



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

“From the  
General Manager’s Desk”  
9 March 2023”

## **Child Safety Standards**

Council met for its initial meeting for 2023 on Monday 27 February. One of the items determined was a very important Policy relating to Child Safety. By way of background, in 2021, the Children’s Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021 was passed by NSW Parliament. The object of this bill is to embed the Child Safe Standards as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as the main framework that guides child safe practices within organisations across New South Wales. The Child Safe Standards provide a benchmark against which organisations can create a child safe culture, assess their child safe capacity and set performance targets. The standards provide tangible guidance for organisations to drive a child safe culture, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of Children first, to keep them safe from harm.

The ten (10) Child Safe Standards are:

- Child Safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture.
- Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Families and communities are informed and involved.
- Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account.
- People working with children are suitable and supported.
- Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused.
- Staff are equipped with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
- Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur.
- Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
- Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

The importance of keeping children safe is evidenced by the establishment of the independent statutory body known as the Office of the Children’s Guardian (OCG). The role of the OCG is to promote the interests, safety and rights of children and young people in NSW. The OCG is responsible for providing support for organisations implementation and capacity building of the Child Safe Standards, as well as monitoring and enforcing compliance requirements if necessary. In addition to the Child Safe Standards, local government services under the Children’s Guardian Act 2019 are required to ensure that they have sound structures and practices in place regarding reportable conduct that promotes the wellbeing and safety of children as well as clear established guidelines for the reporting of any incidents that places children at risk of harm.

To ensure that Councillors, Council staff, contractors and volunteers are aware of their obligations in keeping children safe, a Child Safe Standards Policy was adopted at the meeting. Council is committed to

protecting the right of children and young people to be respected, empowered and safe. To this end the Council adopted a series of actions to ensure Councillors, Council staff, contractors and volunteers are both aware of and comply with the new Policy, including obligations in respect of Child Safe Reporting Processes.

## **Management of Pool Complex**

Council is currently in the marketplace seeking tender submissions from persons or organisations to undertake the management, maintenance, and operation of the Bourke Memorial Olympic Pool Complex. One of Councils most popular facilities, tender documentation is available from:

<https://portal.tenderlink.com/bourkeshire>

With a recently redeveloped Splashpark and Olympic Pool, redevelopment of the baby pool approaching completion and tenders in the market for the construction of a new entry, administration and kiosk building at the complex, the Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool will be a very much rejuvenated facility when all works are completed. The tender provides options in respect of the term of contract, with Option 1 being a one (1) year period with a further one (1) year term available at Councils discretion with Option 2 being a three (3) year term with a further two (2) x one (1) year terms available, again at Councils discretion.

Enquiries in relation to the Tender/Contract should be directed to Council's Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services, Dwayne Willoughby, via the online forum on Tenderlink, Phone 02 683 0800 or email [dwilloughby@bourke.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dwilloughby@bourke.nsw.gov.au) Tenders close on Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 2.00pm.

## **Removal of Rail Carriage**

When Council acquired a residential property in Glen St, Bourke, it came with an old railway carriage which had been converted to a granny flat. Following a review of options for the future use of this carriage, it was determined to dispose of the carriage and public quotations were invited for the purchase and removal of the carriage from the property. After difficulty securing an appropriately sized crane, last week saw the successful purchaser remove the carriage from Councils property and relocate it.

At the time of acquiring the carriage, the history of the carriage, identified as Parcel Van No 3654, was sourced from the Australian Railway Historical Society of NSW in Alexandria, Sydney, as follows:

*"3654 began its career as a suburban motor car built by Clyde Engineering in Sydney, delivered in December 1928 as part of a contract of 100. It had a seating capacity of 71 passengers. It operated suburban services in Sydney for many years until it was displaced by new double-deck cars on 21 February 1975. In August 1976 it re-entered service as car 3554, a parcels van. These vans operated dedicated parcels services across the Sydney metropolitan area. It was one of ten such vehicles, although the original three of 1928 were supplemented by an additional seven, converted from passenger cars in the years 1975-1978. These services continued until 1989 when they were abandoned. This car was renumbered 3774 in 1983 and 3654 in 1991. It was used as a shunter at Flemington in its final years before being officially condemned in January 1993".*

Approaching 95 year's old, the carriage is still in good condition having regard to its age and the number of searing summers it has endured in Bourke. What is unknown however is how did the carriage end up in Bourke in the first place?

## **Fixing Local Roads Program**

During a visit to Bourke some years ago, the Minister for Western New South Wales at the time, the Hon Adam Marshall indicated that a new road funding program, to be known as the Fixing Local Roads Program, was to be rolled out by the NSW Government and would continue for some time with a further five (5) rounds of the program planned. On that advice, and as per Councils practice of having “shovel ready” projects to submit once funding opportunities are announced, Council adopted a priority listing of roads to be sealed for future rounds of the Fixing Local Roads Program.

In the initial round of funding back in 2020, Council secured \$4.5 million for the reconstruction and sealing of the Coronga Peak Road. Further significant funding was received for projects under Round 2 with this funding sealing sections of Toorale Road, Caronga Peak Road, Weelong Road, Weir Road, River Road and Parkdale Road. Round 3 saw further sections of Toorale Road (RLR 10) sealed, all as per the priority project list previously adopted by Council.

In late February, Council received formal advice from the NSW Government that its application under Round 4 of the Fixing Local Roads Program had been successful in the amount of \$3million. Such funding will see Council undertake the reconstruction and sealing of a further 10.6km of Toorale Road (RLR 10), this time between Dunlop and Trilby Stations.

## **Algae Blooms**

WaterNSW is responsible for the management of blue-green algal blooms in the river systems and storages that they manage. This includes the Darling River at Bourke. According to the Water NSW website, whilst most algae are harmless, some types of cyanobacteria are not. Although commonly referred to as blue-green algae, cyanobacteria are actually photosynthetic bacteria that live in water. Cyanobacteria can produce toxins that can pose risk to livestock and cause public health issues for humans. The only way to tell if algae are harmful is to take a sample and analyse it in a laboratory. Such samples at Bourke are taken adjacent to the North Bourke Boat Ramp with Water NSW advising that the last sample was taken on 9 February 2023 with a green alert identified. At green alert levels, “blue-green algae are present in the water at low densities, possibly signalling the early stages of the development of a bloom, or a period where a bloom is declining. At these densities, the blue-green algae do not pose a threat to recreational, stock or domestic use.”

**Quote: “The RBA will ultimately determine if Australia has a recession this year or not.”** - Gareth Aird, Commonwealth Bank’s head of Australian economics.