenders**

**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.**

#### **22.2 \*\*\* Proposed Integrated Primary Health Care Centre**

**This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.**

#### **22.3 \*\*\* Write-off outstanding Debtor accounts**

**This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) 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 personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).**

**Carried**

Council proceeded into closed session with the livestreaming of the meeting being paused at 9.44 am.

**22.1 \*\*\* BOURKE EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY BORES - TENDERS**

**File Number: W2.1,W2.10**

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Works regarding the Bourke Emergency Water Supply Bores - Tenders.

**Resolution 2022/221**

**Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**Seconded: Cr Sam Rice**

- 1. That the recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel that the tender submitted by Aqua Irrigation Holdings Pty Ltd, T/A Aquawest in the Recommended Tender Amount of \$1,217,500.00 (including GST or \$1,106,818.18 excluding GST), be accepted for Contract No. 10051141 for the Bourke Water Supply - Mechanical, electrical and power supply work for emergency water supply bores” be accepted.**
- 2. That it be noted that this tender price also includes the optional works in respect of vegetation removal and an extraction fan for the chlorine room.**
- 3. That Council concur with the expenditure of \$316,905.00 (ex GST) to fund the engagement of PWA to undertake the Project Management of the tendered works; fund contingencies and engage PWA to develop and design an Operational Plan for Emergency Bores.**
- 4. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council.**
- 5. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.**

**Carried**

At this juncture, Cr Victor Bartley left the meeting, the time being 9:57 am.

**22.2 \*\*\* PROPOSED INTEGRATED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE**

**File Number: A11.1, H1.1, H1.15**

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Proposed Integrated Primary Health Care Centre.

**Motion**

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

1. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to further discuss with the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS) the potential acquisition of the following land:
  - a) Lot 8 DP 35739, Lot 9 DP 35739 and Lot 10 DP35739 in Mitchell Street, Bourke
  - b) Three (3) x lots from Lot 6 DP 35797, Lot 7 DP 35797, Lot 8 DP 35797, Lot 9 DP 35797 and Lot 10 DP 35797.
2. That on the basis of three (3) lots in one line being required, the land be available for sale at an indicative combined price of \$45,000 with the final price being subject to the receipt of the current valuation and final resolution of Council.
3. That Council provide the BACHS with the requested evidence of Tenure and Letter of Support, as requested.
4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

**Amendment**

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

1. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to further discuss with the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS) the potential acquisition of the following land:
  - a) Lot 8 DP 35739, Lot 9 DP 35739 and Lot 10 DP35739 in Mitchell Street, Bourke
  - b) Three (3) x lots from Lot 6 DP 35797, Lot 7 DP 35797, Lot 8 DP 35797, Lot 9 DP 35797 and Lot 10 DP 35797.
2. That on the basis of three (3) lots in one line being required, the land be available for sale at an indicative combined price of \$45,000.
3. That Council provide the BACHS with the requested Evidence of Tenure and Letter of Support, as requested.
4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

**The Amendment was put to the meeting and was carried.**

**The Amendment became the Motion and was put to the meeting.**

**Resolution 2022/222**

**Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel**

**Seconded: Cr Sam Rice**

- 1. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to further discuss with the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS) the potential acquisition of the following land:
  - a) Lot 8 DP 35739, Lot 9 DP 35739 and Lot 10 DP35739 in Mitchell Street, Bourke**
  - b) Three (3) x lots from Lot 6 DP 35797, Lot 7 DP 35797, Lot 8 DP 35797, Lot 9 DP 35797 and Lot 10 DP 35797.****
- 2. That on the basis of three (3) lots in one line being required, the land be available for sale at an indicative combined price of \$45,000.**
- 3. That Council provide the BACHS with the requested Evidence of Tenure and Letter of Support, as requested.**
- 4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.**

**Carried**

At this juncture, Cr Victor Bartley returned to the meeting, the time being 10:16 am.

## **22.3 \*\*\* WRITE-OFF OUTSTANDING DEBTOR ACCOUNTS**

**File Number: D1.1**

The Council had before it the report of the Acting Manager Corporate Services regarding the Write-off outstanding Debtor accounts.

Motion

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

1. That a write-off of \$4,262.84 for DRS Australia Pty Ltd is approved as the debt is not recoverable in the event that an approach to TAFE NSW to recover the funds is unsuccessful.
2. That Council write to TAFE NSW regarding this outstanding debtor account in the name of DRS Australia, a contractor to TAFE NSW.

**Amendment**

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

1. That a write-off of \$4,262.84 for DRS Australia Pty Ltd is approved as the debt is not recoverable in the event that an approach to TAFE NSW to recover the funds is unsuccessful.
2. That Council write to TAFE NSW regarding this outstanding debtor account in the name of DRS Australia, a contractor to TAFE NSW.
3. That the documents and consideration in respect if this matter remain confidential to Council.

**The Amendment was put to the meeting and was carried.**

**The Amendment became the Motion and was carried.**

**Resolution 2022/223**

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

1. That a write-off of \$4,262.84 for DRS Australia Pty Ltd is approved as the debt is not recoverable in the event that an approach to TAFE NSW to recover the funds is unsuccessful.
2. That Council write to TAFE NSW regarding this outstanding debtor account in the name of DRS Australia, a contractor to TAFE NSW.
3. That the documents and consideration in respect if this matter remain confidential to Council.

**Carried**

**Resolution 2022/224**

**Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington**

**Seconded: Cr Sally Davis**

**That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.**

**Carried**

Open council resumed at 10.31 am.

**RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL**

At the request of the Chairman, the General Manager read to the meeting the Councils resolutions as determined in the Closed Session of Council.

**The Meeting closed at 10.35 am.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 October 2022.**

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**CHAIRPERSON**

**10 NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil

**11 RESCISSION MOTIONS**

Nil



## 12 BUSINESS ARISING

**12.1 \*\*\* BUSINESS ARISING**

**File Number:** C12.1  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Background**

Business outstanding from previous meetings.

**Current Situation**

**KEY:** Action Still Pending  Action in Progress  Action  Complete

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GM GENERAL MANAGER                 | MW MANAGER WORKS                 |
| MCS MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES     | MRS MANAGER ROAD SERVICES        |
| MES MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | EDM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 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.<br>2. That on finalisation of that review a further report be brought back to Council | 1. Continue to lobby Government – matter evolving.<br>2. Issue of impact of the Biodiversity Act recently discussed at meeting of the Alliance of Western Councils.<br>3. Meeting held with Alliance of Western Councils and Paul Scully, Shadow Minister for Planning, 1 September to provide an update on the impact if the Biodiversity Act.<br>4. Matter continues to be pursued by Western Alliance on behalf of member Councils. |

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| 427/2018   | PROPOSED CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE PCYC   |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER  |
| FILE NO  | L1.17-Y1.7-LD-L11.14.3  |
| <b>DECISION</b>  | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b>   |
| That the General Manager prepare a detailed report in relation to the matter, including the seeking of legal advice if necessary | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In progress.</li> <li>2. Teleconference held 20/08/2020.</li> <li>3. Correspondence sent to PCYC 25/8/20 and followed up for response 20/10/20 &amp; 16/11/2020.</li> <li>4. Matter further discussed with Crown Lands staff on 09/03/2021 for their contact with PCYC.</li> <li>5. Further discussions held in July 2021 with Crown Lands in regard to their contact with PCYC with correspondence sent to PCYC as a follow up to discussions.</li> <li>6. PCYC have advised that as a result of internal management changes they wish to defer discussions on land management till mid-2022.</li> <li>7. No further approaches made by PCYC re land management matter.</li> </ol> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 156/2019   | CONFIDENTIAL – CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT FACILITIES  |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | PETER BROWN - MANAGER OF WORKS  |
| FILE NO  | S3.2.3  |
| <b>DECISION</b>  | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b>   |
| 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing.</li> <li>2. Water use study near completion. Will then make application for additional funding.</li> </ol> |

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| 274/2019   | DROUGHT – WATER UPDATE   |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER   |
| FILE NO  | W2.2.9 – W2.2.9.1  |
| <b>DECISION</b>  | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b>  |
| 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter sent &amp; meeting held.</li> <li>2. State Government commits to preparation of Western Weirs Strategy.</li> <li>3. Teleconference involving staff and Councillors held with State Water on 22/9/2020 re Strategy.</li> </ol> |

4. Meeting held with DPIE representatives on 10/11/2020 & 11/11/2020.
5. Further briefings on Strategy held 10/02/2021 and 24/05/2021.
6. Discussions held by GM with Jim Betts in July 2021 Secretary, DPIE, in regard to the Weir Strategy Project and its prolonged timeframes.
7. NSW Govt. in Oct 2021 announced the Better Baaka Program which includes Weir renewals on the Darling and specifically upgrading of the Bourke Weir. Meeting with DPIE to be held in Bourke on 23 November 2021.
8. Meeting held DPIE 23/11/2021 with Jim Bently and his team via Video conference regarding Better Baaka Better Bidgee project.
9. Meeting held in December 2021 with Andrew Lavelle regarding the Weir upgrade at Bourke and connectivity strategy.
10. Contact made with Minister Pavey's Office re concerns regarding potential removal of downstream weirs.
11. GM and MCS met with DPIE officers undertaking Western Regional Water Strategy consultation in Bourke on 8 March 2022 raising concern at the potential loss of downstream weirs.
12. Contact made in March 2022 with Andrew Lavelle of DPIE re weir progress. Advised that Western Weirs project is progressing following completion of Strategic Business Case. Advised that he will be seeking to have further conversations re weirs downstream.
13. Meeting held with Graham Attenborough and Jason Gordon of DPIE on 15 March 2022 re all things water including weir.
14. Mayor, Mark Riley and Leonie Brown attended the DPIE Forum at Bourke Bowling Club on 30 June 2022 re Western Region Water Strategy and Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan and Floodplain Harvesting licencing.

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|  | <p>15. Submissions subsequently made re increasing Bourke Weir height and retention of downstream weirs.</p> <p>16. Mayor/GM met with Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP Federal Minister for the Environment and Water at Alliance of Western Council Meeting at Narromine on 19/08/2022.</p> <p>17. Ingrid Emery, Executive Director Project Interfaces and Program Management Water Infrastructure to provide update to Councillors on 22 August 2022 – No State or Federal Funding for Final Business Case Study.</p> |
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|---------------------|--|
| 2020/111            | DUAL NAMING OF THE DARLING RIVER – DARLING RIVER BAAKA |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER                         |
| FILE NO             | R6.5   |

| DECISION  | ACTION TAKEN   |
|---|--|
| <p>That Council seek further clarification from the GNB on which section of the Darling River will be dual named Baaka and will the name be Darling Baaka River / Baaka Darling River or Darling River Baaka.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing. Geographical Names Board GNB contacted.</li> <li>2. Investigations are continuing by GNB.</li> <li>3. GNB advised in July 2021 that it would be undertaking consultation in August 2021 in regard to dual name proposal.</li> <li>4. GNB subsequently advised in August that due to COVID the consultations will now be undertaken in 2022.</li> <li>5. Meeting was to be held with GNB on 22 June 2022 however was postponed by GNB till “next month” with a date yet to be suggested.</li> <li>6. Meeting scheduled for 19 July 2022 postponed – new date yet to be confirmed.</li> <li>7. New meeting date proposed for 11 October 2022.</li> <li>8. Representatives of NSW GNB attended Council on 11 October 2022 and met with available Councillors and relevant staff re naming matter.</li> </ol> |

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| 2020/236   | 14.2 BOURKE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL                         |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS                                      |
| FILE NO  | A6.1   |
| <b>DECISION</b>  |  |
| That Council seeks 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. | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b><br>Brief prepared, quotations to be invited. |

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| 2020/325 & 326   | REVIEW OF CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2019/2020 AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS – ITEM 15.5 - MOUNT OXLEY  |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER   |
| FILE NO  | R2.5   |
| <b>DECISION</b>  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council notes the report on the responsibility and current condition of the access road to the summit of Mount Oxley.</li> <li>2. That Council notes the status of telecommunication infrastructure located atop Mount Oxley.</li> <li>3. That following a Title Search discussion 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.</li> <li>4. That Council investigates 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.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extensive title searches have been completed.</li> <li>2. Liability issues being pursued by Booth Brown Legal for further report.</li> <li>3. Meeting held with Mr &amp; Mrs Stalley on 10 December 2020.</li> <li>4. Risk review undertaken by Council’s insurers on 16/03/21. Awaiting advice to allow instructions to be issued by Booth Brown Legal to prepare licence documentation.</li> <li>5. Discussions held with NSW Telco Authority re potential for funding to assist with road upgrade. Costs advised. No funding available.</li> <li>6. Further discussions to be held with owners of Mt Oxley site.</li> </ol> |

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| 2019/439 & 2021/33   | NORTH BOURKE BRIDGE REHABILITATION CONCEPT PLAN   |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER  |
| FILE NO  | B6.1  |
| <b>DECISION</b>  |   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council continues to apply for funding to undertake the project</li> <li>2. Council commits additional funds of \$269,922 from Councils Infrastructure Reserve Fund to ensure a total co-contribution from Council of \$969,922 (25%) to the Building Better Regions Fund Round 5, for North Bourke Bridge Renewal, if a funding application is successful.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing.</li> <li>2. Letter received from Minister Toole 11/11/2020 advising upcoming funding opportunities for bridge.</li> <li>3. Funds as resolved reserved in Councils accounts.</li> <li>4. Application under Building Better Regions Fund lodged 11/02/2021. Application unsuccessful.</li> </ol> |

|  |   |
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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Strategy prepared for investigation, assessment and restoration of bridge for input into Tourism Grant Application.</li> <li>6. Application lodged in August 2021. No response to date.</li> <li>7. Representations made to Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP regarding funding for Bridge.</li> <li>8. Further application under Building Better Regions Fund lodged February 2022.</li> <li>9. Council resolved 25 February 2022 to allocate funding of \$200,000 to engage a structural engineer to prepare documentation to allow Council to invite tenders for restoration of the bridge.</li> <li>10. Draft brief prepared and with Public Works Advisory (PWA) for review.</li> <li>11. Quote obtained from PWA with further discussions to be held.</li> <li>12. Further Grant funding application for design funding lodged with NSW Government in July 2022.</li> <li>13. Councils Grant Funding application was successful. Still awaiting Deed for execution.</li> </ol> |
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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2021/355            | ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW     |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER |
| FILE NO             | R7.1, R7.4.3                   |

| DECISION   | ACTION TAKEN  |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council provide a submission to the Independent Panel on Road Classification Review and Regional Road Transfer proposing that ownership of the Bourke – Milparinka Rd (Wanaaring Rd) be transferred to the NSW Government, as a minimum.</li> <li>2. That 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).</li> <li>3. That Council also provides a submission to the</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submission to Review Panel prepared and submitted.</li> <li>2. Additional information and financial data requested for consideration 23 August 2022. Information provided.</li> <li>3. No Further information to date.</li> </ol> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Independent Panel on Road Classification Review and Regional Road Transfer proposing the reclassification from local road to regional road status of the following roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RLR 5 – Caronga Peak to Wilga Downs (23km / no bridge);</li> <li>• RLR50 - Moleyarrah Road – Wanaaring to Hungerford (86.82km / no bridge);</li> <li>• RLR44 – Janina Road – Louth to Wanaaring (85.7km / no bridge);</li> <li>• RLR49 – West Culgoa Road – Bourke to Weilmoringle (82.82km / single lane bridge).</li> </ul> |  |
|---|--|

|   |                                  |                     |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 2022/6  | NOTICE OF MOTION - VILLAGE TOURS |                     |  |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER   | LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER   |                     |  |
| FILE NO   | C8.1, C11.1, P4.1                |                     |  |
| <b>DECISION</b>   |                                  | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b> |  |
| All councillors be invited to attend any future Council Village Tours and community meetings. |                                  | Noted.              |  |

|  |  |                     |  |
|--|--|---------------------|--|
| 2022/11  | EMPLOYMENT ZONE REFORM                             |                     |  |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY - MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES |                     |  |
| FILE NO  | T5.1   |                     |  |
| <b>DECISION</b>  |  | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b> |  |
| That the proposal to permit business premises, with consent, in the R1 General Residential Zone of the Bourke Local Environmental Plan be endorsed for the purposes of preparing a Planning Proposal for further consideration by Council in due course. |  | Matter proceeding.  |  |

| 2022/63  | CONTRACT MANAGEMENT OF THE BOURKE WAR MEMORIAL OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL  |  |
|--|---|--|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY - MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  |  |
| FILE NO  | S10.1   |  |
| DECISION   |   |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That as per the existing Management Contract between Council and Mr Mark Hollman in respect of the Management of the Bourke War Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool Complex (BWMOSP), Council and Mr Hollman proceed to exercise the available 12-month option period ending 30 June 2023 at the agreed contract fee for the season as detailed in the report herewith.</li> <li>2. That it be noted that as per the existing contract in respect of the management of the BWMOSP, it will be necessary for Council to invite tenders for the management Contract post the period ending 30 June 2023.</li> <li>3. That entry fees at the Bourke War Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool Complex for the 2022/2023 period be included and exhibited as part of Councils 2022/2023 draft Operational Plan.</li> </ol> | ACTION TAKEN  |  |
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contractor formally advised of Council’s decision.</li> <li>2. Contract Management Tenders to be invited in due course.</li> <li>3. Entry fees included in 2022/2023 draft Operational Plan.</li> </ol> |  |

| 2022/ 96   | NORTH BOURKE STORMWATER DRAINAGE   |  |
|--|--|--|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER   |  |
| FILE NO  | D6.1, D6.2, V 1.6  |  |
| DECISION   |  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the information in the report of the General Manager from March 2022 be noted.</li> <li>2. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to take the necessary action in pursuit of potentially acquiring land in respect of this drainage matter, for a further report to Council.</li> <li>3. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to brief Mr G Seiler on the progress of this matter.</li> <li>4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.</li> </ol> | ACTION TAKEN   |  |
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigations into land proceeding.</li> <li>2. Mayor and GM have briefed Mr Seiler.</li> <li>3. Land to west of subject site reviewed by environmental consultant and is considered to be an undesirable location for the construction of stormwater retention infrastructure due to the multitude of environmental, practical and physical constraints.</li> <li>4. Further update meeting held in June 2022 with Mr Seiler involving Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Messrs Riley and Brown.</li> <li>5. Monthly progress reports to be</li> </ol> |  |



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|  | <p>provided to Mr Seiler by Council.</p> <p>6. Structural Engineer engaged by Insurers inspected property on 8 September 2022.</p> <p>7. Meeting held with landowners to the north of Warrego Street with a view to a portion of this land being acquired and utilised for the construction of a detention pond. Further information being sought for a future meeting.</p> |
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| 2022/ 113           | LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 23 TO 25 OCTOBER 2022 |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER                                       |
| FILE NO             | L8.3, G2.3, M2.2   |

| DECISION   | ACTION TAKEN  |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the Mayor and General Manager attend the LGNSW Annual Conference to be held 23 to 25 October 2022.</li> <li>That Councillors who wish to attend the LGNSW Annual Conference to be held 23 to 25 October 2022 nominate prior to August 2022.</li> </ol> | <p>Mayor, Councillor Bartley and General Manager registered to attend conference.</p> |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 2022/ 115           | RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT FRAMEWORK FOR COUNCILS |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER                            |
| FILE NO             | R5.1  |

| DECISION   | ACTION TAKEN   |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council join with the Far North West Joint Organisation and its member Councils in establishing a Shared Audit Risk and Improvement Committee in accordance with section 428B of the Local Government Act 1993.</li> <li>That Council delegate authority to the Far North West Joint Organisation to appoint the chair and two (2) independent members to form the shared Audit Risk And Improvement Committee to serve the Far North West Joint Organisation and all three member Councils.</li> <li>That Council appoint a Councillor to serve as the non-voting board member on the ARIC for this Council only.</li> <li>That Council adopt the Draft Terms of Reference developed for the operation of the Audit Risk and Improvement noting the initial revised term to cater for the shorter period to be served by the current Council and</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Manager advised FNWJO of Council’s resolution.</li> <li>Manager Corporate Services take the necessary action to implement Council’s resolution.</li> <li>Expression of Interest received from another Council regarding joining the FNWJO.</li> <li>FNWJO meeting held on 1 August 2022.</li> <li>Matter proceeding.</li> </ol> |

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| <p>the fact that there is no current need for the Chair to be pre-qualified at this stage.</p> <p>5. That Council note the Expression of Interest document developed by the Far North West Joint Organisation for distribution to potential applicants for persons to serve as the Chair or one of the two (2) independent Committee Members including the fees payable to the Chair and Committee members.</p> <p>6. That applications as detailed in the Expression of Interest document be called for by the placement of advertisements in the local papers circulating in each of the towns within the FNWJO area together with the websites of each of the member Councils to provide local residents the opportunity to apply to become a member of the Shared Committee if they are suitably qualified and wish to apply.</p> |  |
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|---------------------|--|
| 2022/ 116           | RECONNECTING REGIONAL NSW - COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER                       |
| FILE NO             | G4.1   |

| DECISION   | ACTION TAKEN  |
|--|---|
| <p>1. That application be made to the Community Events Program for \$150,854 for events to be held in Bourke, Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth and Wanaaring.</p> <p>2. That the Mayor, and General Manager be authorised to finalise the list of events for submission of the application of \$150,854 for the Community Events Program.</p> | <p>1. Manager Economic Develop take the necessary action to implement Council’s resolution.</p> <p>2. Applications submitted for Rodeo event in Bourke and various other events at villages in the Shire.</p> <p>3. Events identified to be funded under the Reconnecting Regional NSW Grant include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Back O’ Bourke Rodeo – 15/10/2022</li> <li>2. Henry Lawson Centenary Celebrations – 02-04/09/2022</li> <li>3. Louth Races – 06/08/2022</li> <li>4. Wanaaring Gymkhana/Bike Day – 24/09/2022</li> <li>5. Enngonia Races – 17/09/2022</li> <li>6. Fords Bridge Christmas Tree – December 2022</li> <li>7. Byrock Christmas Tree – December 2022</li> </ol> <p>4. Awaiting approval of application.</p> <p>5. Application subsequently approved.</p> |

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|  | <p>6. Weather has affected some events. A revised Scope of Works completed with reallocation of funds.</p> <p>7. Arrangements for the major event, Bourke Rodeo, to be held in October 2022, proceeding well.</p> <p>8. Due to a general pattern of wet weather, the Rodeo was postponed until 3 December 2022.</p> |
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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2022/160            | RURAL WATER CONNECTIONS     |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS |
| FILE NO             | W2.1                        |

| DECISION  | ACTION TAKEN   |
|---|--|
| <p>1. That the identified boundaries for the maintenance and supply of water to the Village of Wanaaring, as herewith, be adopted.</p> <p>2. That Council cease to maintain and supply water to any properties outside of the identified boundaries for the Village of Wanaaring as included herewith.</p> <p>3. That Council advise any residents on water lines external to the village boundaries that no further upgrade to the water supply line will be completed by Bourke Shire Council and that effective 1 January 2023, the service be disconnected.</p> | <p>1. Property owners advised and letters provided.</p> <p>2. Service to be disconnected 1 January 2023.</p> |

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|---------------------|--|
| 2022/161            | CAMPING & CARAVAN USAGE - MITCHELL HIGHWAY ROAD RESERVE AND NORTH BOURKE BOAT RAMP CROWN RESERVE |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES   |
| FILE NO             | L1.9   |

| DECISION  | ACTION TAKEN   |
|---|--|
| <p>1. That the legislative information in respect of the potential usage of the North Bourke Boat Ramp Crown Reserve for the purposes of caravanning and camping be noted.</p> <p>2. That Council not pursue the development of a primitive campground to allow camping at the North Bourke Boat Ramp Crown Reserve and having regard to this position, camping in this reserve not be permissible and appropriate signage be maintained.</p> <p>3. That Council enter into discussions with TfNSW with a view to the sealed section of road reserve leading to the old North Bourke Bridge being designated for use by light</p> | <p>1. Contact made with Transport for NSW (TfNSW).</p> <p>2. Awaiting response from TfNSW.</p> |

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| <p>and recreational travellers as a Rest Area, for a trial period ending 12 months after the opening of such road reserve as a rest area, should it be approved.</p> <p>4. At the end of this period it would be proposed that a report on the trial be provided to Council to review usage and issues, including any impact on accommodation providers in Bourke.</p> <p>5. That Council investigate further opportunities to promote Bourke as an RV friendly town.</p> |  |
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|---------------------|---|
| 2022/162            | ACCOUNTING FOR RURAL FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER              |
| FILE NO             | F2.3  |

| DECISION   | ACTION TAKEN  |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council write to the NSW Treasurer, the Hon Matt Kean MP; the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, the Hon Stephanie Cook MP; the Minister for Local Government, Wendy Tuckerman MP and the Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP expressing Council’s objection to the NSW Governments determination on ownership of Rural Fire Service assets.</li> <li>2. That Council write to the NSW Auditor General, Ms Margaret Crawford, advising that Council will not carry out RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets in Bourke Shire Council’s Financial Statements.</li> <li>3. That Council requests LGNSW to continue advocating on Council’s behalf to get clarification finally from the State Government about the accounting treatment of RFS assets.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letters written to the NSW Treasurer, the Hon Matt Kean MP; the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, the Hon Stephanie Cook MP; the Minister for Local Government, Wendy Tuckerman MP, the Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP.</li> <li>2. Letter written to the NSW Auditor General, Ms Margaret Crawford.</li> <li>3. Letter written to Mr Scott Phillips, CEO, Local Government NSW.</li> <li>4. Discussion held between GM and Audit Office representative whereby Councils position was reiterated.</li> <li>5. In preparing the 2021/2022 Financial Statements, the issue of the Rural Fire Service plant and equipment “Red Fleet” was again discussed with the Auditors. It was determined that the value of these assets were not material and accordingly such equipment was not recognised in the Financial Statements, with an unqualified Audit Report issued by the Audit Office.</li> </ol> |

| 2022/176   | MAYORAL MINUTE – WESTERN WEIRS STRATEGY   |
|--|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER  |
| FILE NO  | W3.1  |
| <b>DECISION</b>  |   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the status upgrade in respect of the Western Weirs Strategy as presented to Council by Ms Ingrid Emery, Water Infrastructure NSW on Monday, 22 August 2022 be noted.</li> <li>2. That Council write to the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, and the Hon. Kevin Anderson, MP, State Minister for Land and Water seeking support and funding to progress the next stage of the Western Weir Strategy being the Final Business Case for the proposed upgrading of the Bourke Weir to improve town water supply security.</li> </ol> | <b>ACTION TAKEN</b>   |
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter written by the Mayor to Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP, seeking support and funding to progress to the next stage of the Western Weir Strategy being the Final Business Case for the proposed upgrading of the Bourke Weir to improve town water supply security.</li> <li>2. Letter also written to the Hon. Kevin Anderson, State Minister for Land and Water seeking support and seeking a meeting to discuss same. Minister’s office advised that “the Minister will be unable to accept your request to meet.”</li> <li>3. Response dated 5 October 2022 received from Minister Anderson. The Minister advised that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure NSW (INSW) completed its Gateway 1 Review in December 2021 in respect of the Western Weirs Program. INSW is working with the Australian Government re: funding arrangements for a final Business Case.</li> <li>• Western Weirs Program has been incorporated into the Better Baaka Program. Better Baaka aims to protect rivers and floodplains with towns having “a secure water source into the future, and sustainable local communities, agriculture and industries can be supported.”</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

| 2022/195   | HISTORICAL LAND TRANSFER - 25 MERTIN STREET, BOURKE   |
|--|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER  |
| FILE NO  | S3.1.2  |
| DECISION   |   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council proceed to accept the transfer of 25 Mertin St, Bourke from the Murdi Paaki Regional Housing Corporation into Councils ownership with such land being transferred to Council at no cost, with Council to pay all legal costs associated with the transfer.</li> <li>2. That any necessary documents relating to this land transfer be executed under the Common Seal of Council.</li> <li>3. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.</li> </ol> | ACTION TAKEN  |
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contract for the acquisition of this land has been signed and is back with Solicitors.</li> <li>2. Settlement is imminent with cheque for Solicitors fees drawn.</li> </ol> |

| 2022/205   | CONTINUATION OF ALCOHOL-FREE ZONE - ENNGONIA                                  |
|--|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES                            |
| FILE NO  | H1.5  |
| DECISION   |   |
| That Council approves the continuation of the Alcohol-Free Zone within the village of Enngonia from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2026 and to notify the public in accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines. | ACTION TAKEN  |
|  | Notification of Zone to the public advertised with necessary signage changes. |

| 2022/207  | 2022 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS  |
|---|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER   | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER  |
| FILE NO   | R7.6-G2.2-M2.2  |
| DECISION  |   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Mayor and General Manager, or nominee, attend the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held 2-3 November 2022.</li> <li>2. That Councillors who wish to attend the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held from 2-3 November 2022 nominate to the General Manager prior to Wednesday, 5 October 2022.</li> </ol> | ACTION TAKEN  |
|   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillors emailed requesting expressions of interest; no responses received.</li> <li>2. Mayor and General Manager withdrew from participating in the conference due to the ongoing flood event.</li> </ol> |

| 2022/208   | AUSTRALIA DAY   |
|--|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER  |
| FILE NO  | C2.3-C2.31  |
| DECISION   |   |
| ACTION TAKEN   |   |
| <p>1. That award categories for the 2023 Australia Day Awards be maintained as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Citizen of the Year;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Junior Citizen of the Year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sportsperson of the year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Junior Sportsperson of the year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Village Service Award</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services Volunteer of the year</li> </ul> <p>2. That nominations in respect of the 2023 Australia Day Awards open on Tuesday 1 November 2022 and close at 4.30 pm on Friday 2 December 2022.</p> <p>3. That Council delegate to the General Manager the role of finalising the determination of the Bourke Shire Council Australia Day Award Recipients, having regard to deliberations to be undertaken as part of a Workshop of Councillors to be convened following the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 19 December 2022.</p> | <p>Notice placed on Social media, Bourke Shire Council Facebook page and advertised in the Western Herald 20 October 2022 and weekly until nominations close.</p> |

| 2022/211  | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT                         |
|---|--|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER   | BRIAN TICKLE- ACTING MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES    |
| FILE NO   | F1.4.6   |
| DECISION  |  |
| ACTION TAKEN  |  |
| <p>1. That Council notes the report detailing the Financial Assistance Grant recommended allocation for 2022/2023.</p> <p>2. That the additional funds received, estimated to be \$652,140.00 be transferred to Councils Asset Renewal Reserve.</p> | <p>Funds transferred to Asset Renewal Reserve.</p> |

| 2022/212   | VISITOR ENHANCEMENTS AT BACK O' BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE                  |
|--|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | MELANIE MILGATE – MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT                            |
| FILE NO  | T1.1  |
| DECISION   |   |
| ACTION TAKEN   |   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That an application for funding of \$506,000 be made to the Regional Tourism Activation Fund for visitor enhancements to the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre.</li> <li>2. That should the grant application be successful, Council make a co-contribution of \$168,000 towards the proposed enhancement works at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre from Councils Infrastructure Renewal Reserve fund.</li> </ol> | <p>Application for funding submitted. Awaiting outcome in due course.</p> |

| 2022/213  | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - BOURKE HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 12 FORMAL   |
|---|--|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER   | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER   |
| FILE NO   | A3.14-E1.2   |
| DECISION  |  |
| ACTION TAKEN  |  |
| <p>That Council accede to the request of Bourke High School to waive the hire fees and the lodgement of a bond in support of the 2022 Year 12 Formal.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter written and provided to Relieving Principal, Robert Bourke.</li> <li>2. Ben Nott, BOBEC advised.</li> </ol> |

| 2022/221   | BOURKE EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY BORES - TENDERS   |
|--|---|
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  | PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS   |
| FILE NO  | W2.1-W2.10  |
| DECISION   |   |
| ACTION TAKEN   |   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel that the tender submitted by Aqua Irrigation Holdings Pty Ltd, T/A Aquawest in the Recommended Tender Amount of \$1,217,500.00 (including GST or \$1,106,818.18 excluding GST), be accepted for Contract No. 10051141 for the Bourke Water Supply - Mechanical, electrical and power supply work for emergency water supply bores” be accepted.</li> <li>2. That it be noted that this tender price also includes the optional works in respect of vegetation removal and an extraction fan for the chlorine room.</li> <li>3. That Council concur with the expenditure of \$316,905.00 (ex GST) to fund the engagement of PWA to undertake the Project Management of the tendered works; fund contingencies and engage PWA to develop and design an Operational Plan for Emergency Bores.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letter of Award of Contract provided to Aqua Irrigation.</li> <li>2. PWA engaged to undertake the Project Management of the tendered works and further engage PWA to develop and design an Operational Plan for Emergency Bores.</li> </ol> |



|  |  |
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| <p>4. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council.</p> <p>5. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.</p> |  |
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|---------------------|--|
| 2022/222            | PROPOSED INTEGRATED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER                 |
| FILE NO             | A11.1-H1.1-H1.15                               |

| DECISION   | ACTION TAKEN   |
|--|--|
| <p>1. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to further discuss with the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS) the potential acquisition of the following land:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) Lot 8 DP 35739, Lot 9 DP 35739 and Lot 10 DP35739 in Mitchell Street, Bourke</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b) Three (3) x lots from Lot 6 DP 35797, Lot 7 DP 35797, Lot 8 DP 35797, Lot 9 DP 35797 and Lot 10 DP 35797.</p> <p>2. That on the basis of three (3) lots in one line being required, the land be available for sale at an indicative combined price of \$45,000.</p> <p>3. That Council provide the BACHS with the requested Evidence of Tenure and Letter of Support, as requested.</p> <p>4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.</p> | <p>1. Further discussions with BACHS as Resolved by Council.</p> <p>2. Follow up report on matter to be considered by Council at its October 2022 meeting.</p> |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 2022/223            | WRITE-OFF OUTSTANDING DEBTOR ACCOUNTS            |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | BRIAN TICKLE – ACTING MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES |
| FILE NO             | D1.1   |

| DECISION  | ACTION TAKEN              |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>1. That a write-off of \$4,262.84 for DRS Australia Pty Ltd is approved as the debt is not recoverable in the event that an approach to TAFE NSW to recover the funds is unsuccessful.</p> <p>2. That Council write to TAFE NSW regarding this outstanding debtor account in the name of DRS Australia, a contractor to TAFE NSW.</p> <p>3. That the documents and consideration in respect if this matter remain confidential to Council.</p> | <p>Matter proceeding.</p> |

**Recommendation**

**That the information in the Business Arising Report as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be noted.**

**12.2 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**File Number:** C12.6  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Background**

Information is 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, are to be held.

**Current Situation**

| Month       | Date | Time   | Meeting / Event | Location        |
|-------------|------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>2022</b> |      |        |                 |                 |
| October     | 31   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| November    | 28   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| December    | 19   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| <b>2023</b> |      |        |                 |                 |
| February    | 27   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| March       | 27   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| April       | 24   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| May         | 22   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| June        | 26   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| July        | 24   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| August      | 28   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |
| September   | 25   | 9.15am | Council Meeting | Council Chamber |

**Recommendation**

**That the information in the Calendar of Events Report as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be noted.**

**12.3 INFORMATION TO COUNCILLORS**

**File Number:** C12.1  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Background**

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

**Current Situation**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Information Sent</b>   | <b>Author</b>              | <b>Email</b> |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| 21/09/2022  | Changes to mask mandate on NSW Public Transport   | NSW Government             | ✓            |
| 21/09/2022  | Business Papers for the Closed and Ordinary Meetings of Council of Monday 26 September 2022 | Leonie Brown               | ✓            |
| 27/09/2022  | Council Circular 22-27 Discussion paper – Senior Staff Employment                           | Office of Local Government | ✓            |
| 27/09/2022  | News from the Barwon Electorate   | Roy Butler MP              | ✓            |
| 27/09/2022  | Return and Earn Council Newsletter - September 2022   | NSW Government             | ✓            |
| 27/09/2022  | Upgrade of Electronic Devices for Councillors - Update                                      | Executive Assistant        | ✓            |
| 28/09/2022  | Minutes of the Council Meeting of 26 September 2022   | Executive Assistant        | ✓            |
| 28/09/2022  | GM's Column for Publication Thursday, 29 September 2022                                     | Leonie Brown               | ✓            |
| 29/09/2022  | Invitation to Dinner and Meeting with the Orana Water Utilities Alliance                    | Simone Goodwin             | ✓            |
| 29/09/2022  | The Weekly Newsletter, 27 September 2022  | Local Government NSW       | ✓            |
| 29/09/2022  | Weekly Newsletter   | RDA Orana                  | ✓            |
| 29/09/2022  | Attendance at the 2022 National Local Roads and Transport Congress                          | Executive Assistant        | ✓            |
| 04/10/2022  | Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 26 September  | Mark Coulton MP            | ✓            |
| 05/10/2022  | News from the Barwon Electorate   | Roy Butler MP              | ✓            |
| 05/10/2022  | The Weekly Newsletter, 4 October 2022   | Local Government NSW       | ✓            |
| 05/10/2022  | MDA 2022 78th National Conference - Summary   | Murray Darling Association | ✓            |
| 05/10/2022  | Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 3 October 2022  | Mark Coulton MP            | ✓            |
| 05/10/2022  | Fortnightly newsletter - 29 September 2022  | Office of Local Government | ✓            |

|            |   |  |   |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 05/10/2022 | GM's Column for Publication Thursday, 6 October 2022  | Leonie Brown                           | ✓ |
| 06/10/2022 | Topical stories regarding Local Government issues   | Inside Local Government                | ✓ |
| 06/10/2022 | Red tape slashed for farm tourism   | NSW Farmers Association                | ✓ |
| 07/10/2022 | Skills shortages bite food producers  | NSW Farmers Association                | ✓ |
| 07/10/2022 | Don't repeat map mistakes   | NSW Farmers Association                | ✓ |
| 07/10/2022 | Invitation to meet with representatives from the NSW Geographical Names Board               | Executive Assistant                    | ✓ |
| 10/10/2022 | Weekly Newsletter   | RDA Orana                              | ✓ |
| 10/10/2022 | Coulton's Catch Up – Monday 10 October  | Mark Coulton MP                        | ✓ |
| 10/10/2022 | Rural communities on alert as rivers rise   | NSW Farmers Association                | ✓ |
| 10/10/2022 | Public Exhibition - draft Far West Regional Plan 2041                                       | Department of Planning and Environment | ✓ |
| 12/10/2022 | GM's Column for Publication Thursday, 13 October 2022                                       | Leonie Brown                           | ✓ |
| 12/10/2022 | Get ready for second 2021 Census data release   | Australian Bureau of Statistics        | ✓ |
| 12/10/2022 | Media Release: Safety upgrade along Mitchell Highway between Nyngan and Bourke now complete | Mark Coulton MP                        | ✓ |
| 13/10/2022 | Media Release: \$2.4 million making a splash for Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool              | Mark Coulton MP                        | ✓ |
| 13/10/2022 | Unblocking Homes Program Announcement   | Local Government NSW                   | ✓ |
| 13/10/2022 | The Weekly Newsletter, 12 October 2022  | Local Government NSW                   | ✓ |
| 17/10/2022 | Electorate of Parkes E-news – Spring 2022   | Mark Coulton MP                        | ✓ |
| 19/10/2022 | GM's Column for Publication Thursday, 20 October 2022                                       | Leonie Brown                           | ✓ |
| 19/10/2022 | Biosecurity boost 'vital' in Budget   | NSW Farmers Association                | ✓ |
| 19/10/2022 | OLG's fortnightly newsletter - 13 October 2022  | Office of Local Government             | ✓ |
| 19/10/2022 | Reminder - Council Meeting 31/10/2022   | Executive Assistant                    | ✓ |
| 20/10/2022 | The Weekly Newsletter, 19 October 2022  | Local Government NSW                   | ✓ |
| 20/10/2022 | Basin Bulletin Issue 55   | Murray Darling Association             | ✓ |

**Recommendation**

**That the contents of the Information to Councillors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be noted.**

**13      ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Nil

## 14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### 14.1 FOOD SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY REPORT 2021/2022

**File Number:** H1.5  
**Author:** Dwayne Willoughby, Manager Environmental Services  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### Background

Under the Food Regulation Partnership (FRP) councils are appointed as enforcement agencies under the NSW Food Act 2003. Enforcement agencies are responsible for food surveillance within their Local Government Area and are required to report their food surveillance activities to the NSW Food Authority. Bourke Shire Council is classified as a Category B Council under the FRP Partnership.

The submission of food surveillance activity is lodged via a report form. This activity report captures important information about the types of food premises and their inspection outcomes.

Reports are used to achieve outcomes that:

- guide the design of targeted programs to improve industry compliance;
- reduce foodborne illness by controlling critical food handling practices;
- demonstrate council activity;
- improve consistency among councils;
- increase public awareness about food surveillance.

Benefits of reporting include:-

- demonstrates food safety achievements;
- focuses on key food safety areas;
- improves consistency in inspections;
- enables individual councils to benchmark their food safety outcomes against the state;
- provides measurable performance indicators;
- justifies resources and funding;
- allows for early recognition that the program may not be completed allows for additional resources or contingency plans to be set up.

#### Current Situation

Council has undertaken inspections for the 2021/22 reporting period. In total 23 Food business premises were inspected with 3 premises identified as 'High Risk', 17 as 'Medium Risk' and 3 as 'Low Risk'.

Council also inspected mobile food premises, temporary food premises and childcare facilities that operated in the Council area in the reporting year.

Reports for each individual inspection of the food business were produced using the NSW Food Authority Food Assessment Report (FPAR). The FPAR is divided into nine sections that relate to compliance with the Food Safety Standards (FSS) of the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code (FSC). The nine sections relate to hygiene and food safety and focus on the most important foodborne illness risk factors that have been identified in numerous studies, including inadequate cooling and cold holding temperatures, food prepared ahead of planned service, inadequate hot holding temperatures, poor personal hygiene and infected (sick) food handlers, inadequate reheating and inadequate cleaning and sanitising of equipment and premises. The FPAR also allows Councils to trial the 'Scores on Doors' rating system.


Council staff have recorded that this reporting year has been a year of generally good compliance with the relevant food safety standards, with re-inspections conducted on food premises that failed their initial inspection. Technical advice was provided to businesses about compliance utilising factsheets and handouts. Staff also reported that a large percentage of food businesses in Bourke had a current food safety supervisor certificate.

**Recommendation**

**That the information contained within the Food Surveillance Activity Report be noted by Council.**



**14.2 DRAFT FAR WEST REGIONAL PLAN 2041**

**File Number:** T1.5  
**Author:** Dwayne Willoughby, Manager Environmental Services  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** 1. Draft Far West Regional Plan 2041 [↓](#) 

**Background**

The draft Far West Regional Plan 2041 is an update of the Far West Regional Plan 2036, the NSW Government's vision for the future of the Far West Region. That Plan required the NSW Government to work with councils, stakeholders, and the community to achieve priority actions. Regional plans are 20-year land use plans with a focus on the next 5 years. They are prepared under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Since the release of the Far West Regional Plan 2036, amendments to planning legislation has elevated the importance of strategic planning at a regional and local level. This planning is essential to managing changes in the population and economy while guiding the development of local strategic planning statements.

This updated Regional Plan draws from the local strategic planning statements prepared by each council for their LGA. It also recognises the interconnections the region has with other jurisdictions, as well as the relationships and commonalities with adjoining regions of NSW.

**Current Situation**

This draft regional plan also incorporates recent strategic work such as regional economic development strategies, the NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint, NSW State Water Strategy, Draft NSW Groundwater Strategy, Regional Water Strategies, Future Transport 20564, NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan, the establishment of renewable energy zones (REZs) across NSW, Housing 2041: NSW Housing Strategy and regional housing reviews and policies. The draft Regional Plan complements this work with land use responses that will help to meet NSW Government objectives, while supporting Council and private proponent land use planning.

**Key priorities for implementing the planning system in the Far West**

The Regional Plan review also identified a need for councils and state agencies to work together to support implementation of the planning system. This assistance could occur in a number of ways, with councils identifying that they need assistance in the following areas.

- **Strategic planning for housing**

Rather than each council undertaking their own local housing strategy, there is an opportunity to generate a regional or sub-regional scale housing strategy that can inform LSPs in their next review.

- **LEP reviews and amendment**

All Far West Councils LEPs are approximately 10 years old and require review, either as

comprehensive reviews or as packages of amendments.

- **Flood management strategic work**

Updating hazards mapping, including flooding, to inform up-to-date hazard planning.

- **Local strategic planning statement reviews**

Local strategic planning statements are considered to lack sufficient place-based content. Once finalised, the new Far West Regional Plan 2041 will inform the next generation of local strategic planning statements.

- **Standard development and engineering controls**

Some councils either do not have planners or sufficient experience and in-house technical guidance for development and engineering controls, including for more complex development proposals.

- **Reclassification of council-owned land**

Various councils in the Far West have parcels of land that has been incorrectly classified as 'community land' which affects the ability for the land to be used for (often existing) infrastructure or for it to be sold.

The Department has advised that it will consult with the councils and other state agencies to identify an ongoing and sustainable approach to providing planning assistance to the Far West.

The draft Far West Regional Plan is now on exhibition until 21 November 2022. Bourke Shire Council Staff have had several briefings with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment staff and raised issues about different facets of the draft including cross border linkages to Queensland, what the Abattoir means to business and employment to Bourke and surrounding communities, tourism aggregation towards Wanaaring and the North West Corner of the State, Health and Hospital services, Non-Government Organisations in the Far West Region, Transport and Logistics with major routes through Bourke and the Parkes Special Activation precinct. Further discussions are planned with the Department by Council Staff with a view to including recommendations into the draft plan.

Councillors can make individual submissions via the following website

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/draft-far-west-regional-plan-2041>

In addition, there is an opportunity to be part of online community facilitated information workshops as part of the consultation program. Councillors are encouraged to attend one of these sessions, as follows:-

- Workshop #1: Monday, 7 November, 6-7.30pm.
- Workshop #2: Thursday 10 November, 6-7.30pm.
- Workshop #3: Monday 14 November, 6-7.30pm.

Registration for the above workshops are available at:

<https://draftFarWest2041.eventbrite.com>

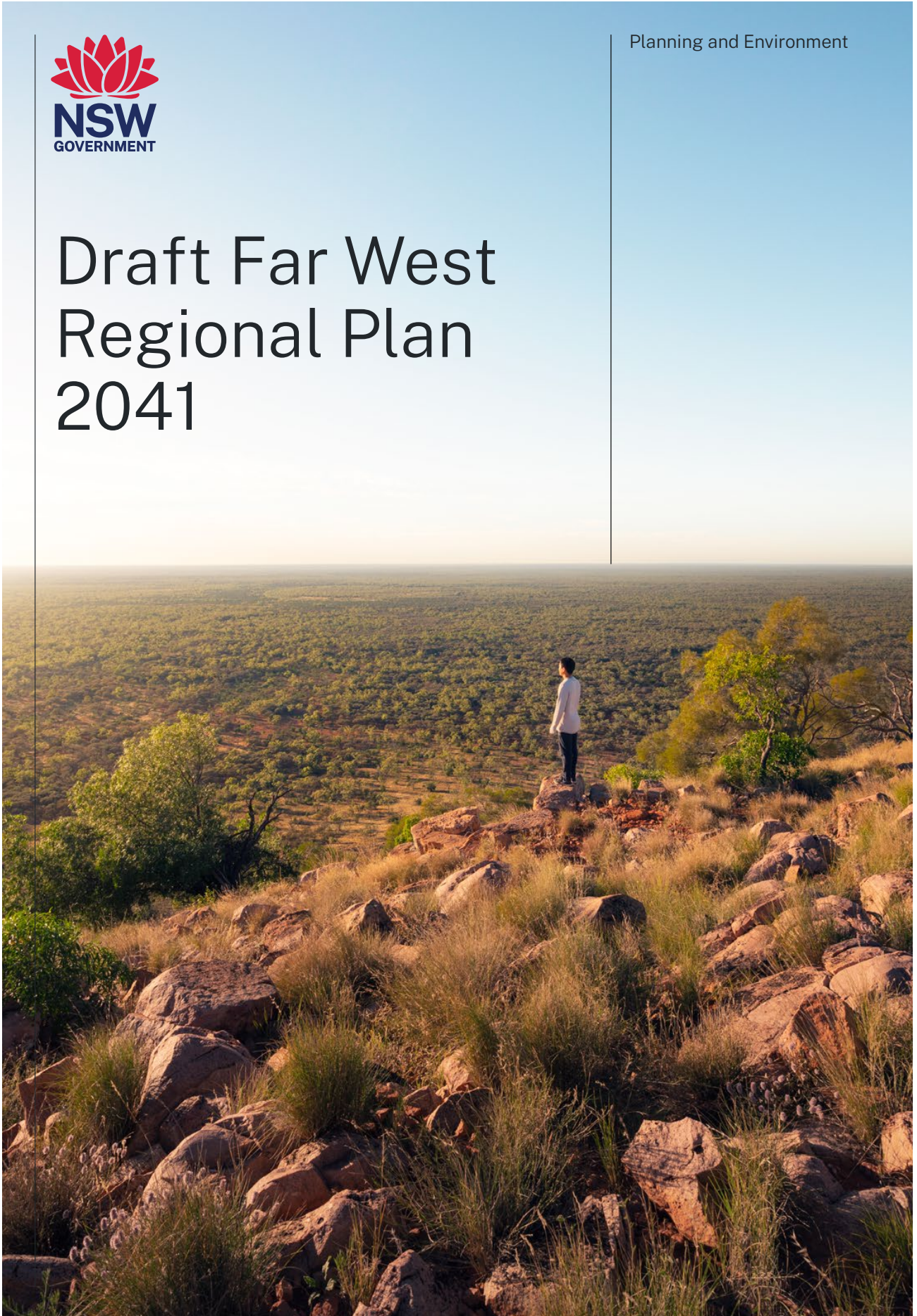
**Recommendation**

**That Council note the information contained within the Draft Far West Regional Plan 2041 Report.**



Planning and Environment

# Draft Far West Regional Plan 2041





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*Draft Far West Regional Plan 2041*

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## Acknowledgement of Country

The draft *Far West Regional Plan 2041* recognises that, as part of the world's oldest living continuing culture, Traditional Owners and Custodians share a unique connection to Country – a connection forged through thousands of years of living in the region.

Planning for the Far West acknowledges the continuous Aboriginal connection to the land in the region.

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Barkindji, Barindji, Baranbinja, Gamilaraay, Karenggapa, Koamu, Kula, Kurnu, Malyangapa, Milpulo, Murrawarri, Muthi Muthi, Naualko, Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Ngurunta, Parintji, Parundji, Ualarai / Euahlayi, Wadikali, Wilyakali, Wanjwalku, Pantjikali/Wanyiwalku, Paruntji, Weilwan, and Wongaibon Countries that this region sits within.

Aboriginal people have cared for the region for at least 60,000 years. Until colonisation, Aboriginal people lived sustainably, threatened only by natural hazards which were met with resilience gained from generations of life on Country and sustainable land management. The Aboriginal way of life was tied to the land which provided spiritual, cultural and physical sustenance.

Colonisation profoundly altered the lives of Aboriginal people and their land. Aboriginal people were dispossessed of their land and prevented from practising culture. Land was cleared and fenced, new flora and fauna were introduced and the movement of water across landscapes was modified.

Aboriginal people maintain a strong belief that if we care for Country, it will care for us. This requires Country to be cared for throughout the process of design and development. A Connecting with Country approach can give effect to statutory objectives that require Aboriginal culture and heritage to be sustainably managed in the built environment.

Using comprehensive and respectful approaches, planning for the Far West Region can build capacity and pathways for knowledge sharing between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Image on front cover: Mount Oxley, Bourke.  
 Credit: Destination NSW.  
 Image on this page: Cultural Tours, Mutawinji National Park.  
 Credit: Destination NSW.  
 Artwork (above) by Nikita Ridgeway.

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Nettleton's First Shaft  
Lookout, Lightning Ridge  
Credit: Destination NSW

# Minister's foreword

The Far West is NSW's largest region and one of the most geographically and environmentally diverse. Landscapes range from the outback semi-arid desert areas to rich farmlands, rangelands, and wetlands.

It is traversed by one of Australia's longest river systems, the Barwon-Darling, home to some of the world's oldest heritage sites and dotted with historic mining and agricultural towns that have strong links to the surrounding states and regions.

We've built on community and stakeholder aspirations for the region to create a draft regional plan that focuses on a more diverse economy, supported by the right infrastructure that services strong and resilient communities.

Building on the region's capacity and local leadership will unlock the Far West's unique opportunities. We can help to improve community wellbeing and economic growth by harnessing the strong sense of identity and community and by supporting locally initiated and coordinated approaches to service delivery.

This plan recognises the value of these unique landscapes in supporting existing industries and new economic ventures, including value-added manufacturing and tourism. The Far West can become a leader in renewable energy and climate change adaptation.

The remoteness of many Far West communities coupled with mining and agricultural history has resulted in the development of unique towns and villages. Significant opportunities exist for tourism, taking advantage of accessible outback experiences, dynamic communities, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture. The region has some of Australia's most significant cultural sites and landscapes and is home to part of the oldest continuing civilisation in the world.

Major intra-state and interstate transport routes connect the region to Sydney, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland, allowing for efficient freight and passenger transport to the rest

of the country and to ports for global export. Improving transport links and access to reliable telecommunications will provide economic and social benefits for the region's industries, residents and visitors.

Our aim is to support communities in the Far West as they adapt to the changing climate. The plan supports water security and green infrastructure that will contribute both to people's lifestyles and the sustainability and health of the environment.

We also want to help meet the needs of changing communities by creating a greater choice in the type of housing available and make it easier for people to access health and education services and public and community transport.

We recognise the region's Traditional Custodians and the contribution they make to the local economy and communities. As important partners and leaders in the region, they can help us to improve environmental, health, social and economic outcomes for everyone in the Far West.

The draft *Far West Regional Plan 2041* encompasses a vision, goals and actions geared towards achieving greater prosperity in the years ahead for the people who live and work in – or visit – this amazing part of Australia.



**The Hon. Anthony Roberts**  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Homes



# Introduction

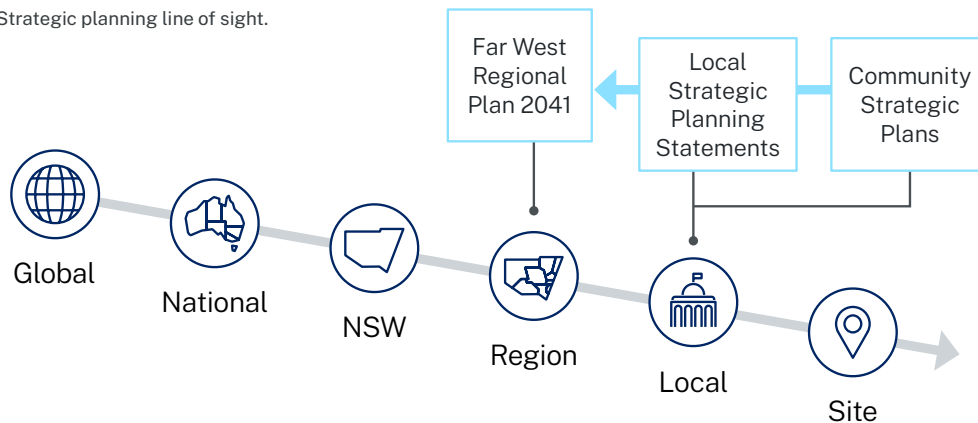
The Far West Region of NSW is one of the most remarkable places in Australia. Offering a mix of arid, semi-arid and riverine environments, with unique, heritage-filled towns and agricultural areas, the region encompasses the diverse local government areas (LGAs) of Balranald, Brewarrina, Bourke, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett, Wentworth, and the Unincorporated Area.

This draft *Far West Regional Plan 2041* focuses on the importance of place to the Far West’s people and its ongoing prosperity. It is these places that make the region unique.

Figure 1: Context



Figure 2: Strategic planning line of sight.



## Reviewing the regional plan

The draft *Far West Regional Plan 2041* is an update of the *Far West Regional Plan 2036*, the NSW Government’s vision for the future of the Far West Region. That plan required the NSW Government to work with councils, stakeholders, and the community to achieve priority actions.

Regional plans are 20-year land use plans with a focus on the next 5 years. They are prepared under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*.

Since the release of the *Far West Regional Plan 2036*, amendments to planning legislation elevated the importance of strategic planning at a regional and local level. This planning is essential to managing changes in the population and economy while guiding the development of local strategic planning statements.

This updated regional plan draws from the local strategic planning statements prepared by each council for their LGA. It also recognises the interconnections the region has with other jurisdictions, as well as the relationships and commonalities with adjoining regions of NSW.

Our review considers how the region has changed in the last 5 years, the challenges ahead and how best we can respond. It is informed by:

- surveys of council and agency staff
- a council workshop and one-on-one consultation sessions
- consultation with the Far West Regional Leadership Executive and one-on-one consultation with state agencies
- analysis of issues and challenges, existing regional plan actions and government policy changes

- an audit and analysis of local strategic planning statements and relevant local strategies
- commissioned research on region-shaping development, on opportunities to support the region’s councils’ planning functions, a housing audit and recommendations for reactivating housing stock or land in Broken Hill and investigation into interstate policy and investment (primarily focused on the Riverina Murray with some cross over to the Far West Region).
- This is the first 5-year review of a regional plan for the Far West. It covers all facets of land use planning, including the natural environment, future hazards, housing and related infrastructure, employment areas and town centres.

This draft regional plan also incorporates recent strategic work such as regional economic development strategies, the *NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint*<sup>1</sup>, *NSW State Water Strategy*<sup>2</sup>, *Draft NSW Groundwater Strategy*<sup>3</sup>, *regional water strategies*, *Future Transport 2056*<sup>4</sup>, *NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan*<sup>5</sup>, the establishment of renewable energy zones (REZs) across NSW, *Housing 2041: NSW Housing Strategy*<sup>6</sup> and regional housing reviews and policies.

The draft regional plan complements this work with land use responses that will help to meet NSW Government objectives, while supporting council and private proponent land use planning.

Analysis of council planning functions in the region found that under-resourced councils need greater support and a one-size-fits-all solution to planning is not going to be sustainable in the Far West Region.

These findings have informed the priorities identified in this plan and will be considered further during consultation and as we finalise the regional plan.

The drought, floods and COVID-19 pandemic of recent years will have a lasting impact on the natural environment, community wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy. We have considered these impacts in the drafting of this regional plan.

## Population change

Population projections forecast the long-term trend of population decline will continue in the region, alongside other trends such as an older population and an increase in single or 2-person households. These also influenced the review of the regional plan.

Housing demand will change in different ways in the region – for example, the population in areas like

Wentworth-Buronga will remain relatively stable while the population is expected to decline or fluctuate because of cyclical changes in industries such as agriculture and mining in places like Broken Hill, Cobar, and Ivanhoe.

Population projections are predictions only; the future is uncertain and unexpected events and policy decisions may alter future population change. We therefore use a range of population outlooks, which means the draft regional plan:

- provides an aspirational outlook in relation to the region’s employment and investment strengths and opportunities
- provides a framework that could equally apply to other population outcomes.

Population projections are regularly reviewed to understand and respond to unexpected events such as the COVID-19 pandemic or expected events such as investment on large mining or renewable energy projects and demographic changes.

Murray Darling Junction, Wentworth  
Credit: Destination NSW



## Focus areas and priorities

The draft regional plan provides a targeted land use planning approach focused on:

- adapting to a hotter and drier climate by helping to create great places and more resilient housing and centres
- providing services to the region’s dispersed population, including older people, including in the areas where the population is declining
- capitalising on:
  - better intra and inter-regional transport, digital connectivity, housing choices and lifestyle opportunities
  - strong agricultural, extractive resource, renewable energy, government service and visitor economy sectors, given the expected \$2.332 billion investment in construction in the next 5 years).
- growth pressures in border communities in the south west and along waterways
- rivers and riverine corridors as places for cultural connection, public spaces, recreation, conservation and appropriate economic activity
- helping Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) to utilise the planning system and optimise their land holdings and improving understanding of the planning needs of Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs)
- aligning water security and land use planning early
- considering the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) early in the strategic planning and development process
- the declining population in some areas and what this means for people’s health, wellbeing, and lifestyles
- population change and demand for different types of housing due to changing demographics, temporary workers and tourism opportunities
- Broken Hill as a regional city that provides services for much of the region, and as the focus of an increasing renewable energy, mining and visitor economy
- the opportunities of a changing regional economy and catalyst projects such as the South-West Renewable Energy Zone (South West REZ), and major renewable energy, livestock processing and mining projects
- the region’s role and relationships with other NSW regions and states, particularly Victoria and South Australia, and the influence of investment and policy decisions on border communities and Broken Hill
- the NSW Government’s commitment for net zero carbon emissions by 2050.



### Key priorities for implementing the planning system in the Far West:

The regional plan review also identified a need for councils and state agencies to work together to support implementation of the planning system. This assistance could occur in a number of ways, with councils identifying that they need assistance in the following areas:

#### Strategic planning for housing

Rather than each council undertaking their own local housing strategy, there is opportunity to generate a regional or sub-regional scale housing strategy that can inform LSPs in their next review.

#### LEP reviews and amendment

All Far West Councils LEPs are approximately 10 years old and require review, either as comprehensive reviews or as packages of amendments.

#### Flood management strategic work

Updating hazards mapping, including flooding, to inform up-to-date hazard planning.

#### Local strategic planning statement reviews

Councils told us that their local strategic planning statements lack sufficient place-based content. Once finalised, the new Far West Regional Plan 2041 will inform the next generation of local strategic planning statements.

#### Standard development and engineering controls

Some councils either do not have planners or sufficient experience and in-house technical guidance for development and engineering controls, including for more complex development proposals.

#### Reclassification of council-owned land

Various councils have parcels of land that has been incorrectly classified as ‘community land’ which affects its ability to be used for (often existing) infrastructure or for it to be sold.

The department will consult with the councils and other state agencies to identify an ongoing and sustainable approach to providing planning assistance to Far West councils and how these initiatives can be integrated into the final Far West Regional Plan 2041.

---

**Question:** *What other priorities should be included in the final plan and how should these be integrated into the final plan?*

---

## Reading the draft regional plan

We have developed a draft vision for the region to 2041. This is supported by:

- **objectives:** high-level goals usually containing strategies, actions or collaboration activities
- **strategies** identify policy positions or directions implemented through local strategic planning statements, strategic planning, statutory planning or state agency planning
- **actions** are led by the Department of Planning and Environment (identified as DPE in these actions) in the next 5 years.

- **collaboration activities** are led by the department (again, identified as DPE) with state agencies, councils or other organisations.

We have also listed resources – the related plans, policies and other documents that will provide further guidance. You can find these on the regional plan webpage ([www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/Far-West](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/Far-West)).

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**Question:** *What other resources should be included on the website?*

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We also list questions that seek specific feedback or advice on any gaps.

## Implementation, monitoring and review

The department's Western Region team coordinates the implementation of the regional plan and reports on progress to the Far West Regional Leadership Executive (RLE), councils, state agencies, Aboriginal organisations and the community.

The RLE - comprised of state agencies in each region of NSW - responds to emerging opportunities and issues, leads cross-government or multi-agency actions, provides strategic advice, brokers solutions and makes decisions using a whole-of-region and whole-of-government lens. It is the forum to discuss and resolve implementation issues.

A supporting implementation plan prioritises actions, collaboration activities and council activities. These priorities allow councils and state agencies to focus resources. Indicative timeframes for actions, collaboration activities and council activities are:

- short-term - 1-2 years
- medium-term - 2-3 years
- longer-term - 4-5 years
- ongoing - activities that will occur over several years, as multiple projects or initiatives.

We will test these priorities during consultation and release the implementation plan and final regional plan before the end of 2022.

Bi-annual planning forums between the department and councils focus on regional plan performance and collaboration opportunities. We will update councils on key actions and discuss emerging issues and trends to identify where support is needed. The forums may reprioritise or change regional plan components as required.

Working groups based on identified collaboration activities will include members relevant to the collaboration activity and will meet as needed. The scoping of these activities will consider the SKM Planning review of the planning system in the Far West Region.

The implementation plan, reporting on actions and collaboration activities and other indicators will be displayed on the department's web site.

## Resourcing

The Far West Region suffers skill shortages and recruitment difficulties in the planning and construction industries and in the industries essential to towns and cities, such as doctors and teachers.

Strategic planning professionals can advise governments and the community on issues critical to economic vitality, environmental enhancement and community wellbeing. The shortage of planning staff limits councils' ability to undertake strategic planning projects.

Several proposed collaboration activities identify how the NSW Government could work with and support the region's councils, LALCs, native title groups, and organisations with the resources - human and otherwise - to achieve the plan's priorities.

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**Question:** *What can be done to better resource planning and related functions in the region?*

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# Far West 2041 Vision

**The Far West Region is a unique part of western NSW with a diverse economy, the right infrastructure, an exceptional natural environment, a rich Aboriginal culture and resilient communities**

In 2041, people in the Far West Region enjoy the distinctive rural character of their communities, with a higher standard of living and wellbeing, and quality built and natural environments.

People visit from around Australia and the world to embrace the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and the unique and accessible outback experiences.

Collaborative partnerships between government and local stakeholders have improved inter-regional rail and road infrastructure to increase transport choice, build resilience of the region’s transport network and improve freight and passenger links. Innovative and affordable public, community and active transport facilities and services make it easy for people to travel to work, socialise and enjoy recreation options.

The region is a leader in climate change adaptation and supporting remote communities. People access the latest information to manage natural hazard risks and respond to the impacts of climate change and water availability. The Far West meets benchmarks for sustainable and innovative water resource management in agriculture, mining and community water supply, and water is shared equitably among existing water users, the environment, Aboriginal people and new developments.

Major rivers –including the Barwon, Darling and Murray –natural waterways, wetlands and environmental corridors, together with many other environmental and cultural heritage features, enrich the lives of residents and attract domestic and international tourists.

The diversified regional economy is focused on a sustainable mining sector in Broken Hill, Cobar, Wentworth and Balranald, which generates jobs, supports related industries and requires new housing that contributes to centres and communities. Growth in renewable energy – including wind, solar and bioenergy generation – creates jobs in smaller communities and in associated industries.

Communication technologies mean more people work and access services locally. New residents are arriving, and older people can keep living in the places they know. New jobs, services and housing attract young families and skilled workers for a fresh start or to return to where they grew up.

Well designed, climate-resilient housing meets the needs of communities, including the Aboriginal community, older people, singles, families, low-income households, and seasonal and itinerant workers.

Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and Cobar LGAs are well connected to the Orana and services in Dubbo. People living in Wentworth and Balranald LGAs have ties with communities along the Murray River, and can access the infrastructure and services in Mildura, Victoria.

The region’s centres offer attractive areas for people to explore and relax, including unique main streets within an outback environment. Broken Hill is a thriving regional city with connections to Adelaide and services for the western part of the region.

Place-based planning controls support ongoing planning, with councils supported in their planning functions by the department and other state agencies.

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**Question:** *Is this the right vision for the Far West for the next 20 years?*

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Desert Landscapes, Outback NSW  
Credit: Destination NSW

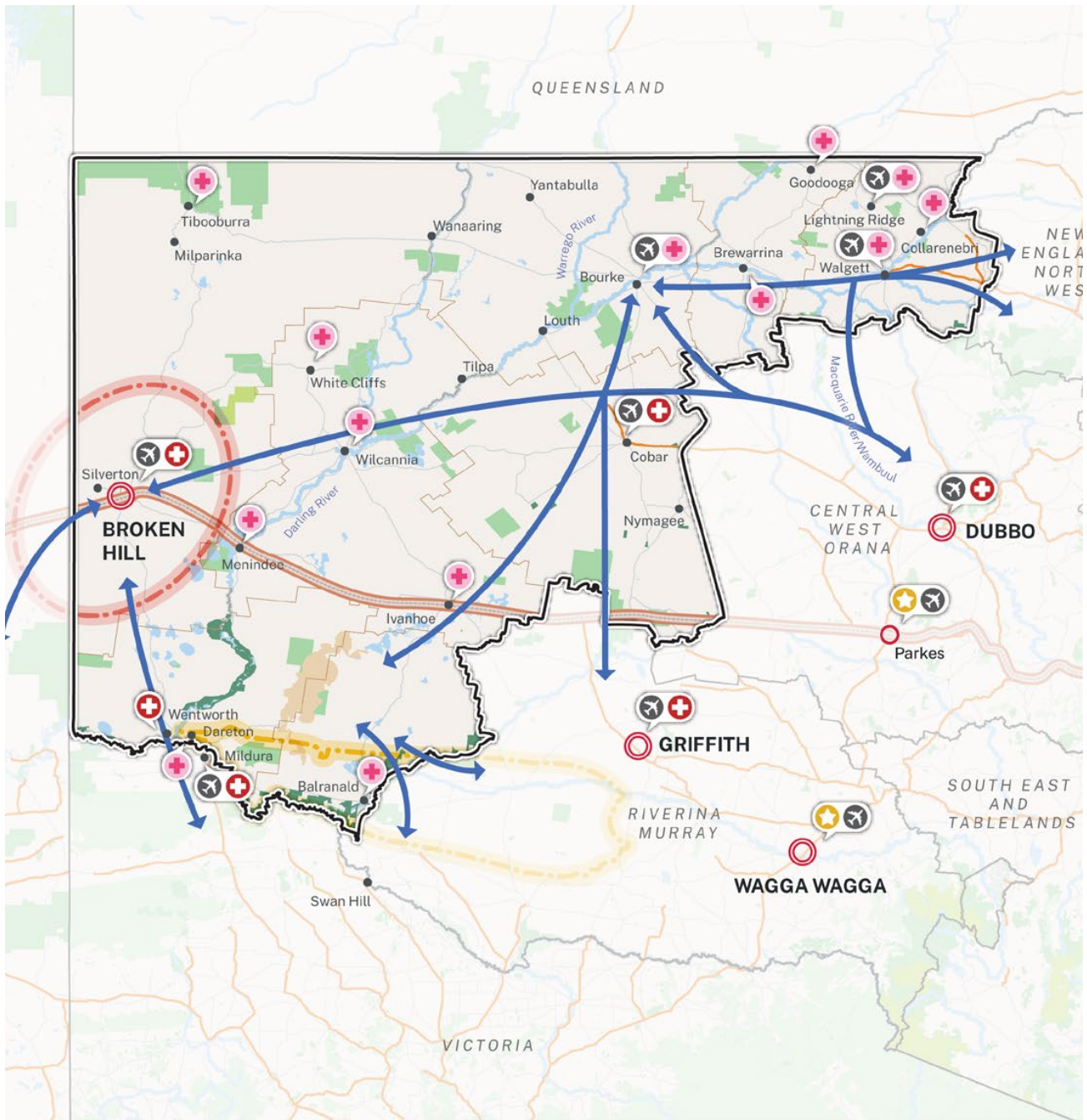


Figure 3: Vision



- |                                |  |   |                           |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| Regional boundary              | Special Activation Precinct                                  | Proposed south west renewable energy zone | World heritage area       |
| Local government area boundary | Airport (regular public transport)                           | Inter-regional connection                 | Native forest             |
| Regional city                  | Hospital   | Railway                                   | Declared wilderness       |
| Strategic centre               | Health service   | Main west rail line                       | National park and reserve |
| Centre                         | Potential Broken Hill long term renewable energy zone (AEMO) | Major regional road                       | State forest              |
|                                |  |   | Water body                |



PART

1

Environment



Mungo National Park, Outback NSW  
Credit: Destination NSW

Moonrise, Broken Hill  
Credit: Destination NSW



PART

# 1

## Environment

The Far West’s natural environment is what makes it unique. The region’s semi-arid and arid landscapes support:

- 9 of the 18 bioregions in NSW, dominated by semi-arid sandy and stony plains, and floodplains of brown and grey clay soils, crossed by river channels
- Red Gum, Coolibah and Black Box communities on floodplains, undulating plains of mallee shrubland, dune fields extending into Queensland
- the geologically unique and mineral rich areas around Broken Hill, Cobar and Ivanhoe.

Water is a significant feature of the region’s semi-arid environment, with multiple interconnected rivers, creeks, groundwater aquifers, wetlands and human-made waterbodies. The main rivers are the Barwon–Darling River system and its tributaries, the Murray River, and to a smaller extent, the Murrumbidgee River.

These river systems, their tributaries and wetlands (such as the Ramsar-listed Paroo River wetlands) support and connect biodiversity and human habitation across the region into Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

The Barwon–Darling connects the northern and southern basins. Maintaining connectivity between the river and its tributaries is a challenge during dry periods and drought. The variable and changing climate, releases from upstream dams and water extraction all impact on the amount of water that flows downstream into the Far West Region.

More than 1,000,000 ha of national parks and nature reserves protect vast areas of the region. This includes the Sturt, Paroo–Darling, Mutawintji, Kincheega and Mungo national parks, and recent acquisitions such as the 121,390 ha Avenel–Mt Westwood Station (north of Broken Hill) which includes vegetation from the Broken Hill Complex (BHC) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region. Acquisitions target specific areas to ensure the progressive protection of several underrepresented IBRA regions in the National Reserve System.<sup>7</sup>

Since colonisation vegetation and landscapes in the Far West region have been substantially modified through the expansion of pastoralism and the use of groundwater resources from the Great Artesian Basin and the introduction of feral animals to the region, in particular goats.

Despite these impacts, we recognise these ancient lands as home to some of the most culturally significant areas in the country, including Aboriginal heritage sites such as Lake Mungo in the state, national and world heritage listed Willandra Lakes Region, the sacred historical sites of Mutawintji National Park, Aboriginal art sites at Gundabooka National Park and Baiame’s Ngunnhu (Brewarrina fish traps).

Broken Hill also has a national heritage listing and other centres have connections to early settlement, such as Wentworth, once the busiest inland port in NSW, and Cobar for its rich mining heritage.

Nature and culture-based tourism provides economic value and employment opportunities, across the region, including for Aboriginal people.

Climate change projections show temperatures will keep rising, rainfall patterns will change, and droughts could be more severe.<sup>8</sup> The frequency, intensity, and extent of known natural hazards such as heatwaves, bushfires, droughts, flooding, and storms will increase, as will the potential for cumulative or concurrent large-scale natural hazards to occur and create new hazards such as heat stress. These changes will impact both biodiversity and humans.

Figure 4: Projected temperature and rainfall changes in Far West Region

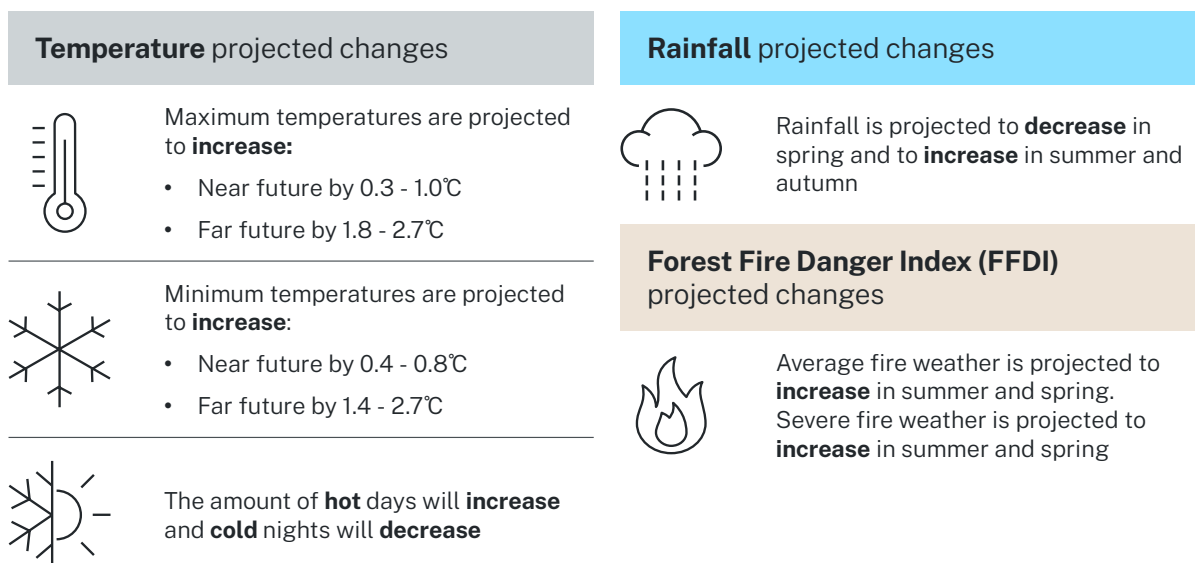




Figure 5: Environment assets



- |                   |                               |                     |                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Regional boundary | Railway                       | Floodplain wetland  | National park and reserve |
| Regional city     | Main west rail line           | Ramsar wetlands     | State forest              |
| Strategic centre  | Major regional road           | World heritage area | Water body                |
| Centre            | Drainage catchments           | Native forest       |                           |
|                   | Regional water strategy areas | Declared wilderness |                           |

**OBJECTIVE 1:**

# Protect, connect and enhance biodiversity throughout the region



Perry Sandhills, Wentworth  
Credit: Destination NSW

The region’s rich environmental assets provide ecosystem services as well as connections to Country and positive human experiences and interactions. In areas likely to experience population and/or economic growth, biodiversity values could be compromised if native vegetation is cleared. A collective government effort can identify biodiversity values to:

- provide detailed mapping to councils to identify areas with biodiversity values in local environmental plans (LEPs)
- inform land use decision-making throughout the development process
- avoid and minimise biodiversity loss
- connect and enhance the green infrastructure networks including open space, bushland and waterways
- identify land for environmental conservation, including on land identified for development
- align the BC Act and the EP&A Act to achieve the objectives of both.

Identifying biodiversity values will avoid unnecessary costs and delays at the development application stage. Biodiversity corridors can be strengthened across landscapes, including waterways and riparian corridors, alongside road reserves and in urban areas. These corridors connect bioregions, allow the movement of animals and plants, and provide refugia as the climate changes or natural disasters occur. Again, their identification and protection require a collective effort from councils, residents, developers and the NSW Government.

Recent acquisitions by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will protect regional environmental values and assets while providing new tourism and operational jobs. As more acquisitions occur we need to consider other impacts on rural communities such as impacts on agricultural production, council rate bases and land management to fully integrate new reserves into the regional economy.

**Strategy 1.1**



Strategic and statutory planning should aim to first avoid, then minimise, impacts on biodiversity and the natural environment. Biodiversity offsetting (through the BC Act) should only be used when these principles are not feasible. Councils will engage with DPE (Environment) when developing local strategic planning statements and other strategic planning to achieve these principles.

Strategic and statutory planning will:

- identify the biodiversity attributes/values of zoned and strategy-identified investigation areas
- identify zoned urban areas that may be difficult to develop due to biodiversity values
- protect high environmental value land through conservation zones and agreements
- ensure land uses adjacent to high environmental value land and land containing regional and locally significant corridors are compatible with conservation outcomes or have adequate buffers to separate incompatible land uses
- review and update biodiversity mapping and best practice provisions in LEPs.

**Collaboration Activity 1 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with relevant councils, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies to ensure national park acquisitions consider:

- agricultural production value and potential and whether areas should remain in production
- land management practices required to integrate with adjoining land uses, particularly active agricultural enterprises
- reductions in rate base, including for council rates and the border fences contribution
- employment opportunities, including for Aboriginal people, including operational, tourism and cultural tourism opportunities.

**Collaboration Activity 2 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with DPE (Environment) and Crown Lands to ensure the NSW Planning Portal captures validated spatial data on biodiversity values, including data to inform:

- local strategies and local, regional and state significant development proposals
- identification and protection of regionally significant biodiversity corridors and climate refugia

**Collaboration Activity 3 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) and DPE (Environment) will support and guide councils in their work to:

- understand and apply the BC Act
- prepare and review LEP and development control plan (DCP) controls/principles to guide development and align the EP&A Act and the BC Act throughout development assessment.

**Question:** Do these strategies and activities balance land use planning and environmental outcomes at a regional level?

**OBJECTIVE 2:**

# Protect and enhance culture and heritage

The Far West Region has a unique history and maintains its heritage character within its settlements and as part of an accessible outback experience. The conservation of Aboriginal heritage and the rights of Aboriginal people to determine how their heritage is identified and managed upholds some of the world’s longest standing spiritual, historical, social and educational values.

Heritage is irreplaceable and should be valued and protected. Appropriate heritage management mechanisms, developed with communities, includes heritage studies of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage that can inform strategic and statutory land use planning.

Appropriate protection and recognition of heritage helps to maintain and celebrate local character. Heritage is more than just managing the material culture of the past – it is about understanding how heritage influences and shapes communities today.

Respectfully and authentically combining history and heritage with modern design creates places with shared values and a clear sense of place and identity. This can:

- contribute to a sense of place, for current and future generations
- appropriately re-use heritage items for cultural and economic infrastructure
- attract tourism, businesses and new residents.

Better promotion and targeted community education initiatives can increase community support for heritage assets. This includes incorporating Aboriginal knowledge, culture and traditions into centres, places and developments to embed cultural awareness and build respect for the region’s cultural history and the living culture of Aboriginal people.



Bourke Aboriginal Tours, Bourke  
Credit: Destination NSW

**Strategy 2.1**



Councils will identify, conserve and enhance cultural heritage values by:

- engaging with the community (including Traditional Owners) early in the planning process
- undertaking heritage studies to inform conservation, adaptive re-use and development opportunities
- identifying opportunities for Traditional Owners to manage and protect Aboriginal heritage.

**Strategy 2.2**



Strategic and local planning will help to improve protection of the heritage of the region’s centres by:

- identifying and protecting scenic and cultural landscapes, informed by early engagement with the Aboriginal community in the planning process
- reflecting local built form, heritage and character in new and existing residential, retail and commercial developments.

**Collaboration Activity 4 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will support councils to incorporate heritage planning controls into local environmental plans.

**OBJECTIVE 3:**

# Manage water for people and the environment



Townscape, Wilcannia  
Credit: Destination NSW

The region’s river systems and water bodies are home to nationally and internationally significant environmental and heritage sites, such as Menindee Lakes, Barwon–Darling River, Paroo River, Murray River, Baiame’s Ngunnhu (Brewarrina Fish Traps), and the World Heritage listed Willandra Lakes Region. The region’s waterways, floodplains and riparian lands:

- are a resource base and home for Aboriginal people and contain culturally significant heritage items
- provide water for ecosystems and support communities, culture and the economy
- provide recreation areas and open spaces for towns and communities
- offer lifestyle opportunities (when managed appropriately) for residents and visitors.

Healthy water catchments support water quality, community health, healthy landscapes and ongoing economic activity and human settlement. As the region’s climate and communities change, development on riverine land must conserve waterways, enhance ecological functions and respond to current and future natural hazards.

Managing the social, cultural, environmental and economic importance of rivers requires a coordinated and consistent approach to land use planning from all levels of government. This includes how water resources are managed and planned, how new development interacts with rivers and waterfront areas and the connectivity of riverine environments across the landscape.

Water availability and security are a concern. Cobar’s mining industry relies on a secure and reliable water source, with water assets from Nyngan to Cobar reaching their end of life. Upgrades to infrastructure are crucial to the viability of the industry. The pressures of drought, climate change and population change require integrated water planning. Access to water is critical for some land uses but not always an upfront consideration, which can place pressure on stressed water resources.

Opportunities to integrate water resources in strategic planning will optimise water use, water re-use and recycling and shared existing or new water infrastructure, while helping us to understand how land use decisions impact water sources in the context of a capped system.



### Riverfront development

Riverfront land can offer opportunities for rural residential living and visitor accommodation, with access to town centres. Development in riverine areas must be carefully planned and managed to enhance environmental values and other lifestyle benefits, while avoiding:

- ribbon development and riverfront fragmentation
- a decrease in public access to rivers and waterways
- a decrease in natural amenity
- a cumulative impact of increased clearing in the river corridors and water extraction.

Any land use change should only occur if compatible with other land uses, particularly biodiversity values, agriculture, and flooding hazards, and only if there is a net benefit regarding conservation of the river, its foreshore areas and increased public access.

### Riverfront activation

Rivers and riverfront areas can be the centrepiece of riverfront communities, allowing residents and tourists to visually connect and sensitively interact with the water. Improved public space and access and links between towns and riverine areas can optimise the heritage and character of a place, make waterway areas more attractive to pedestrians and cyclists, or potentially create new public spaces.

Opportunities to connect pedestrian and cycle networks to riverine areas from centres, residential areas, employment areas, cultural facilities and transport nodes can occur alongside improvements to riparian zones and river channels.

Celebrating the historical values of the region’s riverfront sites through interpretive design elements and cultural activities will create new destinations, experiences, and stories. Collaboration and partnerships with Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owners can identify opportunities for cultural practice, while recognising culture, place, and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people, including cultural tourism.

#### Strategy 3.1



Strategic planning will optimise water use by:

- considering water supply, security and quality issues and opportunities throughout the planning process
- locating, designing, constructing and managing new developments to minimise impacts on water catchments, including downstream impacts and groundwater resources
- encouraging the re-use of water in existing and new development for extractive or non-extractive purposes
- identifying water-related gaps in the planning system and assessing the adequacy of land use planning controls to protect water resources.
- considering the evidence base and actions in the Western, Murray and Murrumbidgee regional water strategies, the NSW Water Strategy and NSW Groundwater Strategy
- identifying creeks and waterways as open space for recreation and biodiversity corridors that should be enhanced and protected
- integrating natural features such as bushland and waterways into public space proposals.

#### Strategy 3.2



Strategic and statutory planning for riverine environments will be consistent with the department’s waterfront development guideline.

#### Strategy 3.3



Strategic and statutory planning for riverine environments should consider the department’s riverfront development guidelines and the guiding principles for activation of riverfront areas.

**Action 1 (Short-term)**



DPE (Planning) will develop riverfront development guidelines to support decision-making for development on or near rivers. The guidelines will:

- inform riverfront development and strategic and statutory planning to manage competing land uses along river corridors and riverine land and ensure intergenerational equity for access to rivers, including the needs of Aboriginal communities
- provide best-practice design principles to support a regionally consistent approach to the design and siting of development and land uses on riverine land
- inform local planning provisions to protect and enhance riverine lands.

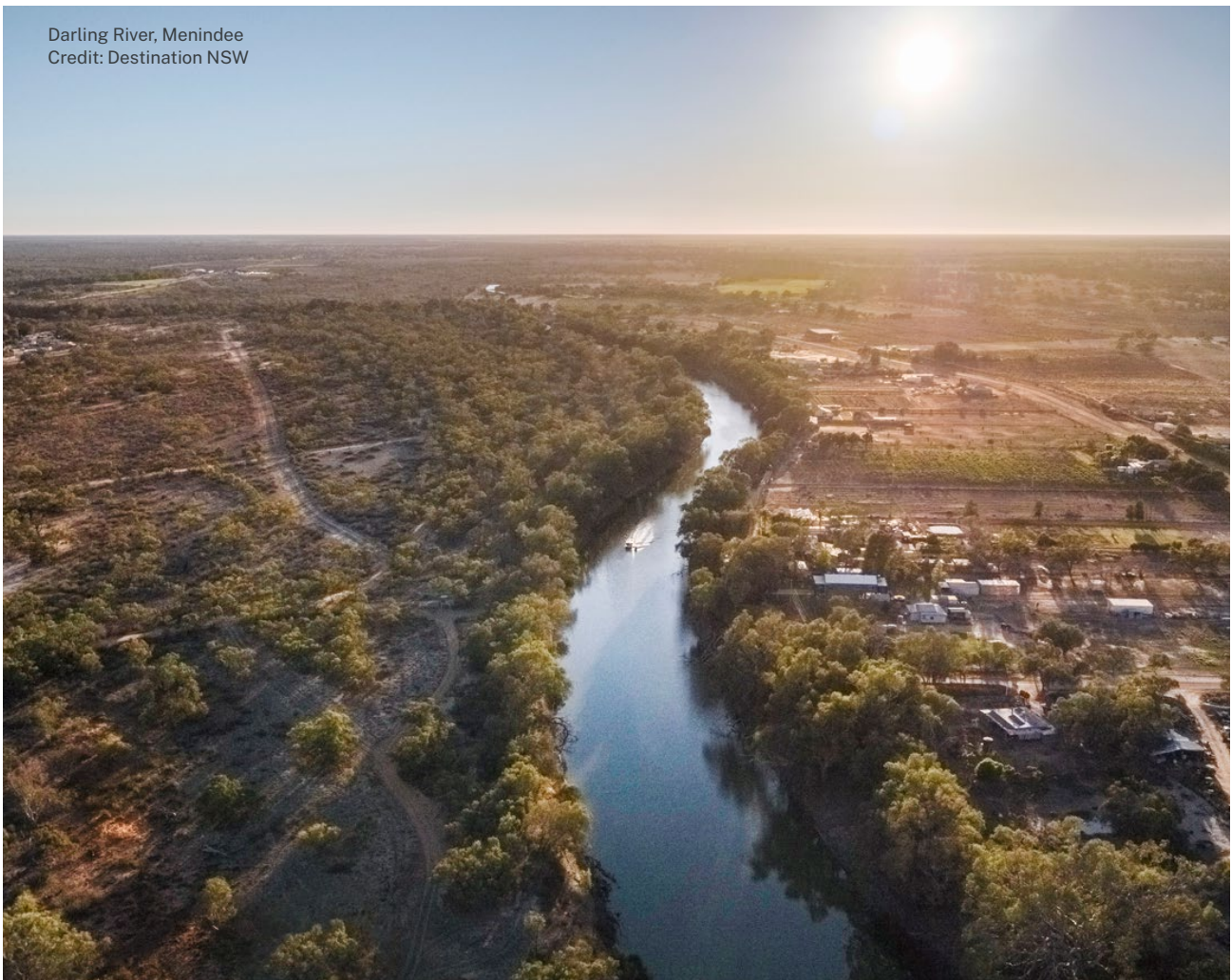
**Action 2 (Medium-term)**



DPE (Planning) will investigate a framework for the management of the Western NSW riverfront areas, including:

- priority areas for activation and protection
- mechanisms to fund public ownership of riverfront land, prepare riverfront activation strategies and build a body of knowledge regarding the implementation and delivery of riverfront activation strategies
- mechanisms to ensure riverfront areas provide public and environmental benefits, in perpetuity
- support for councils on the planning and management of riverfront lands.

Darling River, Menindee  
Credit: Destination NSW



**OBJECTIVE 4:**

# Increase natural hazard resilience in the region



Ivanhoe-Menindee Road, Ivanhoe  
Credit: Destination NSW

As the region's climate changes, there is potential for increasing frequency, intensity and extent of floods, bushfire and droughts and potential for cumulative or concurrent large-scale events.<sup>9</sup> For example, between 2017-2020 the Far West went through its worst 3-year drought on record, which included record high temperatures, some of the lowest inflows to the Barwon–Darling on record, extremely poor water quality, more than 12 months of no flow along the river and significant fish deaths. This was followed by intense flooding and rainfall, with the region receiving more than 140mm in a single day, surpassing the previous day record set in 1989.

Further, flooding and high rainfall in Queensland 2020 resulted in one of the largest flows down the Barwon-Darling River causing slow moving and long-lasting flooding.

Increased heat, drought and more intense flood events are the 3 main natural hazards that will require careful management, with different areas requiring different responses to different impacts:

- Along rivers and their tributaries flooding often occurs as slow flowing events that last for long periods. These can affect sealed and unsealed roads and leave communities and producers with limited access to services or to get produce to market for months at a time due to key freight routes and roads being inundated by water or unsafe to drive on.
- In some centres, like Broken Hill, and along creeks and drainage lines, flash flooding events can similarly impact infrastructure and roads that cannot withstand the nature of the event and cause disruptions to local road access and supply chains.
- Growth pressures in the south of the region along the Murray and Darling rivers and desirability of riverfront, rural and environmental lands increase demand for development near floodplains, high saline and bushland hazard areas.

Ongoing improvements to the region’s road networks –such as the sealing of Pooncarie Road to allow Central Darling residents to connect to Mildura and Wentworth and installing signage along the Silver City Highway –can benefit economic and social connectivity and infrastructure resilience.

New and existing development areas will require careful design and management to ensure an acceptable hazard risk to local communities, so that development decisions do not increase the exposure of people and property to natural hazards. Similarly, levees and flood mitigation works must be planned and upgraded to respond to the most up to date flood and climate projection data.

The planning system can limit the exposure of new development to natural hazards and climate change through a risk-management approach. However, identifying and reviewing hazard-prone lands and their associated risks is a challenge for many councils, particularly given resourcing constraints. Councils often rely on site-by-site analyses that accompany rezoning or development applications, instead of more strategic flood studies.

Three new Doppler radars at Brewarrina Airport, Hillston and Parkes have filled weather radar blackspots, providing real-time weather data that enable emergency services, aviation, businesses, authorities, tourists and residents to make better decisions on immediate weather conditions.<sup>10</sup> This contributes to meteorological record-keeping to understand rainfall trends, improving decision-making. However, some areas in the Far West still do not have accurate weather information.

**Resources**



The following NSW Government policies and guidelines can guide natural hazard risk management:

- *Planning for a more resilient NSW: A strategic guide to planning for natural hazards*, December 2021
- *Handbook for Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards*, December 2021
- *Strategic guide to planning for natural hazards – Resource Kit*, December 2021
- *Considering flooding in land use planning guidelines*, July 2021
- *Planning for Bushfire Protection Guideline*, November 2019
- *Flood Prone Land Policy and Floodplain Development Manual*, April 2005

**Strategy 4.1**



Strategic and statutory planning will:

- be consistent with applicable NSW policies, manuals and/or guidelines
- take a risk-based approach that uses best available evidence in consultation with the NSW Government, emergency service providers, local emergency management committees and bush fire risk management committees
- locate development away from areas of known bushfire, salinity and flooding risk
- encourage opportunities to co-locate compatible land uses such as open spaces, biodiversity conservation areas and nature-based tourism in high hazard risk locations
- design communities that:
  - provide public spaces that build community cohesion and interaction so that communities are better placed to withstand and adapt to climate change and respond to natural hazard events
  - include green infrastructure networks at precinct and landscape scales to help avoid hazards such as urban heat island effect
- provide easy to understand information to increase public awareness of potential natural hazard risks and climate change impacts
- integrate water-sensitive urban design elements to reduce the risk of flooding.

**Collaboration Activity 5 (Medium-term)**



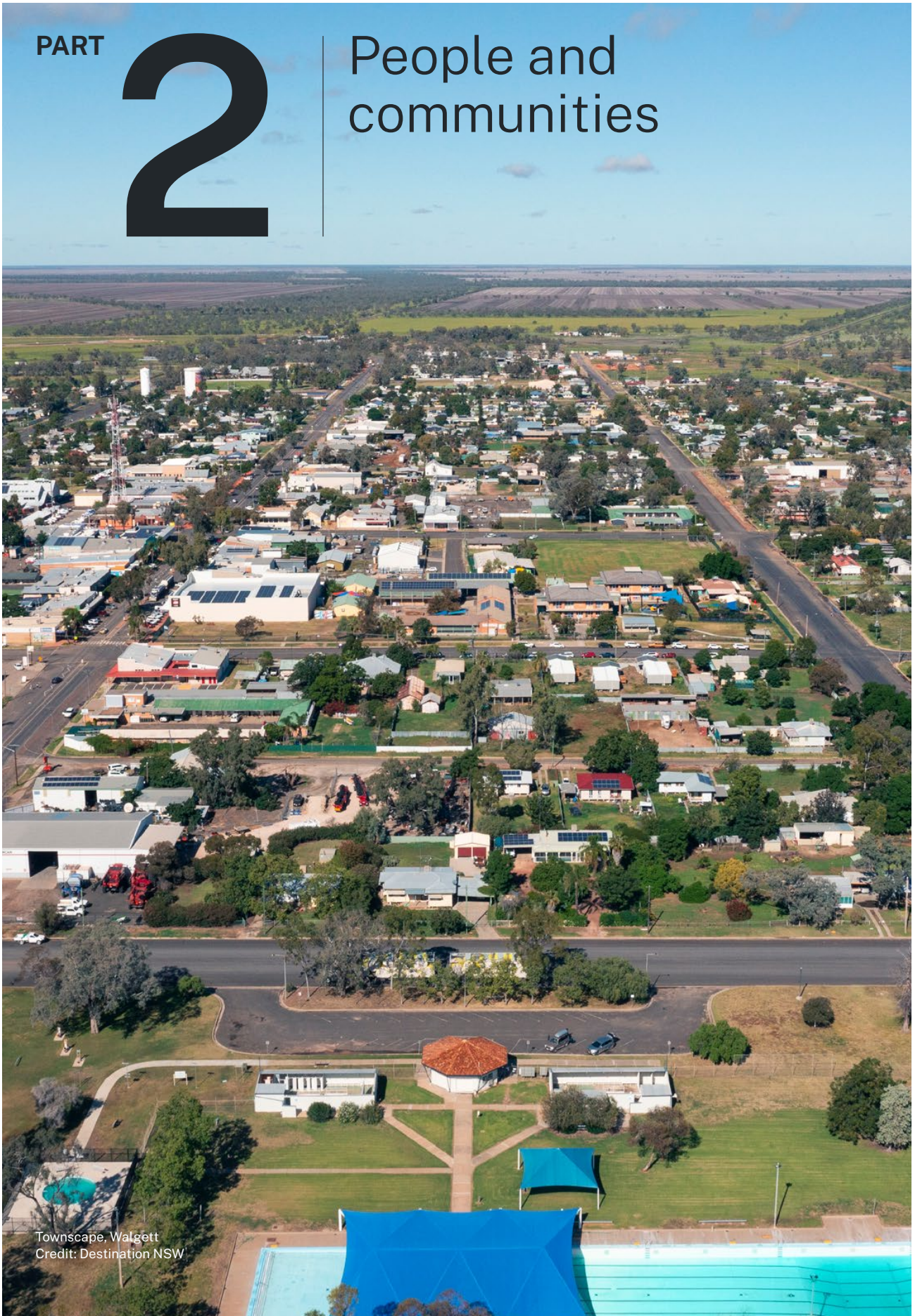
DPE (Planning) and DPE (Environment) will support councils in undertaking flood and bushfire studies and/or preparing management plans:

- informed by updated mapping and climatic data
- prepared in accordance with the relevant manuals, policies and guidelines
- incorporated into relevant planning provisions
- that improve resilience of transport networks to flood impacts in collaboration with Transport for NSW and the NSW State Emergency Service.

PART

# 2

## People and communities



Townscape, Walgett  
Credit: Destination NSW



Townscape, Bourke  
Credit: Destination NSW

PART

# 2

## People and communities

The Far West offers a unique lifestyle. Proactively planning for change will benefit communities, residents and tourists. The region’s population is changing – it is getting older overall with population decline in some areas and relatively stable populations in others.

While the Far West region is projected to require less dwellings to house its population by 2041, there is still expected to be demand for new and renovated housing in parts of the region. Housing affordability and vacancy rates have decreased in recent times, which impacts homelessness and accommodation availability for key workers (e.g. teachers, police and health workers) and tourists. We also expect an increase in demand for smaller housing for the increase in single and couple-only households.<sup>11</sup>

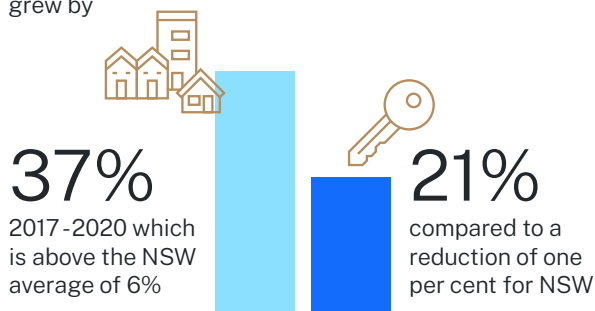
One solution to meet the need for new and appropriate housing may be to better use existing unoccupied housing stock and serviced land.

The number of Aboriginal people in remote and very remote areas of Australia is expected to increase marginally. North-Western NSW expected to record annual Aboriginal population growth rates of 0.6% and 0.3% under high and low series projections respectively.<sup>12</sup> The housing needs of the region’s Aboriginal population should be a consideration in strategic and statutory planning.

Other issues that will shape the region’s housing market include:

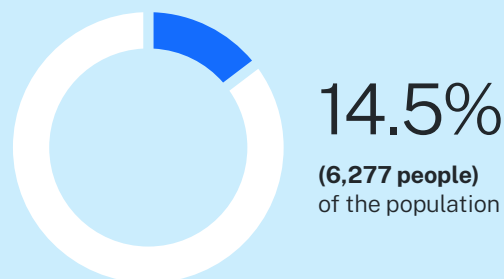
- the inflow and outflow of workers (with or without their families) for construction or as existing projects like mines close or new projects commence operation
- seasonal fluctuations for agriculture, the visitor economy or the impacts of climatic events like prolonged drought
- changes to agriculture such as water availability, a shift toward larger landholdings and technological advancements in the agriculture industry.

**Average house prices** in the region grew by



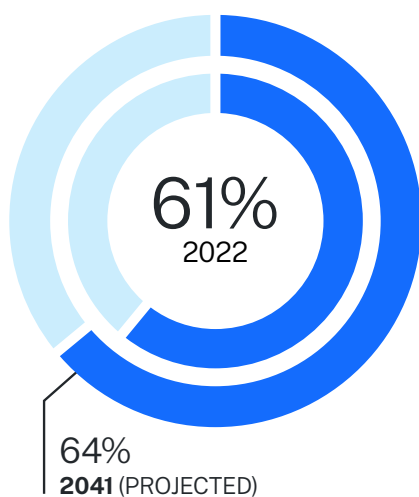
**Average weekly rents** also increased by

**Aboriginal people** in the region:



- **had larger households** than the regional average (3 people per household, compared with 2 per household across NSW)
- had a **younger median age** than the regional average (i.e. 29 years, compared to 39 for NSW)

**Lone person or couple households** in the region



**COVID-19 and housing**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, less people left the regions for capital cities and more people left capital cities to live in the regions, resulting in record-high net increases of people living outside Greater Sydney.

Strong housing sales and increased demand for rental properties in regional areas led to housing price increases in 2020-21 with rents in regional NSW growing at a faster rate than Sydney. Pre-COVID, house prices in regional NSW were less volatile than in Sydney and rental vacancy rates were steady but tight. Since COVID-19, average regional rental vacancy dropped to below 1%. These trends have increased pressure on the availability and affordability of housing.

Overcrowding and poor-quality housing can result in poor health outcomes; this was exacerbated by COVID-19. Outbreaks in 2021 highlighted the housing strain in towns such as Wilcannia where case number increased due to the inability for individuals to isolate from their extended families.

Homes where up to 4 generations live together were severely impacted in a short period. In response, NSW Health and other agencies organised temporary accommodation, deploying motor homes so that positive patients and close contacts could safely isolate.



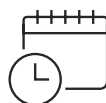
**65+ age group** projected to make up **30% of the total population** (22% in 2022) in 2041



**Household size** is projected to decline from 2.24 in 2022 to **2.11 in 2041.**



The 2021 Census found that 25% of dwellings (**3,883 dwellings**) were unoccupied



Waiting times for social housing currently are on **average 2-5 years** for various house types in the region

**OBJECTIVE 5:**

# Support Aboriginal aspirations through land use planning



The land and environment are deeply entwined with Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people's connection to Country. As the first managers and carers of the region's lands, Aboriginal people have rights and a moral obligation to care for it under their law and customs.

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) provides for the return of land to Aboriginal people as compensation for past dispossession. LALCs work to improve, protect and foster the best interests of all Aboriginal people in their area. There are 16 LALCs in the Far West Region, working across multiple LGAs and regional boundaries.

Where LALCs seek to leverage economic development of their land, they usually need to engage with the NSW planning system. However, links between land rights and planning legislation have been limited until recently, meaning the benefits of land rights for Aboriginal people have not been fully realised. LALCs have varying levels of knowledge about, and engagement with, the NSW planning system and development processes. This influences decision-making about the future use of land.

Native title recognises the traditional ownership of land and waters that have always belonged to Aboriginal people according to their traditions, laws, and customs. The *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993* sets out how to recognise and protect native title rights. While native title rights differ

from the statutory right of LALCs to make claims for land under the ALR Act, native title holders can also own land in freehold. Further consultation will be required with native title holders, via Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs), to identify where their interests will interact with the planning system, and how their aspirations for their land can be supported.

The NSW Government will work with Aboriginal communities to better understand and align strategic planning and Aboriginal community aspirations. Improving the cultural competency of all planning practitioners benefits the whole community and should also be promoted and accelerated.

Land use planning should also connect with other NSW Government policy and initiatives so that LALCs and native title holders can capitalise on opportunities for land they own, including:

- biodiversity offsetting, providing water to meet Aboriginal cultural and economic aspirations and public infrastructure
- the Roads to Home program, which aims to allow discrete Aboriginal communities across NSW to subdivide their land and improve access to infrastructure and services.

Councils should also engage with LALCs to consider whether the planning provisions that apply to their land are appropriate and to understand.



**Buronga HealthOne facility**

In 2020, a lease agreement between the NSW Government and the Barkandji and Malyangapa Aboriginal communities enabled the construction of an integrated HealthOne facility in Buronga.

This construction follows the agreement to transfer Crown land at Buronga to the Barkandji Corporation, with native title rights intact, as freehold land. The Barkandji have leased the land back to NSW Health to build and operate the facility.

The facility complements district hospitals, regional health services and major referral hospitals.

**Strategy 5.1**



Strategic and statutory planning should be informed by and achieve:

- delivery capacity for LALCs that reflects Aboriginal aspirations, supported by strategic merit
- the identification and conservation of environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage values
- cultural knowledge and values in land use planning decisions.

**Action 3 (Short-term)**



DPE (Planning) will continue to work with state agencies, including Transport for NSW and Regional NSW (Local Land Service) , to provide access to infrastructure and services to discrete Aboriginal communities including through programs such as Roads to Home.

**Resources**



The following NSW Government policies and guidelines can assist:

- Aboriginal Land Planning Framework
- Roads to Home program
- Crown Lands LALC20 Project
- Connecting with Country draft framework

**Collaboration Activity 6 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with LALCs, RNTBCs, councils and Commonwealth and state agencies to better reflect their aspirations for Aboriginal-owned land in plans by:

- involving LALCs and RNTBCs in strategic planning and improving consultation processes that meet the needs of the community on a local scale
- supporting and partnering with Aboriginal communities to identify opportunities to activate land, including through biodiversity offsets
- identifying where land returned to LALCs has suboptimal planning controls and facilitating amendments
- identifying, understanding and responding to housing needs in Aboriginal communities
- identifying where LALC planning proposals have strategic merit, including proposals within urban areas or on the fringe of urban areas that propose an appropriate zoning
- enabling LALCs to better engage with the planning system, including through the provision of planning advice and appropriate training, and working in partnership to inform strategic planning
- consulting with RNTBCs to identify where their interests will interact with the planning system, and how their aspirations for their land can be supported
- promoting opportunities for cultural awareness training for all involved in planning
- incorporating Aboriginal knowledge into planning considerations, decisions and information sharing, including advice on cultural land use options in appropriate zones
- providing planning information to LALCs to prioritise unresolved Aboriginal land claims on Crown land
- improving cultural and economic opportunities associated with water resources
- incorporating Aboriginal-led local and regional plans into local and strategic land use plans where appropriate.

**OBJECTIVE 6:**

# Plan for housing supply, diversity, affordability and resilience

Township, Bourke. Credit: Destination NSW



While increases in population and housing demand are expected in towns in the south-western part of the region, especially in the Wentworth LGA, intermittent peak increases will occur in other towns in response to local economic circumstances like new mine openings, infrastructure and renewable energy projects, and seasonal agricultural and tourism activities.<sup>13</sup>

Changes to demographic and household structures will also prompt a need for housing as will the demand to house key and temporary workers.

Higher sale rental prices, a misalignment between housing supply and demographic trends, and a lack of diverse housing have created housing affordability and homelessness challenges. Strategic planning must promote a diversity of housing choices so that people have more options at different stages of their life and at different affordability levels.

The most cost-effective way to supply housing is to optimise existing housing stock, through infill and renewal development opportunities that utilise existing infrastructure, town centres, main streets and services. Making better use of vacant buildings or land can enable modern, resilient and affordable houses near essential services and facilities.

### Broken Hill – Housing audit and renewal opportunities pilot

To help Far West councils identify strategies to better utilise existing housing and residential land, we are working with Broken Hill City Council on a pilot project that analyses housing stock and renewal opportunities to:

- identify gaps in housing supply and demand
- identify and assess housing stock and sites that could be redeveloped
- identify and assess vacant land that could be developed as is, or with the assistance of Council
- identify potential development land that could be reclassified from community to operational land
- investigate council or state interventions to improve or build new housing
- investigate incentives to encourage the sale of unoccupied houses, renovation of housing for rental housing or social housing, or businesses investment in housing
- provide examples and tools that could be applied in other centres where there is vacant or dilapidated housing in urban areas
- identify and assess infrastructure and servicing capacity issues.

The diversity of challenges and influences across the region means there is no one-size-fits-all approach to housing solutions. We need a range of solutions to ensure the region’s villages, towns and regional city remain vibrant and productive places to live.

**Resilience of housing stock**

The changing climate requires government and communities to investigate opportunities and initiatives to improve the resilience of existing housing stock and infrastructure.

In one example, the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) and Zero Mass Water supplied homes with SOURCE Hydropanels to bring fresh drinking water homes to severely stressed water communities in far western NSW, following a trial at West Wyalong, Nyngan and Menindee in 2019. The panels use solar power to convert water vapour into drinking water. This saw 797 hydropanels installed on AHO and community-owned properties in NSW.

We can make more resilient housing by:

- 1 using light coloured roofing materials
- 2 installing rooftop solar with back-up battery or making housing battery-ready
- 3 using hazard resistant construction materials like stormproof windows
- 4 designing and orienting buildings to take advantage of natural light and ventilation
- 5 siting/positioning buildings to avoid hazard paths like floodways
- 6 using rainwater harvesting and stormwater management
- 7 reinforcing and/or insulating structures and walls
- 8 establishing and maintaining hazard resistant or retardant landscaping
- 9 planting greenery to create shade, increase amenity and reduce energy costs.

These improvements provide financial and lifestyle benefits for residents and reduce environmental impacts.



Figure 6: Resilient housing

**Strategy 6.1**



To manage population, change and decline, strategic and statutory planning should facilitate a diversity of housing in appropriate locations by:

- creating flexible and feasible planning controls and development standards that support greater housing mix
- aligning infrastructure and service provision to housing supply needs
- ensuring developable land is available for housing for the employees of major projects
- transferring suitable public land to operational assets to provide land for diverse housing development
- exploring the potential for public owned land to be used for housing
- reviewing policies and processes to improve certainty and streamline development processes.

Endeavor Mine. Cobar, NSW.



**Collaboration Activity 7 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will help councils to develop strategies and controls that address housing supply, diversity, affordability and resilience, either separately or as part of a broader strategy. This work, and identification of the housing pipeline, will be undertaken with relevant state agencies including NSW Department of Education, Crown Lands, Transport for NSW and Regional NSW.

**Collaboration Activity 8 (Short-term)**



DPE (Planning) will establish a working group with relevant councils and state agencies to investigate the issues and extent of housing affordability, availability and condition and identify opportunities to improve housing affordability.

**Collaboration Activity 9 (Medium-term)**



DPE (Planning) will work with LALCs, native title holders, councils and Commonwealth and state agencies to better understand the housing needs and demand of Aboriginal communities.

**Resources**



The following NSW Government policies and guidelines can assist:

- The Local Housing Strategy Guideline
- The NSW Local Government Housing kit

**OBJECTIVE 7:**

# Create a network of centres for the dispersed population

As the region continues to change, there is opportunity for communities and governments to rethink the Far West centres, townships and settlement’s role and function, ensuring their ongoing vitality and viability.

Broken Hill is the largest centre in the region and functions as a Regional City that provides services and facilities for smaller, remote communities and industries.

Considered a major administrative hub, it provides essential services for the western part of the region, and remote eastern parts of South Australia. Wentworth, Buronga-Gol Gol, Bourke and Cobar are also key service centres and support mining operations, remote stations and industries, and more isolated communities.



**Public Open Spaces**

Both active and passive (including parks, gardens, playgrounds, public beaches, riverbanks and waterfronts, outdoor playing fields and courts, and publicly accessible bushland).



**Public Facilities**

public libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities



**Streets**

streets, avenues and boulevards; squares and plazas; pavements; passages and lanes, and bicycle paths

Residents in the eastern side of the region head east to the larger centres of Dubbo, Gunnedah and Wagga for services while people in the region’s south access services in Victorian centres such as Mildura.

Some areas are experiencing declining business activity that could reduce the critical mass of services and related business activities without planned intervention. Place-making, retail and commercial investment should be focused in and around existing centres to attract activity and investment, while respecting character and heritage values. This also presents opportunities to re-use vacant buildings and support the region’s residents as the population and climate changes.

Centres should provide quality, well maintained and integrated public spaces that can be enjoyed by residents and tourists. Existing facilities such as sporting grounds, ovals and local pools may be upgraded, or new public spaces designed to be comfortable places in hot weather..

**Strategy 7.1**



Strategic and statutory planning should ensure new and intensified development is located in suitable areas and designed for liveable and sustainable communities. New development must:

- conserve cultural heritage values and the local character of the area to enhance main streets and town centres
- encourage and improve public open spaces
- integrate with green infrastructure to increase thermal comfort and amenity
- consider transport (including walking and cycling) and community facilities commensurate with the scale of the proposal
- consider freight and servicing access early to balance the movement and delivery of goods, with the need to support vibrant and successful places
- leverage economic opportunities related to proximity and/or connectivity to larger centres
- connect to existing and new social infrastructure (including schools).

**Collaboration Activity 10 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with councils and state agencies to align infrastructure planning with land release and intensification of existing residential and urban areas to ensure adequate infrastructure is available to service new and existing development.

**Question:** Will these strategies and activities contribute to resilient places that respect local character?

**OBJECTIVE 8:**

# Enable appropriate rural residential development

Rural residential development allows people to live in a semi-rural or urban fringe setting. In the Far West, there is demand for rural residential development in Wentworth, Central Darling and Broken Hill LGAs.

The towns of Buronga and Gol Gol located across the Murray River from Mildura, Victoria provide a range of housing and lifestyle options not available in Mildura. In the town of Wentworth, detached housing along the Darling River is the town's main source of growth. There is growing interest in rural residential development around the edges of Broken Hill, however further expansion is limited by the Unincorporated Area, Western Land leases and mining and exploration leases.

The demand for rural residential development is likely to grow with the changing population and the need for greater housing choice. This development must minimise or avoid unnecessary and irreversible impacts as it can:

- increase potential for land use conflict with nearby or adjoining productive agricultural, industrial, mining or energy uses
- fragment rural or agricultural land to create dwelling opportunities, which increases the value of rural land and potentially reduces the ability of farming enterprises to amalgamate
- place pressure on infrastructure and services, resulting in an economic burden on councils
- cause biodiversity loss, weed control issues or erosion or, in riverfront areas, water quality issues, vegetation loss or impact infrastructure in and adjoining the waterway
- restrict future urban growth opportunities due to multiple landowners and competing priorities.

**Strategy 8.1**



New rural residential development areas must be identified in a local housing strategy, approved by DPE (Planning) and:

- be near existing urban areas to optimise existing infrastructure and services, including roads, water, sewerage and waste services and connections to social infrastructure such as schools
- not reduce future urban development options
- protect the economic use of rural land and be located away from significant agriculture, forestry, extractive resources or energy production or distribution areas (see Objective 12)
- avoid environmentally sensitive land or areas of cultural or heritage significance and not adversely affect nearby land with those values
- avoid fragmentation of and restriction of public access to waterfront areas, and not proliferate additional water rights to water bodies
- avoid areas that could pose a risk to public safety, including flood, landslip, bushfires or contaminated land
- be suitable for on-site effluent disposal (if required)
- avoid locations that could adversely impact surface water or groundwater resources
- provide an adequate water supply for domestic purposes
- offer permanent and safe all-weather access and avoid ribbon development along main roads and minimise access from major roads
- be integrated with green infrastructure networks, to ensure community resilience and provide cool, healthy places to live.

**Question:** Will these criteria effectively manage the impacts of rural residential development?

**OBJECTIVE 9:**

# Facilitate accommodation options for seasonal, temporary and key workers

Great Western Hotel, Cobar  
Credit: Destination NSW



With \$2.3 billion of planned investment in major capital projects over the next 5 years in an economy centred around agriculture and mining, the temporary or seasonal workforce is an important component of the Far West population and housing mix.<sup>14</sup>

Seasonal workers support agriculture harvests and tourism peaks and events. Construction-related jobs associated with large scale projects, such as pipeline and mining projects, solar farms and transmission lines in Balranald also attract temporary workers. As one example, Broken Hill City Council estimates the LGA will require at least 1,000 houses to accommodate more than 1,300 mining workers and their families over the next 3 years.

However, the region has a low and declining supply of smaller and more affordable housing options such as caravans and residential parks that suit temporary or seasonal workers. This undersupply increases pressure on stressed local housing markets and tourist accommodation, leading to higher rents and housing affordability issues, poor outcomes for rural centres, health and safety concerns from overcrowding, makeshift housing, and unsuitable living conditions.

This trend also places pressure on housing for workers in essential occupations such as healthcare, education, and emergency services, who often need to relocate to the region due to lack of local training facilities/opportunities.

In response to these trends the region has seen:

- the repurposing of tourism accommodation for worker accommodation, reducing accommodation for tourists, which impacts the visitor economy
- workers commuting long distances for work, which creates a financial burden and has negative social and health impacts.

Housing solutions for workers could include new permanent housing in towns, close to projects that could be repurposed once the project is completed to provide affordable housing options for the local community. This could be direct (e.g. supported by the company responsible for the project) or in partnership with councils or developers (e.g. by the company providing rental guarantees for certain periods).

If projects are a safe commuting distance to towns, accommodation for workers should be integrated within the centre, either through strategies or as worker camps. These camps should be within the town boundary so that the workers contribute to the economic vitality and viability of centres. Camps should only be outside towns if land is not available within the towns.

Following completion of major projects, these camps could be either relocated to service other projects (leaving behind legacy infrastructure) or remain in place and house workers for other projects in the same area (as has already occurred in Balranald).

To better understand the pipeline of major projects and the potential housing impacts, we need a coordinated process to identify where and when projects will occur. Suitable land within towns and villages should be identified, zoned and planned for worker camps associated with major projects.

**Strategy 9.1**



Strategic and statutory planning should consider:

- the provision of housing for workers by employers, including state agencies, by providing flexible controls
- the capacity of existing and planned infrastructure to service accommodation for workers
- provision for workers' accommodation sites such as caravan parks, manufactured home estates, tiny homes and manufactured homes on land in or adjoining existing centres, new development areas and publicly owned land.

**Strategy 9.2**



Development applications for large-scale projects should be supported by a workforce accommodation strategy that:

- assesses anticipated impacts on the local housing market, including (cumulative impacts associated with other large scale projects in the area)
- shows how potential employees can access accommodation, without detrimentally affecting existing housing availability and affordability
- illustrates how the project will contribute to the supply of local housing, and support the nearest centre or centres
- allows for the plan to be monitored and updated over the life of the project.



**Action 4 (Short-term)**



DPE (Planning) will:

- prepare and release guidance, including standard LEP clauses, to help councils plan for workforce accommodation.

**Collaboration Activity 11 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will support councils, other agencies and housing providers to facilitate housing for workers.

**Collaboration Activity 12 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with the Department of Regional NSW, joint organisations, relevant public authorities and councils to identify and quantify potential housing demands from projects to 2027, including mining, renewable energy and transmission projects, road and rail infrastructure projects.

**Collaboration Activity 13 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with councils to review LEPs to facilitate accommodation for workers associated with major projects.

**Question:** Will these strategies and activities help to provide short-term accommodation?

Streetscape and Heritage building in Broken Hill



**OBJECTIVE 10:**

# Plan for connected cross-border communities

People in the Far West often move between communities on either side of the Murray for housing, employment, and services, with some people living in NSW but working or accessing services in other states.

Similarly, residents in other states may access the Far West for business, services or tourism with Wentworth and Broken Hill for example, having strong links to Mildura and Adelaide for health and employment.

Infrastructure networks, including highways, roads, and rail bridges facilitate these relationships. Enhanced collaboration can achieve more efficient development, infrastructure and service outcomes in cross-border settlements.<sup>15</sup>

Economic and social connections from the Murray River communities, and Wentworth and Balranald LGAs into northern Victoria are more significant than connections with other areas in NSW. Visitors, residents and workers along the Murray River do not always appreciate the different legal and administrative requirements of the border, with cross-border towns operating as one community.

This can increase cross-border opportunities –already, Buronga Gol Gol, in Wentworth Shire, leverages growth in Mildura and provides an alternative residential option close to Mildura CBD. However, managing and coordinating services and infrastructure must avoid fragmenting government services, duplicating resources or applying different approaches to rules and regulations. Cross-border commissioners in NSW and Victoria are developing common approaches and resolve issues unique to cross-border communities.

An ongoing relationship between the demand and supply of land and housing, particularly in Wentworth and Mildura, will continue as both centres operate within the same housing market and have similar requirements for infrastructure and servicing.

**Strategy 10.1**



To leverage cross-border opportunities, strategic and statutory planning should:

- share successful cross-border planning collaboration with other cross-border jurisdictions
- investigate barriers and enablers of economic, housing and jobs growth
- consider infrastructure and servicing constraints and opportunities in a cross-border environment and develop service and infrastructure delivery models (including public transport).

**Collaboration Activity 14 (Short-term)**



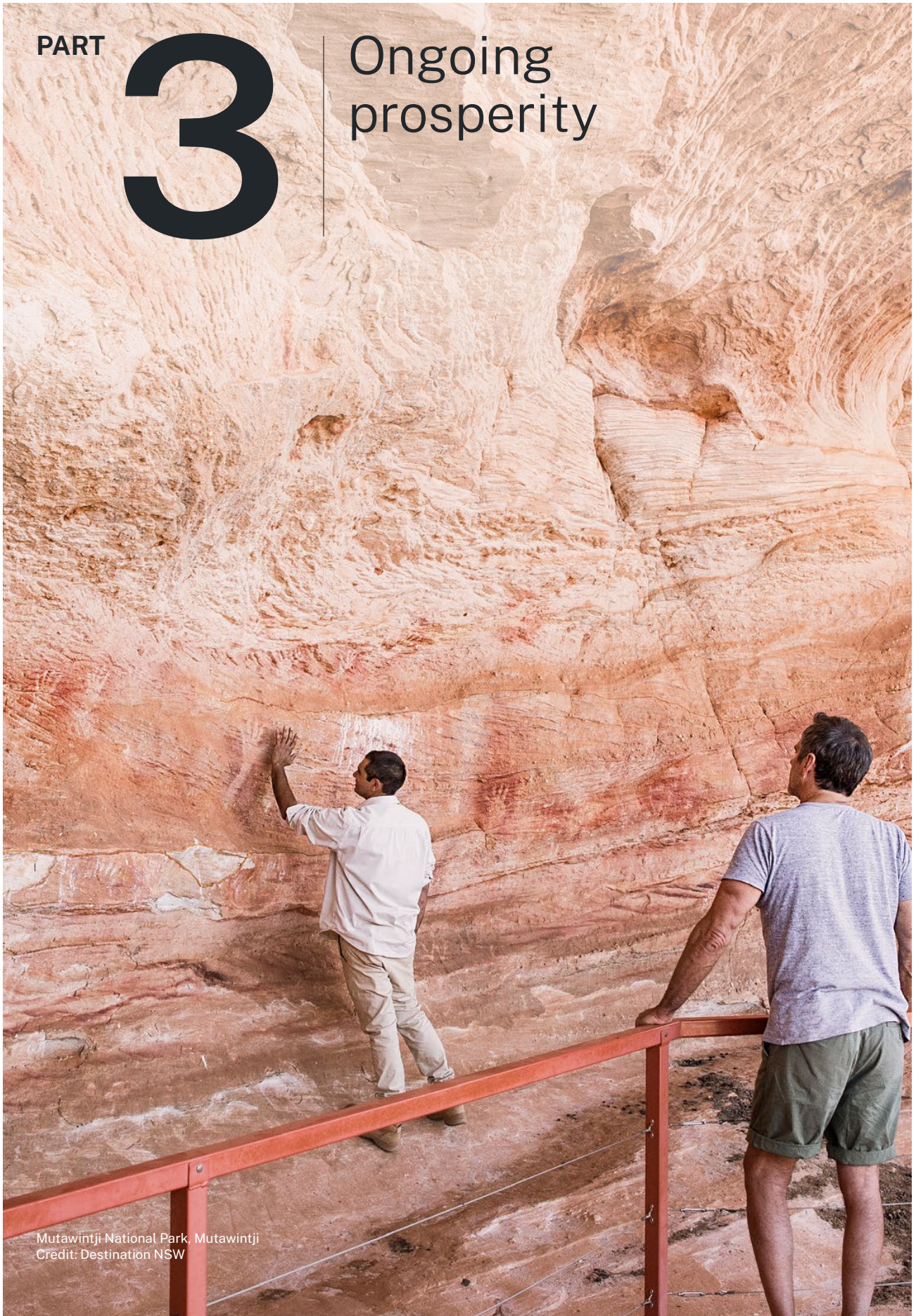
DPE (Planning) will work with relevant councils and agencies to share successful cross-border planning collaboration from other cross-border jurisdictions (e.g. Albury-Wodonga).

**Question:** Do these strategies and actions sufficiently support cross-border communities to collaborate with their counterparts?

PART

# 3

## Ongoing prosperity



Mutawintji National Park, Mutawintji  
Credit: Destination NSW



Back O' Bourke Information & Exhibition Centre. Credit: Destination NSW

PART **3** | Ongoing prosperity

The Far West region supports dispersed communities, with some situated hundreds of kilometres away from their nearest urban centre. Despite the smaller population, the regional economy is centred on renewable energy, tourism, agriculture, health and community services, and mining.

Large capital projects are major drivers for economic growth and stability; however, housing affordability and availability, as well as skills shortages and digital connectivity, are understood to be barriers to economic development and employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing the face of local tourism with the region seeing a boost in visitors based on its outback and unique cultural experiences. The region also has an increasing events tourism industry and a creative industry sector based on art and the film industry.

Growth across these sectors must be carefully planned and managed to ensure land uses are compatible and contribute to the region's ongoing prosperity. To achieve this, we must:

- leverage the region's strengths, including its unique environment, productive rural and resource lands and its people
- capitalise on available investment opportunities to support existing and growing tradable industry sectors that promote economic revitalisation, create employment prospects and attract and retain a skilled workforce
- provide vibrant centres with community and connectivity that include services and amenities critical to attracting, developing, and sustaining the industry sectors, as well as providing high amenity to residents and visitors.



**\$2.3 billion**  
of investment in the region  
for **major capital projects**  
over the next five years

**Highest Gross Value** by Industry in 2018



**22%**  
Construction and  
infrastructure



**19%**  
Mining



**17%**  
Agribusiness and food

**The region's strategic challenges:**

- Small, very dispersed population
- Poor digital connectivity
- Attracting and retain skilled workforce
- Housing availability and affordability
- Outward migration
- Capacity and reliability of road networks
- Climate change and natural disasters
- Land use conflict
- Social and education disadvantage

**Drivers and trends**

- Global demand for high quality food
- Net zero transition will increase demand for:
  - batteries and other storage
  - solar and wind electricity generation infrastructure
  - low emissions technologies
- Technology advances
- Increased globalisation of markets
- Consumer behaviour change
- Rising freight and logistic functions
- Genuine and real tourism experiences



**The region's strengths**

- Existing agricultural sector and established agribusiness
- Minerals, critical minerals and high-tech metals
- Existing mining economy
- Good quality infrastructure
- Land accessibility and affordability
- Strategic location and transport connections
- Rich cultural heritage, national parks and accessible outback experience
- Agritourism
- Abundant renewable energy resources
- Attractive centres with heritage



**Opportunities**

- Strengthening the visitor economy due to the accessible outback experiences
- Manufacturing value-add and industrial opportunities
- Increased reliance on Far West natural assets and resources (minerals, agriculture, renewable energy)
- Change the narrative around population change
- Improved amenity and services in centres
- Slow the outmigration patterns

**OBJECTIVE 11:**

# Support and diversify visitor economy opportunities



Cobar Sound Chapel  
Credit: Georges Lentz

The region’s unique geology, landscapes and wildlife, national parks, the Darling, Murrumbidgee and Murray river systems and rich Aboriginal and post-colonisation settlement history collectively provide an authentic ‘accessible outback’ experience.<sup>16</sup> Key infrastructure developed or upgraded in recent years include the Great Cobar Heritage Centre.

The region is a popular tourism destination for national and international visitors with domestic tourism recently driving growth in centres such as Broken Hill, White Cliffs and Lightning Ridge and in areas that adjoin larger centres such as Wentworth.

### World-first outback experiences

The Cobar Sound Chapel opened in April 2022 as a permanent new sound installation, set in an old disused water tank from 1901 and inspired by the vast landscape of the Australian outback.

The chapel is a creation by renowned composer and sound artist, George Lentz, in collaboration with Pritzker-Prize-winning architect Glenn Murcutt, The Noise String Quartet, and Cobar Aboriginal visual artist Sharron Ohlsen.

This immersive walk-in sound installation is one-of-a-kind experience and functions as a permanent home of Lentz’s digital surround-sound composition String Quartet(s) (2000-2022), a vast piece of sound art inspired by the outback landscape and its night skies.

The adaptive re-use of a water tank highlights a unique perspective of the area’s infrastructure while capitalising local heritage and region-specific experiences.<sup>17</sup>

**5.7%**  
average annual  
growth in visitors from  
year ended June 2010  
to year end June 2019

**239 businesses** employ  
**1,572**  
people in the region  
until year ended 2019

**8.6%**  
of Far West & Orana  
**total employment**  
up to year end 2019

**7.1%** annual  
increase in visitor spend in  
the region since year ended  
June 2010 to **\$357.5 million**  
in year ended June 2019

The region’s cultural heritage sites include Baiame’s Ngunnhu (Brewarrina Fish Traps), Menindee Lakes, the sacred historical sites of Mungo and Mutawintji national parks and Aboriginal art sites at Gundabooka National Park. Cultural tourism presents economic benefits and employment opportunities for Aboriginal communities. The *Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017-2020*<sup>18</sup> aims to capitalise on the growing interest and demand for cultural experiences

With the COVID-19 pandemic, festivals and filming opportunities have increased in the region. These activities have placed pressure on the region’s road network with many tourists opting for the cross-country experience in caravans, motorhomes and alike. These activities can be supported through:

- identifying appropriately sized and located sites for events away from sensitive land uses and with reliable access to the existing road network and public facilities
- improving short term accommodation availability
- repurposing underutilised industrial and commercial premises for tourism activities or other businesses associated with the film industry like set preparation, filming and editing
- embellishing natural or man-made assets to appropriately increase visitation
- identifying opportunities for walking or cycling trails through national parks and in linear corridors, such as the disused rail corridor between Broken Hill and Silverton.

Balranald Art Gallery, Balranald. Credit: Destination NSW



The region’s unique landscape and characteristics have attracted many nationally and internationally acclaimed artists over the years, including Pro Hart, and there is also a strong Aboriginal art industry including activist, artist and cultural consultant Badger Bates.

Opportunities to strengthen the region’s creative industries, tourism and place-making can draw from ongoing technological advancements, new visitation trends since the COVID-19 pandemic and improved digital connectivity. This includes opportunities for local artists and performers by enabling virtual patrons to participate in the experience.

Agritourism is growing, providing additional income for landholders. Food and wine trails, farm stays, farmers markets, functions and events, and farm gate experiences offer unique local tourism experiences that showcase the region’s landscapes and people.

Recent planning amendments will allow farming communities to carry out agritourism and small-scale agricultural development with appropriate approval.<sup>19</sup> However, the diversification of the agricultural enterprises into visitor accommodation can also result in land use conflict which should be managed through relevant impact consideration. This is outlined in Objective 12.

**Strategy 11.1**



Strategic and statutory planning should support and promote tourism activities by:

- reviewing planning controls to ensure they support and enable tourism development in appropriate locations
- supporting events and festivals carried out on public land without development consent
- integrating with cross-border communities and neighbouring councils for major tourism projects and value add opportunities.



Figure 7: Employment (tourism)



- |                                    |                           |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regional boundary                  | Arts, culture and filming | Railway                   |
| Regional city                      | Non-Aboriginal heritage   | Major regional road       |
| Strategic centre                   | Natural tourism           | Sturt steps trail         |
| Centre                             | Mining history            | National park and reserve |
| Airport (regular public transport) | Tourism route             | State forest              |
| Aboriginal tourism                 | Railway tourism           | Water body                |



**OBJECTIVE 12:**

# Protect rural and mining industries

## Agriculture

Agricultural production occurs across the region through irrigated crops, broadacre crops, horticulture, viticulture and livestock production.

Access to the Barwon-Darling River system to the north and Murray-Murrumbidgee River system to the south has resulted in significant irrigation agricultural activity in Central Darling, Balranald, Wentworth, Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett LGAs. These river systems support irrigated agricultural activities such as cotton in the north (Walgett, Brewarrina and Bourke LGAs) and grapes, citrus and vegetables in the south (Wentworth and Balranald LGAs).

Highly productive agriculture requires ready access to water, high quality soils, labour and a suitable climate. More recently the emergence of almonds, pistachios and walnut farming has created opportunities along the river corridors in the Far West.

Outside areas with access to water, broadacre cropping and livestock production is the predominant agricultural activity in the region. The region is known for producing dryland cotton, cereals, oilseed and pulses. Cropping also supports livestock production within and outside of the region through the production of hay. As global demand for goat and kangaroo meat increases, the region is developing a niche meat industry and leveraging connections to key freight corridors.

A strategic approach to rural and extractive resource land planning will enable communities and all levels of government to understand the importance of, and plan effectively for, the future of rural industries and mining in each LGA.

**Collaboration Activity 15 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with councils and state agencies to identify and support productive agricultural lands through strategic and statutory land use processes by:

- identifying and managing land use impacts on productive agricultural areas and areas with opportunities for economies of scale and access to assets such as processing or logistics
- avoiding the fragmentation of productive agricultural lands
- locating value-add industries where they can support agricultural production
- ensuring land uses adjacent to highly productive agricultural land are compatible with agricultural production activities or have adequate buffers
- protecting productive agricultural land from uses which decrease the agricultural potential of the land
- providing guidance on impact of climate changes and agricultural industries that are best suited to arid conditions.

## Mining and critical minerals

The Far West is rich in diverse minerals with a long history of mining, providing Australia and global markets with traditional metals and minerals needed for industrial and consumer led applications. These include:

- silver, lead, zinc, cobalt, iron ore, and mineral sands in and around Broken Hill
- copper and gold in and around Cobar
- opal in and around Lightning Ridge and White Cliffs
- mineral sands in and around Balranald and Wentworth.

There are also active exploration opportunities around the geological Curnamona Province (Broken Hill and Euriovie blocks) and Cobar Basin. Broken Hill presents opportunities for new deposits in addition to existing traditional zinc, lead, silver, and cobalt deposits. Mineral sands mining near the Murray River continues to expand.

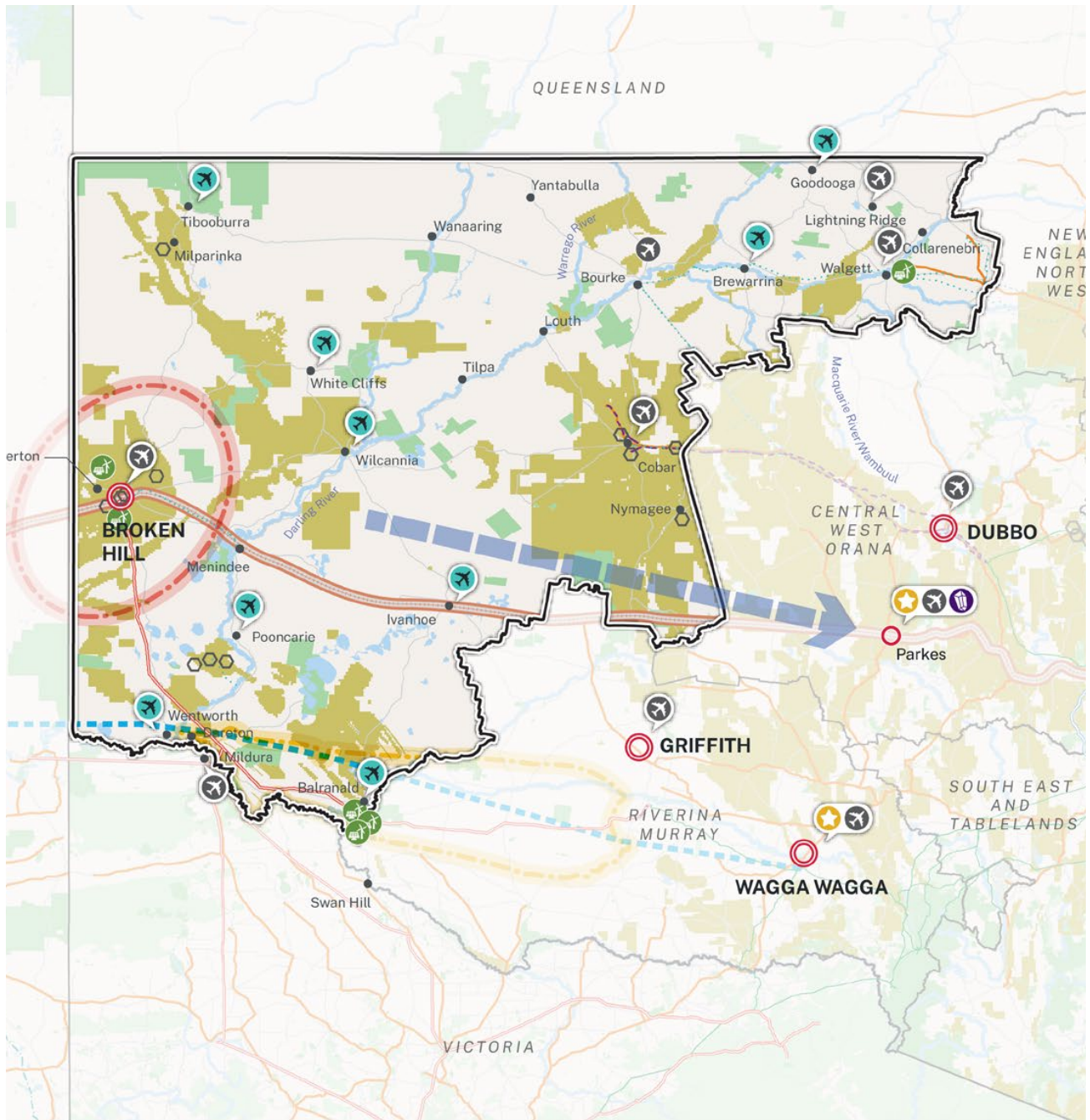


Figure 8: Employment (mining and renewables)



- |                                    |  |   |  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| — Regional boundary                | Aerodrome  | Committed and anticipated transmission project        | National park and reserve                      |
| Regional city                      | Renewable projects   | Access to Central West critical minerals hub industry | State forest                                   |
| Strategic centre                   | Critical minerals hub  | Railway   | Water body                                     |
| Centre                             | Mining and extractive industry                               | Main west rail line                                   | <b>ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION LINE VOLTAGES:</b> |
| Special Activation Precinct        | Potential Broken Hill long term renewable energy zone (AEMO) | Major regional road                                   | 66kV   |
| Airport (regular public transport) | Proposed south west renewable energy zone                    | Exploration and mining titles                         | 132kV  |
|                                    |  |   | 220kV  |



National and global shifts in consumer economics, renewable energy, advanced technologies, and climate policies and decarbonised economic futures is driving demand for the region’s metal and critical mineral resources. The Far West has a significant share of the emerging critical minerals market which will shape new mining, processing and manufacturing opportunities. It is identified as one of the strategic locations underpinning NSW’s *Critical Minerals and High-tech Metals Strategy*.<sup>20</sup>

The region’s copper, cobalt, scandium and rare earth elements are critical components of renewable energy storage batteries, solar panels, high-performance optics and powerful magnets needed for electric motors, wind turbines, electric vehicles and a range of advanced manufacturing capabilities.

Ethically sourced critical minerals and high-tech metals and capitalising on the region’s infrastructure and connectivity with the east coast markets, existing mining capabilities and established mining economy, will drive success. Linking to the NSW Critical Minerals Hub, manufacturing opportunities in the Parkes Special Activation Precinct and interstate opportunities could create significant value-add benefits to the region and adjoining regions.

The existing mix of skills, infrastructure and capabilities could support value-add and processing opportunities for extractive materials, enabling further diversification of industry and efforts to decarbonise industry. Cobalt Blue’s Thackaringa Cobalt Project at Broken Hill is one example that will use existing capabilities in mining and infrastructure to develop world-first on-site extraction and a processing facility to turn extracted cobalt ore into a commercial, battery-ready material.

Land use planning can sustain the sector by:

- ensuring extractive industry projects align with industry best standards, contributing to a secure critical minerals sector and protecting the region’s environmental values
- improving information on the location and resource potential of critical mineral occurrences in NSW, in consultation with Mining, Exploration and Geoscience, Department of Regional NSW
- protecting existing projects, associated mining and processing infrastructure, supply chains and known and potential extractive resource deposits from incompatible land uses
- accelerating the emerging metals industry by leveraging the Planning Reform Action Plan designed to reduce red tape and assessment timeframes for development applications (while maintaining a best-practice and transparent environmental assessment framework)
- utilising the NSW Government’s Mining Concierge service to support investors and mining corporations navigate regulatory requirements for mining proposals in NSW
- identifying potential industry pinch-points and other opportunities to collaborate around related issues such as housing, transport, logistics and skills, and climate change.

**Strategy 12.1**



Strategic planning and statutory planning should consider the life cycle of resource extraction opportunities, including:

- protecting potential mineral and energy resources from land uses that would sterilise this potential
- protecting existing and proposed resource extraction projects from land uses that could impact operations
- protecting road, rail and freight routes from development that could affect current or future extraction and supply-chain movements
- promoting opportunities for minerals processing within the region
- addressing water resource constraints and impacts
- identifying future mine closure dates, understanding potential changes to water, economic/skill profiles and demographics, and considering land use changes, mine rehabilitation activities and post-mining land use opportunities.

**Collaboration Activity 16 (Medium-term)**



DPE (Planning) and the Department of Regional NSW will identify existing and proposed mining and extractive industry operations and known or potential resource areas in the region and update/produce mapping to inform the application of local planning direction 8.1 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries.

**Collaboration Activity 17 (Medium-term)**



DPE (Planning), Department of Regional NSW and the RLE will collaborate with councils and other stakeholders to identify opportunities and pinch-points that could affect the mining industry in the region e.g. housing, supply chains, processing and manufacturing opportunities and other related industry opportunities such as renewable energy.

**Resources**



The following NSW Government plans and policies can support agriculture and mining industries:

- NSW's Critical Minerals and High-tech Metals Strategy
- Right to Farm Policy

**Question:** Will these strategies and activities sufficiently manage rural and mining land use planning issues?



Red Earth Opal, White Cliffs  
Credit: Destination NSW

**OBJECTIVE 13:**

# Protect and develop industry and manufacturing



Industrial and manufacturing operations can leverage the region’s strengths in transport and logistics, mining and support processing, production and processing of livestock, and production and exports from irrigated agriculture (e.g. citrus, stone fruits, table grapes, tree nuts and vegetables).

Based on the regional economy and its major industries (agriculture and mining), opportunistic manufacturing and value-adds require connections with primary operations, input supply chains and markets. Clustering manufacturing and other industrial operations can reduce land use conflict, create new circular economy opportunities, and create efficiencies from infrastructure investment and supply and distribution networks.

Opportunities also exist in the adaptive re-use of existing sites with appropriate infrastructure that are not currently active, such as the old Endeavor Mine in Cobar. Creating flexible planning and development controls, or clustering compatible businesses that respond to industry needs, will enhance the competitiveness and productivity of existing industries, and stimulate the growth of emerging industries, while reducing potential land use conflicts.

These approaches need a collective government and industry effort to understand:

- what areas of the region’s development-ready land can facilitate and service new ventures, including servicing capacity of infrastructure
- industry and manufacturing needs in relation to demand for housing, temporary accommodation, social infrastructure and industrial land for complementary/secondary industries.

**Collaboration Activity 18 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will collaborate with councils, state agencies and industry to understand opportunities for value-add manufacturing and associated needs.

Collectively we will look for opportunities to:

- locate new industrial land close to inter-regional networks and/or the potential to transport of goods by rail, unencumbered by natural hazards or environmental constraints and accessible to businesses and communities
- provide flexible and simplified planning controls that support the changing needs of industry, emerging industries and diversification, adaptation and innovation
- provide for the supply of development-ready industrial land to meet the changing demands of industry
- encourage co-location and clustering of compatible industries to improve efficiencies and productivity, reduce land use conflict, maximise infrastructure investment and capitalise on supply networks
- protect industrial land from other potential land use conflicts arising from inappropriate and incompatible surrounding land uses
- drive competitive advantage by leveraging strengths, assets and attributes while maintaining integrity of existing industrial precincts
- investigate bespoke industrial precinct planning using targeted responses.

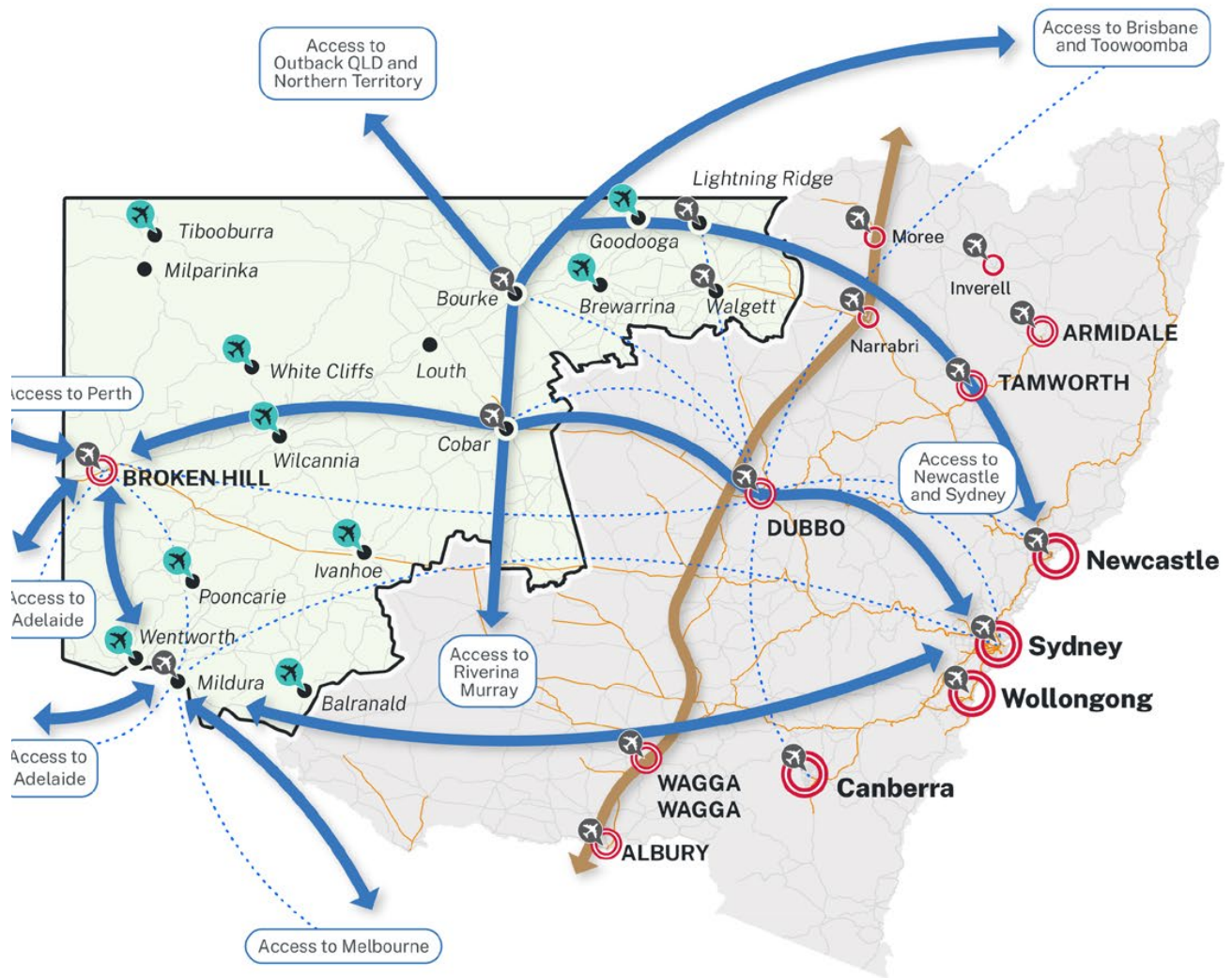


Figure 9: Inter-regional transport connections



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ NSW</li> <li>▭ Far West region boundary</li> <li>⊙ Metropolitan city</li> <li>⊙ Regional city</li> <li>⊙ Strategic centre</li> <li>● Centre</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↔ Regional connections</li> <li>→ Inland rail</li> <li>✈ Airport (regular public transport)</li> <li>✈ Aerodrome</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Rail</li> <li>— Roads</li> <li>⋯ Air transport passenger route</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|

**OBJECTIVE 14:**

**Protect and leverage existing and future road, rail and air transport routes and infrastructure**



The Silver City Stiletto train, Outback NSW  
Credit: Destination NSW

**Transport and Logistics** accounts for **3.5%** of the total value of major projects in the region over the next 5 years

With regional NSW's freight volumes projected to increase by 12% by 2036, the Far West requires a reliable freight and logistics system that moves agricultural and mining products across regions to markets and connects people across geographies.<sup>21</sup> Improved passenger rail, road access, public transport and walking and cycling networks allow more people to access services.

As freight volumes grow, so will movements on local, regional and state roads. However, some roads are already either failing under the pressure of freight movements, are in poor condition or are poorly aligned. First and last mile freight issues should be considered when identifying strategic opportunities for growth or investment.

A reliable freight network needs to be free of natural hazards. Industry needs to understand the benefits or changes that will come from rail and road upgrades and road sealing programs. Upgrades and sealing of 153 km of the Silver City Highway, 132 km of the Cobb Highway and remaining parts of the Wool Track (Ivanhoe-Cobar Road) will improve connections between Victorian and Queensland through western NSW, improving the regional freight network, connecting communities, and supporting the tourism industry.

Other potential upgrades to Pooncarie or Arumpo roads connecting Menindee Lakes and Lake Mungo to Mildura will also provide better access to tourism attractions and potentially shifting the community's reliance from one strategic centre to another.

The Broken Hill Rail Line connects Adelaide and Perth to the east coast, via Parkes and Orange. Having a diversity of freight routes, including heavy haulage routes for oversize and overmass (OSOM) vehicles and loads will service mining areas such as Broken Hill, Cobar and Wentworth and allow connections to the Port of Newcastle, Port Kembla, Port Botany and South Australia for mining equipment and infrastructure.

This network will also be important for infrastructure projects such as the REZ and other renewable energy projects that import wind turbines - this in turn creates demand for OSOM. There are opportunities to improve and leverage import accessibility of rail into townships such as Cobar, rather than solely exporting materials.

For communities like Buronga Gol Gol, Cobar and Ivanhoe, main streets are freight and transport corridors. We need to protect the effectiveness of the corridors and provide opportunities for local businesses to leverage the corridors. Planning for new or upgraded freight corridors should consider impacts on sensitive land uses such as schools.

While there will be opportunities for increased use of public transport, walking and cycling, on-demand transport and autonomous transport, the long distances between centres and dispersed population will continue to rely on personal and freight vehicles.

The Far West Regional Transport Plan will integrate land use, infrastructure and transport planning, to capitalise on and understand these benefits. Early and strategic analysis of land use and transport interactions will identify opportunities and provide appropriate planning and place-based responses.

**Strategy 14.1**



Strategic planning should protect supply chains, freight corridors and logistics facilities from future development impacts and identify and maintain buffers between freight infrastructure and incompatible land uses.

**Collaboration Activity 19 (Ongoing)**



DPE (Planning) will work with Transport for NSW, councils and the mining industry to:

- develop the Far West Regional Transport Plan to integrate land use, infrastructure and transport planning; and improve the freight and transport network, including walking and cycling networks
- identify and address any first and last mile freight limitations in the region's freight networks
- identify opportunities to activate and protect employment lands near freight infrastructure
- identify new freight network opportunities while understanding potential impacts on sensitive land uses
- adopt a precinct-based planning approach to complement the role and function of existing main streets, without detracting from the regional freight and transport network and identifying heavy vehicle town centre bypasses, where appropriate.

**Question:** Will these strategies and activities support integrated transport and land use planning?



**OBJECTIVE 15:**

# Support the transition to net zero by 2050

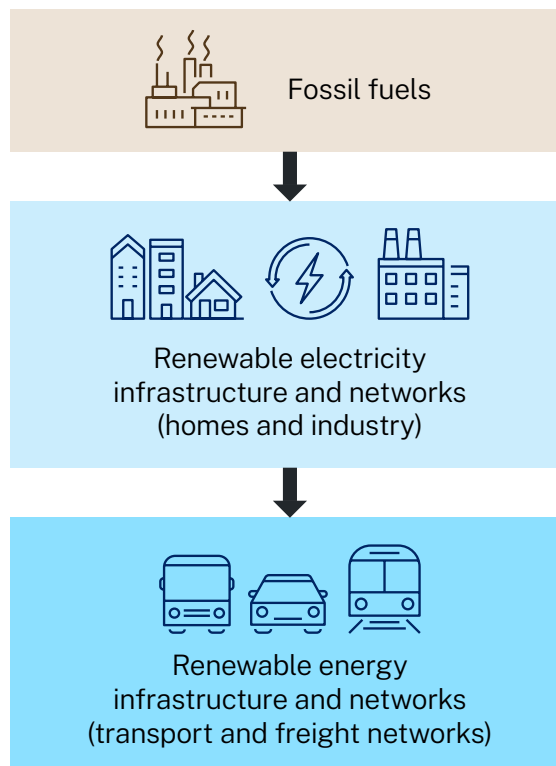
Within 15 years, 75% of the state’s coal-powered electricity generation is expected to reach the end of its technical life.<sup>22</sup> Replacing these energy sources and building the infrastructure needed to connect new energy sources is essential. The NSW Government has committed to net zero emissions by 2050, requiring greater renewable electricity generation, transmission and storage. Renewable energy is now becoming cost competitive with other forms of electricity generation and is key to NSW achieving net zero.<sup>23</sup>

Electricity demand is expected to increase as people change the way they power their homes, transport, industry and centres. The Australian Energy Market Operator forecasts a step-change in the transition away from fossil fuels and higher electrical demand with recent events in the global energy market making this scenario more likely.

This transition will require fundamental changes to how electricity is generated, transported, stored and used. Careful management of this transition will ensure the region benefits from economic diversification opportunities while supporting existing industries. Land use planning can help to guide an orderly transition and maximise these benefits.

The Far West’s climate, natural assets and strategic connections to utility infrastructure will support the transition to net zero while maintaining supply. Upgrades to existing infrastructure are required to facilitate expansion of electricity infrastructure. Solar and renewable projects in Balranald and Walgett, battery energy storage in Broken Hill and the EnergyConnect project –described below– are worth more than \$1.5 billion and will provide 155 megawatts capable of powering around 60,000 homes.

The EnergyConnect project is an interconnector being built by Transgrid and ElectraNet between Wagga Wagga and Robertstown in South Australia, with a connection to Red Cliffs in Victoria. The project will upgrade the 33kV transmission line to 500kV between Wagga Wagga and Dinawan, which links to the eastern edge of the South West REZ and will unlock additional transmission capacity.



Part of the South West REZ will be in Balranald Shire, connecting multiple generators and storage in one location and capitalising on economies of scale to deliver cheap, reliable and clean electricity. While we expect the REZ to be developed in the medium to long term, it may be needed earlier if the transition away from fossil fuels is faster than forecast.

**Energy efficient buildings**



Improving energy-efficient building design or retrofitting existing buildings with low emissions energy

**Circular economy**



Planning for circular economies and optimising waste management and resource recovery across sectors

**Electric vehicles**



Improving policy to ensure buildings are electric vehicle-ready and stimulating investment in green energy refuelling stations.

**Renewable energy generation**



Complementing solar power with wind power and storage (battery) systems to manage intermittency (as wind blows more at night and in winter, and battery provides more energy when solar energy is weaker). Co-locating renewable energy infrastructure and land intensive businesses, including agricultural and mining activities.

**Emissions reduction**



Implementing greenhouse gas abatement schemes through the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund, and the biodiversity offset scheme and carbon market under development in NSW.

**Renewable energy for industry**



Integrating renewable energy into mining, agriculture, freight and logistics, and manufacturing operations through the *NSW Hydrogen Strategy* and Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program.

**Strategy 15.1**



Strategic and statutory planning should identify opportunities to facilitate the energy transition of housing, industry and transport.

**Collaboration Activity 21 (Longer-term)**



DPE (Planning), DPE (Environment), Energy Corporation of NSW, Department of Regional NSW and councils will identify economic diversification and land use planning issues, opportunities, and actions to respond to changes in energy generation, transmission, storage and use.

**Collaboration Activity 20 (Longer-term)**



DPE (Planning) and DPE (Environment) will work with Energy Corporation of NSW, the Renewable Energy Sector Board, councils and Aboriginal and community stakeholders to develop the South West REZ.

**Resources**



The following NSW Government policies and guidelines can guide the regions transition to net zero:

- Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development
- NSW Hydrogen Strategy and Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program

**OBJECTIVE 16:**

# Ensure government and community service provision



The NSW Government funds and provides a range of infrastructure and services in the Far West, including roads and transport, schools, police stations and courts, health services, social housing, and public order and safety. Councils also provide infrastructure, services and local employment.

There are several challenges to the provision of these services in the Far West. While smaller towns and communities rely on regional and strategic centres for government services, centres and larger towns often lack either basic or higher-order services. Residents often travel great distances to cities in other regions such as Griffith, Dubbo and Mildura.

Currently, Broken Hill has the largest concentration of government services providing health, education and community services to the region. Smaller concentrations of services are also present in other centres in the region. This ranges from small schools and single manned police stations to district nurses and/or clustered health facilities.

Providing access to government services and clustering services can support people living in these areas. This must occur in a coordinated cost-effective way, through:

- clustering or co-locating government services (including emergency services) to share the available workforce and facilities and potentially support other services like cafés or shops
- clustering training facilities for services to maintain and encourage local skills in the region

- providing appropriate housing and locating aged care and health services close to town, to provide transition options as people get older or need to overcome reduced mobility
- investing in multi-purpose community facilities, reducing public investment and making best use of a community assets
- investing in the local education services, to retain and train a skilled workforce and create employment opportunities for teachers and associated services.

Improvements in digital connectivity for services such as education and telehealth can provide faster access to services and reduce the need to travel for basic services. Innovative and coordinated travel to allow residents in more remote communities to access services in larger centres will also facilitate better access and care.

**Strategy 16.1**



Strategic planning and local plans should investigate opportunities to:

- cluster/co-locate government services including health and educational facilities through flexible planning controls that encourage complementary uses
- facilitate telecommunications improvements to support better connectivity and basic service delivery, including access to the NBN.

# Glossary

## Active transport

Transport that is human powered, such as walking, cycling or using a wheelchair.

## Affordable housing

Housing for very low-income households, low-income households or moderate-income households, as prescribed by regulations or provided for in an environmental planning instrument.

## Agribusiness

A business that earns most or all of its revenues from agriculture, such as food and fibre production, agrichemicals, seed supply, farm machinery wholesale and distribution, freight, logistics, processing, marketing or retail sales.

## Biodiversity

The variety of life on Earth. The life forms, the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form.

## Biodiversity corridor

An identified area of land that connects flora and fauna populations, separated by human developments and activities.

## Circular economy

A model that redesigns current linear systems (take-make-waste) to a closed loop or circular system which maximises resource efficiencies, reduces waste and improves natural systems.

## Employment lands

Areas zoned for industrial or similar purposes. Generally lower density employment areas that provide space for utilities and urban services, including depots, repair trades and service centres, as well as the research, design, and manufacturing of goods through to their warehousing, distribution, and sale.

## First mile/last mile

The first and final stage of a journey in which people or goods travel to a broad range of origins or destinations, such as the trip between a train station and the final destination of a shopping centre or place of work.

## Green infrastructure

The network of green spaces, natural systems and semi-natural systems that support sustainable communities, including waterways; bushland; tree canopy and green ground cover; parks; and open spaces.

## High environmental value land

Land with:

- sensitive biodiversity values
- native vegetation of high conservation value
- key habitat of threatened species
- important wetlands
- areas of geological significance

## Household size

The average number of people living in a dwelling.

## Housing affordability

The capacity of individuals or households to enter the rental and privately owned housing markets.

## Housing diversity

The mix of housing types such as detached dwellings, boarding houses, purpose-built rentals, dual occupancies, group homes, hostels, multi-dwelling housing, residential flat buildings, secondary dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, seniors housing and shop top housing.

## Infill development

Development in areas used for urban purposes, including the re-use of a site within the existing urban footprint for new housing, businesses, or other urban development.

## Intensive agriculture

Agriculture activities such as horticulture, irrigated crops, glass housing, feedlots, poultry farms that rely on high levels of inputs such as labour and capital to increase yield.

## Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

The main statutory instrument to guide planning decisions for LGAs through zoning and development controls.

## Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

Sets out the 20-year vision for a local government area, demonstrates how change will be managed and identifies local priorities for updating council Local Environmental Plans

## Population projections

Projections of future size and structure of a population based on past trends and assumptions about the future, such as births, deaths and migration.

## Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

Zones of energy generation alternatives as power stations close that connect renewable energy such as wind and solar, storage such as batteries, and high voltage power poles and wires in the same location to capitalise on economies of scale to deliver cheap, reliable and clean electricity for NSW.

## Resilience

The capacity of a place, town, city or region's systems, businesses, institutions, communities and individuals to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

## Riverine environments

Land identified on a riparian lands and waterways map in an LEP and land within 40 m to the top of the bank of a watercourse.

## Ribbon development

Extensive residential/commercial/industrial development occurring in a linear pattern along a river corridor.

## Smart technology

Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology (SMART) technology that provides cognitive awareness to objects by making use of advanced technologies like internet of things, artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data.

## Statutory planning

Includes planning proposals, development applications and other statutory processes that require planning decisions.

## Strategic planning

Includes local strategies for issues such as housing, employment, retail, conservation, rural land, recreation and transport; precinct plans; structure plans; master plans and other activities that support statutory planning, such as LEPs and development control plans, and decisions.

## Sustainability

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## Urban land

Land zoned under any of the following land use zones

- RU5 Village
- R1 General Residential
- R2 Low Density Residential
- R3 Medium Density Residential
- R4 High Density Residential
- R5 Large Lot Residential
- E1 Local Centre
- E2 Commercial Centre
- E3 Productivity Support
- E4 General Industrial
- E5 Heavy Industrial
- B1 Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 Local Centre
- B3 Commercial Core
- B4 Mixed Use
- B5 Business Development
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- B7 Business Park
- IN1 General Industrial
- IN2 Light Industrial
- IN3 Heavy Industrial
- SP3 Tourist

## Value-added

data represents the economic value that is added by each industry sector in a defined region. It can be calculated by subtracting local expenditure and expenditure on regional imports from the output generated by industry sector.

# References

- 1 NSW Treasury Economic Blueprint 2040
- 2 NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Water Strategy August 2021
- 3 NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Draft Groundwater Strategy July 2022
- 4 Transport for NSW Future Transport Strategy 2056
- 5 Transport for NSW Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan
- 6 NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Housing 2041
- 7 Commonwealth of Australia, Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009-2030
- 8 State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage, Western Enabling Regional Adaption: Far West region report 2017
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- 10 Media Release Construction starts on new Doppler radars in Western NSW 2020, NSW Government
- 11 Australian Bureau of Statistics data
- 12 Australian Bureau of Statistics data
- 13 REMPLAN Economy (2022 Release 1)
- 14 NSW Government, 2022-23 Budget
- 15 Destination Riverina Murray NSW 2018, Riverina Murray Destination Management Plan 2018, Destination NSW
- 16 Destination Country and Outback NSW 2018, Destination NSW
- 17 Cobar Sound Chapel <https://www.cobarsoundchapel.com/the-chapel.html>
- 18 Destination NSW, Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017-2020, NSW Government
- 19 NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Planning amendments for agriculture 2021
- 20 NSW Government, Department of Regional NSW, Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy 2021
- 21 Transport for NSW, NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023
- 22 Energy Networks Australia, Energy Insider 2019
- 23 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030

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## Planning and Environment

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## 15 GENERAL MANAGER

### 15.1 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN WRITTEN RETURNS

**File Number:** C11.7,S2.29  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### Background

Clause 4.21 of Councils Code of Conduct provides, in respect of disclosure of interests in written returns, as follows:

*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 paragraph (a) or (b).*

Clause 4.25 of the Code provides that, *returns that are required to be lodged with the general manager under clause 4.21(a) and (b) must be tabled at the first meeting of the council after the last day the return is required to be lodged.*

#### Current Situation

Having regard to Clauses 4.21(b) and 4.25 of Councils Code of Conduct, Councillors and designated persons were required to disclose their interests in written returns to the General Manager by 30 September 2022 with such returns to then be tabled at the first meeting after this date. Accordingly, the returns will be tabled at the October 2022 Council meeting, noting that all Councillors and designated persons have completed their written interest returns.

It is further advised that in accordance with Clause 4.27 of the Code, Council must make all returns of interests publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 and any guidelines issued by the NSW Information Commissioner. This is in respect of returns provided by Councillors and designated persons, being the General Manager and the Managers who report to the General Manager.

The Information Commissioner has issued Information Access Guideline 1 in relation to the publication of information contained in returns of interests. Guideline 1 states that councillors'



and designated persons' returns of interests must be made publicly available free of charge on councils' websites, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information contained in them or to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on the council.

It is open to councils to redact information from returns of interests (eg a person's signature and residential address) when publishing returns on their websites where there is an overriding public interest against the disclosure that information. Such action will be taken in respect of the various Bourke Council related returns prior to publishing on Council's website.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no Financial Implications arising from this report.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That the tabling of the Disclosure of Interest Returns at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 31 October 2022, as detailed in the report of the General Manager, be noted.**
- 2. That as per Information Access Guideline 1, as issued by the NSW Information Commissioner, Council proceed to publish the tabled Disclosure of Interest Returns of Councillors and Designated Persons on the Council website, on the basis of addresses and signatures on each Return being redacted prior to publication.**

**15.2 \*\*\* CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR CLOSURE**

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

**Background**

As a long-established practice in common with other Council's, Government Departments and Professional Practices, Bourke Shire Council has 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 also closed on Christmas Day and re-open during the balance of the Christmas/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 Councils Road Crews are generally on leave during this Christmas/New Year Period and during January.

These arrangements all worked successfully during the 2021/2022 holiday period, with no known inconvenience caused to the community.

**Current Situation**

Christmas Day this year falls on Sunday, 25 December 2022. Boxing Day is Monday, 26 December 2022 whilst New Year's Day is Sunday, 1 January 2023. Sunday 25 December, Monday 26 December and Tuesday 27 December 2022 are the Christmas Boxing Day Public Holidays whilst Sunday 1 January 2023 and Monday 2 January 2023 are the New Year's Public Holidays. In this respect it is advised that the NSW Public Holidays Act provides for an extra Public Holiday when Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day falls on a weekend.

Last year the main Office and Library closed from 4.30pm Thursday, 23 December 2021 and reopened at 8.00am on Tuesday, 4 January 2022, a period of 11 days. This year and having regard to staff leave liabilities increasing in value every year in line with the statutory wage increases and to support employee work/life balance, it will be recommended that the closure period be extended.

In this regard, it will be recommended that the main Office and Library closed from 2.30pm Friday, 23 December 2022 and reopen at 8.00am on Monday, 9 January 2023, a period of 16 days. Records retained of phone calls received and in-person visits to Council during the first week of reopening after the 2021/2022 Christmas/ New Year break reveal a limited number of contacts made with many people themselves still on leave. It is for this reason that many Government Department and privately operated Professional Practices, both in Bourke and across the region, close for this extended two (2) week period. 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.

**Recommendation**

- 1. That Councils Shire Office and Library close at 2.30pm on Friday, 23 December 2022 and re-open at their respective regular opening times on Monday, 9 January 2023.**
- 2. That Councils other facilities including the Memorial Swimming Pool, Waste Depot and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre close for Christmas Day on Sunday, 25 December 2022, and that dates and times of operation for these facilities during the remaining days of Christmas/New Year period be determined by the General Manager, having regard to demand and operational requirements.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. That the community be advised of Councils Christmas/New Year holiday arrangements.**

**15.3 \*\*\* GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES BOARD - THE POUND YARD**

**File Number:** A2.1, A.2.2.16, H3.3  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Background**

The NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) has received a place naming application to recognise “The Pound Yard”, located in Anson St, Bourke, as per the aerial photograph as provided by the Board below. The Executive of the Board has invited Council to make comment on the proposal prior to it being formally considered by the Board at its next meeting.

**Current Situation**

In its correspondence to Council regarding this naming proposal, the GNB advises that the applicant for the formalising of the name “mentions that the Pound Yard was used by Aboriginal families and is an important part of Bourke’s history. It is noted that the name “Pound Yard” is mentioned in two publications:

- *Bourke: Our Yarns. The stories behind “Blackfellas, Whitefellas” (2006) Stories collected by Gillian Cowlshaw*
- *Bourke Shire Aboriginal Heritage Study (2019) Written by OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management for Bourke Shire Council.”*

As mentioned above, reference is made to the “Pound Yard” in Councils Aboriginal Heritage Study. This Study had several objectives:

1. *“To update/complete the Bourke Shire Aboriginal Heritage Study (BSAHS), originally begun ten years ago under a separate contract to separate researchers*
2. *To ensure that Aboriginal community of the Bourke Local Government Area (LGA) were meaningfully consulted in regards to what sites and places within the LGA are important to them*
3. *To identify a group of sites of significance to Aboriginal people that may be appropriate for listing on the Bourke Local Environmental Plan (LEP).*

*Whilst Aboriginal community consultation was undertaken, one of the key outcomes of the consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders was that while the meetings were considered a solid first step, it was emphasised that further consultation would be required to identify appropriate knowledge holders for specific sites.”*

Accordingly, a preliminary list of 31 sites was compiled as places of significance to the Aboriginal community across the LGA. One of these sites was the “Pound Yard” with the report providing as follows:

*“10. Pound Yard*

*Four Aboriginal reserves are listed within Bourke, see Table 5-2 below. It is not known if the Pound Yard identified in the oral accounts was the colloquial name for one of these reserves, or whether it was an informal reserve not listed below.*

**Table 5-2: Aboriginal Reserves listed for Bourke (NSW Dept of Community Services 1998)**

| <b>Reserve</b>            | <b>Gazette number</b> | <b>Date Gazetted</b> | <b>Date Revoked</b> | <b>Notes</b>   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Bourke Aboriginal Reserve | AR 7202/22            | 30/8/1946            | ?                   | A town reserve of 34 acres. This Reserve is the one primarily referred to as the Bourke Reserve and began at least seven years prior to its gazettal with Aboriginal families beginning to occupy the area on both banks of the Darling River ( <b>Section 3.5</b> has some further details). Possibly could be Alice Edwards Village. |
| Bourke Aboriginal Reserve | AR 78457/8            | 6/4/1956             | ?                   | A town reserve in Cowper and Hope Streets  |
| Bourke Aboriginal Reserve | AR 83582              | 17/11/61             | 27/9/68             | A town reserve of 3 acres in Adelaide Street   |
| Bourke Aboriginal Reserve | AR 84544              | 27/9/1963            | ?                   | This was a very small reserve, just over a 1/4 acre, located in Warrego Street   |

*Pound Yard is presumed to have been located on Anson Street, probably including land that is now used for the BSC depot based on oral accounts. The area it occupied is presumed to have been larger than its current limits. Further research would be required to more accurately determine the location and extent of Pound Yard, although it has also been referred to as a fringe camp, so possibly not a formal reserve. Kevin Knight is a source of information for this site.*

*Research into Pound Yard does not yield significant written results and it is likely that oral history may be the best source of information about this Reserve. Some stories have been captured that refer to the people living on the reserve in the 1950s, such as a story of Old Bertie Bates, referred to as a full blood, living in Bourke during the fifties. He is recorded as having married Sheila Haythorn, a white woman, and the two then lived at the Pound Yard in Bourke. Bertie is said to have been one of only two Aboriginal people in Bourke (Archie Knight was the other) to have had a Citizens Rights card, so other members of the local Aboriginal community had to get Bertie or Archie to buy their alcohol for them (Woodland 2015).*

*Another story from the 1950s also references the Pound Yard, again in relation to alcohol and police. Recorded by Gillian Cowlshaw in 2010, is the story of Marg and Cliff Edwards and their friend Charlie ‘Boonie’ Hilt. Marge recalls that during the fifties the police were extremely vigilant in terms of enforcing laws in regard to Aboriginal people and alcohol. At that time, they were all living at the Pound Yard.”*

Of these 31 sites, 14 sites were identified as potential sites for LEP listing. Again, the “Pound Yard” was included in this list of 14 sites with the following comments made in respect of this site:

**Table 6-1: Sites for consideration towards LEP listing**

| No | Name of Place | Details                 | Notes for further work   |
|----|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1  | Pound Yard    | Aboriginal fringe camp. | Further discussions and consultation with Traditional Owners to identify the right people to be talking to about this site<br>Determine if there is anything physical remaining or opportunity for listing / interpretation. |

The report concludes in part that “It is considered by community that further resources are needed—for the purpose of more detailed consultation and field visits of Aboriginal sites in the LGA.” At this point such further consultation has not progressed due to limited resources. Given that the report further states that any progress towards including these various site in Councils LEP “should only be agreed to by appropriate Aboriginal persons”, it would be proposed that Council advise the GNB that conceptually, it raises no objection to the name “Pound Yard”, however it is considered imperative that the Board consult with appropriate Aboriginal persons before any decision to name the area is ultimately made.

**Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Recommendation**

**That Council advise the NSW Geographical Names Board that whilst it raises no objection to the name "Pound Yard", it is considered imperative that the Board consult with appropriate Aboriginal persons before any decision is ultimately made.**

**16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT****16.1 \*\*\* BANK RECONCILIATION & STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES**

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

**Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 September 2022**

|                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balances as per Bank Statement  | \$790,463.33        |
| Plus: Deposit not shown         | \$484.45            |
| Less: Unpresented Cheques       | \$2,618.15          |
| <b>Balance as per Cash Book</b> | <b>\$788,329.63</b> |

**Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 30 September 2022**

| Fund or Account | Current Balance        | Overdraft Statutory Limit |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| General         | \$23,655,022.56        | \$200,000.00              |
| Water           | \$2,710,847.27         |                           |
| Sewer           | \$2,914,810.82         |                           |
| Trust           | \$103,556.38           |                           |
|                 | <b>\$29,384,237.03</b> |                           |

**Investments as at 30 September 2022**

|                          |                        |       |          |     |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|----------|-----|
| National Australia Bank  | \$1,088,291.01         | 4.02% | 330 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$456,379.79           | 0.07% | 360 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$3,036,222.84         | 0.35% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$1,106,825.39         | 4.30% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$2,014,665.26         | 0.46% | 182 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$2,015,448.77         | 4.05% | 180 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$1,158,167.48         | 0.55% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$678,210.58           | 0.33% | 330 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$3,106,731.89         | 0.04% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$3,065,270.42         | 0.07% | 360 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$704,706.26           | 0.04% | 360 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$1,730,366.78         | 0.32% | 300 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$1,505,944.53         | 1.07% | 272 Days | A1+ |
| Commonwealth Bank        | \$2,000,000.00         | 3.76% | 210 Days | A1+ |
| Commonwealth Bank        | \$2,000,000.00         | 3.88% | 240 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | \$2,928,676.40         | Flex  |          |     |
| <b>Total Investments</b> | <b>\$28,595,907.40</b> |       |          |     |



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 30 September 2022**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Balance as per cash book                  | \$788,329.63           |
| Investments                               | \$28,595,907.40        |
| <b>Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger</b> | <b>\$29,384,237.03</b> |

**Statement of Bank Balances as at 30 September 2022**

|               | Balance<br>31 August 2022 | Transaction          | Balance<br>30 September 2022 |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| General Fund  | \$25,683,669.02           | -\$2,028,646.46      | \$23,655,022.56              |
| Water Fund    | \$2,869,560.89            | -\$158,713.62        | \$2,710,847.27               |
| Sewer Fund    | \$2,806,478.55            | \$108,332.27         | \$2,914,810.82               |
| Trust Fund    | \$109,457.38              | \$-5,901.00          | \$103,556.38                 |
| Investments   | -\$29,974,966.43          | \$1,379,059.03       | -\$28,595,907.40             |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>\$1,494,199.41</b>     | <b>-\$705,869.78</b> | <b>\$788,329.63</b>          |

**Balance of all Funds as at 30 September 2022**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Balance as at 31 August 2022</b>    | <b>\$1,494,199.41</b> |
| <b>Add Receipts for</b>                |                       |
| (a) Rates                              | \$219,195.06          |
| (b) Other Cash                         | \$2,665,800.75        |
|  |                       |
| <b>Deduct payments for</b>             |                       |
| (a) Payments                           | \$4,969,924.63        |
| (b) New Investment                     | -\$1,379,059.04       |
| <b>Balance as at 30 September 2022</b> | <b>\$788,329.63</b>   |

**Recommendation**

That the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 30 September 2022 be noted.

**16.2 \*\*\* INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

**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 2022/2023 Budget estimated the total investment revenue as \$295,000 which represents an estimated return of 1.475%. This revenue was 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 2022 is \$28,595,907.40

Investment income earned as at 30 September 2022 is \$52,978.68

**Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Procedure**

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

Ministerial Investment Order – 12 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 2022**

| Institution              | No. | Value                  | Rate  | Term     | S&P |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------|-------|----------|-----|
| National Australia Bank  | 5   | \$1,088,291.01         | 4.02% | 330 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 12  | \$456,379.79           | 0.07% | 360 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 4   | \$3,036,222.84         | 0.35% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 6   | \$1,106,825.39         | 4.30% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 17  | \$2,014,665.26         | 0.46% | 182 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 7   | \$2,015,448.77         | 4.05% | 180 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 10  | \$1,158,167.48         | 0.55% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 16  | \$678,210.58           | 0.33% | 330 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 8   | \$3,106,731.89         | 0.04% | 365 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 13  | \$3,065,270.42         | 0.07% | 360 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 9   | \$704,706.26           | 0.04% | 360 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 15  | \$1,730,366.78         | 0.32% | 300 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  | 1   | \$1,505,944.53         | 1.07% | 272 Days | A1+ |
| Commonwealth Bank        | 2   | \$2,000,000.00         | 3.76% | 210 Days | A1+ |
| Commonwealth Bank        | 3   | \$2,000,000.00         | 3.88% | 240 Days | A1+ |
| National Australia Bank  |     | \$2,928,676.40         | Flex  |          |     |
| <b>Total Investments</b> |     | <b>\$28,595,907.40</b> |       |          |     |

**Term Deposits****Discussions/Comments**

The Investment portfolio decreased by \$1,379,059.03 during the period.

Negotiations with the National Australia Bank have been made to mature investment #10 \$1,158,167.47 (30/11/2022), #12 \$456,379.79 ((4/01/2023), #13 \$3,065,270.42 (2/01/2023) and #15 \$1,730,366.78 (22/12/2022) the terms to mature an investment early is 31 days. The four investments will then be reinvested to reflect the increased investment amounts Council is currently receiving. There is no costs to break the investments, the estimated increased return on the investments is estimated to be \$25,000.

The investment portfolio is invested in term deposits with the National Australia Bank and the Commonwealth 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.

**Recommendation**

- 1. That the report regarding Council's Investment Portfolio 30 September 2022 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

**16.3 \*\*\* 2021/2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS**

**File Number:** A13.2  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, Manager of Corporate Services  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** 1. **Independant Auditors Report** [↓](#)   
2. **Report on the Conduct of the Audit** [↓](#) 

**Introduction**

In accordance with Section 419 (1) of the Local Government Act, this report presents to Council the Audited Financial Reports and the Auditors Report to Council for Bourke Shire Council for the period ending 30 June 2022.

**Background**

The Local Government Act 1993, Section 419 (1) stipulates that Council must present its Audited Financial Reports, together with the Auditors Report 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 and on Council's Facebook and web sites.

**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 its 25 July 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

**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**

The Audit of Councils 2021/2022 General Purpose Financial Statements by the NSW Audit Office have been completed.

The Financial Statements identify that:

- Councils Rates and Annual Charges revenue (\$4.3 million) increased by \$0.1 million (2.4 per cent) in 2021/2022.
- Grants and contributions revenue (\$28.7 million) decreased by \$2.8 million (8.9 per cent) in 2021/2022 due to reduced capital grant income which was partially offset by the receipt of additional advance payments of financial assistance grants.
- Council’s operating result (\$12.4 million including the effect of depreciation and amortisation expense of \$7.1 million) was \$7.7 million higher than the 2020/2021 result. This was primarily due to reduced revenue from capital grants and additional operating costs.
- The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (a deficit of \$2.1 million) was \$2.2 million lower than the 2020-2021 result.

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

**Summary of Financial Reports  
For the year ending 30 June 2022**

| <b>Income Statement</b>                                   | <b>2021 (\$000’s)</b> | <b>2021 (\$000’s)</b> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Operating Revenues                                  | 43,887                | 44,373                |
| Total Operating Expenses                                  | 31,479                | 24,278                |
| Net Operating Result for Year                             | 12,408                | 20,095                |
| Net Operating for year Before Grants for Capital purposes | (2,127)               | 77                    |

| <b>Balance Sheet</b>    | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Current Assets          | 42,455      | 41,619      |
| Current Liabilities     | 13,390      | 15,679      |
| Non-Current Assets      | 318,263     | 292,644     |
| Non-Current Liabilities | 4,572       | 4,271       |
| Net Assets/Equity       | 342,756     | 314,313     |

**Other Financial Information**

Note G5-1 of the Financial Statements provide performance measurement indicators and these are summarised below:

| <b>Indicator</b>  | <b>2022</b>  | <b>2021</b>  |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Operating Performance Ratio   | (0.26)%      | 4.71%        |
| Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio  | 34.68%       | 28.95%       |
| Unrestricted Current Ratio  | 4.79:1       | 4.74:1       |
| Debt Service Cover Ratio  | 5.10:1       | 6.66:1       |
| Rates and Annual Charges, Interest and Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage | 14.74%       | 16.72%       |
| Cash Expense Cover Ratio  | 17.45 months | 17.91 months |

**Special Schedule report on Infrastructure Assets**

| Indicators                                | 2022    | 2021    |
|---|---------|---------|
| Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio | 136.55% | 247.48% |
| Infrastructure Backlog Ratio              | 1.53%   | 1.30%   |
| Asset Maintenance Ratio                   | 140.11% | 84.08%  |
| Capital Expenditure Ratio                 | .97%    | 1.00%   |

In respect of these various indicators, as at 30 June 2022, the Statements advise as follows:

“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’s operating performance indicator is (0.26) per cent. It was 4.71 per cent in 2020/2021. The decrease is due to an increase 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 C1-3.*

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 bench mark set by the OLG is below 10 percent for rural Councils

*The Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage has decreased slightly in 2021/2022 from 16.7% to 14.7%. 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.

*Councils Asset Renewal was 136.55%.*

### 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 Councils financial position."

### **The Audit Office has provided its Audit Opinion as follows in respect of Council:**

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 prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division;
  - b. are consistent with the Council's accounting records;
  - c. presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
3. All information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
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.

Councillors will recall that at the July 2022 Meeting of Council, consideration was given to the issue of Accounting for Rural Firefighting Equipment. In respect of this matter Council resolved, in part, to ***"write to the NSW Auditor General, Ms Margaret Crawford, advising that notwithstanding any overtures of future qualified audits, it will not carry out RFS stocktakes on behalf of the NSW Government and will not record RFS assets in Bourke Shire Council's Financial Statements, noting that the State Government's own Local Government Accounting Code of Practice and Financial Reporting provides for councils to determine whether or not they record the RFS assets as council assets."***

In preparing the Financial Statements, it is advised that the value of the rural fire service plant and equipment "Red Fleet" was discussed with the Auditors. It was determined that the value of these assets are not material and accordingly such equipment has not been recognised in the Financial Statements, with an unqualified Audit Report issued by the Audit Office.



**Summary**

The Financial Statements were submitted to the Office of Local Government (OLG) on 13 October 2022.

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](http://www.bourke.nsw.gov.au). Hard copies are also available at the Council Office and 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.

**Recommendation**

**That the 2021/2022 Bourke Shire Council Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022, be adopted.**



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**Report on the general purpose financial statements**  
**Bourke Shire Council**

To the Councillors of Bourke Shire Council

**Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Bourke Shire Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2022, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- 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 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
  - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### **Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information. At the date of this Independent Auditor's Report, the other information I have received comprise the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedules (the Schedules).

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information. However, as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, I have separately expressed an opinion on the special purpose financial statements and Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993*, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 Material budget variations
- on the Special Schedules. A separate opinion has been provided on Special Schedule - Permissible income for general rates
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Manuel Moncada  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

13 October 2022  
SYDNEY



Cr Barry Hollman  
 Mayor  
 Bourke Shire Council  
 PO Box 21  
 Bourke NSW 2840

Contact: Manuel Moncada  
 Phone no: 02 9275 7311  
 Our ref: D2220268/1698

13 October 2022

Dear Mayor

**Report on the Conduct of the Audit  
 for the year ended 30 June 2022  
 Bourke Shire Council**

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Bourke Shire Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2022 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for the Council for the year ended 30 June 2022 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**Operating result**

|  | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>Variance</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>\$m</b>  | <b>\$m</b>  | <b>%</b>        |
| Rates and annual charges revenue                             | 4.3         | 4.2         | ↑ 2.4           |
| Grants and contributions revenue                             | 28.7        | 31.5        | ↓ 8.9           |
| Operating result from continuing operations                  | 12.4        | 20.1        | ↓ 38.3          |
| Net operating result before capital grants and contributions | (2.1)       | 0.1         | ↓ 2200          |

Level 19, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
 GPO Box 12, Sydney NSW 2001 | t 02 9275 7101 | mail@audit.nsw.gov.au | audit.nsw.gov.au

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$4.3 million) increased by \$0.1 million (2.4 per cent) in 2021–2022.

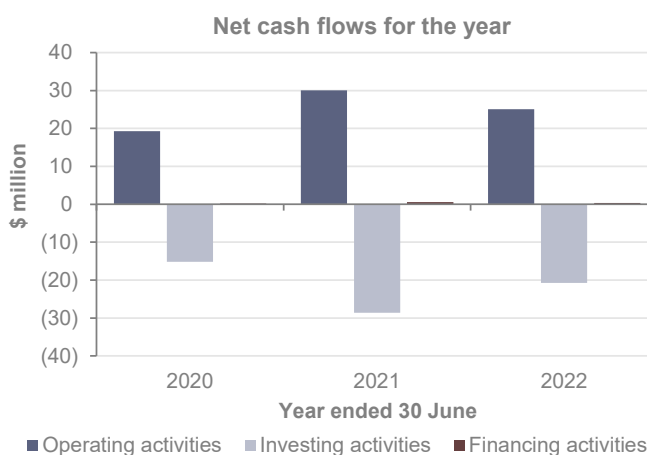
Grants and contributions revenue (\$28.7 million) decreased by \$2.8 million (8.9 per cent) in 2021–2022 due to reduced capital grant income which was partially offset by the receipt of additional advance payments of financial assistance grants.

Council’s operating result (\$12.4 million including the effect of depreciation and amortisation expense of \$7.1 million) was \$7.7 million higher than the 2020–21 result. This was mainly primarily due to reduced revenue from capital grants and additional operating costs.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (a deficit of \$2.1 million) was \$2.2 million lower than the 2020–21 result.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

- The Statement of Cash Flows illustrates the flow of cash and cash equivalents moving in and out of Council during the year and reveals that cash increased by \$4.7 million to \$14 million at the close of the year.



## FINANCIAL POSITION

### Cash and investments

| Cash and investments                                | 2022        | 2021        | Commentary   |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|
|   | \$m         | \$m         |  |
| <b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b> | <b>35.6</b> | <b>30.2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External restrictions include unspent specific purpose grants and domestic waste management charges, and water and sewerage funds.</li> <li>Balances are internally restricted due to Council policy or decisions for forward plans including works program.</li> </ul> |
| Restricted cash and investments:                    |             |             |  |
| • External restrictions                             | 11.0        | 15.9        |  |
| • Internal restrictions                             | 6.1         | 3.9         |  |

### Debt

After repaying principal and interest of \$1.4 million and taking up an additional borrowing of \$1.7 million during the financial year, total debt as at 30 June 2022 was \$5.7 million (2021: \$5.4 million).

## PERFORMANCE

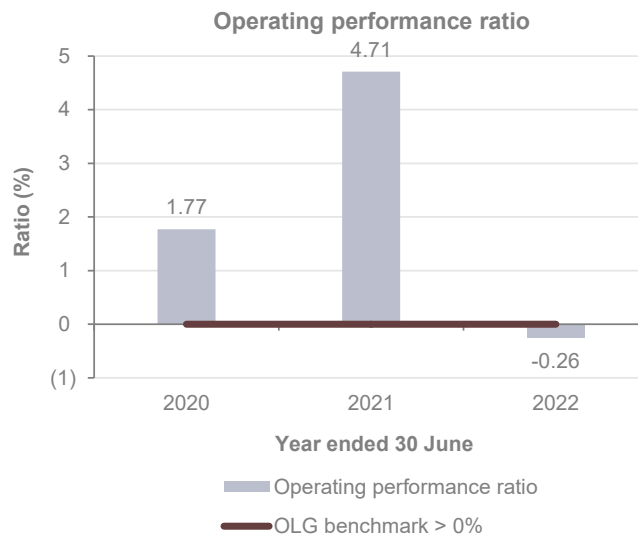
### Performance measures

The following section provides an overview of the Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning and Environment.

#### Operating performance ratio

The Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

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 benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.



#### Own source operating revenue ratio

The Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

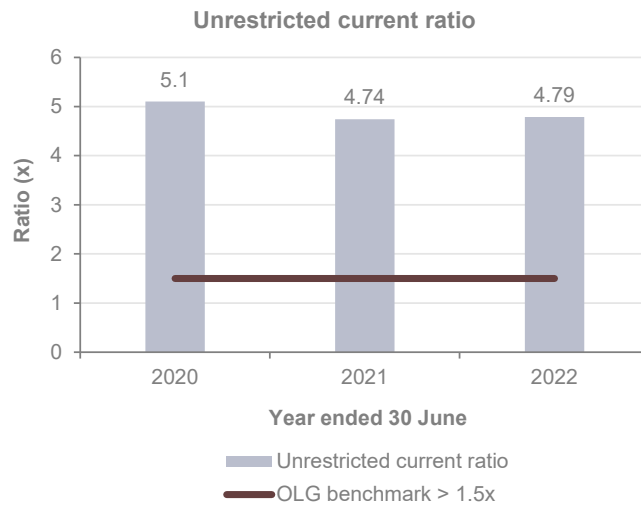
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



**Unrestricted current ratio**

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

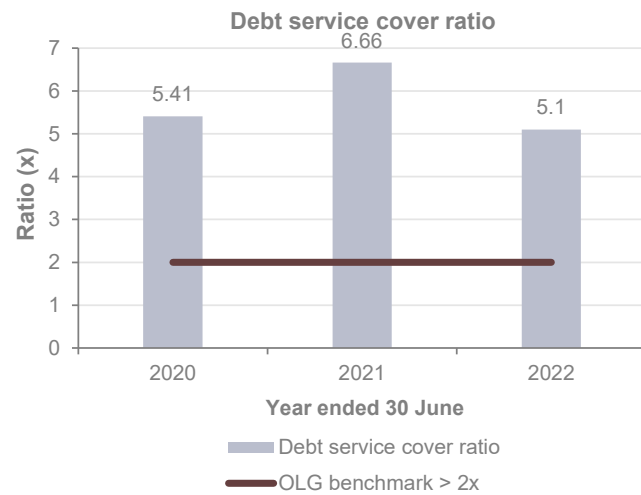
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



**Debt service cover ratio**

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.

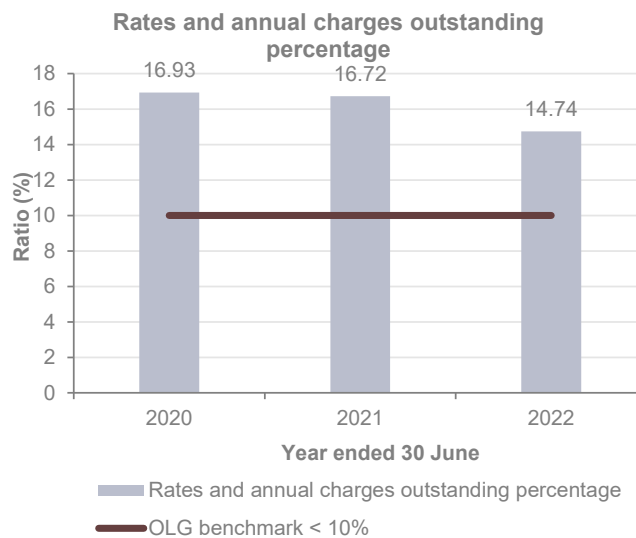




**Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage**

The Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

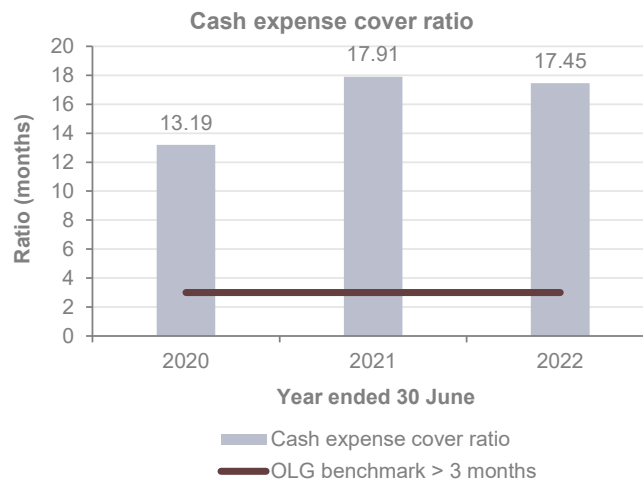
The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent regional and rural councils.



**Cash expense cover ratio**

The Council met the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.



**Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals**

- Council's asset renewal additions for the year were \$9.2 million compared to \$15.4 million for the prior year.
- Renewals consisted of infrastructure (\$8 million) and plant, equipment and other assets (\$1.2 million).
- The level of asset renewals during the year represented 130 percent of the total depreciation expense (\$7.1 million) for the year.

**Legislative compliance**

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of non-compliance with legislative requirements or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited

- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

The Council's:


- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form that facilitated the preparation and the effective audit of the GPFS
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Manuel Moncada  
Director - Financial Audit

Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

**16.4 \*\*\* QUARTERLEY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**File Number:** F1.1, F1.6  
**Author:** Brian Tickle, Acting Manager Corporate Services  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** 1. Budget Review 30 September 2022 [↓](#) 

**Background**

Clause 203 (1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulations) requires a council's responsible accounting officer to prepare and submit a Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRS) to the governing body of council within two months of the end of the quarter. Submitted hereunder is that report.

The Division of Local Government released guidelines on the preparation of the QBRS to Council in December 2010 with mandatory reporting in line with the guidelines commencing in July 2011.

The QBRS must show, by reference to the estimated income and expenditure that is set out in the operational plan adopted by Council for the relevant year, a revised estimate of income and expenditure for that year.

The guidelines also require the budget review statement to include a report by the responsible accounting officer as to whether they consider the statement indicates Council to be in a satisfactory financial position (with regard to its original budget) and if not, to include recommendations for remedial action.

**Current Situation**Issues

- The QBRS must be prepared by the Responsible Accounting Officer and presented to Council within two months of the end of the quarter.
- The minimum format of the QBRS is governed by the Division of Local Government's Guidelines in December 2010.

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

*Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (the Regulations) clause 203 requires a Council's Responsible Accounting Officer to prepare and submit a quarterly budget review statement to the governing body of Council within two months of the end of the quarter  
*Division of Local Government – Quarterly Budget Review Guidelines issued December 2010*

**(b) Financial Implications/Considerations**

Council's original budget was adopted as part of the 2022/2023 Operational Plan on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and reflected an overall cash based surplus of \$563,713.

**(c) Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Practice**

Nil

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

Community Strategic Plan

Delivery Program/Operational Plan

Discussion

The QBRS has been prepared for the September 2022 review period and is presented to Council for consideration. This review has been undertaken in consultation with the General Manager, Managers and other officers where applicable.

**Financial Implications**Overall Financial Position

The revised consolidated budget result following the September QBRS is estimated to be a Surplus of \$628,658.

The break-up of the funds is detailed in the table below once depreciation has been added back:

| Fund         | Expenses              | Revenues            | Depreciation       | Operating result |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| General      | (\$86,080,808)        | \$80,913,202        | \$5,167,606        | 0                |
| Water        | (\$5,201,494)         | \$3,969,553         | \$1,565,199        | \$333,258        |
| Sewer        | (\$1,487,364)         | \$1,402,147         | \$380,617          | \$295,400        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>(\$92,769,666)</b> | <b>\$86,284,902</b> | <b>\$7,113,422</b> | <b>\$628,658</b> |

The adjustments which have been identified during the Review are summarised below:

Operating and Capital Works Budgets:

| Adjustment Description                      | Budget Impact   |
|---|-----------------|
| Operational Income – increase               | 1,484,518       |
| Operational Expenses – increase             | (1,287,715)     |
|   |                 |
| Capital Income and Contributions - increase | 6,485,559       |
| Capital Expenditure - increase              | (6,617,417)     |
| Transfer to/from Reserves                   |                 |
| <b>Net adjustment - Budget</b>              | <b>\$64,945</b> |

| Summary                              | Budget Impact    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Original Budget surplus              | 563,713          |
| Adjustments from QBRS September 2021 | 64,945           |
| <b>Revised Budget</b>                | <b>\$628,658</b> |

The financial position of Bourke Shire Council as at 30 September 2022 is considered to be satisfactory and is confirmed by the Report from the Responsible Accounting Officer provided under separate cover to Council.

**Recommendation**

- 1. That the document entitled “Quarterly Budget Review Statement – September 2022” be received and noted**
- 2. That the variations of income and expenditure as identified in the “Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 2022” be adopted.**



**BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET REVIEW  
30 September 2022**

*Council Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022*

Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

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Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Report by responsible accounting officer**

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005:

**30 September 2022**

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Bourke Shire Council for the quarter ended 30/09/22 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30/6/23 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**date:** 26th October 2022

Brian Tickle  
Responsible accounting officer



**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Bourke Shire Council**  
**Income & expenses budget review statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022  
**Income & expenses - Council Consolidated**

| (\$'000's)   | Original budget 2022/23 | Approved changes |                    |                    | Revised budget 2022/23 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes              | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|  |                         | Carry forwards   | Other than by QBRs | Sep QBRs           |                        |                             |                    |                           |                    |
| <b>Income</b>  |                         |                  |                    |                    |                        |                             |                    |                           |                    |
| Administration   | 7,884,920               |                  |                    | 7,884,920          | 676,719                | 1                           | 8,561,639          | 2,671,424                 |                    |
| Public order & safety                                  | 203,600                 |                  |                    | 203,600            | 13,215                 | 2                           | 216,815            | 1,555                     |                    |
| Health   | 159,600                 |                  |                    | 159,600            | 20,892                 | 3                           | 180,492            | 55,316                    |                    |
| Community services & education                         | 24,200                  |                  |                    | 24,200             | 96,088                 | 4                           | 120,288            | 120,288                   |                    |
| Housing & community amenities                          | 956,969                 |                  |                    | 956,969            | 194,898                | 5                           | 1,151,867          | 1,151,867                 |                    |
| Water supplies   | 2,238,844               |                  |                    | 2,238,844          | 242,609                | 6                           | 2,481,453          | 1,346,624                 |                    |
| Sewer supplies   | 1,075,683               |                  |                    | 1,075,683          | 1,264                  |                             | 1,076,947          | 995,865                   |                    |
| Recreation & Culture                                   | 109,800                 |                  |                    | 109,800            | 20,189                 | 7                           | 129,989            | 8,668                     |                    |
| Building Control                                       | 11,500                  |                  |                    | 11,500             |                        |                             | 11,500             | 3,409                     |                    |
| Transport & communication                              | 8,928,209               |                  |                    | 8,928,209          | 134,032                | 8                           | 9,062,241          | 1,151,413                 |                    |
| Economic affairs                                       | 892,500                 |                  |                    | 892,500            | 84,612                 | 9                           | 977,112            | 268,022                   |                    |
| <b>Total income from continuing operations</b>         | <b>22,485,825</b>       | -                | -                  | <b>22,485,825</b>  | <b>1,484,518</b>       |                             | <b>23,970,343</b>  | <b>7,774,451</b>          |                    |
| <b>Expenses</b>  |                         |                  |                    |                    |                        |                             |                    |                           |                    |
| Administration   | 2,750,409               |                  |                    | 2,750,409          | 701,644                | 1110                        | 3,452,053          | 148,107                   |                    |
| Public order & safety                                  | 794,028                 |                  |                    | 794,028            | 8,111                  | 2111                        | 802,139            | 189,163                   |                    |
| Health   | 804,975                 |                  |                    | 804,975            | 13,135                 | 3                           | 818,110            | 154,443                   |                    |
| Community services & education                         | 76,265                  |                  |                    | 76,265             | 96,314                 | 4                           | 172,579            | 31,651                    |                    |
| Housing & community amenities                          | 2,611,119               |                  |                    | 2,611,119          | 130,507                | 5                           | 2,741,626          | 510,430                   |                    |
| Water supplies   | 3,489,023               |                  |                    | 3,489,023          | 178,928                | 6                           | 3,667,951          | 440,572                   |                    |
| Sewer supplies   | 1,156,667               |                  |                    | 1,156,667          |                        |                             | 1,156,667          | 213,510                   |                    |
| Recreation & Construction                              | 1,780,754               |                  |                    | 1,780,754          | 21,827                 | 7                           | 1,802,581          | 417,384                   |                    |
| Building Control                                       | -                       |                  |                    | -                  |                        |                             | -                  | -                         |                    |
| Transport & communication                              | 11,425,844              |                  |                    | 11,425,844         | 134,032                | 8                           | 11,559,876         | 1,010,044                 |                    |
| Economic affairs                                       | 2,258,610               |                  |                    | 2,258,610          | 3,217                  | 9112                        | 2,261,827          | 492,148                   |                    |
| <b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>       | <b>27,147,694</b>       | -                | -                  | <b>27,147,694</b>  | <b>1,287,715</b>       |                             | <b>28,435,409</b>  | <b>3,607,452</b>          |                    |
| <b>Net operating result from continuing operations</b> | <b>(4,661,869)</b>      | -                | -                  | <b>(4,661,869)</b> | <b>196,803</b>         |                             | <b>(4,465,066)</b> | <b>4,166,999</b>          |                    |
| Discontinued operations - surplus/(deficit)            |                         |                  |                    |                    |                        |                             |                    |                           |                    |
| <b>Net operating result from all operations</b>        | <b>(4,661,869)</b>      | -                | -                  | <b>(4,661,869)</b> | <b>196,803</b>         |                             | <b>(4,465,066)</b> | <b>4,166,999</b>          |                    |
| <b>Net operating result before capital items</b>       | <b>(4,661,869)</b>      |                  |                    | <b>(4,661,869)</b> | <b>196,803</b>         |                             | <b>(4,465,066)</b> | <b>4,166,999</b>          |                    |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 30/09/22 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report.

Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**

for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Income & expenses budget review statement**

**Recommended changes to revised budget**

Budget Variations being recommended include the following material items:

| Notes | Details  |
|-------|--|
| 1     | Increase in Financial Assistance Grant offset by Transfer to Reserve \$471,708<br>Increase in Employment/Training Subsidy \$10,000<br>Decrease in Expected Diesel Fuel Rebate -\$20,000<br>Innovation Fund Covid19 Grant offset by Expenditure \$172,000<br>OLG Covid 19 Support Grant offset by expenditure \$41355 |
| 2     | Rural Fire Service Contrib Reserve Transfer offset by Expenditure \$26,615<br>Decrease in Fire Control Subsidy offset by reduced Expenditure -\$13,400   |
| 3     | Increase in Expected Licenses & Fees \$7,000<br>Noxious Plant Control Reserve transfer offset by increased expenditure \$12,557  |
| 4     | Regional School Holiday Grant offset by expenditure \$7,000<br>SCR3 Growing Bourke Grant offset by Expenditure \$84,750  |
| 5     | Planning Portal Grant Reserve Transfer offset by Expenditure \$94,073<br>Increase in Recycling Material Sales \$60,000<br>Bourke Levy Risk Management Study Grant offset by Expenditure \$29,990<br>Bourke Levy Risk Management Study Reserve Transfer offset by Expenditure \$6,444                                 |
| 6     | Increase in Water Access Charges \$9,087<br>Water/Sewer Training Grant Reserve Transfer Offset by Expenditure \$52,863<br>Integrated Water Cycle Management Grant Reserve Transfer offset by Expenditure \$178,928   |
| 7     | Active Feast Grant Reserve Transfer offset by Expenditure \$20,189   |
| 8     | Increase in Financial Assistance Grant offset by Transfer to Reserve \$180,432<br>Decrease in expected Regional Roads Block Grant offset by Decreased Expenditure \$46,400   |
| 9     | Aboriginal Affairs Covid19 Response Grant Reserve Transfer offset by Expenditure \$8,717<br>Increase in BOB Café Income partially offset by increased Expenditure \$155,895<br>Decrease in Jandra Income partially Offset by Decreased Expenditure \$80,000  |
| 10    | Increase in Recruitment Costs \$20,000<br>Decrease in expected Plant Repairs & Maintenance -\$10,534   |
| 11    | Decrease in NSW Fire Brigade Contribution -\$5,104   |
| 12    | Increase in BOB Insurance Premiums \$7,000   |

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

Bourke Shire Council

**Capital budget review statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022

**Capital budget - Council Consolidated**

| (\$000's)   | Original budget 2022/23 | Approved changes |                    |                   | Revised budget 2022/23 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes             | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|   |                         | Carry forwards   | Other than by QBRs | Sep QBRs          |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
|   | 7,500,000               | -                | -                  | -                 | 7,500,000              | -                           | -                 | -                         |                    |
| <b>Capital expenditure</b>                                  |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| New assets  |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| - Plant & equipment   | 1,759,100               | -                | -                  | 1,759,100         | 910,447                | 1                           | 2,669,547         | 514,034                   |                    |
| - Land & buildings  | 19,966,000              | -                | -                  | 19,966,000        | 897,149                | 2                           | 20,863,149        | 666,568                   |                    |
| - Other   | 25,821,900              | -                | -                  | 25,821,900        | 4,340,121              | 3                           | 30,162,021        | 3,488,540                 |                    |
| Renewal assets (replacement)                                | 1,343,600               | -                | -                  | 1,343,600         | 469,700                | 4                           | 1,813,300         | 410,537                   |                    |
| - Plant & equipment   | 1,326,240               | -                | -                  | 1,326,240         | -                      | -                           | 1,326,240         | 197,230                   |                    |
| - Land & buildings  |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| - Roads, bridges, footpaths                                 |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Water & Sewerage  |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Loan repayments (principal)                                 |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Other expenditure... <a href="#">enter description here</a> |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Other expenditure... <a href="#">enter description here</a> |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| <b>Total capital expenditure</b>                            | <b>57,716,840</b>       | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>           | <b>57,716,840</b> | <b>6,617,417</b>       |                             | <b>64,334,257</b> | <b>5,276,909</b>          |                    |
| <b>Capital funding</b>                                      |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Rates & other united funding                                | 1,887,840               | -                | -                  | 1,887,840         | 111,858                |                             | 1,999,698         | 316,766                   |                    |
| Capital grants & contributions                              | 41,782,400              | -                | -                  | 41,782,400        | 5,106,185              |                             | 46,888,585        | 4,140,236                 |                    |
| Reserves:   |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| - External restrictions/reserves                            | 893,600                 | -                | -                  | 893,600           | 272,119                |                             | 1,165,719         | 400,313                   |                    |
| - Internal restrictions/reserves                            | 4,913,000               | -                | -                  | 4,913,000         | 1,127,255              |                             | 6,040,255         | -                         |                    |
| New loans   | 8,240,000               | -                | -                  | 8,240,000         | -                      |                             | 8,240,000         | 419,594                   |                    |
| Receipts from sale of assets                                |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| - Plant & equipment   |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| - Land & buildings  |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Other funding... <a href="#">enter description here</a>     |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Other funding... <a href="#">enter description here</a>     |                         |                  |                    |                   |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| <b>Total capital funding</b>                                | <b>57,716,840</b>       | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>           | <b>57,716,840</b> | <b>6,617,417</b>       |                             | <b>64,334,257</b> | <b>5,276,909</b>          |                    |
| <b>Net capital funding - surplus/(deficit)</b>              | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>               |                             | <b>-</b>          | <b>-</b>                  |                    |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 30/09/22 and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report

Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Capital budget review statement**  
**Recommended changes to revised budget**

Budget variations being recommended include the following material items:

| Notes | Details   |
|-------|---|
| 1     | Vault Safety System Revote from 2021/22 \$33,762<br>Plant & Vehicle Purchases Revote Funded from unspent Loan Funds \$767,563<br>Bourke Depot Electronic Gate Revote funded by Reserve \$22,000 + Revenue \$28,000<br>CCTV & Lights Revote funded by unspent Grant \$16,122<br>JO Marketing Funded from Revenue \$10,000  |
| 2     | North Bourke Drainage Upgrade Funded from Unspent Grant Funds \$300,000<br>12 Glen Street Residence Project funded by unspent Loan Funds \$14,591<br>BOB Equipment & Tools revote Funded by Revenue \$7,000<br>Medical Precinct Security Fence funded by unspent Grant \$32,824<br>PCYC Kitchen funded by unspent Grant \$11,489<br>Percy Hobson Mural Project funded by unspent Grant & Contributions \$64,800<br>Relocate Information Board funded by unspent Grant \$24,387<br>Bourke Kids Space Grant Works funded by unspent Grant \$39,443<br>Mens Shed Toilet Relocation funded by unspent Grant \$24,308<br>Louth Tennis Club Project funded by unspent Grant \$81,780<br>Cultural Centre Display funded by unspent Grant \$129,532<br>Standing Stories Sculptures funded by unspent Grant \$30,534<br>Function Centre Disabled Access funded by unspent Grant \$90,000<br>BOB Health Facility funded by unspent Grant \$45,365 |
| 3     | Caronga Peak Road Project funded by unspent Grant \$2,906,247<br>Mitchell Street Development funded by unspent Grant \$900,000<br>Roads to Recovery Program funded by unspent Grant \$449,482<br>Growing Bourke Design & Construct Signs funded by unspent Grant \$84,392   |
| 4     | Charles Street Reservoir Project funded by unspent Grant and Reserve Funds \$420,367<br>Treatment Plant Replacement funded by unspent Grant \$10,224<br>Bulk Water Meters Subsidy Project funded by unspent Grant \$39,109  |
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**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

Bourke Shire Council

**Cash & investments budget review statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022

**Cash & investments - Council Consolidated**

| (\$'000's)   | Original budget 2022/23 | Approved changes |                 |          | Revised budget 2022/23 | Variations for this Sep Qtr | Notes             | Projected year end result | Actual YTD figures |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|  |                         | Carry forwards   | Other than QBRs | by QBRs  |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
|  |                         | Dec QBRs         | Jan QBRs        | Mar QBRs |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| <b>Externally restricted <sup>(1)</sup></b>                            |                         |                  |                 |          |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Specific Purpose Unexp Grants Gen Fund                                 | 5,247,000               |                  |                 |          | 5,247,000              |                             | 5,247,000         |                           |                    |
| Specific Purpose Unexp Grants Water Fund                               | 591,000                 |                  |                 |          | 591,000                |                             | 591,000           |                           |                    |
| Water Fund   | 2,558,000               |                  |                 |          | 2,558,000              |                             | 2,558,000         |                           |                    |
| Sewerage Fund  | 2,539,000               |                  |                 |          | 2,539,000              |                             | 2,539,000         |                           |                    |
| Domestic Waste Management  | 29,000                  |                  |                 |          | 29,000                 |                             | 29,000            |                           |                    |
| <b>Total externally restricted</b>                                     | <b>10,964,000</b>       | -                | -               | -        | <b>10,964,000</b>      |                             | <b>10,964,000</b> | -                         |                    |
| <sup>(1)</sup> Funds that must be spent for a specific purpose         |                         |                  |                 |          |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| <b>Internally restricted <sup>(2)</sup></b>                            |                         |                  |                 |          |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| Employee Leave Entitlement   | 600,000                 |                  |                 |          | 600,000                |                             | 600,000           |                           |                    |
| Deposits Retentions & Bonds  | 5,000                   |                  |                 |          | 5,000                  |                             | 5,000             |                           |                    |
| Prepaid Financial Assistance Grant                                     | 5,496,000               |                  |                 |          | 5,496,000              |                             | 5,496,000         |                           |                    |
| <b>Total internally restricted</b>                                     | <b>6,101,000</b>        | -                | -               | -        | <b>6,101,000</b>       |                             | <b>6,101,000</b>  | -                         |                    |
| <sup>(2)</sup> Funds that Council has earmarked for a specific purpose |                         |                  |                 |          |                        |                             |                   |                           |                    |
| <b>Unrestricted (ie. available after the above Restricti</b>           | <b>18,570,000</b>       | -                | -               | -        | <b>18,570,000</b>      |                             | <b>18,570,000</b> | -                         |                    |
| <b>Total Cash &amp; investments</b>                                    | <b>35,635,000</b>       |                  |                 |          | <b>35,635,000</b>      |                             | <b>35,635,000</b> | -                         |                    |

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBRs) for the quarter ended 30/09/22, and should be read in conjunction with the total QBRs report.

Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Cash & investments budget review statement**

**Comment on cash & investments position**

Not applicable

**Investments**

Investments have been invested in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

**Cash**

The Cash at Bank figure included in the Cash & Investment Statement totals \$790,463

This Cash at Bank amount has been reconciled to Council's physical Bank Statements. The date of completion of this bank reconciliation is 30th September 2022

**Reconciliation status**

The YTD cash & investment figure reconciles to the actual balances held as follows:

**\$ 000's**

|   |                         |                   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash at bank (as per bank statements)                   |                         | 790,463           |
| Investments on hand                                     |                         | 28,595,907        |
| less: unrepresented cheques                             | (Timing Difference)     | (2,618)           |
| add: undeposited funds                                  | (Timing Difference)     | 485               |
| less: identified deposits (not yet accounted in ledger) | (Require Actioning)     |                   |
| add: identified outflows (not yet accounted in ledger)  | (Require Actioning)     |                   |
| less: unidentified deposits (not yet actioned)          | (Require Investigation) |                   |
| add: unidentified outflows (not yet actioned)           | (Require Investigation) |                   |
| <b>Reconciled cash at bank &amp; investments</b>        |                         | <b>29,384,237</b> |
| <b>Balance as per QBRS review statement:</b>            |                         | <b>-</b>          |
| Difference:   |                         | 29,384,237        |

**Recommended changes to revised budget**

Budget variations being recommended include the following material items:

**Notes Details**



Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Key performance indicators budget review statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022

|  | Current projection<br>Amounts<br>22/23 | Original<br>Indicator<br>22/23 | Actuals<br>prior periods<br>21/22 | 20/21 |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|

NSW local government industry key performance indicators (OLG):

| <b>1. Operating performance</b>                          |          |         |       |        |
|--|----------|---------|-------|--------|
| Operating revenue (excl. capital) - operating expenses   | -4465066 | -18.6 % | 1.9 % | -0.3 % |
| Operating revenue (excl. capital grants & contributions) | 23970343 |         |       | 4.7 %  |

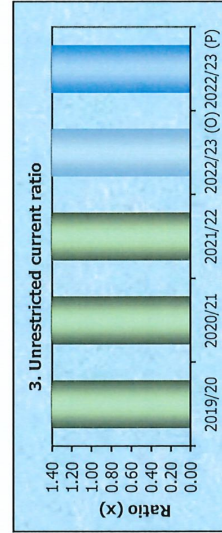
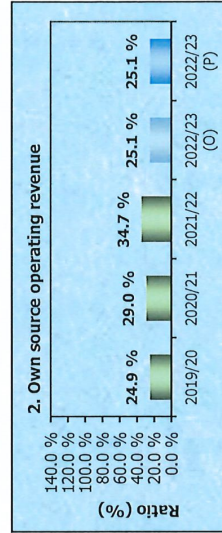
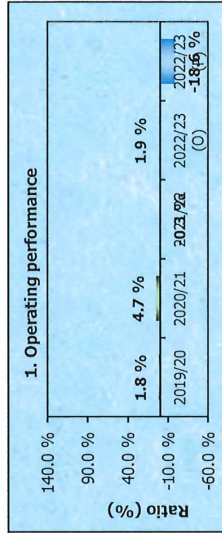
This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

| <b>2. Own source operating revenue</b>                |          |        |        |        |
|---|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Operating revenue (excl. ALL grants & contributions)  | 17759840 | 25.1 % | 25.1 % | 34.7 % |
| Total Operating revenue (incl. capital grants & cont) | 70858928 |        |        | 29.0 % |

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants & contributions.

| <b>3. Unrestricted current ratio</b>                  |       |      |      |      |
|---|-------|------|------|------|
| Current assets less all external restrictions         | 29952 | 4.79 | 4.79 | 4.79 |
| Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities | 6252  |      |      | 4.74 |

To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.



Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Key performance indicators budget review statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022

| (\$000's) | Current projection |                 | Original budget 22/23 | Actuals prior periods |       |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|           | Amounts 22/23      | Indicator 22/23 |                       | 21/22                 | 20/21 |

NSW local government industry key performance indicators (OLG):

|  |         |      |      |      |      |
|--|---------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>4. Debt service cover ratio</b>                   |         |      |      |      |      |
| Operating result before interest & dep. exp (EBITDA) | 2809080 | 1.89 | 5.10 | 5.10 | 6.66 |
| Principal repayments + borrowing interest costs      | 1486964 |      |      |      |      |

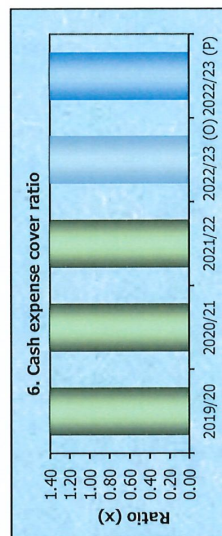
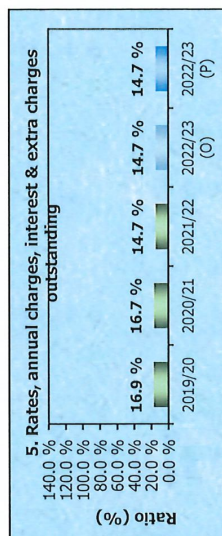
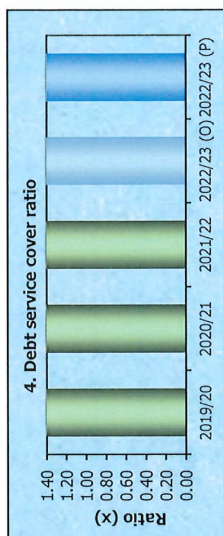
This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments.

|   |      |        |        |        |        |
|---|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>5. Rates, annual charges, interest &amp; extra charges outstanding</b> |      |        |        |        |        |
| Rates, annual & extra charges outstanding                                 | 772  | 14.7 % | 14.7 % | 14.7 % | 16.7 % |
| Rates, annual & extra charges collectible                                 | 5237 |        |        |        |        |

To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

|   |       |       |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>6. Cash expense cover ratio</b>                          |       |       |       |       |       |
| Current year's cash & cash equivalents (incl.term deposits) | 35635 | 17.44 | 17.44 | 17.45 | 17.91 |
| Operating & financing activities cash flow payments         | 2043  |       |       |       |       |

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.





Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Key performance indicators budget review statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022

| (\$000's) | Current projection<br>Amounts<br>22/23 | Indicator<br>22/23 | Original<br>budget<br>22/23 | Actuals<br>prior periods<br>21/22 | 20/21 |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
|-----------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|

NSW Local Government Infrastructure Asset Performance Indicators (OLG):

|  |          |         |         |         |         |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>7. Building and infrastructure renewals ratio</b>         | 43130298 | 606.3 % | 606.3 % | 136.6 % | 247.5 % |
| Asset renewals (building, infrastructure & other structures) | 7113422  |         |         |         |         |
| Depreciation, amortisation & impairment                      |          |         |         |         |         |

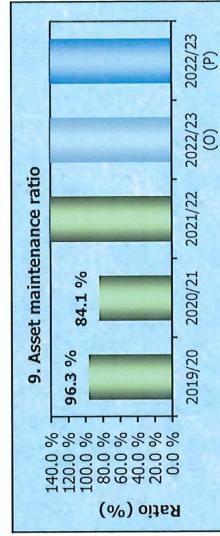
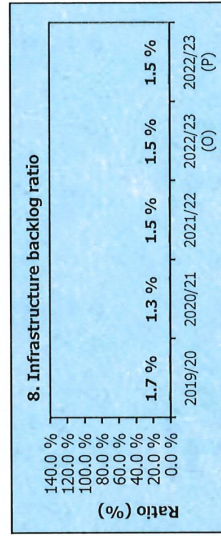
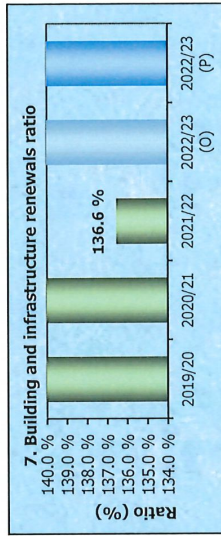
To assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed relative to the rate at which they are depreciating.

|   |        |       |       |       |       |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>8. Infrastructure backlog ratio</b>  | 4950   | 1.5 % | 1.5 % | 1.5 % | 1.3 % |
| Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory condition                                      | 323518 |       |       |       |       |
| Total value of infrastructure, building, other structures & depreciable land improvement assets |        |       |       |       |       |

This ratio shows what proportion the backlog is against the total value of a Council's infrastructure.

|                                   |      |         |         |         |        |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| <b>9. Asset maintenance ratio</b> | 6371 | 140.1 % | 140.1 % | 140.1 % | 84.1 % |
| Actual asset maintenance          | 4547 |         |         |         |        |
| Required asset maintenance        |      |         |         |         |        |

Compares actual vs. required annual asset maintenance. A ratio above 1.0 indicates Council is investing enough funds to stop the Infrastructure Backlog growing.



Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Key performance indicators budget review statement - Industry KPI's (OLG)**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022

| (\$000's) | Current projection |                 | Original budget 22/23 | Actuals prior periods |       |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|           | Amounts 22/23      | Indicator 22/23 |                       | 21/22                 | 20/21 |

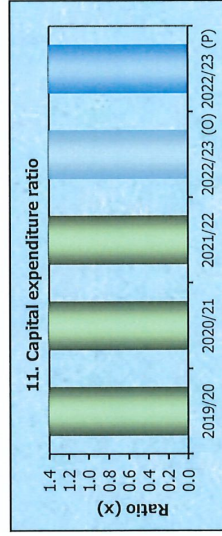
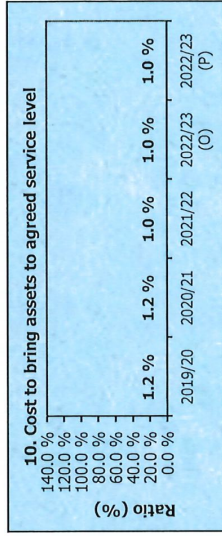
NSW Local Government Infrastructure Asset Performance Indicators (OLG):

| <b>10. Cost to bring assets to agreed service level</b>                  | 4950   | 1.0 % | 1.0 % | 1.0 % | 1.2 % |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Estimated cost to bring assets to an agreed service level set by council | 512456 |       | 1.0 % |       |       |
| Gross replacement cost   |        |       |       |       | 1.2 % |

This ratio provides a snapshot of the proportion of outstanding renewal works compared to the total value of assets under Council's care and stewardship.

| <b>11. Capital expenditure ratio</b> | 63008017 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.8 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Annual capital expenditure           | 7113422  |     | 8.9 |     |     |
| Annual depreciation                  |          |     |     |     | 8.8 |

To assess the extent to which a Council is expanding its asset base thru capital expenditure on both new assets and the replacement and renewal of existing assets.



**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

Bourke Shire Council

**Contracts budget review statement**

Budget review for the quarter ended 30 September 2022  
**Part A - Contracts listing** - contracts entered into during the quarter

| Contractor                       | Contract detail & purpose   | Contract value | Start date | Duration of contract | Budgeted (Y/N) | Notes |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------|
| Aqua Irrigation Holdings Pty Ltd | Mechanical, Electrical & Power Supply Work for Emergency Water Supply Bores | 1,106,818      | 01/10/22   | 12 Mths              | Y              |       |

Notes:

1. Minimum reporting level is 1% of estimated income from continuing operations of Council or \$50,000 - whatever is the lesser.
2. Contracts listed are those entered into during the quarter being reported and exclude contractors on Council's Preferred Supplier list.
3. Contracts for employment are not required to be included.

This statement forms part of Council's Quarterly Budget Review Statement (QBR) for the quarter ended xx/xx/xx and should be read in conjunction with the total QBR report



Bourke Shire Council

**Quarterly Budget Review Statement**  
for the period 01/07/22 to 30/09/22

**Consultancy & legal expenses budget review statement**

Consultancy & legal expenses overview

| Expense       | YTD expenditure<br>(actual dollars) | Budgeted<br>(Y/N) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Consultancies | 60,934                              | Y                 |
| Legal Fees    | 1,100                               | Y                 |

**Definition of a consultant:**

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

**Comments**

Expenditure included in the above YTD figure but not budgeted includes:

**Details**

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**17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Nil

**18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Nil

**19 POLICIES**

Nil

**20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

## 21 ACTIVITY REPORTS

### 21.1 ACTIVITY REPORT - ENGINEERING SERVICES ROAD WORKS & WORKSHOP - WORKS UNDERTAKEN

**File Number:** E7.1  
**Author:** Paul Flanagan, Manager Roads  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### Background

The following information outlines works undertaken from 1 September 2022 to 12 October 2022 inclusive.

| Road Works Team – Trent Gale – Acting Roads Supervisor |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>1. NORTH TEAM – Denis Tiffen, Team Leader</b>       |                                 |
| Location   | Work Carried Out                |
| RLR 10 Nulty Section                                   | Construction and seal completed |
| <b>2. SOUTH TEAM - John Reed, Team Leader</b>          |                                 |
| Location   | Work Carried Out                |
| RLR 10 Louth/Trilby Road                               | Seal construction continued     |
| RLR 20 Wampra Maintenance grade                        | Commenced                       |
| RLR 13 Landsdown Maintenance grade                     | Commenced                       |
| <b>3. TRANSPORT TEAM - Simon Wielinga, Team Leader</b> |                                 |
| Location   | Work Carried Out                |
| RLR 10 Louth/Trilby Road cart gravel                   | Seal construction continued     |
| <b>4. BITUMEN TEAM – Phillip Harvey, Team Leader</b>   |                                 |
| Bourke Township  | Patching undertaken             |
| Regional Roads   | Patching undertaken             |
| State Highways   | Patching undertaken             |
| SH 7 South of Bourke                                   | Slashing completed              |
| SH 421 Kidmans Way                                     | Slashing commenced              |

| WORKSHOP – Colin Kiley, Team Leader, Tradesman Plant Mechanic |        |               |  |
|---|--------|---------------|--|
| Plant no  | Rego   | Description   | Work Carried Out   |
| 12  | BM99KO | 2011 Toyota   | Carry out service, rego check and repairs  |
| 30  | CF76DI | Nissan Navara | Rego check and repairs   |
| 37  | AJ01DM | Isuzu 500Long | Rego check and repairs, adjust brakes  |
| 40  | CP40FZ | Isuzu NHNQR   | Rego check and repairs   |
| 46  | BX92HR | Hino Tipper   | Carry out service, remove and replace shocks, brakes, wheel bearings and shackle pins and bushes |

|     |         |                                  |  |
|-----|---------|----------------------------------|--|
| 49  | CL84LV  | Hino Tipper                      | Carry out service, rego repairs, remove and replace shocks, brakes, shackle pins, bushes and repair lights   |
| 50  | CL126AC | Kenworth                         | Replace shocks, repair air leaks, repair lights, remove and replace a/c compressor front pullies and belts   |
| 59  | Z37484  | 2014 Transtech Quadaxle          | Adjust brakes, weld and repair cracks in slide frame and rocker box and replace 3 tyres  |
| 69  | X50803  | 2011 Moore Roadtrain             | Replace kit and rebuild Ring Feeder, weld and repair cracks in skid plate, replace king pin  |
| 76  | P95814  | 2004 Moore Roadtrain Tipper      | Remove all wheels, brake drums, brake hubs and bearings, order new ones, replace reflectors  |
| 80  | K33876  | 1996 Jakab Industries Industrial | Rego repairs, repair wiring, replace lights and reflectors as needed, check brakes and suspension  |
| 83  | K95933  | Caravan                          | Rego repairs, repair wiring, replace lights and reflectors   |
| 92  | XN29QQ  | 2014 Western Star                | Repair lights and air leaks, remove and replace rear spring  |
| 94  | K46883  | Traymark Industrial Caravan      | Repair wiring and replace lights as needed and rego repairs  |
| 95  | K46882  | Traymark Industrial Caravan      | Rego checks and repair, repair wiring and replace lights   |
| 97  | YUB437  | 2003 Isuzu 900 F3 FTR            | Remove and replace front tyres, clean and repair for trade   |
| 103 | TF51EG  | Fuel Trailer                     | Replace rear lights  |
| 111 | TB60BR  | Dolly                            | Remove and replace all wheel bearings, seals, brake drums and shoes, adjust bearings and brakes, repair and replace torque rod and rocker box bushes |
| 114 | N37716  | Freightliner                     | Repair wiring replace lights, rear signs and torque rod bushes   |
| 116 | P17060  | Safety Trailer                   | Adjust wheel bearings  |
| 117 | TG97GN  | Trailer                          | Rego check and repairs   |
| 118 | M73815  | 2000 Holland                     | Rego check and repairs, repair wiring and replace reflectors   |
| 119 | M7381   | 2000 Holland PHT                 | Rego check and repairs   |
| 126 | L98361  | 1999 Traymark                    | Repair wiring and replace lights as needed   |
| 132 | CP22CH  | John Deere                       | Diagnose engine problem, removed engine cooler and turbo, check tappets and reassemble   |
| 134 | 94196D  | 2019 John Deere 770G             | Diagnose hydraulic leak, found faulty o-ring and removed and replace   |
| 144 | AH13CI  | Franna                           | Carry out service, remove and replace all belts and replace lights   |
| 147 | XO86CI  | 2020                             | Rego check and repair  |
| 148 | TC60FS  | Dolly                            | Adjust brakes and remove and replace rear signs and mud flaps  |



|                       |        |                                 |   |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---|
| 149                   | TC61FS | Moore's triaxle trailer         | Adjust brakes, remove mudflaps, remove and replace tow eye  |
| 150                   | BV55RE | 2013 Caterpillar 12M            | Repair battery drain  |
| 155                   | XN95ZI | 2021 Isuzu                      | Carry out service, rego check and repairs   |
| 172                   | XO67KD | Isuzu 1500 FXY                  | Rego repairs, replace number plate and rear signs, repair lights  |
| 180                   | TD35QS | Car Trailer                     | Repair lights and adjust wheel bearings   |
| 191                   | ELJ42B | 2020 Toyota Prado               | Carry out service, fit trailer and brake kit  |
| 205                   | N92534 | 2002 Sykes 6" Pump              | Repair lights and adjust wheel bearings and brakes  |
| 218                   | XO46AE | 2012 Hino                       | Rego check and repairs, adjust brakes   |
| 220                   | W87367 | Pump and Trailer                | Rego check and repairs  |
| 221                   | P95838 | Trailer                         | Rego check and repairs  |
| 226                   | YN17BI | 2019 Moore Triaxle Water Tanker | Adjust brakes and replace rear signs  |
| 227                   | YN18BI | 2019 Moore Triaxle Water Tanker | Adjust brakes and replace rear signs  |
| 231                   | X22672 | 2011 Kohler                     | Rego check and repairs  |
| 232                   | N92511 | 1990 Homemade fuel trailer      | Repair wiring, replace mudflaps, rear sign, torque rod bushes, adjust brakes                            |
| 261                   | DC66LK | Ford Ranger                     | Carry out service, replace number plate   |
| 404                   | XN30QQ | 2010 Isuzu short                | Carry out service, remove clutch  |
| 411                   | DB55CW | 2022 Ford Everest               | Carry out service   |
| 415                   | P95829 | Seca Machine                    | Repair wiring and water leaks   |
| 505                   | XN17EH | Kenworth Primemover             | Remove and replace rear axles, wheel bearings and seals, brakes shoes, replace mud flaps and rear signs |
| 506                   | XN65HG | Kenworth Primemover             | Carry out service   |
| 520                   | YN03BI | Moore's Trailers                | Replace mud flaps, diagnose problem with roll over traps, repair faulty wiring                          |
| 521                   | YN04BI | Moore's Trailers                | Replace mud flaps and repair wiring and, replace reflectors   |
| 522                   | YN05BI | Moore's Dolly                   | Repair wiring for lights and replace reflectors   |
| 555                   | CY80XA | 2020 Mitsubishi Pajero          | Carry out service   |
|                       |        | Plant registrations             | Various   |
| <b>Staff Training</b> |        | Nil                             |   |

**Recommendation**

**That Council note the information in the Roads Department Road Works and Workshop Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022.**

**21.2 ACTIVITY REPORT - PARKS & GARDENS / TOWN SERVICES / WATER & WASTEWATER ENGINEERING SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT**

**File Number:** E7.1  
**Author:** Peter Brown, Manager Works  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Background**

The following information outlines works completed for the period of 1 September 2022 to 12 October 2022 inclusive.

**Current Situation**

| PARKS & GARDENS – Frank Hollman, Acting Team Leader |  |
|---|--|
| Location  | Work Carried Out   |
| <b>General</b>                                      | All parks and sporting grounds gardens, regular mowing and maintenance carried out.<br>Sporting grounds facilities cleaned and maintained.<br>Public toilets cleaned and maintained.<br>Cleaned facilities.<br>General graffiti removal carried out on Council facilities. |
| <b>Small Plant</b>                                  | Maintenance and service carried out on all ground plant.   |
| <b>Works Requests</b>                               | Actioned and ongoing.  |
| <b>1 Tudor St</b>                                   | General maintenance carried out.   |
| <b>Wharf</b>  | General maintenance carried out.   |
| <b>Council Office</b>                               | General maintenance carried out.   |
| <b>Renshaw Complex</b>                              | Grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained.  |
| <b>Coolican Oval</b>                                | General maintenance carried out.   |
| <b>Davidson Oval</b>                                | General maintenance carried out.<br>TRYP Consultancy, Community Engagement for Youth.  |
| <b>Central Park</b>                                 | Skate Park - regular mowing and maintenance carried out, including, graffiti removal.<br>Maranguka Community Hub- Blackfit and Community Fun Days. (School Holiday Activities).  |
| <b>Villages</b>                                     | Mow grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained.  |
| <b>Airport</b>                                      | Mowed airstrip.  |
| <b>Darling Park</b>                                 | General maintenance carried out.   |
| <b>Staff Training</b>                               | Nil  |

| TOWN SERVICES– Troy Hayman, Team Leader |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Location                                | Work Carried Out      |
| <b>Work Requests</b>                    | Actioned and ongoing  |
|   | Weekly sand footpaths |
|   | Weekly Town mowing    |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
|                       | Daily Main Street Program   |
|                       | Airport Slashing and Mowing   |
|                       | Town Slashing and laneways  |
|                       | Town Poisoning  |
|                       | Monthly airport inspections Louth & Wanaaring   |
| <b>Cemetery</b>       | Prepared grave 09/09/2022   |
| <b>Rest Areas</b>     | Weekly rubbish removal, cleaning along roadside, pressure clean and mow Cobar rest area |
|                       | Monthly service and roadside rubbish removal  |
|                       | Mow rest areas  |
| <b>Staff Training</b> | Nil   |
| <b>Works Request</b>  | Start preparing for Rodeo   |
|                       | Slash Renshaw Complex   |
|                       | Slash Exhibition area for sculptures  |
|                       | Sandstone blocks for Exhibition Centre  |
|                       | Deliver bottles to Renshaw for Garden Club  |
|                       | Deliver gravel and sand for Exhibition Centre   |
|                       | Roll and cover road edge in Meek Street   |
|                       | Pick up branches from Courthouse footpath   |
|                       | Clean up Give Way blister corner near Landmark and Cobar Road                           |
|                       | Deliver mulch to Exhibition Centre  |
|                       | Gravel holes in laneway behind Franks BP Service Station                                |
|                       | Fix Keep Left sign in Glen Street   |
|                       | Remove rubbish from Mitchell Street spare block   |
|                       | Gravel laneway in Anson Street  |
|                       | Crane-sewer well pumps  |
|                       | Remove goal post from Davidson Oval   |
|                       | Cold mix Liberty driveway in Anson Street   |
|                       | Clean wash bay at Depot   |
|                       | Deliver tables and chairs to Central Park for Queens Memorial                           |
|                       | Pump water from Oxley Street after rain   |
|                       | Deliver 16 loads of crusher dust to pool  |
|                       | Re-install silt fencing, as required, Warrego Street, North Bourke                      |

| <b>WATER &amp; WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader</b> |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Water Supply Planned Maintenance</b>                   |             |
| 45 Darling Street   | Sewer Choke |
| 121 Oxley Street  | Sewer Choke |
| 147 Meadows Road  | Sewer Choke |
| 80 Darling Street   | Sewer Choke |
| 43 Darling Street   | Sewer Choke |
| 12 Darling Street   | Sewer Choke |
| 123 Anson Street  | Sewer Choke |
| 18 Mertin Street  | Sewer Choke |
| 148 Meadows Road  | Sewer Choke |
| 4 Culgoa Street   | Sewer Choke |

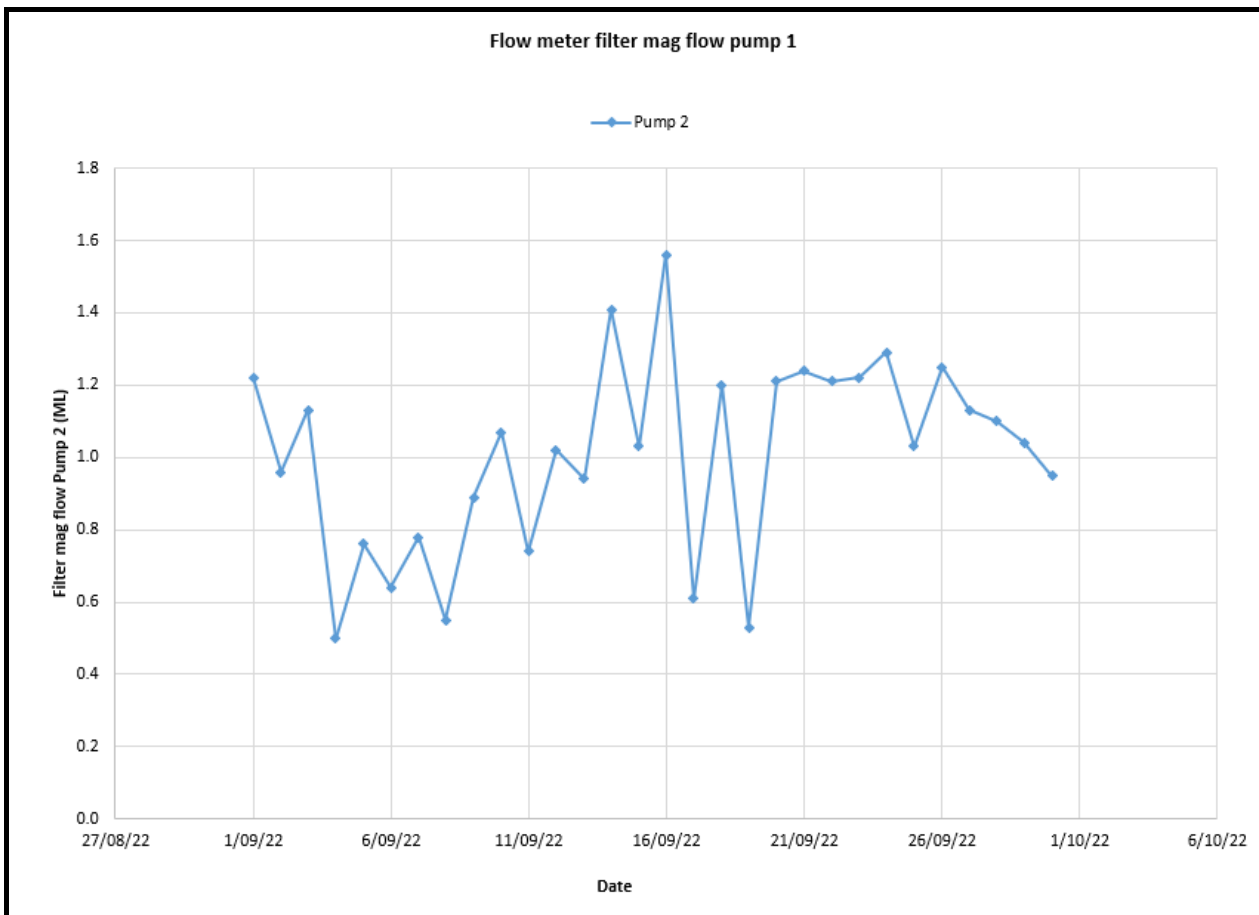
|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 14 Darling Street                     | Sewer Choke   |
| 45 Darling Street                     | Sewer Choke   |
| 11 Hope Street                        | Sewer Choke   |
| Central Park                          | Sewer Choke   |
| Pool Toilets                          | Sewer Choke   |
| 69 Oxley Street                       | Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service  |
| 13 Darling Street                     | Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service  |
| 92 Anson Street                       | Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service  |
| 149 Meadows Road                      | Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service   |
| Cemetery                              | Dug 50mm raw water main and repaired main   |
| Sale Yards                            | Dug 50mm raw water main and repaired main   |
| Telstra                               | Repaired leaking 50mm raw water service   |
| Island in Anson Street                | Repaired leaking 50mm raw water service   |
| Wharf                                 | Repaired 50mm poly sprinkler line<br>Repair leaking toilet  |
| 57 Oxley Street                       | Dug 10mm raw water main and repaired main   |
| Coomah Street                         | Dug 10mm raw water main and repaired main   |
| 7 Anson Street                        | Dug 10mm raw water main and repaired main   |
| 104 Hope Street                       | Dug 10mm raw water main and repaired main   |
| 29 Mitchell Street                    | Dug 10mm filtered water main and repaired main  |
| Renshaw Complex                       | Dug 10mm raw water main and repaired main<br>Move water trough<br>Clean up around septic<br>Dug leaking poly lines  |
| Splash Park                           | Replaced pump   |
| Rotary Park                           | Replaced sprinklers   |
| Caretakers flat Depot                 | Replaced toilet system  |
| Darling Street                        | Located fire hydrant  |
| Castlereagh Street                    | New water service   |
| Rainbar Bush Camp                     | Replaced mixer taps in kitchen  |
| Back O Bourke Exhibition Centre "BOB" | Repaired leaking toilets<br>Installed sculptures<br>Sprinklers  |
| Louth Bush Camp                       | Replaced mixer taps in caravans #75, #80 and #82  |
| Wanaaring                             | Connect 3 <sup>rd</sup> tank<br>Check water at sports ground  |
| Gun Club                              | Repaired leaking raw water tap  |
| Pool                                  | Pumped out pool   |
| Storm Water                           | Water drains Bourke and North Bourke  |
| Sewer Pump Stations "SPS"             | Pumped out and cleaned all sewer pump stations<br>Becker Street-Installed pump into well<br>Mertin Street-Removed faulty valve and ordered parts  |
| Meter Replacement Program             | NSW Water bore inspections<br>Replaced 50mm water meter Fords Bridge Bore<br>Replaced 80mm water meters Louth River<br>Replaced 80mm water meter Enngonia Bore<br>Can't access Wanaaring Bore - too wet |
| Water Treatment Plant "WTP"           | Clean and mow<br>Read water meters  |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
|                       | Installed repeaters<br>Careers Day at Bourke High School      |
| Alice Edwards Village | Routine maintenance and monitoring as per ACP Management Plan |
| Clara Hart Village    | Routine maintenance and monitoring as per ACP Management Plan |
| Training              | Nil   |

**Council’s Water Access Licences -WAL’s**

| Work Approval | Extraction Site | Site Name            | Start meter read 01/07/2022 | Meter read Sep-22 | usage Year to Date |    |        | Comment                           |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 85CA753414    | ESID 121627     | Water Plant TWS      | 14804.9                     | 14900.2           | 95.3               | ML | 3200ML |                                   |
| 85CA753420    | ESID 121630     | North Bourke TWS     | 1732.447                    | 1735.08           | 2.633              | ML | 300ML  |                                   |
| 85CA753421    | ESID 121630     | North Bourke Abs     | 30.006                      | 30.006            | 0                  | ML |        |                                   |
| 85CA751207    | 24634           | Engonia Village TWS  | 181.64                      | 184.017           | 2.377              | ML | 150ML  | New meter installed Sep-22        |
| 85CA753599    |                 | Wanaaring Station    | 0                           | 0                 | 0                  | ML | 25ML   | River to high can't get to bore   |
| 85CA753412    | ESID 121626     | (LWU Louth)          | 491.101                     | 493               | 1.899              | ML | 25ML   | New meter installed Sep-22        |
| 85CA751215    | 24639           | Fords Bridge TWS     | 0                           | 0                 | 0                  | ML | 2ML    | New meter installed Sep-23        |
| 85CA751240    | 32585           | Walken Bore No1      | 19.005                      | 19.005            | 0                  | ML | 100ML  |                                   |
|               | 148936          | Walken Bore No2      | 128.567                     | 128.567           | 0                  | ML |        |                                   |
|               | 148937          | Belvedere Bore       | 13.996                      | 13.996            | 0                  | ML |        |                                   |
|               | 209518          | Stoney Rise Bore     | 24.603                      | 24.603            | 0                  | ML |        |                                   |
|               | 222419          | Toll Bore            |                             |                   | 0                  | ML |        | No Meter Not Active               |
| 85WA753906    |                 | Gumbalie             |                             |                   | 0                  | ML |        | No Meter Required Road works Bore |
| 90WA836011    | 208200          | Rainbar or Tichaluka |                             |                   | 0                  | ML |        | No Meter Required Road works Bore |
| 90WA836179    | 211161          | Rainbar or Tichaluka |                             |                   | 0                  | ML |        | No Meter Required Road works Bore |
| 85CA753031    | ESID 12002      | Golf Course          |                             |                   | 0                  | ML | 320ML  | No Meter Not Active               |
| 85CA752937    | ESID 119950     | Exhibition Centre    |                             |                   | 0                  | ML | 29ML   | No Meter Not Active               |

**Filtered Flow Meter**



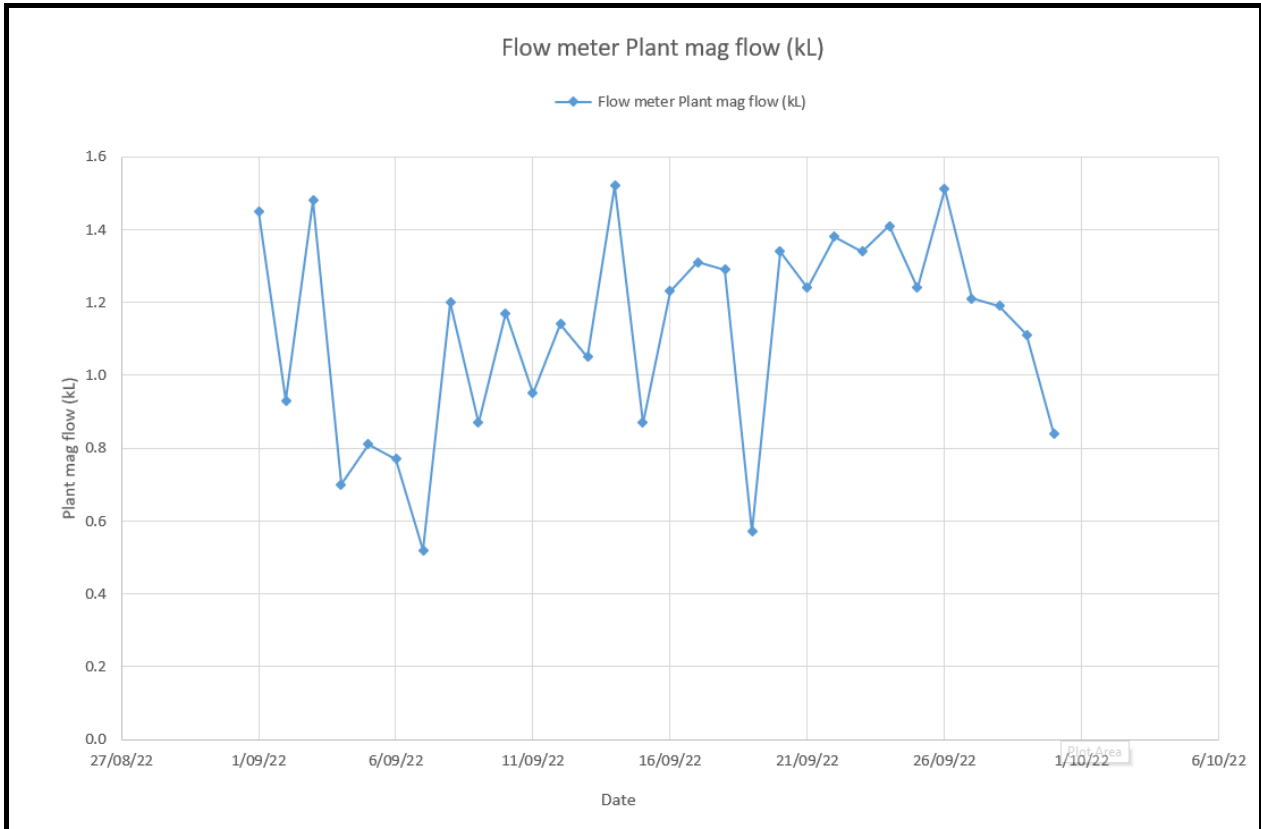
**Chemical Reading**

| Process             | Parameter             | Minimum | Average | Maximum | Lower critical lim | Upper critical lim | No. of samples |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| River level         | River level (425003 ) | 9.36    | 10.18   | 10.77   | 3.9                |                    | 30             |
| Raw Water           | pH                    | 7.50    | 7.75    | 8.17    |                    |                    | 30             |
| Raw Water           | turbidity             | 59.00   | 90.27   | 152.00  |                    |                    | 30             |
| Filtered water      | pH                    | 7.28    | 7.47    | 7.82    | 6.5                | 8.7                | 30             |
| Tower               | Free Cl2              | 1.57    | 2.40    | 3.22    | 0.2                | 5.0                | 30             |
| Bourke High Schoo   | Free chlorine         | 2.10    | 2.10    | 2.10    | 0.2                | 4.0                | 2              |
| Bourke High Schoo   | pH                    | 7.30    | 7.35    | 7.40    | 6.5                | 8.5                | 2              |
| Bourke High Schoo   | Turbidity             | 0.18    | 0.19    | 0.20    | 0.0                | 0.5                | 2              |
| WTP                 | Free chlorine         | 2.40    | 2.40    | 2.40    | 0.2                | 4.0                | 1              |
| WTP                 | pH                    | 7.40    | 7.40    | 7.40    | 6.5                | 8.5                | 1              |
| WTP                 | Turbidity             | 0.18    | 0.18    | 0.18    | 0.0                | 0.5                | 1              |
| Bourke Primary Sch  | Free chlorine         | 1.50    | 1.50    | 1.50    | 0.2                | 4.0                | 1              |
| Bourke Primary Sch  | pH                    | 7.30    | 7.30    | 7.30    | 6.5                | 8.5                | 1              |
| Bourke Primary Sch  | Turbidity             | 0.21    | 0.21    | 0.21    | 0.0                | 0.5                | 1              |
| Meadows Rd          | Free chlorine         | 1.50    | 1.50    | 1.50    | 0.2                | 4.0                | 1              |
| Meadows Rd          | pH                    | 7.30    | 7.30    | 7.30    | 6.5                | 8.5                | 1              |
| Meadows Rd          | Turbidity             | 0.23    | 0.23    | 0.23    | 0.0                | 0.5                | 1              |
| Mitchell St         | Free chlorine         | 1.70    | 1.70    | 1.70    | 0.2                | 4.0                | 1              |
| Mitchell St         | pH                    | 7.60    | 7.60    | 7.60    | 6.5                | 8.5                | 1              |
| Mitchell St         | Turbidity             | 0.20    | 0.20    | 0.20    | 0.0                | 0.5                | 1              |
| Alice Edwards Villa | Free chlorine         | 0.60    | 0.60    | 0.60    | 0.2                | 4.0                | 1              |
| Alice Edwards Villa | pH                    | 7.40    | 7.40    | 7.40    | 6.5                | 8.5                | 1              |
| Alice Edwards Villa | Turbidity             | 0.30    | 0.30    | 0.30    | 0.0                | 0.5                | 1              |

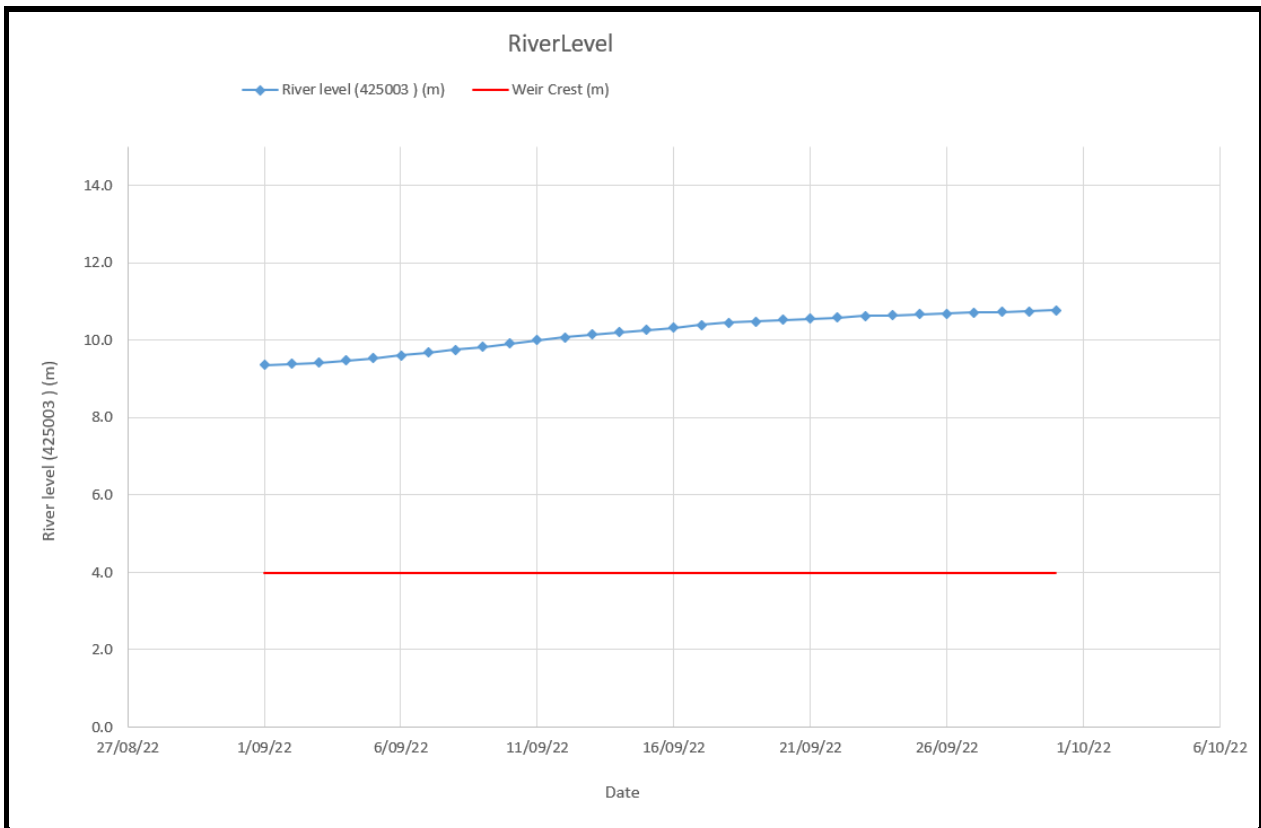
**Monthly Readings**

| Month          | Raw water ML | Filter magflow pump 2 ML | Raw Water North Bourke KL | Filter Water North Bourke KL |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| January 2021   | 134          | 43                       | 31,255                    | 2,013                        |
| February 2021  | 94           | 39                       | 30,110                    | 2,145                        |
| March 2021     | 96           | 38                       | 29,332                    | 2,130                        |
| April 2021     | 99           | 36                       | 11,607                    | 1,717                        |
| May 2021       | 102          | 38                       | 12,676                    | 1,808                        |
| June 2021      | 74           | 34                       | 8,484                     | 1,735                        |
| July 2021      | 75           | 33                       | 9,856                     | 1,788                        |
| August 2021    | 98           | 27                       | 16,310                    | 1,542                        |
| September 2021 | 107          | 29                       | 19,235                    | 1,325                        |
| October 2021   | 122          | 30                       | 20,314                    | 1,255                        |
| November 2021  | 81           | 31                       | 16,326                    | 1,356                        |
| December 2021  | 108          | 36                       | 20,589                    | 1,234                        |
| January 2022   | 113          | 34                       | 25,364                    | 1,463                        |
| February 2022  | 129          | 31                       | 29,523                    | 1,958                        |
| March 2022     | 140          | 37                       | 28,561                    | 1,621                        |
| April 2022     | 104          | 33                       | 10,985                    | 1,563                        |
| May 2022       | 77           | 29                       | 9,456                     | 1,963                        |
| June 2022      | 40           | 29                       | 8,562                     | 1,836                        |
| July 2022      | 45           | 27                       | 10,254                    | 1,518                        |
| August 2022    | 49           | 25                       | 15,321                    | 1,622                        |
| September 2022 | 55           | 30                       | 9,635                     | 1,532                        |

**Plant Flow Meter**



**Current River Levels**



**Health Guidelines**

| No      | CCP           | Monitoring Parameter   | Location        | Frequency         | Target               | Adjustment Level               | Critical limit             |
|---------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| CCP 1   | Clarification | Turbidity              | After clarifier | Daily grab sample | <1 NTU               | 4 NTU                          | >4 NTU                     |
| CCP 2 * | Filtration    | Turbidity              | After Filters   | Daily grab sample | 0.4 NTU              | 1 NTU                          | >1.2 NTU                   |
| CCP 3   | Disinfection  | Chlorine residual      | Filtered Water  | Daily grab sample | 1.5-2 mg/L           | <1.5 mg/L for more than 3 days | <0.5 mg/L or > 5 mg/L      |
| CCP 4   | Fluoridation  | Fluoride concentration | After filters   | Daily grab sample | 1.0 mg/L             | <0.95 mg/L                     | <0.9 mg/L for > 72 hours   |
|         |               |                        |                 |                   |                      | or                             | Or                         |
|         |               |                        |                 |                   |                      | >1.0 mg/L                      | >1.5 mg/L                  |
| CCP 5   | Reservoirs    | Reservoir Integrity    | Reservoirs      | Weekly            | Integrity maintained | Signs of integrity breach      | Unable to rectify breaches |

**Treatment Plant EPA Licence Compliance**

Record of Effluent Analysis

| Pollutant                 | Unit Of Measure | Licence 100 Percentile Concentration Limit | Jul 2022 Test | Aug 2022 Test | Sept 2022 Test |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Oil & Grease              | mg/L            | 10   | 4             | <2            | <2             |
| pH                        |                 | 6.5-8.5                                    | 8.33          | 7.97          | 7.86           |
| Nitrogen (total)          | mg/L            | 15   | 11.6          | 14.3          | 8.8            |
| Phosphorus (total)        | mg/L            | 10   | 4.46          | 5.90          | 3.80           |
| Total suspended solids    | mg/L            | 20   | 49            | <5            | 8              |
| Biochemical oxygen demand | mg/L            | 15   | 10            | 6             | 5              |

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

- Rainfall in Bourke for September 2022 was 50.0 mm
- Hottest day for September 2022 was 22.8 degrees
- Coldest day for September 2022 was 9.1 degrees

**Recommendation**

**That Council note the information in the Parks and Gardens, Town Services and Water and Wastewater Engineering Services Department Activity Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022.**



**21.3 PLANNING, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT**

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

**Development Approvals**

| Delegated Authority or Council | Consent Type & Consent No. | Subject Land                                 | Nature of Development   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Delegated                      | DA 2023/0003               | Lot 2, DP 366345<br>19 Mertin Street, Bourke | Installation of transportable dwelling with associated structures |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total value of Approved works for September 2022                      | = \$330,000 |
| No. of Development Application Approvals for September 2022           | = 1         |
| No. of Complying Development Application Approvals for September 2022 | = 0         |

**Building Services Report**

| Location         | Work Carried Out   |
|------------------|--|
| Work Requests    | Actioned and ongoing   |
| Risk Assessments | Completed with every job   |
| Training         | Nil  |
| Contractors      | Maintenance works completed as required<br>Upgrade works completed as per Operational Plan |
| Buildings        | Maintenance works completed as required  |
| Airport          | Maintenance works completed as required  |

**Animal Control**

| Bourke Shire Council Holding Facility | Dogs      | Cats     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Animals in Pound beginning of Month   | 16        | 5        |
| Seized                                | 2         | 0        |
| Surrendered                           | 0         | 0        |
| Handed in by members of the public    | 0         | 0        |
| Dumped at pound                       | 0         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>18</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Euthanised                            | 2         | 1        |
| Released to Owner                     | 3         | 0        |
| Adopted                               | 0         | 0        |
| Re-housed                             | 5         | 4        |
| Died in Pound                         | 5         | 0        |

|                                   |           |          |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Escaped from Pound                | 0         | 0        |
| Animals Remaining at End of Month | 3         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>18</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Stock Rested in Stock Yards       | 222       |          |

- Attended complaints regarding 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, as required.
- Patrols of Councils Reserves.

**Recommendation**

**That the information in the Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be received and noted.**

**21.4 GENERAL MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**File Number:** G2.1  
**Author:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager  
**Attachments:** Nil

**29 September 2022****Long Weekend**

As all would be aware, this weekend is a long weekend with a public holiday on Monday, 3 October 2022. The first Monday in October annually in NSW is called Labour Day and is a public holiday to celebrate the arrival of the eight-hour working day, a victory for workers in the 1850s. With the beautiful spring weather that we generally experience, the weekend is a perfect opportunity to get out and about in our fantastic Shire. If you need information on exploring “your backyard” don’t hesitate to head out to the Back O’ Bourke Information Centre for assistance. Also, the long weekend marks the pinnacle for all the league lovers with the NRL Grand final commencing at 7.30pm on Sunday. We will see a battle of the Sydney teams Parramatta and Penrith. Best of luck to the teams involved to win the coveted premiership title, I am sure the myriad of each team’s loyal supporters will be dusting of their jerseys and wearing them with pride ready for the big one.

**Daylight Savings**

Don’t forget to wind your clocks forward with the commencement of daylight-saving time in NSW from 2:00 am on Sunday, 2 October 2022, the change of time will run through with until it ends at 3:00 am on Sunday, 2 April 2023.

**COVID-19 Isolation Rules**

The NSW Government has advised that it has updated the COVID-19 self-isolation rules such that the requirement to self-isolate if you test positive to COVID-19 has been reduced from 7 to 5 days, except in certain circumstances. I consider it worthwhile to repeat the requirements now in place. If you test positive to COVID-19, you must:

1. Register the result online with Service NSW if you used a rapid antigen test. If you cannot register online, call Service NSW on 13 77 88.
2. Self-isolate immediately for 5 days from the day you did your test. If you have acute symptoms on day 5, such as a cough, sore throat, runny nose, or shortness of breath, remain in isolation for 7 days from the day you did your test.
3. Not enter high-risk settings for 7 days from the day you did your test. This includes hospital premises, public clinics and private health facilities, residential aged care facilities, and disability care facilities. If you need urgent medical attention, tell staff immediately you have COVID-19.
4. Tell people you live with and self-isolate away from them. Your household contacts must follow the advice at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/management/household-contacts> for 7 days from the day you did your test.
5. Tell the people you spent time with 2 days before testing positive or 2 days before your symptoms started. This includes people at places like work, school or with whom you

socialised. These people should follow the fact sheet available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/management/people-exposed-to-covid>

People who have had COVID-19 can spread the virus to other people for up to 10 days after they tested positive. To protect people around you after you leave self-isolation, advice is available at [nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au) for the most up to date information.

12 months ago, Bourke was certainly still “in the thick” of the pandemic with the NSW Government announcing at the end of September 2021 that Stay-at-home orders were to be extended until 11 October 2021 “for a number of local government areas (LGAs) in regional NSW due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health risk”. Bourke Shire was one of these LGA’s. After the initial Stay-at-home orders for Western NSW were announced effective 7pm, 11 August 2021, it was undoubtedly a most difficult time for many.

### **Recycling in Bourke**

I am privileged to be part of the Board of Directors in respect of the Bourke Laundry Service (BLS), which is an Australian Disability Enterprise providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Bourke. As the name implies, the core business of the laundry is just that, laundry. A lesser-known fact, however, is that the Laundry Service is also the centre for the recycling of cans and bottles in Bourke as part of the State Governments “Return and Earn” initiative.

Mayor Barry recently made enquiry as to how many bottles had been recycled by the Bourke community since the commencement of the service in 2018. The answer to his question was an amazing 3.6 million bottles and cans had been sorted, packed and transported to Sydney for recycling. The impact that this recycling has had on negating the need to have those bottles and cans dumped at the Bourke waste land fill is most positive with an estimated 174 tonnes diverted from the landfill in the last financial year alone. With each bottle earning a 10-cent refund, from a financial perspective, the return of the 3.6 million bottles has equated to \$360,000.00 having been reclaimed by the Bourke community. Supporters of the recycling service have reported they have been able to contribute to their grandchildren’s pocket money, holidays, car payments and a host of other purposes with some funds donated back to BLS.

On a statewide basis, since its introduction in 2017, 8 billion containers (yes billion!) have been returned and, in the process, some \$800 million in refunds have been delivered to the people of NSW and importantly, helped reduce drink container litter across the state by a massive 52 per cent. Well done to the Bourke Laundry Service on making a positive impact on our environmental well-being.

### **Peter Simmonds Memorial Saddle Bronc**

As regular readers of this column would be well aware, the Back O’ Bourke Stampede-Peter Simmonds Memorial Pro-Rodeo will be held on Saturday, 15 October 2022, at the Bourke Showgrounds (Renshaw Oval). That’s only three (3) Saturdays away. One of the most sought-after prizes on the night will be the “Peter Simmonds Memorial Saddle Bronc”. This event has been created by Peter’s nephew, Tye Simmonds. Tye recently expressed why he pushed for this event on the day and what it means to him and I thought it was well worth repeating.

“For me, what a dream come true to have the Back O Bourke Stampede up and running again with the last one being in 2000. Uncle Pete and Dad had been talking about it for the past few years, and with the help of Garry McPhee (Livestock Contractor) in their ears, we slowly started to get

the ball rolling again. Of course with the sudden tragedy of losing uncle Pete there was no doubt in our minds that we had to get this going; for him. A massive thank you to the Bourke Shire Council for getting on board with some funding and to the small but powerful committee that's been put together to make sure the event runs smoothly. We've got some of the best bucking stock in Australia coming and some of the highest placing cowboys and cowgirls competing for some of the best prize money in the country. For all that knew Uncle Pete, he was one of Australia's finest saddle bronc riders & Bourke's son. So myself and some family thought it only fitting to hold a Peter Simmonds Memorial Chute Out. Only the top 6 saddle bronc riders on the night, will go head-to-head with McPhee Rodeo Company's top saddle bronc horses in a chute out to win an additional winner takes all \$2000 in prize money & a very special buckle. It's going to be an absolute cracker and something for the ages.... I'm beyond grateful to be able to sponsor this event and hopefully make one of my life long inspirations, Uncle Pete, proud. This one's for you! It's rodeo time!" Well said Tye with the organising committee not hesitating in supporting Tye's proposal.

### **Active Kids Grant**

New uniforms or equipment to commence the next sporting season? If so, an application to the Active Kids grant program may be in order. The program is generously funded by the Dickinson Foundation in partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF). It focuses on volunteer-run grassroots and community clubs and organisations with members aged 20 or younger. Active Kids grants are for free sports equipment and on-field or training uniforms supplied by ASF partners HART Sport and ISC. Applications close on 7 October 2022 at 5.00pm with further information available at <https://fundraise.sportsfoundation.org.au>

### **Quote:**

**"In loving and devoted memory. Charles R."** A card, handwritten by King Charles III, sitting atop the wreath that adorned the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II.

### **6 October 2022**

#### **More La Nina**

With the Bureau of Meteorology having recently confirmed another summer of La Nina, it would certainly appear that we are in for more rain in coming months. The Darling River continues to flow at a high level with more flows expected given this confirmation of a continuing La Nina and ongoing major flooding across the central and north west of the state, including flooding of the Macquarie River at Warren and the recent flooding of the Namoi River at Gunnedah. The waters at Warren flow into the Macquarie Marshes and then ultimately into the Darling River above Bourke. Similarly, the Namoi River also flows into the Darling River above Bourke. With catchments so wet, it doesn't take a lot of rain in one location resulting in river heights rising very quickly downstream. With all the moisture, agriculture has been at record levels, however in some places it has stopped producers from getting onto paddocks to plant or harvest their crops. Not perfect, but far better than drought conditions.

#### **Burrendong Dam**

On the subject of river flows, Burrendong Dam at Wellington is a long way from Bourke, 450km by road in fact. With so much water currently about, water released from Burrendong Dam flows by way of the Macquarie River and ultimately into the Darling River above Bourke. Without Burrendong Dam, towns on the Macquarie River would undoubtedly be in significant trouble in

respect of flooding during periods of prolonged wet weather. Some information recently came my way in respect of the dam which identified that the dam was currently at 130% of capacity. The reason that the dam's capacity can be identified at a figure above 100% is as a result of the ability for the dam to utilise air space through radial gates located on the dam wall. This capacity above 100% is referred to as the flood mitigation zone of the dam with this zone increasing the dam's capacity to 142%. This additional capacity equates to some 490,000 megalitres. At 142%, the total capacity of the dam is 1,678,000 megalitres, which is approximately 3.4 times the volume of Sydney Harbour. Spread over 72 km<sup>2</sup>, it's certainly a large dam.

The really interesting point however is that when water is released thru the radial gates, the gates are raised, and the water level can increase as the gates raise. This creates significant additional storage. During a very wet period in August 1990, the peak inflows were about 560,000 megalitres a day with the peak outflows being some 160,000 megalitres a day and the storage of the dam was surcharged to 160%. During the 2010 floods the storage was surcharged to 150%, after being at 105% at the start of the flood inflows. It certainly becomes a balancing act between inflows and outflows and the impact on downstream localities in terms of the water released. Needless to say, at a current level of 130%, releases from the dam will undoubtedly be continuing for some time.

### **Mitchell Highway**

If you have travelled on the Mitchell Highway between Bourke and Nyngan in the last 18 months you would have seen significant widening works being undertaken as part of a \$12 million safety upgrade to the Highway. This major project commenced in April 2021 with the work undertaken by Bourke and Bogan Councils in their respective Shires on behalf of Transport for NSW. I am happy to advise that the works along several sections of highway, totalling almost 47 kilometres, have now been completed. Prior to the works, the various sections of the highway only had a narrow-sealed width, with multiple edge breaks and failures which increased the risk of run-off road crashes and little room for correction if vehicles left the road. The installation of one-metre-wide sealed shoulders on both sides of the road at various narrow sections of the Highway has reduced the crash risk on the Highway. Other works undertaken include the selective reshaping of pavements on the existing alignment, as well as drainage improvements. A final seal will be applied within 18 months, after which rumble strips on the edge line will be installed.

The upgrades were funded jointly by the Australian Government's Road Safety Program and the NSW Government as part of implementing safety upgrades and improvements on regional roads. Council staff worked closely with officers from Transport NSW in undertaking these works on the Mitchell Highway, which is a state road, under a formal arrangement known as a Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC). The RMCC establishes a contractual relationship between Transport for NSW and Council, with both parties committed to shared values and trust. The concept of continuous improvement is central to the RMCC with Council participating in a process which aims to lift the standard of risk and asset management by fostering the exchange of ideas, work practices and planning methodologies, with the ultimate result of improving value for money. Council very much appreciates the work it receives and undertakes on behalf of Transport NSW.

### **Visit by Deputy Premier**

Bourke was recently honoured to receive a visit by the NSW Deputy Premier (DP), the Hon Paul Toole MP and Minister for Western NSW, the Hon Dugald Saunders MP. What a busy day. Flying into Bourke on the Dubbo to Bourke Airlink Flight, it was out to the airport to transport our VIP visitors to the Thomas Foods International (TFI) Bourke Abattoir for a visit. Here, the Deputy

Premier announced \$5 million in funding for the Abattoir from the Regional Job Creation Fund to expand and create a workforce of up to 250 people at the reopened abattoir. So exciting for the Region. From there it was back to the Bourke SES depot in Sid Coleman Drive where the NSW SES Commissioner, Carlene York, handed over a new light storm trailer, worth about \$37,000, to our local SES volunteers. Finally, the DP and the Minister joined with Mayor Barry to officially open Bourke's new Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

In his address on the day, Mayor Barry made point of the irony that as the opening was taking place, the Darling River was at a height well above 10 metres and that this was "a far cry from when the contract for the new Plant was awarded to LC Water when, at that time, stagnant water, dead fish, Bourke's most popular tourist attraction, the Jandra Paddle boat, was resting on the sandy base of a dry Darling River and a desolate townscape bereft of green grass, or any grass for that matter. It all seems a distance past when compared to the 40,000 megalitres of water that is currently flowing past Bourke on a daily basis in the Darling River."

The new Bourke WTP replaces the original Bourke WTP constructed in 1957 which had a design capacity of 3ML a day. During those times Bourke relied on 3 days of potable water and 4 days of non-potable water until the new filtered water mains were installed. As testimony to the old water plant, the heritage listed rustic water tower remains at the site. Council applied to the NSW Government for funding for a new plant in 2017 through the Safe and Secure water funding program. Council's application was successful with Council receiving \$10.5M from the Government for this project. Mayor Barry acknowledged in his address that without this funding "we certainly would not be here today opening this plant." It was great to have the DP and Minister for Western NSW opening the facility and the opportunity to allow Council to express its appreciation of the support of the NSW Government for funding for not only this project, but also the funding that has allowed the installation of bores and pipelines and a new water reservoir, all working towards Drought proofing Bourke's Water Supply. In closing, Mayor Barry acknowledged and thanked the various Council staff; its Project Managers, NSW Public Works Advisory; and contractors, Laurie Curran Water, who all contributed to the success of the project. I add my thanks to all involved, it was a large project that very much adds to the liveability of Bourke.

Quote: **"Inflation has become "broad-based" and will gradually ease throughout 2023, but still remain exceptionally high, as tighter financial conditions resulting from steep hikes in interest rates slowly yield results."** The OECD making comment on the world's economic outlook for 2023.

## 13 October 2022

### Australia Day Award

Nominations are opening soon for the 2023 Bourke Shire Australia Day Awards. The various categories for the 2023 Awards are as follows:

- Citizen of the year
- Junior Citizen of the year
- Sportsperson of the year
- Junior Sportsperson of the year
- Village Service Award
- Emergency Services Volunteer of the year

Whilst the actual Awards Ceremony, to be held on Australia Day on 26 January 2023, is still some time away, it should be remembered that in the lead up to Australia Day we have the holiday period with a number of organisations going into recess and not meeting. With this in mind, nominations for the 2023 Awards will open on Tuesday, 1 November 2022 and close at 4.30 pm on Friday, 2 December 2022 with entry forms being available from the Council Office in Mitchell St, come next month. A workshop of Councillors to determine the Award Recipients, will be convened following Councils December 2022 meeting. All organisations and residents are encouraged to consider nominating someone for these Awards. The Bourke Shire community has many people who would be worthy nominees with the Awards being the perfect opportunity to recognise the contribution made by so many people to the town and community of Bourke.

### **Bourke Swimming Pool**

The Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool has recently re-opened with good crowds in attendance over the October long weekend. The Splash Park continues to be well received by the younger members of the community and it provides an opportunity for parents to be able to get the younger children comfortable with water in a very safe and family friendly atmosphere. The program pool is still under construction and we are hoping for this project to be completed early in the New Year. The final upgrade to the precinct will be the upgrade of the canteen that will take place from April to October 2023.

### **Garden Maintenance**

Council in recent times has received a number of unsolicited positive comments in regard to the way the town is presented. Council staff are continuously working to improve the appearance of the town and appreciate the assistance given by many residents in maintaining the footpath area outside their homes. Residents who don't currently maintain the area outside their boundary are requested to consider doing so as it not only assists Council but dramatically improves the appearance of the town and their home. The recent rains, future expected rains and the increasing warm weather, all provide for a bumper spring and footpath maintenance by residents will go a long way to maintaining the amenity of our town.

### **Weather**

It is reassuring to see so much of the rural areas of the Bourke Shire appearing in such outstanding condition at present, with some of the best pasture growth for years, ongoing cotton ginning from last season's production, full irrigation storages, fat livestock, the abattoir commencing production and substantial flows in the river systems. It is hard to recall how many years it has been since all these conditions last occurred simultaneously. All this provides reassurance and confidence for the rural sector and for business turnover within the urban services sector. The rainfall that occurred across the Bourke Shire last Tuesday and Wednesday was most beneficial for pastoral industries, further stimulating vegetation growth.

### **Flood Warnings**

The NSW SES has transitioned to an overhauled warning system under the Australian Warning System (AWS) for floods. The new System is a nationally consistent, three-tiered approach designed to make warnings clearer and lead people to take action ahead of severe weather events. The warning system comprises warning levels, action statements, hazard icons, colours and shapes.



There are three levels within the AWS - Advice, Watch & Act and Emergency Warning. For each level, there are a series of clear action statements to guide positive action by the community. These include 'stay informed', 'prepare to evacuate' and 'move to higher ground' as follows:

Advice - an incident has started. Stay up to date in case the situation changes. Stay informed, monitor conditions, and if appropriate, reduced threat status: return with caution

Watch and Act - conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family. Do not enter floodwater, prepare to evacuate, prepare to isolate, avoid the area.

Emergency Warning - the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Evacuate now / Evacuate before a nominated time, shelter now, move to higher ground.

Warnings will continue to be distributed through the NSW SES website ([www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)) and social media channels, as well as local ABC radio stations. For emergency help in flood and storm, phone 132500. For life threatening emergencies, phone 000.

### **Fire Season**

As mentioned, the recent rains and warm weather are providing for a bumper spring season. The recent rainfall will alleviate some imminent risk of bush fires for the coming spring; however, we should certainly not become complacent. Based on a non-complacency attitude, our local Rural Fire Service personnel have been planning thoroughly in preparation for the possible risks and in doing so, are reminding landholders in the Far West that the Bush Fire Danger Period commenced on 1 October 2022, continuing through until 31 March 2023. During this period, persons wishing to light a fire in the open are required to obtain the necessary permit. Such permits are free and can be obtained from the Bourke Fire Station, in Mitchell St, Bourke or from the Fire Control Centre located at Sid Coleman Drive, out near the Bourke Airport (Phone 6836 1226).

It should be remembered that on days of a Total Fire Ban, the lighting of any fires in the open is prohibited even if you have a Fire Permit. This includes cooking fires using incinerators and barbeques which burn solid fuel, such as wood or charcoal. Gas and electric barbeques are permitted subject to being on residential property within 20 meters of the house or dwelling; under the direct control of a responsible adult; the ground around and above a barbecue is cleared for 2 metres of all material which could burn and, an immediate and continuous supply is available.

All residents are urged to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan so that you know what to do on days of increased fire danger such that you can immediately put your plan into action if your home is threatened by fire. Information regarding Total Fire Ban declarations is published at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

### **Alliance of Western Councils and Orana Water Utilities Alliance**

The Alliance of Western Councils (AWC) is an alliance of 13 Councils located across the western area of the State. The member Councils comprise Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo Regional, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle Councils. Whilst only recently formed, the AWC is modelled on the highly successful Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC) which operated, and achieved much, over many years.

With the advent of Joint Organisations (JO), the logical decision was taken, at the time, to disband the OROC. Whilst the Far North West Joint Organisation has been successful, the same cannot be said for the Orana Joint Organisation which saw all six (6) member Councils resign their JO membership as a result as to concerns relating to financial sustainability issues. In agreeing to join the Western Alliance, Bourke Council resolved to participate in and maintain membership of the Alliance of Western Councils, whilst at the same time maintaining its active membership of the Far North West Joint Organisation. In addition to the Western Alliance, Council is also a member of the Orana Water Utilities Alliance (OWUA). This Alliance can trace its roots back to circa 2008, and was established, and continues to operate, to assist Councils deliver “best practice” water operations for the Orana Region.

Both the Water Utilities Alliance and the Western Alliance were to be meeting in Bourke today, Thursday 13 October 2022 and tomorrow, Friday 14 October 2022, respectively. Due however to the weather reports predicting significant rain last week and expected resulting wide spread flooding, the Executive of both Organisations made early calls and, like many other activities across the western that, cancelled the Bourke meetings for a date yet to be determined.

**Quote: “There’s so much young talent. To go out on a high like that, it’s pretty incredible, and I’ll probably do the same thing at the Tigers.”** Grand Final Winning Penrith Panther, Api Koroisau, when being interviewed as to how he felt about leaving the Panthers to join the Tigers, who haven’t made finals since 2011!

## 20 October 2022

### Electricity Pricing

The Australian Financial Review newspaper recently hosted an Energy & Climate Summit in Sydney. At this conference, the Chief Executive of Alinta Energy, Jeff Dimery, told attendees that “Next year, using the current market prices, tariffs are going up a minimum 35 per cent,” with the forecast increases apparently due to the cost of wholesale energy, as the “system grapples with the transition to clean energy amid a global supply crisis.” Mr Dimery’s comments were widely reported, and when I initially read his comments in the media, I almost fell off my chair. Bad news for consumers and bad news for businesses that rely on electricity for their production.

Whilst Mr Dimery warned that Australia was “out of time” on putting in place policies to support investment in new renewables capacity to replace coal power plants exiting at an accelerating rate, other CEO’s of electricity suppliers such as TransGrid and AEMO voiced their confidence that the huge building of the new grid can be completed on time, including \$8 billion worth of projects in the pipeline alone for Transgrid. The investment being made in renewables across NSW alone, is in the many billions of dollars, however it all takes time to construct. My view is that high electricity costs will be with us for many years to come. In the UK, the phrase “fuel poverty” is used in respect of those households who simply can’t afford electricity. Some seven million households are reported as experiencing such poverty and with prices being predicted to rise so extensively, undoubtedly the number of Australian residents who already experience financial difficulty as a result of energy prices, will increase.

The electricity market is now a very complex operation. As a large electricity purchaser, Bourke Shire Council utilises the services of a professional electricity consultancy to track usage, ensure it is being charged as per the agreed contract price and provide advice such that Council can procure its electricity at the best available market price. Like any energy user, when prices increase,

Council has to source additional funds for the energy by making cost reductions in other areas. For a Council, this invariably results in a reduction in particular services.

### **Disaster Assistance and Roads**

The wet weather over the past 12 months, whilst significantly improving the regions agricultural outlook, has decimated the condition of regional roads across the State. I was recently pleased to hear that the issue of the condition of regional roads was being reported as an issue by mainstream media. The issue needs wide exposure and is a massive issue for the Government, Councils and importantly, road users. Some of the potholes are simply dangerous and significant funding to undertake repairs is required, as is a period of drier conditions. The Bourke Shire Council Rural Road Network is certainly no exception. As it stands, our unsealed Shire roads are in a high state of disrepair, with the number of unfulfilled requests from residents for repairs ever increasing. The other bad news however is that the extended period of wet weather is not finished yet with the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) advising on 10 October 2022 that the severe weather outlook “warns of an increased risk of widespread flooding for eastern and northern Australia and an increased risk of an above-average number of tropical cyclones and tropical lows.” It also finds normal bushfire potential in eastern states but an elevated risk of grass fires in southern Australia, along with an increased risk of prolonged heatwaves in southern areas, along with higher humidity. The BOM also predicts that there is a normal risk of severe thunderstorms “but a possible increase in risk of thunderstorm asthma events if conditions are dry in late spring and early summer.”

With damaging weather events in recent times, the Federal Government has again declared the Bourke Shire Local Government area a Natural Disaster Area, eligible for disaster assistance for flooding that has occurred, on this occasion, from 14 September 2022 onwards. This declaration will provide funding to undertake repairs to roadways and in this regard Council staff will be reviewing the condition of all roads in the network, when accessible, to document the damage, obtain funding approval, and ultimately undertake agreed works. It all takes considerable time and money.

Aside from support to councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets, assistance is also available to members of the public under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Such assistance includes; help for residents whose homes or belongings were damaged; concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations and freight subsidies for primary producers. For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact Service NSW on 13 77 88. To apply for a concessional loan, contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au). Information on disaster assistance can be found at [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au).

### **Recruiting Staff**

Giving the current tight employment market, it is more difficult than ever to recruit the staff that businesses need. Unfortunately, it would appear that the situation is worsening, with the National Skills Commission having released its Skills Priority List which shows a “significant tightening in the Australian labour market”, with the lowest unemployment rate in decades and shortages facing most industries. To this end in terms of recruiting staff, for example, are quality candidates seeing your vacancy advertisements or do you need to somehow make your business stand out in the job market? Are you interested in attracting offshore skilled migrants? Interesting questions and just some of the questions that RDA Orana, in partnership with Tracey Parsons Strategic Consulting,

will aim to address as part of a four-series webinar in November with the theme of a “recruitment masterclass” as part of NSW Small Business Month. You can register for these free events, attend live, or register for access to the recordings with RDA – Orana seeking to maximise the availability of the sessions to all businesses across the Orana region. The webinar series will focus on the specific issues facing regionally based businesses and the widespread labour shortages with tips, trends, and practical insights that HR Managers and business owners can utilise immediately within their businesses. The initial webinar will be held from 5.30pm on Wednesday 8 November 2022. To register phone RDA -Orana on 6885 1488 or email: [admin@rdaorana.org.au](mailto:admin@rdaorana.org.au)

### **ANZAC Community Grants**

Community groups can apply for grants of \$3,000 for projects supporting local veterans or boosting awareness of their role in Australia's military history, with applications now open for the Anzac Community Grants Program. Veterans past and present served to keep us safe and this is a great chance to recognise their sacrifices while enriching our communities. Grants cover four categories: local community historical research and education; preservation or display of war memorabilia; public commemorative events; and support to members of the NSW veteran communities. Applications can be submitted online until 5 pm on 11 November 2022, with further information available at [www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/grants).

### **Bourke Library**

The Bourke Library “LEGO Kids Club” started last month with sessions being held on a monthly basis. Challenges are taken from the Brickman Dictionary with last month’s challenge relating to the letter B. Children in attendance had a great time designing some amazing book ends and bugs with the designs subsequently being on display in the library window. The club is open to kids of all ages. The Library is also looking to run some LEGO sessions for adults, so keep an eye on the Library Facebook page for upcoming events.

The Geoscience Australia team will be visiting the library in coming days. Their visit is aimed at increasing awareness of Geoscience Australia and the work they do, both in the Bourke area and in Australia more broadly. Everyone is welcome to come along and meet the scientists and learn about what they do. Drinks and nibble’s will be provided. The session will commence at 5:30pm on 24 October 2022. The Bourke Library website, [www.bourkeliibrary.com.au](http://www.bourkeliibrary.com.au) provides a source of information to find out what the library has to offer. Make sure to also follow the Library Facebook page to keep up to date with what’s happening at the Library. If you’re not already a member, call in to the Library or sign up online on the Library website. There’s something for everyone at the Library!

**Quote: “.....from January 1 you will see all mobile speed camera vehicles having those signs before and after the (camera) cars on every road.”** NSW Roads Minister, Natalie Ward MP announcing that NSW motorists will once again be alerted to all mobile speed cameras across NSW from January next year.

### **Recommendation**

**That the information in the General Manager’s Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 26 September 2022 be noted.**

**21.5 LIBRARY MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022**

**File Number:** L4.1  
**Author:** Jodi Hatch, Library Manager  
**Authoriser:** Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Current Situation**

The following items for the September 2021 - September 2022 period are presented for your information, noting that the data for the September 2021 period were affected by COVID related restrictions.

| Item                            | September 2021 | September 2022 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Loans                           | 374            | 594            |
| New Members                     | 14             | 8              |
| Internet/Word Processing        | 0              | 34             |
| Wireless Tickets                | 0              | 16             |
| Number of Visitors              | 0              | 641            |
| Scans                           | 0              | 23             |
| Information Requests            | 16             | 67             |
| Technical Assistance / Printing | 6              | 53             |
| Faxes/ Laminating               | 0              | 0              |

- This month the library held 1 x Be Connected session, 1 x online trivia session, 1 x kids craft session, 1 x kids Lego session, and 2 x Code Club sessions.
- Our new Code Club is going well, with 2 children turning up to each of the sessions held in September. The kids are learning a lot about coding and are starting to make their own games with the help of the Fiero software.
- Father’s Day Craft was held early in the month, with 5 children attending. They enjoyed making cards and picture frames for their Dad’s and Granddad’s.




- LEGO Club this month had 4 children attend. This month we had a letter B challenge, with the kids making book ends and bugs. Some wonderful creations were put together, and we have displayed these in the front window of the Library.



**Recommendation**

**That the information in the Library Manager's Report for September 2022 as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be noted.**

**21.6 TOURISM & EVENTS MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**File Number:** T4.3  
**Author:** Ben Nott, Coordinator Tourism Operations  
**Authoriser:** Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development  
**Attachments:** 1. BOBEC Statistics September 2022 [↓](#) 

**Background**

The Bourke Shire Councils Tourism and Events Manager's activity report provides Council with an updated status report for September 2022, relating to its tourism team's activities through visual data including graphs and statistics to allow for the measurement of the team's progress and performance.

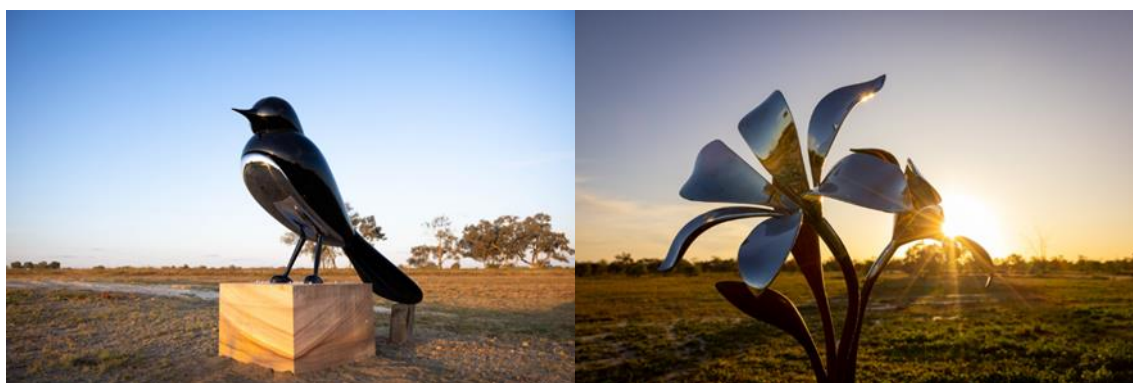
**Current Situation**Standing Stories

Visitors to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre are now able to take an immersive walk into Aboriginal Culture through the new Standing Stories Sculpture Walk, with the release of the self-guided brochure, is now open to the public.

The eight (8) sculptures on display each represent a different story told by an Aboriginal person in the community. The stories are provided in the newly printed 12-page Standing Stories brochure, which offers the opportunity to take a self-guided short walk around all of the works.

The films are accessed by a QR code which is embedded in the corresponding page of the brochure and will ultimately appear on the accompanying signage. This gives viewers the opportunity to immerse themselves more fully in the artwork through their own devices, and to get a better understanding of the local culture.

The project was developed over the past five (5) years, with funding provided by the NSW Government and facilitated by Bourke Shire Council. The stories will be featured on the new Back O' Bourke website, soon to be launched.



## **Upcoming Events / Planning**

### Christmas in the Park

BOBEC Tourism staff are working in partnership with Maranguka Community Hub to kick off the festive season in 2022 by hosting the annual Christmas in the Park on Friday, 9 December between 6.00-9.00pm. Stall holders have already increased from 2021. Also planned for the event is live entertainment, jumping castles, water slides and a visit from Santa and his friendly elves.

### Summer School Holidays Program

Council staff are working in partnership with local agencies – PCYC, Maranguka Community Hub, Police and others to design a Bourke friendly 7 day calendar of events for the upcoming Summer School Holiday Program. The group are planning to hold more events during the evening and will continue with programs that have proven successful over the recent years, including TRYP workshop, Indigenous arts and SPIRIT excursions.

### Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre

- BOBEC continued operations 7 days a week in September in both the Café and the Exhibition centre,
- Turnover in September was generally comparable to August 2022, albeit down approximately 1.7% on August figures,
- Visitor numbers in September were 2203 compared to 2557 in August, down approximately 10% on August figures,
- Email enquiries in September were 351 compared to 264 in August, up approximately 34% on August figures,
- Incoming calls in September were 560 compared to 623 in August, down approximately 105 on August figures.
- There were no website enquiries, due to the transition to the new website,
- The PV Jandra remains moored due to the rising river,
- Exhibition Centre tickets sold in September were 987 compared to 1144 in August, down approximately 13% on August figures,
- Mt Oxley tickets sold were 184 for September compared to 143 in August, up approximately 28% on August figures,
- Café turn over in September was up approximately 5% compared to August figures.

September was a busy month as roads opened up again. Having the end of school holidays resulted in another busy month on the site.

The PV Jandra did not run again during September due to increasing river heights. Boat marine inspections have been put on hold until the river recedes. The last cruise was conducted at Easter, with the river being 7m and above since April 2022.

The Crossley has run 22 times during September and has again been a major draw card with up to 30 to 40 people in attendance every time it operates. The engine is running well. There has been regular contact with Don Burns who is preparing to put the piston back in Engine 1 when the season is complete. Donations towards the upkeep of the Crossley Engine for September totalled \$260. New Crossley and Garford information signs will be installed during October.



The Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre garden staff have been busy spraying lawns and mulching gardens again this month . The grounds look great. Thanks to the Shires Parks and Garden staff who have helped out with the broad area mowing. The new path from the northern Carpark up to the function centre is almost complete with a hand rail to be installed and some additional garden plantings to be attended to before completion. Lawns are being top dressed in preparation for summer.

The Café and Information Centre had a great month. The weekends continue to be busy and are being well supported by visitors and locals alike. The Centre has again catered to a number of local and tour groups. Thank you to the staff for their hard work around the Centre covering shifts, cleaning, Brochure drops, function/s set up and customer service. There has been a substantial amount of merchandise sold with staff busily restocking shelves.

There were 7 Function Centre bookings during September for local events including meetings, a wedding, engagement party and a book launch. The use of the Function Centre continues to grow, with staff finding this very rewarding. There were two (2) tour groups during September, Stuarts Coaches x 1 and Outback by Air x 1. A total of close to 30 visitors with these 2 groups. There were a few cancellations due to rain and river heights.

In all, September was again like last month ... very solid. The last 3 months has seen the Centre turn over \$269,132.97. Year to date turnover up to the end of September is \$577,018.03, up 74 % on last year and this is without Bourke’s Number 1 attraction, the PV Jandra.

September saw the start of distribution of the new Bourke Brochure. This has been a massive success with no end of positive feedback. Well done to all staff who helped pull it together.

|              | 2011         | 2012         | 2013         | 2014         | 2015         | 2016         | 2017         | 2018         | 2019         | 2020         | 2021         | 2022 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| <b>Jan</b>   |              | 448          | 560          | 325          | 326          | 302          | 348          | 386          | 782          | 1109         | 816          | 603  |
| <b>Feb</b>   |              | 157          | 397          | 271          | 373          | 391          | 220          | 282          | 1043         | 386          | 630          | 725  |
| <b>Mar</b>   | 810          | 570          | 1500         | 1051         | 1342         | 1612         | 1245         | 1274         | 1021         | 412          | 1389         | 1100 |
| <b>April</b> | 2507         | 2144         | 3103         | 3146         | 3849         | 3118         | 3114         | 4024         | 3166         | 0            | 2387         | 2323 |
| <b>May</b>   | 2656         | 2891         | 3758         | 3988         | 4602         | 4073         | 3983         | 4770         | 3693         | 0            | 2564         | 2016 |
| <b>June</b>  | 2952         | 3216         | 4492         | 4275         | 5437         | 5199         | 4754         | 5634         | 4490         | 993          | 2366         | 2227 |
| <b>July</b>  | 4362         | 4643         | 5173         | 6241         | 6002         | 5941         | 5982         | 7614         | 6834         | 2570         | 1068         | 2998 |
| <b>Aug</b>   | 4187         | 4162         | 4410         | 4793         | 5078         | 4951         | 5051         | 5548         | 4052         | 1898         | 255          | 2557 |
| <b>Sep</b>   | 4295         | 5074         | 4275         | 4764         | 4489         | 4532         | 4246         | 4676         | 3601         | 3325         | 0            |      |
| <b>Oct</b>   | 2674         | 3967         | 2383         | 2486         | 2370         | 2475         | 2463         | 3574         | 2222         | 5246         | 409          |      |
| <b>Nov</b>   | 1012         | 930          | 789          | 671          | 610          | 1031         | 876          | 1014         | 1220         | 1989         | 866          |      |
| <b>Dec</b>   | 386          | 347          | 207          | 242          | 272          | 281          | 255          | 630          | 860          | 1194         | 897          |      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>25841</b> | <b>27649</b> | <b>31044</b> | <b>32253</b> | <b>34750</b> | <b>33906</b> | <b>32537</b> | <b>39454</b> | <b>32984</b> | <b>19122</b> | <b>13647</b> |      |

**Financial Implications**

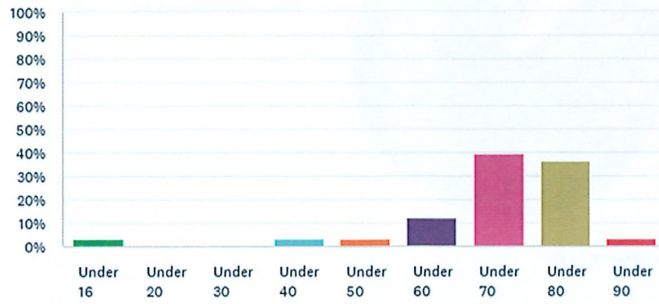
There are no financial implications.

**Recommendation**

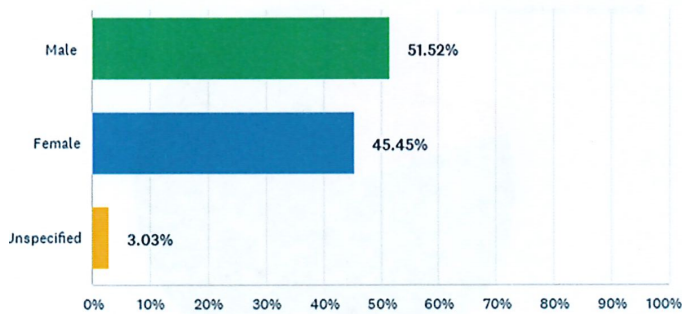
**That the information in the Tourism and Events Managers Report for September 2022 as presented to Council on Monday, 31 October 2022 be noted.**

# SEPTEMBER STATISTICS 2022

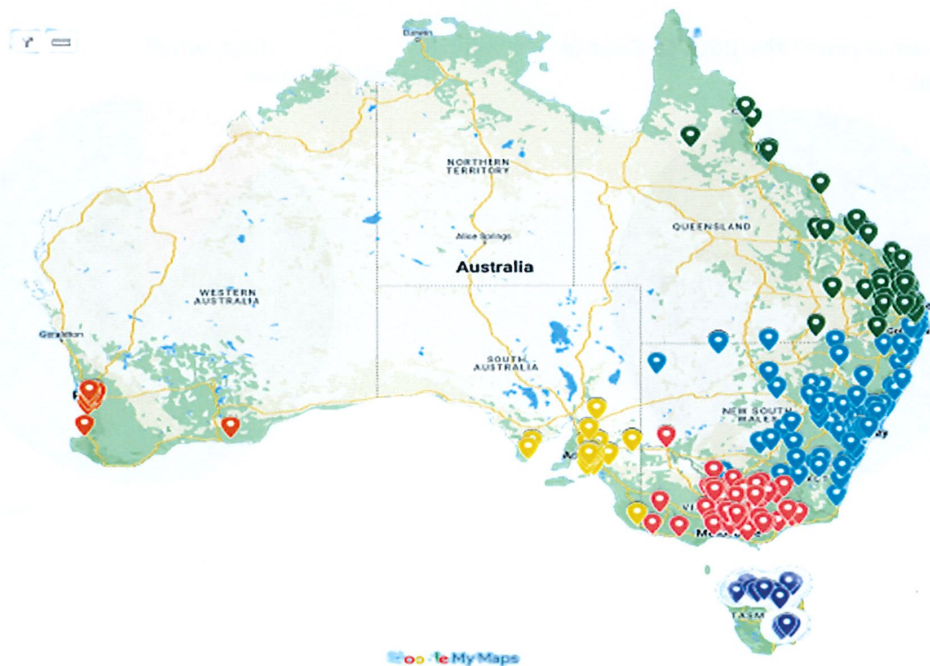
What is your age?



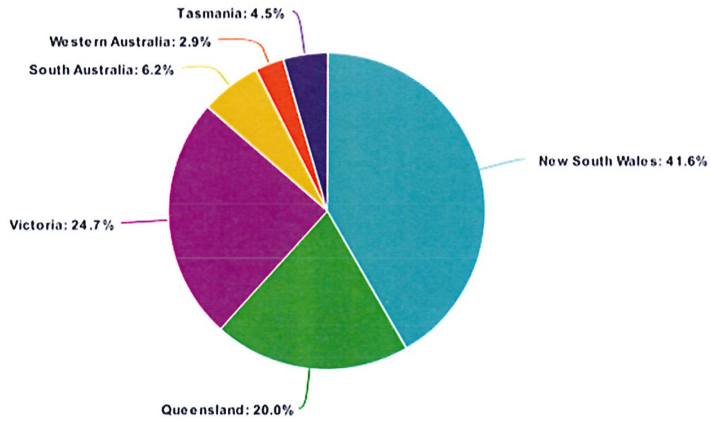
Are you male or female?



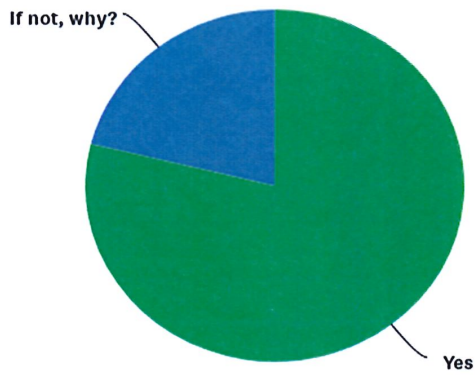
Postcode of visitors



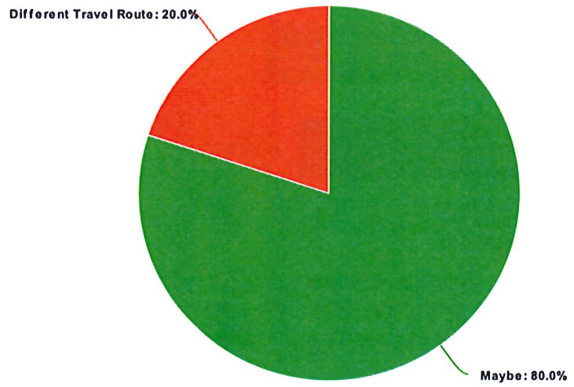
Which State are you from?



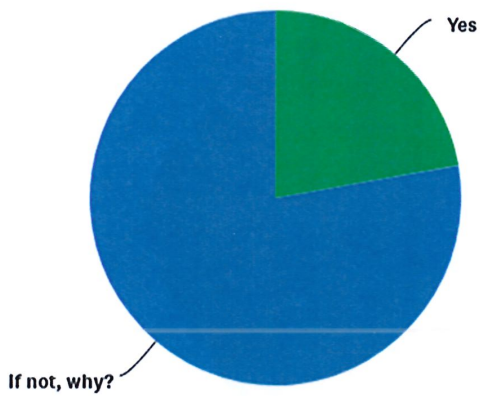
Will you be returning to Bourke?



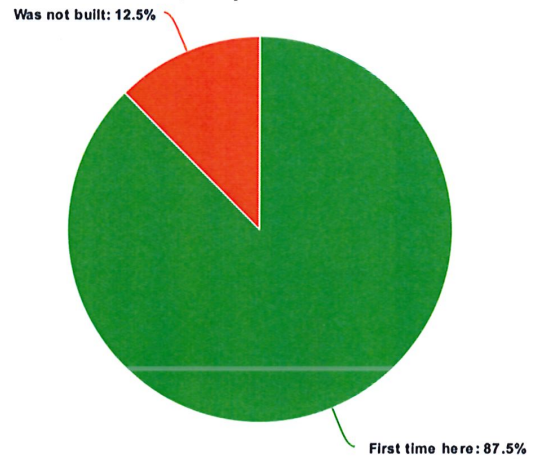
If no, why?



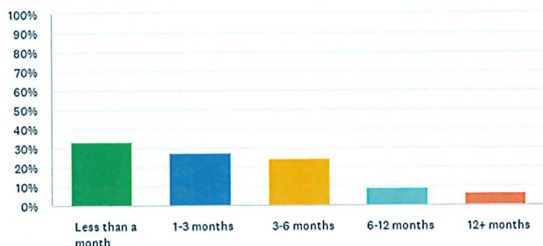
Have you been through the Back O' Bourke Centre before?



If no, why?



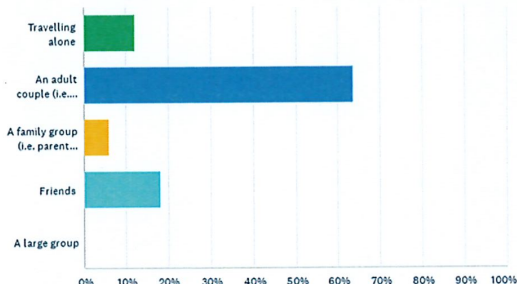
How long did you plan for this trip?



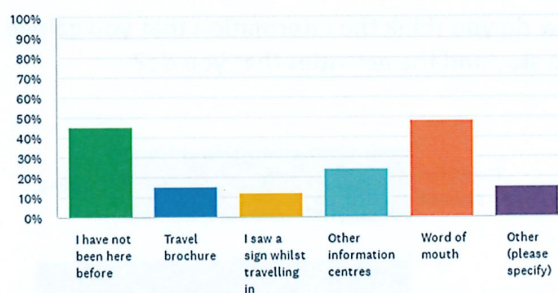
What is the main purpose of your trip?



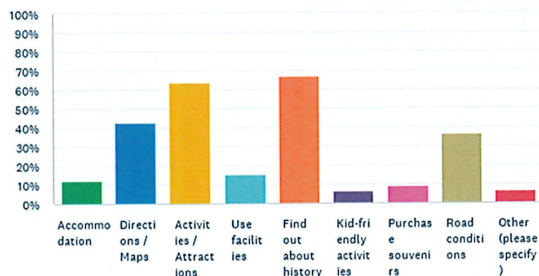
How would you describe your immediate travel party?



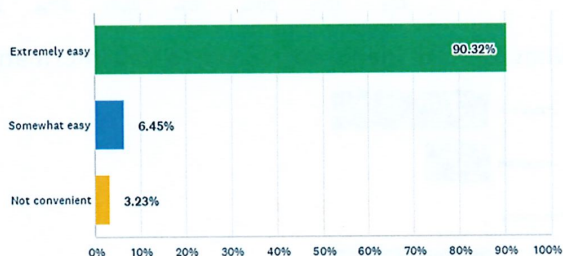
What determines your decision to go where?



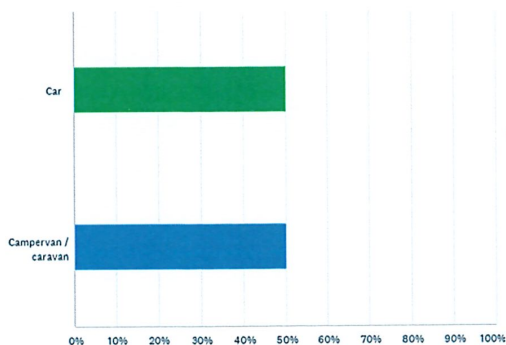
What information are you looking for at the information centre?



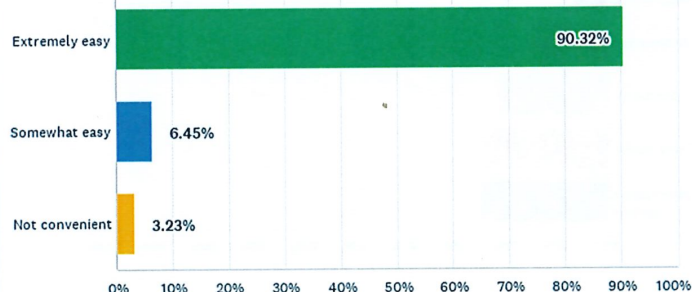
In your opinion, how easy was it to find our location?



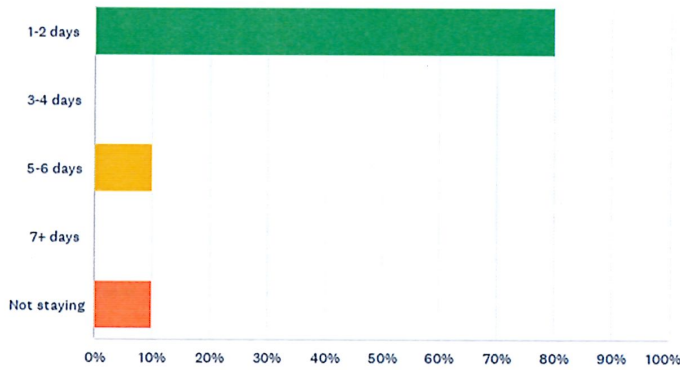
How did you travel to Bourke?



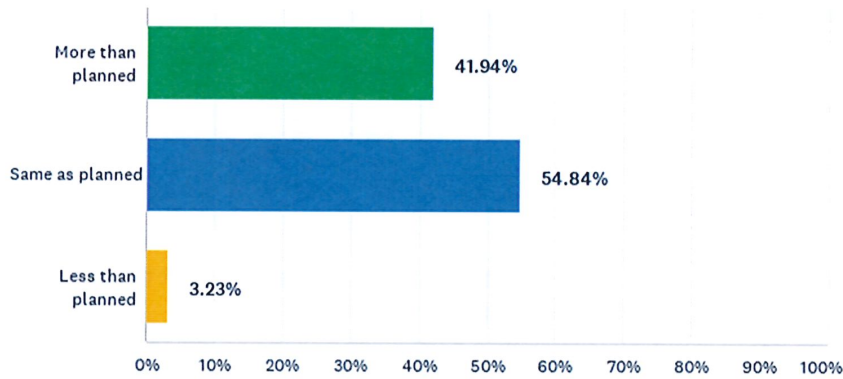
In your opinion, how easy was it to find our location?



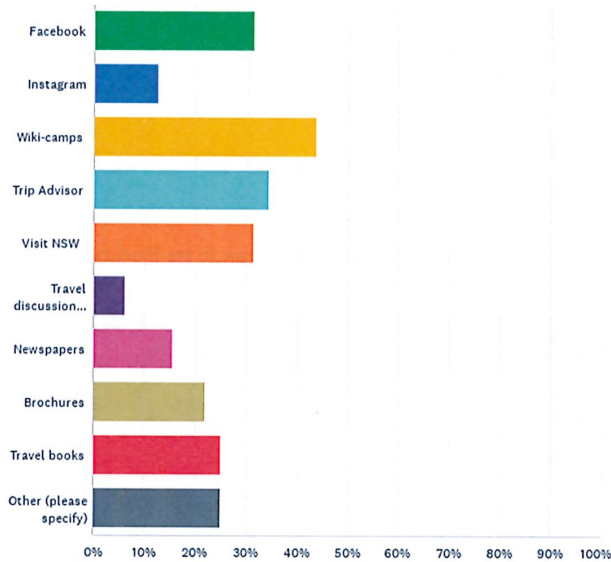
**How long are you staying for?**



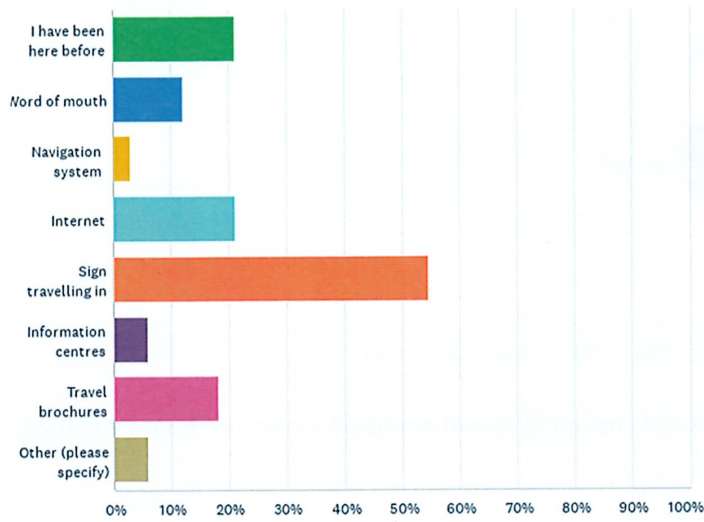
**How do you think the information that you gained from the centre might influence how long you stay and the activities that you do?**



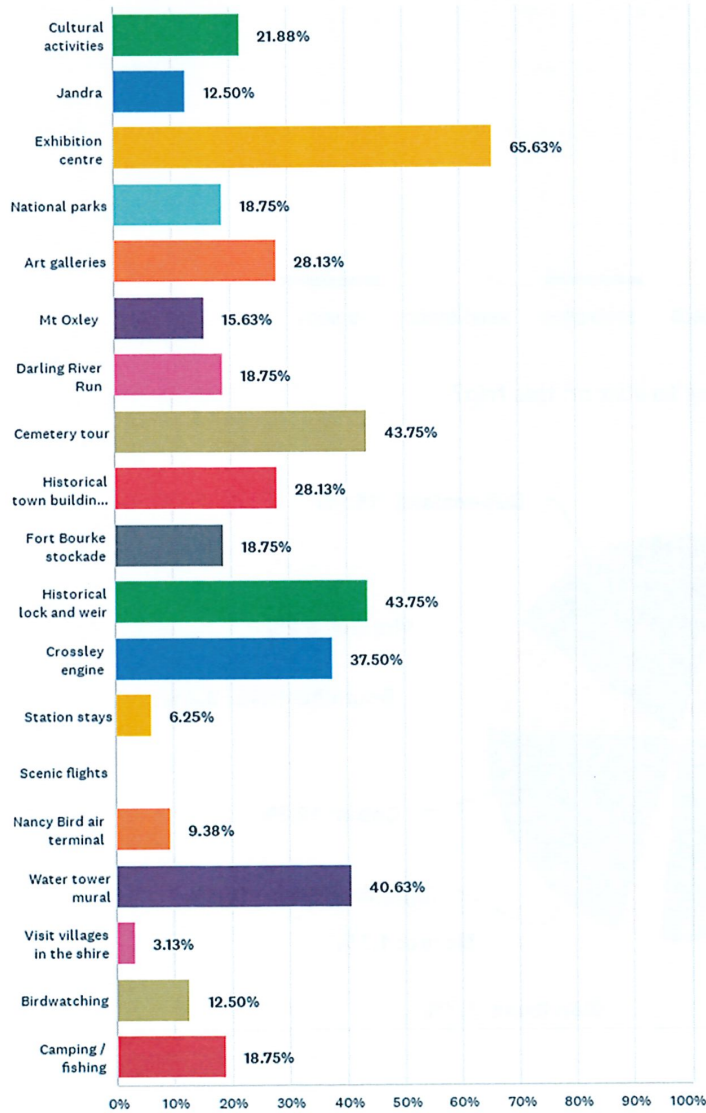
**What forms of media do you use to find information?**



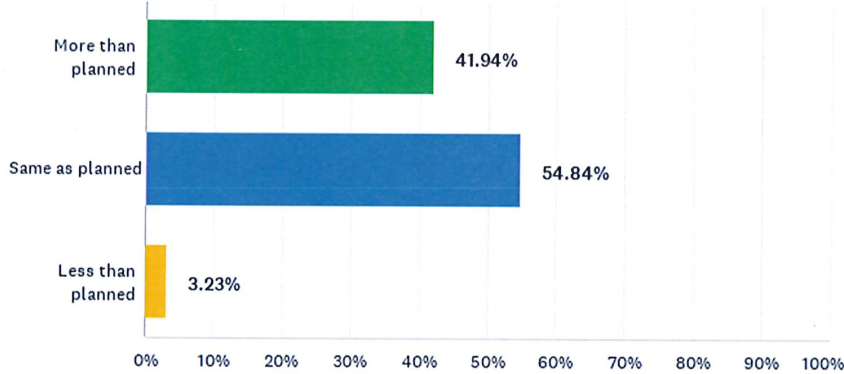
**How did you find out about this information centre?**



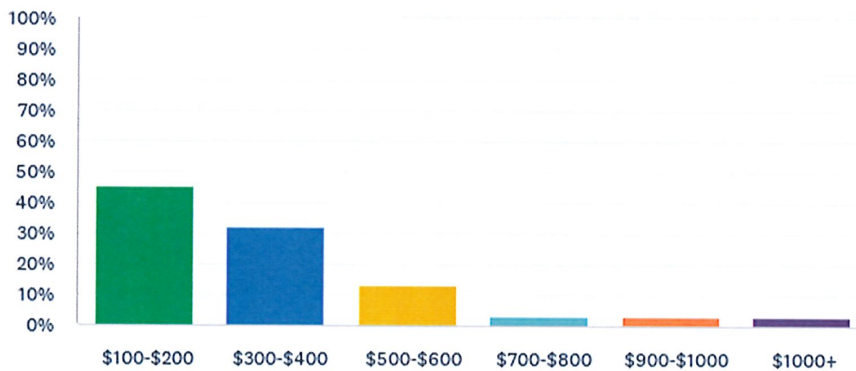
**What activities have you done or plan to do during your stay?**



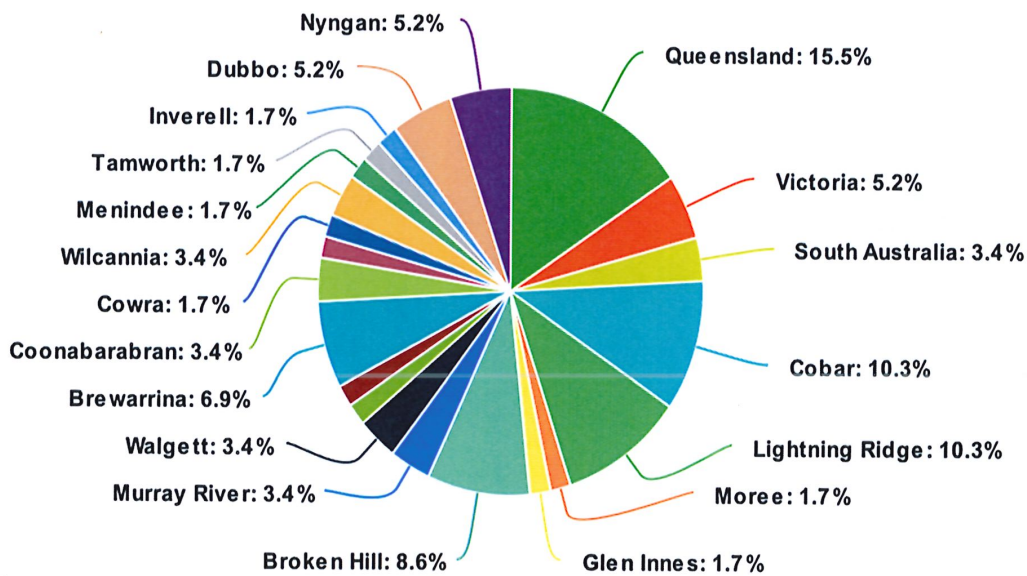
How do you think the information that you gained from the centre might influence how long you stay and the activities you do?



Over the entire stay in Bourke, how much in total, including accommodation, do you estimate you have or will spend in Australian dollars?



What towns have you visited, or are planning to visit on this trip?





## 22 CLOSED SESSION

### **Recommendation**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993:

#### **22.1 \*\*\* Proposed Integrated Primary Health Care Centre**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

#### **22.2 \*\*\* Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates and Charges**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) 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 personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

#### **22.3 \*\*\* Construction of New Cell - Bourke Waste Management Facility Tender Number 02/23**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

#### **22.4 \*\*\* Works at Bourke Airport**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (c) 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 information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

