



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

“From the  
General Manager’s Desk”

27 July 2023

### **Dry and Plastic Free July**

In terms of community campaigns, the month of July is well known for “Dry July,” a fundraiser that encourages people to go alcohol-free for the month to raise funds for people affected by cancer. A fantastic cause that provides invaluable services for cancer patients, their families and carers, but also a cause that has health benefits for participants. Find out more at: <https://www.dryjuly.com>

Maybe not so well known, is that the month of July is also known for being “Plastic Free July,” a key initiative of the Plastic Free Foundation Ltd dating back to initial efforts in Australia in 2011. The campaign has now grown into an international campaign that helps millions of people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution to the extent that around 300,000 tonnes of plastic is stopped from polluting the world each year. The initiative provides a focus to encourage people to try new behaviours to reduce plastic use and waste so that as a society we can have cleaner streets, rivers and communities. In 2022, the “Plastic Free July” movement inspired some 140 million participants in 190 countries around the world to make conscious changes in their lifestyle to reduce their waste. With a continuing focus on the use of single use plastics, we can all become involved, each and every day, by switching to reusable cups, avoiding plastic packaging, remembering reusable bags and bottles. These small changes in our day-to-day activities can collectively make a massive difference to our community. So, in terms of small steps, remember your reusable shopping bags when you go to the supermarket and use a reusable coffee cup for takeaway coffee. Further information regarding “Plastic Free July,” is available at: <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

### **Commbank Community Donation Campaign**

The Commonwealth Bank (CBA) undertakes a Community Donation Program that gives local branches the chance to donate \$500 to local organisations across Australia, to help them continue their amazing work. I recently met with staff from the Commonwealth Bank who, amongst other matters, advised that staff from the Bourke branch had nominated two local organisations as potential recipients as part of the Banks Community Donations Campaign. In this regard, they were keen to encourage the Bourke community to vote for either the Bourke Warriors Rugby League Club or the Bourke and District Cricket Association, with the group with the greatest number of votes to receive \$500 from the CBA Community Chest. Its Rugby League versus Cricket for the funds. To cast your vote, go to the following link and enter Bourke to access local voting options and simply vote: <https://www.commbank.com.au/communitydonations>

Voting is now open and will continue through to 11 August 2023. Good luck to both of these local sporting organisations.

## **Food Regulation Partnership**

Under the Food Regulation Partnership (FRP), councils in NSW are appointed as enforcement agencies under the NSW Food Act 2003. Enforcement agencies are responsible for food surveillance within their respective local government area and are required to report their food surveillance activities to the NSW Food Authority. Bourke Shire Council is the enforcement agency for food in the Bourke Shire Area.

Food regulations seek to pursue safer food for consumers by reducing the impact of foodborne illness caused by the retail food sector. With this goal in mind, Council staff have recently undertaken a round of inspections of food shops in Bourke. Council staff have reported that following the completion of such inspections there has generally been a positive level of compliance achieved in respect of relevant food safety standards. There were some instances where premises are programmed to be reinspected due to some non-compliance issues relating to standards. 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, which is pleasing.

## **Water NSW First Nations Programs and Engagement Roadshow**

I have previously advised of Webinars being provided by Water NSW to interested persons in respect of all things water across the state. NSW Water has now advised of an Engagement Roadshow to be held in Bourke as part of its First Nations Program. With eleven (11) such events to be held across the State, Water NSW will provide an overview of the organisation, its role in delivering water across NSW and what has been achieved over the past two years as part of the First Nations program, both within the organisation and with communities. Members from the IPART Pricing Determination team will also be in attendance to allow attendees to provide feedback and information towards the First Nations community water requirements and needs.

The date and locations for the Bourke roadshow event is Wednesday, 9 Aug 2023 from 5pm-7pm at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. Water NSW has requested that attendees provide an RSVP to [Russell.hill@waternsw.com.au](mailto:Russell.hill@waternsw.com.au) prior to the event.

## **Charles Street Water Reservoir**

Longer-term Bourke residents would no doubt recall the need for Council to replace the original Charles Street Water Tower following its rupture and repair back in 2018. A non-functioning reservoir would certainly not be a good outcome for any community. My understanding is that the primary function of a water reservoir tower is to pressurise water for distribution. By elevating the water in a reservoir above the pipes that distribute water throughout town, hydrostatic pressure, driven by gravity, forces the water down and through the system. This allows for a generally adequate, stable water pressure when residents turn a tap on, wash clothes, or use water in any other way around their house or business.

As part of Council and the NSW Government's "Drought Proofing of Bourke" Project, Council in 2021 invited tenders for the replacement of the reservoir, however with tender prices being in excess of anticipated prices, it was resolved that Council delay its decision to appoint a tenderer and in doing so, make urgent representations to the Minister for Water at the time, the Hon Melinda Pavey, seeking additional funding to allow Council to proceed with this most important project. Mayor Barry took the opportunity to discuss the funding shortfall face to face with the then Minister for Water whilst they both attended the Western Divisions Councils of NSW Annual Conference held in Broken Hill in April 2021. After the submission of formal documentation to the Minister and Department, the funding request was acceded to and a further \$520,000 in funding was forthcoming. Council then accepted a tender and engaged Brockman Engineering P/L to undertake the design and construction of a

replacement Charles Street Reservoir and the demolition of the former reservoir. I am happy to advise that the project is now fully complete with the construction/demolition works and the acquittal of the grant funding all finalised. On behalf of Council, I extend my thanks to the NSW Government and the Aboriginal Communities Program that, in conjunction, provided a large portion of the funding to undertake this most important project for the Bourke community.

### **Active Transport Plan**

Council has received over time, positive feedback in respect of its installation of the walking track/cycleway which extends from the levee bank adjacent to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre to essentially the boat ramp at North Bourke. With the success and use of this infrastructure, Council at its June 2023 meeting, adopted for the purposes of public exhibition and comment, it's draft 2023 Active Transport Plan. As the name suggests, an Active Transport Plan sets out a plan for Council to deliver projects that will encourage further walking and bike riding activities in the Shire area. With Council receiving funding of \$75,000 to develop the Bourke Shire Council Active Transport Plan, the draft Plan provides a series of Priorities and Actions to improve walking and cycling trips for the community, not only in Bourke, but also in the Shire villages of Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, North Bourke, Louth and Wanaaring. In addition to proposing the construction of physical works, the Plan also identifies ongoing responsibilities in respect of ultimately delivering greater walking and bike riding linkages across the Bourke Shire area. Whilst as advertised in the Western Herald and on Councils Facebook page, the exhibition period of the Plan has now closed, a final report to address the submissions received will now be provided to Council prior to the adoption of a final Plan.

**Quote: "We know domestic and family violence is one of the most underreported crime types. You've been warned. Your predatory behaviour will be policed to your door."** NSW Police Minister, Yasmin Catley, on the domestic and family violence epidemic in NSW.