



**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

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

Date: Monday, 28 August 2023
Time: 9.15am
Location: Bourke Shire Council
29 Mitchell Street Bourke NSW

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting

28 August 2023

Leonie Brown
General Manager

Time	Event	Representative	Organisation
9.00am	Community Open Forum for members of the public to address Council		
10.30am	Monthly Update	Inspector Andrew Barnes	Central North Police District



DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM COUNCIL OFFICIAL

FOR USE AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NAME OF COUNCIL OFFICIAL DECLARING INTEREST:
ACTION PROPOSED:
<p>Tick one box only:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In my opinion, my interest is pecuniary, 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, my interest is non-pecuniary but significant. 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, my interest is non-pecuniary and less than significant. 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>
COUNCIL OFFICIAL
<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>
GENERAL MANAGER – required for all declarations:
<p>I have noted the above declaration and I note your opinion and/or the action you have proposed.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>
DEFINE YOUR INTEREST:
<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>
MATTER IN WHICH YOU HAVE AN INTEREST: (Please provide full details, including item number on Council agenda)
NAME OF THE INTEREST:
<p>Be specific and include information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The names of any person or organisation with which you have a relationship; - The nature of your relationship with the person or organisation; - 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 .

<p>MANAGING LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</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>IS YOUR NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT?</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>DEFINITIONS:</p> <p>A PECUNIARY INTEREST 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 NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST 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>MANAGING PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</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>MANAGING SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</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>MANAGING NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:</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"> 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; 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; 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; 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; 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; 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.

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

1	Opening Prayer	9
2	Acknowledgement of Country	9
3	Remembrance	9
4	Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence	9
5	Attendance By Audio Visual Link By Councillors	9
6	Disclosures of Interest	9
7	Mayoral Minute	10
	7.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Activities	10
8	Starring of Items	11
9	Confirmation of Minutes	11
10	Rescission Motions	34
	Nil	
11	Notices of Motion	34
	Nil	
12	Business Arising	35
	12.1 Calendar of Events	35
	12.2 Information to Councillors	36
	12.3 *** Business Arising	38
13	Engineering Services Department	53
	13.1 Active Transport Plan - Submissions Report	53
14	Environmental Services & Development Department	138
	14.1 Food Surveillance Activity Report 2022 / 2023	138
15	General Manager	140
	15.1 Delivery Program Report 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	140
16	Corporate Services Department	191
	16.1 *** Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - July 2023	191
	16.2 *** Investment Report as at 31 July 2023	193
	16.3 *** Rates Write Off Assessment 01886, 01737 and 01760	197
17	Economic Development Department	198
	Nil	
18	Delegates and Councillors Reports	198
	Nil	
19	Policies	198

Nil

20 Précis of Correspondence 198

Nil

21 Activity Reports..... 199

21.1 Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop - Works Undertaken Activity Report..... 199

21.2 Parks and Gardens / Town Services / Water and Waste Water Engineering Services Activity Report..... 201

21.3 Planning, Regulatory & Environmental Services - Activity Report..... 209

21.4 General Manager's Activity Report 211

21.5 Library Manager's Activity Report for July 2023 225

21.6 Tourism and Events Report 227

22 Closed Session..... 238

Nil

- 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 17 July 2023 to 18 August 2023 were as follows:

Date	Meeting	Location
17/07/2023	Lunch Meeting with Roy Butler MP	Back O' Bourke Cafe
19/07/2023	Meeting with Judge Skinner – Koori Court	Bourke Police Station
20/07/2023	Meeting with the Productivity Commissioner – Murray Darling Basin Plan	Back O' Bourke Function Centre
20/07/2023	Country Mayors Association Webinar – Hon Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and North Coast	Conference Room via Audio Visual Link
24/07/2023	Bourke Shire Council Meeting	Council Chambers
28/07/2023	Farewell for Kym Miller, Manager Corporate Services, Cobar Shire Council	Empire Hotel, Cobar
04/08/2023	Country Mayors Association Meeting	Parliament House, Sydney
07/08/2023	Western Planning Panel Meeting	Conference Room via Teleconference
08/08/2023	Women's Gathering Welcome	Bourke Christian Church
09-11/08/2023	Western Division Councils of NSW Annual Conference 2023	Cobar Bowling and Golf Club
10/08/2023	Meeting with Hon Ron Hoenig, NSW Minister for Local Government	Cobar Bowling and Golf Club
16/08/2023	FNWJO – Extension of Western Air Services	Conference Room via Audio Visual Link

Recommendation

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities Report as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

8 STARRING OF ITEMS

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 24 July 2023

A large, bold, black letter 'B' is positioned on the left side of the logo.

**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

24 July 2023

Order Of Business

1	Opening Prayer	4
2	Acknowledgement of Country	4
3	Remembrance	4
4	Apologies and Applications for Leave of Absence	4
5	Attendance By Audio Visual Link By Councillors	5
6	Disclosures of Interest	5
7	Mayoral Minute	7
7.1	Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Activities	7
7.2	*** Mayoral Minute - Age of Criminal Responsibility.....	7
8	Starring of Items	8
9	Confirmation of Minutes	8
10	Rescission Motions	8
	Nil	
11	Notices of Motion	9
	Nil	
12	Business Arising	9
12.1	Calendar of Events.....	9
12.2	Information to Councillors	9
12.3	*** Business Arising	9
13	Engineering Services Department	10
	Nil	
14	Environmental Services & Development Department	10
	Nil	
15	General Manager	10
15.1	*** Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 12 to 14 November 2023	10
15.2	*** 2023 National Local Roads and Transport Congress.....	10
15.3	*** Potential Motions for the Western Division Councils of NSW Annual Conference	11
15.4	*** Proposed Projects Under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP)	11
16	Corporate Services Department	14
16.1	*** Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - June 2023	14
16.2	*** Investment Report as at 30 June 2023.....	14
16.3	Annual Risk Management Program and Insurance Matters for 2023/2024.....	15

16.4	*** Review of Capital Works Program 2022/2023 and Reallocation of Funds	15
16.5	*** Annual Financial Statements - 30 June 2023	15
16.6	*** Financial Assistance Grant 2023/2024	16
17	Economic Development Department	16
	Nil	
18	Delegates and Councillors Reports	16
	Nil	
19	Policies.....	16
	Nil	
20	Précis of Correspondence	16
20.1	*** Ronny Gibbs 7s Rugby League and Netball Gala Day.....	16
20.2	*** Women's Gathering.....	17
21	Activity Reports.....	17
21.1	Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop - Works Undertaken.....	17
21.2	Parks & Gardens / Town Services / Water & Waste Water Engineering Services Activity Report	18
21.3	Planning, Regulatory & Environmental Services - Activity Report.....	18
21.4	General Manager's Activity Report	18
21.5	Library Manager's Activity Report for June 2023.....	19
21.6	Tourism and Events Report	19
22	Closed Session	20
22.1	*** Plant Hire Tenders 2023/2024	21
22.2	*** Proposed Sale of Land to Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service	21

**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF BOURKE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW
ON MONDAY, 24 JULY 2023 AT 9.15AM**

PRESENT: Cr Barry Hollman (Mayor), Cr Victor Bartley, Cr Sarah Barton, Cr Sally Davis, Cr Cec Dorrington, Cr Sam Rice, Cr Grace Ridge (Via AVL), Cr Nathan Ryan, Cr Robert Stutsel

IN ATTENDANCE: Leonie Brown (General Manager), Peter Brown (Manager Works), Melanie Milgate (Economic Development Manager), Ang Pasang Rai (Manager Corporate Services), Margo Anderson (Executive Assistant - Minutes)

1 OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor then provided an Acknowledgment of Country

3 REMEMBRANCE

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

Toby Bunyan	Christine 'Tilly' Campbell	Kathleen Dawson	Glad Eldridge
Audrey Elwood	George Fernando	Phoebe Gaffney	David Harrison
Marjorie Rose	Neville Smith	Phyliss Smith	Les Thorne
Glen Turner	Morris West		

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A request for Leave of Absence was received from Cr Lachlan Ford who was absent from the meeting due to personal reasons.

Resolution 2023/138

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

That the apology received from Councillor Lachlan Ford be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Carried

5 ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

A request to attend the meeting via Audio Visual Link was received from Councillor Grace Ridge who was unable to attend the meeting due to personal reasons.

Resolution 2023/139

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

That Cr Grace Ridge be permitted to attend the meeting via Audio-Visual link due to her inability to attend in person due to personal reasons.

Carried

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sally Davis declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12.3 of the Agenda – Business Arising, North Bourke Storm Water Drainage. The reason for such interest is that Cr Davis and her husband own land adjacent to the land the subject of the reports and is in discussion with Council regarding a potential sale of a portion of such land. In addition, she has a friendship with the landowner (Mr G Seiler). In making these declarations, Cr Davis advised she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider the matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Agenda.

Cr Grace Ridge declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12.3 of the Agenda – Business Arising, North Bourke Storm Water Drainage. The reason for such interest is that Cr Ridge and her family have a business relationship with the owner of the land detailed within the report. In making this declaration, Cr Ridge advised that she would turn off her AV Link, and be out of sight should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Agenda.

Cr Sarah Barton declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 15.4 of the Agenda - Proposed Projects Under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP). The reason for such interest is that Cr Barton is the Secretary for the Back O' Bourke Picnic Race Club who make use of the Renshaw Sporting Complex and facilities, a potential project as listed in the report. In making this declaration, Cr Barton advised that she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight during Council's consideration of the matter.

Cr Grace Ridge declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 15.4 of the Agenda - Proposed Projects Under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP). The reason for such interest is that Cr Ridge is the Secretary for the Bourke P & A Show Committee who make use of the Renshaw Sporting Complex and facilities, a potential project listed in the report. In making this declaration, Cr Ridge advised that she would turn off her AV Link during Council's consideration of the matter.

Cr Victor Bartley declared a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 20.2 of the Agenda – Women’s Gathering Funding Request. The reason for such interest is that the applicant for funding assistance, and the Convener of the Women’s Gathering, Mrs Patricia Canty, is the Sister of Cr Bartley. In making this declaration, Cr Bartley advised that he would leave the Chamber and be out of sight during Council’s consideration of the matter.

Cr Sarah Barton declared a pecuniary interest in Item 21.4 of the Agenda - General Manager’s Activity Report – Pontoon Installation. The reason for such interest is that Cr Barton is an employee of the Department of Regional NSW who has provided funding for the project. In making this declaration, Cr Barton advised that she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider the matter as part of Item 21.4 of the Agenda.

Cr Victor Bartley declared a pecuniary interest in Item 22.2 of the Agenda – Proposed Sale of Land to Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service. 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 during Council’s consideration of the matter.

Cr Nathan Ryan declared a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 22.2 of the Agenda – Proposed Sale of Land to Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service. The reason for such interest is that Cr Ryan is a contractor to the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service providing yard and property maintenance to Doctor’s houses. In making this declaration Cr Ryan advised that he would remain in the Chamber but would not contribute during Council’s consideration of the 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 2023/140

Moved: Cr Barry Hollman

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

7.2 *** MAYORAL MINUTE - AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

File Number: C8.9.3, C8.9.13

The Council had before it the report of the Mayor regarding the Mayoral Minute - Age of Criminal Responsibility.

Resolution 2023/141

Moved: Cr Barry Hollman

- 1. That the correspondence from the Attorney Generals Department of the Australian Government and from the Hon Michael Daly MP, NSW Attorney General, in response to Councils opposition to an increase in the age of criminal responsibility from ten years to fourteen years, be noted.**
- 2. That Council reply to both Attorneys General pointing out that the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Initiative has been operating for over ten years in Bourke and that school attendance is trending downwards but violent crime such as home invasions where innocent people are threatened with weapons is increasing.**
- 3. That Council contends that there should be no increase in the age of criminal responsibility until the Justice Reinvestment Initiative is proven to be effective.**
- 4. That Council is concerned that the present crime situation in Bourke is intolerable with people living in fear, particularly at night, where they are vulnerable and helpless and cannot do anything to protect themselves in fear of prosecution.**

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 items were identified by Council to be starred for individual consideration.

Item No	Name of Report	Officer
16.3	Annual Risk Management Program and Insurance Matters for 2023/2024 Report	Manager Corporate Services
21.2	Parks and Gardens, Town Services, Water and Wastewater Engineering Services Activity Report	Manager Works
21.4	General Manager's Activity Report	General Manager
21.6	Tourism and Events Report	Manager Economic Development

Resolution 2023/142

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

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, 24 July 2023 be adopted, save and except for Items No 16.3, 21.2, 21.4 and 21.6 of the Agenda, with such item to be considered seperately.

Carried

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution 2023/143

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 June 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as correct minutes and signed by the Mayor and the General Manger.

Carried

10 RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 BUSINESS ARISING

12.1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

File Number: C12.6

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

Resolution 2023/144

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the information in the Calendar of Events Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

12.2 INFORMATION TO COUNCILLORS

File Number: C12.1

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

Resolution 2023/145

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the contents of the Information to Councillors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

12.3 *** BUSINESS ARISING

File Number: C12.1

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

Resolution 2023/146

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

That the information in the Business Arising Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Nil

14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

15 GENERAL MANAGER

15.1 * LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 12 TO 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

File Number: L8.3-G2.2-M2.2

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 12 to 14 November 2023.

Resolution 2023/147

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

- 1. That the Mayor and General Manager attend the LGNSW Annual Conference to be held 12 to 14 November 2023.**
- 2. That Councillors who wish to attend the LGNSW Annual Conference to be held 12 to 14 November 2023 nominate prior to September 2023.**

Carried

15.2 * 2023 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 2023 National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

Resolution 2023/148

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

- 1. That the Mayor and General Manager, or nominee, attend the 2023 National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held in Canberra ACT on 6 and 7 September 2023.**
- 2. That Councillors who wish to attend the 2023 National Local Roads and Transport Congress nominate to the General Manager prior to Tuesday, 1 August 2023.**

Carried

15.3 * POTENTIAL MOTIONS FOR THE WESTERN DIVISION COUNCILS OF NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

File Number: L8.3, S1.1

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding Potential Motions for the Western Division Councils of NSW Annual Conference.

Resolution 2023/149

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

- 1. That the motions as attached to the report of the General Manager be endorsed for submission by the Mayor to Cobar Shire Council for inclusion in the agenda of the 2023 Western Division Councils of NSW Annual General Meeting.**
- 2. That the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to make minor amendments to the motions if required either prior to or at the Annual General Meeting.**

Carried

At this juncture, Cr Sarah Barton left the meeting, the time being 9:33 am, Cr Grace Ridge (via AV Link) also left the meeting, the time of her departure being 9:51 am.

15.4 * PROPOSED PROJECTS UNDER PHASE 4 OF THE LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LR&CIP)**

File Number: 19895

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Proposed Projects Under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP).

Motion

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

- 1. That the various priority Part A Projects (Roads and community infrastructure projects) and Part B Projects (Road only projects) as identified for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) in the report of the General Manager be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval.**
- 2. That in the event of the Department deeming a Part A priority project, as submitted by Council, as an ineligible project, the Mayor in conjunction with the General Manager be authorised to determine replacement project(s) initially from the unprioritised list as provided in the General Manager's Report or, alternatively, should available funding for replacement projects not be sufficient to fund any of the identified replacement projects, the Mayor and General Manager be further authorised to determine relevant projects, at their discretion.**
- 3. That in the event of the Department deeming a Part B priority project as submitted by Council as an ineligible project, the further sealing of Wanaaring Road be the replacement project.**

Amendment

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

1. That the following prioritised Part A Projects (Roads and community infrastructure projects) proposed for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval:

Part A Projects - Roads and community infrastructure projects

Priority	Amount	Project Description
1	\$110,000	Replacement of splash pad surface – Bourke Pool
2	\$100,000	Tree planting program
3	\$100,000	Replacement footpath Warraweena St, adjacent to Spar Supermarket.
4	\$100,000	Public space / outdoor furniture / signage
5	\$ 30,000	Garbage bin enclosures
6	\$ 80,000	Swimming Pool Club House upgrade
7	\$150,000	North Bourke Oval Fence
8	\$200,000	Camping Overflow and “Rest area” – Location to be determined.
9	\$ 40,000	Pool furniture
10	\$289,903	Secretary’s Office / Community Space – Stage 1 / Stage 2: Renshaw Oval
Total	\$1,199,903	

2. That the Part B Project (Road only projects) as identified for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) in the report of the General Manager be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval.
3. That in the event of the Department deeming a Part A priority project, as submitted by Council, as an ineligible project, the Mayor in conjunction with the General Manager be authorised to determine replacement project(s) initially from the unprioritised list as provided in the General Manager’s Report, except in respect of the Secretary’s Office/Community Space – Stage 2: Renshaw Oval which has now been identified as a priority project, or, alternatively, should available funding for replacement projects not be sufficient to fund any of the identified replacement projects, the Mayor and General Manager be further authorised to determine relevant projects, at their discretion.
4. That in the event of the Department deeming the Part B priority project as submitted by Council as an ineligible project, the further sealing of Wanaaring Road be the replacement project.
5. That Council make application to Racing NSW for \$60,000 in funding to undertake the Upgrading of the Race Callers Box at Renshaw Oval.

The Amendment on being put to the meeting and was carried.

Carried

The Amendment then became the Motion and on being put to the meeting was carried.

Carried

Resolution 2023/150

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

1. That the following prioritised Part A Projects (Roads and community infrastructure projects) proposed for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval:

Part A Projects - Roads and community infrastructure projects

Priority	Amount	Project Description
1	\$110,000	Replacement of splash pad surface – Bourke Pool
2	\$100,000	Tree planting program
3	\$100,000	Replacement footpath Warraweena St, adjacent to Spar Supermarket.
4	\$100,000	Public space/outdoor furniture/ signage
5	\$ 30,000	Garbage bin enclosures
6	\$ 80,000	Swimming Pool Club House upgrade
7	\$150,000	North Bourke Oval Fence
8	\$200,000	Camping Overflow and “Rest area” – Location to be determined.
9	\$ 40,000	Pool furniture
10	\$289,903	Secretary’s Office/Community Space – Stage 1/Stage 2: Renshaw Oval
Total	\$1,199,903	

2. That the Part B Project (Road only projects) as identified for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) in the report of the General Manager be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval.
3. That in the event of the Department deeming a Part A priority project, as submitted by Council, as an ineligible project, the Mayor in conjunction with the General Manager be authorised to determine replacement project(s) initially from the unprioritised list as provided in the General Manager’s Report, except in respect of the Secretary’s Office/Community Space – Stage 2: Renshaw Oval which has now been identified as a priority project, or, alternatively, should available funding for replacement projects not be sufficient to fund any of the identified replacement projects, the Mayor and General Manager be further authorised to determine relevant projects, at their discretion.
4. That in the event of the Department deeming the Part B priority project as submitted by Council as an ineligible project, the further sealing of Wanaaring Road be the replacement project.
5. That Council make application to Racing NSW for \$60,000 in funding to undertake the Upgrading of the Race Callers Box at Renshaw Oval.

Carried

At this juncture, Cr Sarah Barton and Cr Grace Ridge (via AV Link) returned to the meeting, the time being 9:54 am.

16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

16.1 * BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - JUNE 2023**

File Number: F1.1

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - June 2023.

Resolution 2023/151

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

That the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 30 June 2023 be noted.

Carried

16.2 * INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

File Number: F1.1

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Investment Report as at 30 June 2023.

Resolution 2023/152

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

- 1. That the report regarding Council's Investment Portfolio 30 Jun 2023 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

Carried

16.3 ANNUAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND INSURANCE MATTERS FOR 2023/2024

File Number: I2.1

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Annual Risk Management Program and Insurance Matters for 2023/2024.

Resolution 2023/153

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

That Council notes the Risk Management Program review and the classes of insurance acquired for 2023/2024.

Carried

16.4 * REVIEW OF CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2022/2023 AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

File Number: R2.5

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Review of Capital Works Program 2022/2023 and Reallocation of Funds.

Resolution 2023/154

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the operating and capital works projects previously planned for 2022/2023 as detailed in the report of the Manager Corporate Services be revoked for expenditure as part of the Operational Plan for 2023/2024.

Carried

16.5 * ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 30 JUNE 2023**

File Number: F1.4.6

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Annual Financial Statements - 30 June 2023.

Resolution 2023/155

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

- 1. That Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 be referred for audit.**
- 2. That the Mayor, Councillor, General Manager, and the Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to sign the Statement by Councillors and Management as part of the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.**

Carried

16.6 * FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT 2023/2024**

File Number: F1.4.6

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Financial Assistance Grant 2023/2024.

Resolution 2023/156

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

- 1. That Council notes the report detailing Councils Financial Assistance Grants recommended allocation for 2023/2024.**
- 2. That additional funds received in respect of Councils Financial Assistance Grant, being funds above those amounts estimated in Councils 2023/2024 Operational Plan, be transferred to Councils Asset Renewal Reserve.**

Carried

17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Nil

19 POLICIES

Nil

20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

20.1 *** RONNY GIBBS 7'S RUGBY LEAGUE AND NETBALL GALA DAY

File Number: C12.5-D5.2

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Ronny Gibbs 7s Rugby League and Netball Gala Day.

Resolution 2023/157

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

That Council accede to the request to support the 26th Ronny Gibbs 7's Tournament including the waiving of oval hire, marking of ovals and fees in respect of the hire of the PV Jandra at the maximum total cost of \$1,500.00.

Carried

At this juncture, Cr Victor Bartley left the meeting, the time being 10:04 am.

20.2 *** WOMEN'S GATHERING

File Number: C12.5, D5.2

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Women's Gathering.

Resolution 2023/158

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That Council accede to the request to support the Women's Gathering facilitated by the Western NSW Local Health District including the waiving of charges for the hire of the Back O' Bourke Function Centre and PV Jandra at the maximum total cost of \$900.00.

Carried

At this juncture, Cr Victor Bartley returned to the meeting, the time being 10:06 am.

21 ACTIVITY REPORTS

21.1 ENGINEERING SERVICES - ROAD WORKS AND WORKSHOP - WORKS UNDERTAKEN

File Number: E7.1

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Roads regarding the Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop - Works Undertaken.

Resolution 2023/159

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That Council note the information in the Engineering Services Road Works and Workshop - Works Undertaken Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023.

Carried

21.2 PARKS & GARDENS / TOWN SERVICES / WATER & WASTE WATER ENGINEERING SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: E7.1

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

Resolution 2023/160

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

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, 24 July 2023.

Carried

21.3 PLANNING, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - ACTIVITY REPORT

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

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

Resolution 2023/161

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the information in the Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 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 2023/162

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the information in the General Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

21.5 LIBRARY MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

File Number: L4.1

The Council had before it the report of the Library Manager regarding the Library Manager's Activity Report for June 2023.

Resolution 2023/163

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the information in the Library Manager's Report for June 2023 as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

21.6 TOURISM AND EVENTS REPORT

File Number: T4.3

The Council had before it the report of the Coordinator Tourism Operations regarding the Tourism and Events Report.

Resolution 2023/164

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

That the information in the Tourism and Events Report for June 2023 as presented to Council on Monday, 24 July 2023 be noted.

Carried

22 CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution 2023/165

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

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 * Plant Hire Tenders 2023/2024**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(ii) 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 competitor of the council.

22.2 * Proposed Sale of Land to Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service**

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.

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session with the livestreaming of the meeting being paused at 10.15am.

22.1 *** PLANT HIRE TENDERS 2023/2024

File Number: T3.1, T3.2

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Roads regarding the Plant Hire Tenders 2023/2024.

Resolution 2023/166

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

1. That as per Section 55 (3) (i) of the Local Government Act, Council not invite further tenders for its 2023/2024 hire of plant and equipment given the extenuating circumstances that the nature of these plant tenders is as a standing offer that may or may not be utilised, and in this regard, nothing would be achieved by inviting tenders.
2. That following the annual determination by Council to accept tenders for the inclusion of nominated Plant and Equipment in Council's Annual Plant Hire Register, the General Manager be authorised to add/delete/amend any such plant on the Plant Hire Register involving plant and equipment tendered by an organisations as part of Council's Annual Plant Hire and Equipment Tender.
3. That the documents and considerations remain confidential to Council.

Carried

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

22.2 *** PROPOSED SALE OF LAND TO BOURKE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION HEALTH SERVICE

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

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Proposed Sale of Land to Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service.

Resolution 2023/167

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

1. That Council proceed to sell to the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS), Lot 6 DP 35797, Lot 7 DP 35797, Lot 8 DP 35797, Lot 9 DP 35797 and Lot 10 DP 35797 all located in Mitchell Street, Bourke at a combined price of \$45,000 (Ex GST) for the purpose of the construction of a primary care clinic by the BACHS for the Bourke region.
2. That the sale of such land be subject to development consent being forthcoming for the proposed primary care clinic.
3. That in the event that no DA approved construction has begun on the site within a period of two (2) years of Councils resolution herewith, the land offer will be reassessed by Council.
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 10:18 am.

Resolution 2023/168

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

Carried

Open council resumed at 10.18 am.

RESOLUTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

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

The Meeting closed at 10.23am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 August 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON

10 RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 BUSINESS ARISING

12.1 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
2023				
August	28	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
September	06-07		National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress	Kambri Cultural Centre, Australian National University, Canberra ACT
September	19	2.00pm	Traffic Committee Meeting	Council Chamber
September	25	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
October	25-28		Murray Darling Association Conference	Murray Bridge, SA
October (*)	23	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
November	12-14		LGNSW Annual Conference	Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Sydney
November (*)	27	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
December (*)	18	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber

(*) Indicative date only. Council meeting dates post September 2023 will be determined by Council as part of the September 2023 Agenda relating to the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Recommendation

That the information in the Calendar of Events Report as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

12.2 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

Information that has been provided to Councillors for the period 19 July 2023 to 18 August follows:

Date	Information Sent	Author	Email
19/07/2023	GM's Column for publication - 20 July 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
19/07/2023	Business Papers for the July Ordinary and Closed Session Council Meeting , Monday 24 July 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
25/07/2023	Minutes of the July 2023 Council Meeting	Leonie Brown	✓
25/07/2023	Registrations & Motions now open for the Annual Conference	Local Government NSW	✓
25/07/2023	Progress on sheep and goat traceability	NSW Farmers Association	✓
26/07/2023	GMs Column for publication - 27 July 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
26/07/2023	The Weekly Newsletter, 25 July 2023	Local Government NSW	✓
26/07/2023	News from the Barwon Electorate	Roy Butler, MP	✓
26/07/2023	Government reminded one size does not fit all	NSW Farmers Association	✓
26/07/2023	Unlock Your Potential: Book Your Professional Development Workshops now!	Local Government NSW	✓
02/08/2023	The Weekly Newsletter, 1 August 2023	Local Government NSW	✓
02/08/2023	GMs Column for publication - 3 August 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
03/08/2023	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 31 July (corrected)	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
08/08/2023	The Weekly Newsletter, 8 August 2023	Local Government NSW	✓
09/08/2023	GMs Column for publication - 10 August 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
10/08/2023	Don't repeat mistakes in bush push	NSW Farmers Association	✓
10/08/2023	Country Mayors Meeting 4 August 2023 Minutes	Country Mayors Association of NSW	✓
11/08/2023	Communique - August 4 - General Meeting	Country Mayors Association of NSW	✓
11/08/2023	CMA State Budget Priorities and Hosting a General Meeting application	Country Mayors Association of NSW	✓
11/08/2023	Minutes of the July Council Meeting - Revised	Margo Anderson	✓
14/08/2023	Reminder re Council Meeting Monday, 28 August	Margo Anderson	✓

	2023		
15/08/2023	The Weekly Newsletter, 15 August 2023	Local Government NSW	✓
16/08/2023	GMs Column for publication - 17 August 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
17/08/2023	Thank you for renewing your membership	Local Government NSW	✓
18/08/2023	Reminder to Register for the Mayoral and Councillor safety forum	Local Government NSW	✓

Recommendation

That the contents of the Information to Councillors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

12.3 * 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

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

RESOLUTION

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.
2. That on finalisation of that review a further report be brought back to Council.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Continue to lobby Government - matter evolving.
2. Issue of impact of the Biodiversity Act recently discussed at meeting of the Alliance of Western councils.
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.
4. Matter continues to be pursued by Western Alliance on behalf of member Councils.
5. Matter further discussed at the Alliance of Western Council Meeting held on 09/12/2022.
6. Impact of Biodiversity Act, and specifically the issue of the North Bourke Industrial lots, raised on Sydney Radio (2GB Ray Hadley 14/03/2023) by Chair of Western Alliance, Cr Craig Davies.
7. GM and MES attended Biodiversity teleconference organised by LGNSW held on 4 April 2023 . Submission from Council will be forthcoming during the follow up process.
8. The need for a review of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 was raised with Clr Darriea Turley, President LGNSW and Scott Phillips, Chief Executive Officer during discussions with them at Bourke on 10/05/2023.
9. Review of the Act is underway with the Hon Paul Scully MP, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces considering options to assist with development blockages. Advice received from Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon on 17 July 2023.
10. Western Division Councils of NSW moved a motion to write to the Minister for the Environment,

the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and the Minister for Regional and Western NSW requesting the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* be amended in such a manner as to allow the recommencement of development of housing and industry in Regional NSW.

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
RESOLUTION	
That the General Manager prepare a detailed report in relation to the matter, including the seeking of legal advice if necessary.	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In progress. 2. Teleconference held 20/08/2020. 3. Correspondence sent to PCYC 25/8/20 and followed up for response 20/10/20 & 16/11/2020. 4. Matter further discussed with Crown Lands staff on 09/03/2021 for their contact with PCYC. 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. 6. PCYC have advised that as a result of internal management changes they wish to defer discussions on land management till mid-2022. 7. No further approaches made by PCYC re land management matter. 	

274/2019	DROUGHT – WATER UPDATE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	W2.2.9 – W2.2.9.1
RESOLUTION	
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	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter sent & meeting held. 2. State Government commits to preparation of Western Weirs Strategy. 3. Teleconference involving staff and Councillors held with State Water on 22/9/2020 re Strategy. 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 Bentley 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.
 15. Submissions subsequently made re increasing Bourke Weir height and retention of downstream weirs.
 16. Mayor/GM met with Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP Federal Minister for the Environment and Water at Alliance of Western Councils Meeting at Narromine on 19/08/2022.
 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.
 18. Refer Council Resolution Clause 2022/176 herewith for further update.
 19. Meeting held in February 2023 with Minister Anderson - see item 2022/176.
 20. Letter sent to the Hon Rose Jackson, Minister for Water, Housing and Homelessness, following March 2023 State election, advising of the issues and seeking support.
 21. Councillors and staff met with members of the Board of the Murray Darling Authority, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and the Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water – Water Division, in Bourke on 03/05/2023 and discussed water issues.
 22. Mayor discussed issues with the Hon Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and North Coast on Wednesday, 5 July 2023. Minister Jackson advised the Mayor she would come to Bourke in August 2023 to see the issues for herself. The Mayor and GM met with Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon on Monday, 17 July 2023 regarding water security for Bourke. On Tuesday, 18 July 2023 the GM spoke to Steph Cooke MP, NSW Shadow Minister for Water and Crown Lands who has advised of a planned visit to Bourke in August 2023 to hear the concerns of the community.

2020/111 March Meeting	DUAL NAMING OF THE DARLING RIVER – DARLING RIVER BAAKA
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	R6.5
RESOLUTION	
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.	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing. Geographical Names Board GNB contacted. 2. Investigations are continuing by GNB. 3. GNB advised in July 2021 that it would be undertaking consultation in August 2021 in regard to dual name proposal. 4. GNB subsequently advised in August that due to COVID the consultations will now be undertaken 	

- in 2022.
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.
 6. Meeting scheduled for 19 July 2022 postponed – new date yet to be confirmed.
 7. New meeting date proposed for 11 October 2022.
 8. Representatives of NSW GNB attended Council on 11 October 2022 and met with available Councillors and relevant staff re naming matter.
 9. No further advice received from GNB, to date.

2020/325 and 2020/326 September Meeting	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
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council notes the report on the responsibility and current condition of the access road to the summit of Mount Oxley. 2. That Council notes the status of telecommunication infrastructure located atop Mount Oxley. 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. 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. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extensive title searches have been completed. 2. Liability issues being pursued by Booth Brown Legal for further report. 3. Meeting held with Mr & Mrs Stalley on 10 December 2020. 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. 5. Discussions held with NSW Telco Authority re potential for funding to assist with road upgrade. Costs advised. No funding available. 6. Further discussions to be held with owners of Mt Oxley site. 	

2020/236 July Meeting	BOURKE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS
FILE NO	A6.1
RESOLUTION	
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.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Brief prepared, quotations to be invited, when funding available.	

2019/439 and 2021/33 December Meeting	NORTH BOURKE BRIDGE REHABILITATION CONCEPT PLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	B6.1
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council continues to apply for funding to undertake the project. 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. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing. 2. Letter received from Minister Toole 11/11/2020 advising upcoming funding opportunities for bridge. 3. Funds as resolved reserved in Councils accounts. 4. Application under Building Better Regions Fund lodged 11/02/2021. Application unsuccessful. 5. Strategy prepared for investigation, assessment and restoration of bridge for input into Tourism Grant Application. 6. Application lodged in August 2021. No response to date. 7. Representations made to Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP regarding funding for Bridge. 8. Further application under Building Better Regions Fund lodged February 2022. 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. 10. Draft brief prepared and with Public Works Advisory (PWA) for review. 11. Quote obtained from PWA with further discussions to be held. 12. Further Grant funding application for design funding lodged with NSW Government in July 2022. 13. Councils Grant Funding application was successful. Deed executed. 14. Brief with PWA finalised and awaiting final quotation. 15. Meeting with PWA and Bridge Engineer held on site 5 April 2023 to progress brief development and consider restoration options. Report from Bridge Engineer to be provided. 16. Advice received from PWA that Consultancy Proposal from Bridge Engineer to be provided by 31/05/2023. Bridge Engineer has been overseas. 17. Still awaiting Consultancy Proposal. 18. Consultancy Proposal received and agreed to. Investigatory works underway, with initial meeting with Council officers to be held late August 2023. 	

2021/355 December Meeting	ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PAUL FLANAGAN – ROADS MANAGER
FILE NO	R7.1, R7.4.3
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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).

3. That Council also provides a submission to the Independent Panel on Road Classification Review and Regional Road Transfer proposing the reclassification from local road to regional road status of the following roads:

- RLR 5 – Caronga Peak to Wilga Downs (23km / no bridge);
- RLR50 - Moleyarrah Road – Wanaaring to Hungerford (86.82km / no bridge);
- RLR44 – Janina Road – Louth to Wanaaring (85.7km / no bridge);
- RLR49 – West Culgoa Road – Bourke to Weilmoringle (82.82km / single lane bridge).

ACTION TAKEN

1. Submission to Review Panel prepared and submitted.
2. Additional information and financial data requested for consideration 23 August 2022. Information provided.
3. No Further information to date.

2022/96 and 2023/60 April and March Meetings	NORTH BOURKE STORMWATER DRAINAGE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	D6.1, D6.2, V 1.6

RESOLUTION

1. That the information in the report of the General Manager from March 2022 be noted.
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.
3. That the Mayor and General Manager be requested to brief Mr G Seiler on the progress of this matter.
4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Investigations into land proceeding.
2. Mayor and GM have briefed Mr Seiler.
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.
4. Further update meeting held in June 2022 with Mr Seiler involving Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Messrs Riley and Brown.
5. Monthly progress reports to be provided to Mr Seiler by Council.
6. Structural Engineer engaged by Insurers inspected property on 8 September 2022.
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.
8. Further information received and provided to the landowners to the north of Warrego Street with subsequent discussions held.
9. Structural Engineers Report received. Comprehensive report being developed for Workshop of Councillors in March 2023.
10. Workshop held 20 March 2023. Workshop report including recommendation included in March 2023 Business Paper.
11. Council in March 2023 (2023/60) resolved:

- to undertake final negotiations with Mr Rob and Mrs Sally Davis in respect of the acquisition of some 2.21ha of their land fronting Warrego St, North Bourke for the purpose of constructing a stormwater detention basin thereon, for a final report to Council.
 - on the basis of Council resolving to formally acquire such land, the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action that would result in the construction of a stormwater detention basin and required infrastructure on such land, in general conformity with the concept plan developed by Premise dated 10 February 2023 designed to accommodate a 1:100 year rainfall event for this area.
 - noted the opinion as expressed in the Expert Report prepared by Engineering Investigations and Solutions in regard to the residence of Mr G and Mrs C Seiler.
 - not pursue the purchase of the Seiler property located in Namoi St, North Bourke.
12. Meeting with Mr and Mrs Davis requested and pursued. Council’s Solicitor, Insurer and Mr G Seiler advised of Councils resolution accordingly.
13. Meeting with Mr and Mrs Davis, as per March 2023 resolution, held on 26 July 2023. Further technical advice to be sourced by Council prior to further discussions being held.

2022/115 May Meeting	RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT FRAMEWORK FOR COUNCILS
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ANG PASANG RAI - MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
FILE NO	R5.1
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. 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. 3. That Council appoint a Councillor to serve as the non-voting board member on the ARIC for this Council only. 4. 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 the fact that there is no current need for the Chair to be pre-qualified at this stage. 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. 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. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Manager advised FNWJO of Council’s resolution. 2. Manager Corporate Services take the necessary action to implement Council’s resolution. 3. Expression of Interest received from another Council regarding joining the FNWJO. 4. FNWJO meeting held on 1 August 2022. 	

5. Expression of Interest for persons to serve as the Chair on one of the two (2) independent Committee members have been invited and subsequently closed. As at 23/03/2023 the submissions received are under review for report to the FNWJO in April 2023.
6. Report considered by FNWJO Board at its meeting of 31 March. Interviews of short listed applicants to proceed.
7. Committee formalised at the June 2023 meeting of the FNWJO.

2022/161 and 2023/42 July and March Meetings	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

RESOLUTION

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.
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.
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 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.
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.
5. That Council investigate further opportunities to promote Bourke as an RV friendly town.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Contact made with Transport for NSW (TfNSW).
2. Awaiting response from TfNSW.
3. Further follow up with TfNSW. Cobar Shire have advised they are having similar issues.
4. Further contact made with Transport for NSW.
5. Follow up report included in March 2023 Business Paper.
6. At the March 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council the following resolution (2023/42) was carried.
 - That the information in respect of the potential usage of the Polygonum Swamp Road be noted.
 - That Council not pursue the development of a Rest Area to allow camping on the side of the Polygonum Swamp Road.
 - That the No Camping and No Caravans signs be maintained to encourage Caravan and Camping users to move on to a more suitable location, where there is no risk to pedestrians, road users and themselves.
7. Meeting held with representatives from Crown Lands Monday, 26 June 2023. Identified land at North Bourke behind Darling Street that might be a Public Recreation Reserve. Free camping may be allowable with infrastructure upgrades - to be determined with a further report to be presented to Council when all details are available.
8. Funding application submitted for LRCI funding to provide infrastructure once a suitable site is agreed upon.

2022/176 August Meeting	MAYORAL MINUTE – WESTERN WEIRS STRATEGY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	W3.1
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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.” 3. Response dated 5 October 2022 received from Minister Anderson. The Minister advised that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.” 4. Response dated 12 December 2022 received from Minister Plibersek advised that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSW Government is responsible for water management in our region and is developing regional water strategies across the State. • The Western Weirs Strategy sits alongside these strategies. • The Australian Government’s role as a significant investor in water infrastructure through the National Water Grid Authority, State and Territory Governments are responsible for water planning and water infrastructure delivery. Applications for National Water Grid funding must have support of the State Government. 5. State Minister for Land and Water, the Hon Kevin Anderson attended Bourke on 6 February 2023 and met with the Mayor and Acting GM. The Minister advised the Western Weirs Strategy will be abandoned as it is not well supported. However, the issue of water security will be included in the Better Baaka Program. The State and Federal Ministers are to meet for discussion in late February. The proposal aims to meet the Federal objectives but will require more time to adopt measures to ensure water consumption is not restricted at the same time. There are implications for a need for increased water storage capacity if weirs are not upgraded. 6. Correspondence sent to the Hon Tanya Plibersek, MP and the NSW Minister for Lands and Water, the Hon Kevin Anderson, MP in March 2023 seeking the status of weir proposals. In response, the acting CEO of the NSW Water Sector responded that “the strategic business case for the Western Weirs program was completed in November 2021” and further that “the NSW Government continues to work with the Australian Government on suitable funding arrangements to progress to a final business case.” The Federal Government responded in April 	

2023 advising that “for the raising of the Bourke Weir to be eligible for National Water Grid funding consideration, a proposal must be submitted to the National Water Grid Authority by the NSW Government. You may wish to continue your engagement with the NSW Government so that a proposal may be brought forward, should it be prioritised by the NSW Government.

7. In response, a further letter was sent to acting CEO of the NSW Water Sector, April 2023, requesting confirmation that funding to progress to a final business case is an eligible project under the investment principles of the National Water Grid Fund and if so, what is the specific time frame for the NSW Government to submit an application that covers funding for a final business case to raise the height of the Bourke Weir.
8. Letter sent to the Hon Rose Jackson, Minister for Water, Housing and Homelessness, following March 2023 State election, advising of the issues and seeking support.
9. Meeting of the Mayor and GM with Minister Jackson being pursued.
10. Mayor discussed issues with the Hon Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and North Coast on Wednesday, 5 July 2023. Minister Jackson advised the Mayor she would come to Bourke in August 2023 to see the issues for herself. The Mayor and GM met with Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon on Monday, 17 July 2023 regarding water security for Bourke, including the issue of the weir. On Tuesday, 18 July 2023 the GM spoke to Steph Cooke MP, NSW Shadow Minister for Water and Crown Lands who has advised of a planned visit to Bourke in August 2023 to hear the concerns of the community.

2022/235 October Meeting	DRAFT FAR WEST REGIONAL PLAN 2041
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
FILE NO	T1.5
RESOLUTION	
That Council note the information contained within the Draft Far West Regional Plan 2041 Report.	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matter discussed regarding gaps in the plan relative to Bourke, linkages, tourism, health services, transport, small business and biodiversity. Hoping for changes to the draft. Opportunities to participate in workshops. 2. Continue to pursue amendments to the plan in respect of identified gaps. 3. Council’s submission lodged, awaiting response. 	

2022/238 October Meeting	GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES BOARD – THE POUND YARD
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	A2.1, A2.2.16, H3.3
RESOLUTION	
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.	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSW Geographical Names Board advised of Council’s Resolution. 2. Aboriginal people who have been identified as residents of the Pound Yard have been suggested 	

- as the appropriate people to be consulted by the GNB.
- 3. Work in progress.
- 4. List of names received, contact details yet to be received.

2023/73 April Meeting	BOURKE FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS
FILE NO	W2.1
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Bourke Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (Volumes 1 and 2) dated December 2022, be adopted. 2. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action in respect of implementing Measures 1-4 as identified in the Plan, being the measures “that could be implemented by Council with the assistance, where required, of the NSW SES”. 3. That in implementing Measures 1-2, being proposed revised planning controls, a further report on such measures be forthcoming to Council. 4. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action in respect of implementing Measures 5-10, as identified in the Plan, being the measures “that require the sourcing of Government funding” to progress such measures. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
Representation made to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).	

2023/94 May Meeting	RECOMMENCEMENT OF THE FLUORIDATION OF THE BOURKE WATER SUPPLY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PETER BROWN - MANAGER WORKS
FILE NO	W2.1
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That pending the receipt of approval under Section 60 of the Local Government Act 1993, and approval from NSW Health, Council proceed to again include fluoride in the Bourke public water supply system. 2. That the Bourke community be advised by way of advertisement in the Western Herald and on Councils Facebook site, when the fluoride dosing of the Bourke public water supply system actually recommences following the receipt of the required approvals. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PWA being pursued re completion of required outstanding works and also DPE / Health for required approvals. Once approvals are forthcoming, advertising / Facebook advice to community of the restarting of fluoridation will be undertake. 2. Manager Works has contacted NSW Health, matter is progressing. 	

2023/120 June Meeting	ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS
FILE NO	R7.7.19
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Bourke Shire Council Active Transport Plan 2023, be adopted for the purposes of the document being placed on public exhibition and comment for a period of 28 days, for a further report to Council should any submissions be received. 2. That in the event of no submissions being received, the Bourke Shire Council Active Transport Plan 2023 be adopted with funding for the implementation of identified projects being considered as part of the preparation of Council 2024/2025 draft Operational Plan, or as grant or other funding opportunities become available. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active Transport Plan on exhibition from 29 June 2023 to 26 July 2023, when submissions close. Plan can be viewed on line or via a QR Code. 2. Further report to be provided to Council following receipt of a submission. 3. Final document completed. Report to be provided to Council in August 2023. 	

2023/122 June Meeting	PECUNIARY INTEREST RETURNS
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	MARGO ANDERSON – EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
FILE NO	S6.29
RESOLUTION	
That Council notes the information received in relation to Pecuniary Interest Returns as presented to Council on Monday, 26 June 2023.	
ACTION TAKEN	
Returns paperwork distributed to Councillors and designated staff for completion and return to EA by 30 September 2023. Further report to be submitted to Council's October 2023 meeting, at the latest.	

2023/141 July Meeting	MAYORAL MINUTE - AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	C8.9.3, C8.9.13
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the correspondence from the Attorney Generals Department of the Australian Government and from the Hon Michael Daly MP, NSW Attorney General, in response to Councils opposition to an increase in the age of criminal responsibility from ten years to fourteen years, be noted. 2. That Council reply to both Attorney Generals pointing out that the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Initiative has been operating for over ten years in Bourke and that school attendance is trending downwards but violent crime such as home invasions where innocent people are threatened with weapons is increasing. 3. That Council contends that there should be no increase in the age of criminal responsibility until the Justice Reinvestment Initiative is proven to be effective. 4. That Council is concerned that the present crime situation in Bourke is intolerable with people 	

living in fear, particularly at night, where they are vulnerable and helpless and cannot do anything to protect themselves in fear of prosecution.

ACTION TAKEN

Letters written to Australian and NSW Attorney’s General.

2023/147 July Meeting	LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 12 TO 14 NOVEMBER 2023
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	L8.3-G2.2-M2.2
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Mayor and General Manager attend the LGNSW Annual Conference to be held 12 to 14 November 2023. 2. That Councillors who wish to attend the LGNSW Annual Conference to be held 12 to 14 November 2023 nominate prior to September 2023. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Victor Bartley has nominated to attend the conference. 2. Conference bookings completed. 	

2023/148 July Meeting	2023 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT CONGRESS
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	R7.6, G2.2, M2.2
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Mayor and General Manager, or nominee, attend the 2023 National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held in Canberra ACT on 6 and 7 September 2023. 2. That Councillors who wish to attend the 2023 National Local Roads and Transport Congress nominate to the General Manager prior to Tuesday, 1 August 2023. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
The Mayor and Roads Manager will be attending the conference. Bookings completed.	

2023/150 July Meeting	PROPOSED PROJECTS UNDER PHASE 4 OF THE LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (LR&CIP)	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER	
FILE NO	19895	
RESOLUTION		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the following prioritised Part A Projects (Roads and community infrastructure projects) proposed for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval: 		
Part A Projects - Roads and community infrastructure projects		
Priority	Amount	Project Description
1	\$110,000	Replacement of splash pad surface – Bourke Pool

2	\$100,000	Tree planting program
3	\$100,000	Replacement footpath Warraweena St, adjacent to Spar Supermarket.
4	\$100,000	Public space/outdoor furniture/ signage
5	\$ 30,000	Garbage bin enclosures
6	\$ 80,000	Swimming Pool Club House upgrade
7	\$150,000	North Bourke Oval Fence
8	\$200,000	Camping Overflow and “Rest area” – Location to be determined.
9	\$ 40,000	Pool furniture
10	\$289,903	Secretary’s Office/Community Space – Stage 1/Stage 2: Renshaw Oval
Total	\$1,199,903	

2. That the Part B Project (Road only projects) as identified for funding under Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LR&CIP) in the report of the General Manager be submitted to the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for assessment and approval.
3. That in the event of the Department deeming a Part A priority project, as submitted by Council, as an ineligible project, the Mayor in conjunction with the General Manager be authorised to determine replacement project(s) initially from the unprioritised list as provided in the General Manager’s Report, except in respect of the Secretary’s Office/Community Space – Stage 2: Renshaw Oval which has now been identified as a priority project, or, alternatively, should available funding for replacement projects not be sufficient to fund any of the identified replacement projects, the Mayor and General Manager be further authorised to determine relevant projects, at their discretion.
4. That in the event of the Department deeming the Part B priority project as submitted by Council as an ineligible project, the further sealing of Wanaaring Road be the replacement project.
5. That Council make application to Racing NSW for \$60,000 in funding to undertake the Upgrading of the Race Callers Box at Renshaw Oval.

ACTION TAKEN

Applications for projects submitted to the Australian Government for the LRCI funding. Awaiting approval of projects.

2023/167 July meeting	PROPOSED SALE OF LAND TO BOURKE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION HEALTH SERVICE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	A11.1, H1.1, H1.15
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council proceed to sell to the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (BACHS), Lot 6 DP 35797, Lot 7 DP 35797, Lot 8 DP 35797, Lot 9 DP 35797 and Lot 10 DP 35797 all located in Mitchell Street, Bourke at a combined price of \$45,000 (Ex GST) for the purpose of the construction of a primary care clinic by the BACHS for the Bourke region. 2. That the sale of such land be subject to development consent being forthcoming for the proposed primary care clinic. 3. That in the event that no DA approved construction has begun on the site within a period of two 	

- (2) years of Councils resolution herewith, the land offer will be reassessed by Council.
4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Letter forwarded to BACHS re Council resolution. Formal acceptance of offer from BACHS.
2. Contract documentation prepared and submitted to Solicitor for BACHS.
3. Meeting held with BACHS representatives re preparation of development application.

Recommendation

That the information in the Business Arising Report as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

13.1 ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN - SUBMISSIONS REPORT

File Number: R7.7.19

Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works

Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager

Attachments: 1. Active Transport Plan – Final Document dated 21/08/2023

Background

Council at its meeting held on 26 June 2023 gave consideration to its draft Active Transport Plan. This Plan is a comprehensive document which aims to improve the quality of life for all residents in the Shire Area.

The 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, with the Plan identifying a total of 33 projects across the Shire.

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.

In respect of this matter, Council resolved:

- 1. That the Bourke Shire Council Active Transport Plan 2023, be adopted for the purposes of the document being placed on public exhibition and comment for a period of 28 days, for a further report to Council should any submissions be received.*
- 2. That in the event of no submissions being received, the Bourke Shire Council Active Transport Plan 2023 be adopted with funding for the implementation of identified projects being considered as part of the preparation of Council 2024/2025 draft Operational Plan, or as grant or other funding opportunities become available.*

The draft Plan was subsequently placed on exhibition for the period 29 June to 26 July 2023.

Current Situation

During the exhibition period, Council received one (1) submission, that being from the Regional Local Government Program Officer, Transport NSW(TfNSW) - Western Region, on behalf of the Get NSW Active team of TfNSW.

In addition to advice that “the plan looks good”, the TfNSW officer also advised three (3) priorities for the final document. These priorities were provided to the consultancy firm engaged to develop the Plan for the Bourke Shire, Currajong Pty Ltd for their comment.

The three (3) identified priorities of TfNSW and the responses from consultancy firm Currajong, including changes to the Plan, follow:

- 1) TfNSW Comment: On-road painted bike lanes and wide road shoulders (p44) are not consistent with the principle of 'safety' and 'suitability for all users' (p40). Our customer research shows they are perceived as unsafe by current and potential everyday bike riders and are not effective in encouraging more local cycling trips. Please note that TfNSW's Cycleway Design Toolbox does not recommend use of on-road visually separated facility types such as these, and TfNSW would be unlikely to provide support projects that rely on these treatments.

Currajong Response:

- Page 14 – Changed text in Plan dealing with on road cycling lanes as follows - There are on-road cycling lanes along Kidman Way (Gorrell Avenue, Richard Street), Kamilaroi Highway (Mitchell Street) and the Mitchell Highway (Mooculta Street, Tancred Drive). TfNSW's Cycleway Design Toolbox does not recommend use of on-road visually separated cycling lanes and a review of the cycle lanes along main roads in and around Bourke is considered appropriate.
 - Page 15 to 18 – Maps and text have been updated to reflect the recommendations in the TfNSW's Cycleway Design Toolbox.
 - Page 44 - Changed text dealing with on-road cycling lanes as follows - On-road painted bike lanes on road shoulders without physical barriers do not provide riders with protection from passing traffic and are often perceived as unsafe by current and potential everyday bike riders. For this reason, on-road cycle paths are not particularly effective in encouraging more local cycling trips and are not the preferred method of providing for short, everyday cycling trips. Where possible, the Bourke ATP should give preference to new shared path installations as a strategy for increasing cycling activity throughout Bourke LGA. A review of the existing on road cycle lanes in and around Bourke is recommended.
 - Page 60 – change to project 15 to reflect it as a review project.
 - Page 71 – change to project plan for on-road paths review.
- 2) TfNSW Comment: Safe crossings at regular intervals on major town centre streets and other key desire lines are important to support walking convenience and safety, however no new pedestrian crossings are proposed in the network maps in section 9. The ATP would benefit from some discussion on which crossing facility options are most effective at supporting safe walking routes and the amenity of main streets and other key places and reviewing how well existing and proposed crossing treatments in section 9 will support this.

Currajong Response:

- Page 14 – The text dealing with Road Crossings has been changed as follows - There are centre islands along constructed footpath routes with varying levels of compliance.

Safe crossings at regular intervals on major town centre streets and other key desire lines are important to support walking convenience and safety. Kerb blisters and/or new centre islands should form part of any new footpath/shared path treatments, where appropriate. The existing centre islands along Tarcoon Street near Bourke High School need replacing, as they are too narrow and/or do not follow desire lines.

- 3) TfNSW Comment: Suggested minimum footpath widths of 1.2m are shown throughout the document. TfNSW's Walking Space Guide recommends (at least) 2.0m footpaths, and a minimum width of 1.8m to enable two wheelchairs to pass one another without the need to leave the path. As noted in the ATP, streets with higher levels of walking, such as main streets and routes to schools, likely require wider footpaths to cater for users comfortably.

Currajong Response:

- Recommend generally leaving current wording/maps in ATP as is for footpaths, to reflect fact that most existing footpaths are 1.2m wide (or less) and there is insufficient economic justification in widening footpaths to 1.8m or greater given there is minimal funding of footpaths by outside sources such as TfNSW. The text on page 42 has been altered as follows - According to the Austroads Guide and other guidelines referred to in Section 6, the general minimum footpath width of 1.2m (or 1.0m as an absolute minimum) is adequate for most road and street situations except in commercial and shopping environments. TfNSW's Walking Space Guide recommends minimum 2.0m wide footpaths to enable two wheelchairs to pass one another without the need to leave the path, which is relevant around the Bourke CBD and health facilities. A footpath wider than the minimum may also be necessary at locations where pedestrians gather such as the entrance to schools and associated crossings, recreation facilities and bus stops or on routes with high pedestrian traffic volumes.
- The text on page 43 has also been updated to reflect the recommendations for wider shared paths and reduced shared streets speeds as advocated in the latest TfNSW guidelines.

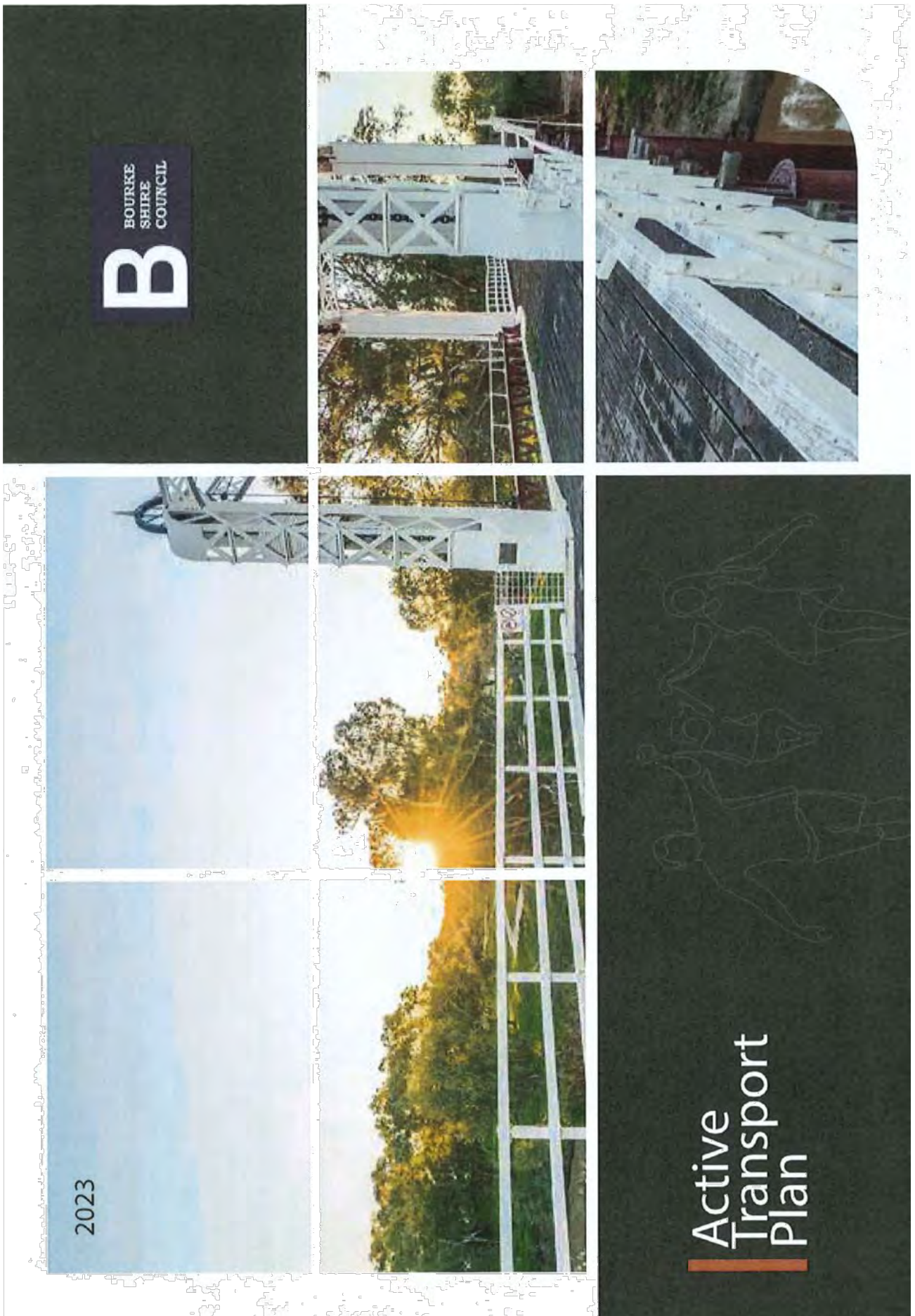
The responses and the amendments to the Plan are concurred with and have been incorporated into the final Active Transport Plan document, as attached herewith. Accordingly, such document is submitted to Council for adoption.

Financial Implications

As identified, the plan identifies a total of 33 potential projects across the Shire. At this point no funding for these projects has been specifically identified. The exception to this is grant funding of \$200,000 for the development of design plans to allow the North Bourke Bridge to be utilised for pedestrian and cycleway purposes, providing access from the centre of Bourke to North Bourke. Works in respect of this project is proceeding. The issue of funding for the identified projects, will need to be considered as part of the preparation of Council 2024/2025 draft Operational Plan, or as grant or other funding opportunities arise.

Recommendation

- 1. That the Active Transport Plan, marked Final and dated 21 August 2023, which has regard to the comments of TfNSW, be adopted.**
- 2. That TfNSW be advised of Councils response to their submission and TfNSW be provided with a copy of the Final report.**
- 3. That funding for the implementation of identified projects in the adopted Active Transport Plan be considered as part of the preparation of Councils 2024/2025 draft Operational Plan, or as grant or other funding opportunities become available.**



DOCUMENT CONTROL

PROJECT REPORT DETAILS

Document Title: Bourke Shire Active Transport Plan
 Principal Author: Currajong Pty Ltd
 Client: Bourke Shire Council
 Project Reference: APC230324

DOCUMENT STATUS

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 Date: 21.08.2023

Disclaimer

This Active Transport Plan has been prepared by Currajong Pty Ltd on behalf of Bourke Shire Council. The plan has been prepared with all reasonable skill, care and diligence and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with the client, Bourke Shire Council. Information reported herein is based on Council and other sources and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid. This report is for the exclusive use of the Bourke Shire Council. No warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from Currajong Pty Ltd. Currajong Pty Ltd disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Bourke Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of Bourke and country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to our Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples today.

Bourke Shire is rich in indigenous cultural history. Traditionally the country of the Ngemba / Ngemba people, Bourke is now home to around 24 different recognised indigenous language groups.

Many of the transport routes we use today follow the Darling River and creek systems, traditional Songlines, trade routes and ceremonial paths in Country that Aboriginal people followed for thousands of years.

There remains the strong belief throughout the Bourke Shire community 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 of projects such as the Bourke Active Transport Plan.

Connecting with Country approach helps us all meet any statutory requirements to sustainably manage Aboriginal culture and heritage in the built environment.



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN



FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased to introduce the first Active Transport Plan for the Bourke Shire to provide clear focus on the active transport needs of residents and visitors in our beautiful shire.

The Bourke Community Strategic Plan 2022 highlights the community's aspiration to be a shire that is productive and iconic, with access to all modern services.

To achieve these goals we must all be moving forward and connected, with accessible towns and great local destinations and many options to get there.

Walking and cycling, otherwise referred to as Active Transport, is environmentally friendly and good for our physical health, not to mention the social and economic benefits.

Bourke Shire Council is positioned to help everyone make active transport part of our everyday routines, by providing infrastructure, services and facilities where they are needed.

With your help Council will program a suite of new active transport projects that will support walking, cycling and personal fitness and mobility in Bourke Shire.

Cr Barry Hollman
Mayor

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5	ACTIVE TRANSPORT PROJECT PLANS	48
THE VISION	6	PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS	59
CHALLENGE + OPPORTUNITY	9	ON-GOING RESPONSIBILITIES	63
APPROACH + METHODOLOGY	11	PROJECT SHEETS	65
LOCAL CONTEXT	13	Bourke Project # 1	66
Bourke	14	Bourke Project # 2	67
Byrock	19	Bourke Project # 3	68
Enngonia	21	Bourke Project # 4	69
Fords Bridge	23	Bourke Project # 5	70
Louth	25	Bourke Project # 15	71
North Bourke	27	Byrock Project # 1	72
Wanaaring	29	Enngonia Project # 1	73
Riparian and other iconic rural areas	31	Fords Bridge Project # 1	74
		Louth Project # 1	75
		Louth Project # 2	76
STRATEGIC CONTEXT	32	North Bourke Project # 1	77
		North Bourke Project # 2	78
BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLANNING	33	North Bourke Project # 3	79
Great Places	35	Wanaaring Project # 1	80
NETWORK PLANNING	36		
Pavement Surfaces	45		

01 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Bourke Shire Council is focused on maintaining and improving services and facilities that meet the needs of the community.

Whilst a major focus of Council's resources continues to be on roads, there is a need to improve the pedestrian and cycling network, otherwise referred to as active transport.

The Bourke Active Transport Plan (ATP) draws on the Transport for NSW Future Transport Strategy and Active Transport Strategy, both released in 2022. The aim is to make walking and cycling the preferred way to make short trips, with Transport for NSW encouraging regional councils to assist with achieving the NSW target to double the number of active transport trips within 20 years.

The Bourke ATP identifies a range of pathway improvements and social initiatives that will enhance pedestrian and cycling opportunities. The operation of public amenities, directional signage, water points, seating, bicycle racks, streetlights and trees as well as other urban facilities that support the active transport network are also being considered.

Given there are limited funds available to improve the active transport network, the Bourke ATP proposes targeted improvements that are assessed to have the greatest benefits and user support.

Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken through site meetings and workshops with various agencies, interest groups and residents as well as a formal public exhibition of the Bourke ATP. Feedback received affirms the community is supportive of a more comprehensive and safer active transport network throughout the Bourke Shire.

The Bourke ATP is to be adopted by Council, for use as a planning tool to assist with the programming of new projects.



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

02

PROJECT VISION

The State Vision

The Transport for NSW Future Transport Strategy 2022 sets out the key actions to connect communities and encourage more people to choose active transport, including:

- ✦ Delivering continuous and connected cycling networks.
- ✦ Improving the safety and comfort of people walking and riding bikes by providing fit-for-purpose active transport infrastructure and appropriate road speeds.
- ✦ Facilitating children's and young people's independent mobility by improving safe walking and bike riding options for travel to and from school.
- ✦ Supporting multimodal journeys by integrating active and public transport.
- ✦ Encouraging a shift to walking and cycling trips by delivering walking and cycling infrastructure to support mode shift.
- ✦ Supporting emerging technology choices such as e-bikes and other micro-mobility devices.

The Transport for NSW Active Transport Strategy 2022 draws on the NSW Future Transport Strategy 2022 and its vision for walking, riding and personal mobility. The NSW Government wants walking and bike riding to be the preferred way to make short trips and a viable, safe and efficient option for longer trips. The vision of the NSW Active Transport Strategy 2022 is to double active transport trips in NSW over the next 20 years by focussing on five areas:

- ✦ Enable 15-minute neighbourhoods.
- ✦ Deliver continuous and connected cycling networks.
- ✦ Provide safer and better precincts and main streets.
- ✦ Promote walking and cycling and encourage behaviour change.
- ✦ Support our partners and accelerate change.

The NSW Active Transport Strategy provides longer term ambitions accompanied by five-year priority moves to guide planning, investment and priority actions for active transport across NSW, including regional and rural areas.





The Vision for the Region

Bourke is at the centre of the Far West Region, which is the largest and most diverse region in NSW.

Bourke Shire Council is a member of the Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils, and has an even stronger ties with neighbouring Cobar and Walgett Councils on sharing resources and seeking out improvements for the sub-region.

The Far West Regional Plan 2041, aims for strong and connected communities and supports the expansion of transport networks and improved connections between centres and other regions to bolster business and industry growth.

Other recent regional planning work such as the NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint, Transport for NSW Future Transport 2056, NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan, regional economic development strategies and regional water strategies have been incorporated into the Far West Regional Plan 2041.



Western Plains RED

The socio economic indexes for areas (SEIFA) is based on ABS Census information and ranks Bourke 88 out of 541 local government areas (LGA).

Bourke's remoteness continues to be a major factor influencing the standard of living in Bourke Shire. The vast areas of the Bourke Shire and the long distances between towns present significant challenges for communities within the Bourke LGA.

Active transport has the ability to lift social and economic performance in Bourke Shire, with increased health benefits from exercise, enhancement of attractions / destinations, social capital and employment through construction of new projects.



Bourke Community Vision

The Bourke Shire is the gateway to south west Queensland and the far west of NSW, and is home to many towns and small villages, including Bourke, North Bourke, Barrington, Byrock, Enggonia, Fords Bridge, Louth and Whaingah and Louth.

Key issues underpinning the future planning, development and prosperity of Bourke communities include roads, telecommunications, accommodation, water quality and supply, education, health and other community services.

The Bourke Community Strategic Plan 2022 sets the following long-term vision for Bourke Shire:

Bourke Shire will continue to grow as an iconic, outback regional community and destination, which is united and productive, thriving on practical access to all modern services.

Five focus areas have been agreed upon to achieve the community's aspirations and vision for Bourke Shire, as follows:

- ★ Community and culture
- ★ Local and regional governance
- ★ Natural environment
- ★ Local economy
- ★ Rural and urban land use
- ★ Infrastructure and services

A key priority for Council is to maintain and improve levels of service and amenity for residents and visitors.

A new Active Transport Plan for Bourke will help lift Council's performance across all focus areas of the Bourke Community Strategic Plan 2022.

PAGE 8 SECTION 02 VISION



Bourke ATP Vision

Many residents within the main towns of Bourke Shire are already active transport participants, with locals seen walking and riding along streets to access services and facilities and to visit friends and family.

Many of the streets within Bourke, Byrock, Emigonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wanaaring were constructed at a time when footpaths and cycleways were not required. Over time, expectations have changed and new standards are required to improve the safety and comfort for all road users.

Active transport improvements are particularly important around connections to town attractors such as schools, health centres, youth centres, public swimming pools, riparian and Mainstreet environments.

The vision for the Bourke ATP is:

The active transport network connects important attractors within the main towns of the Bourke Shire and is safe for everyone to use.

03

CHALLENGES + OPPORTUNITIES

Recent Changes

A lot has changed since the Local Government Elections in December 2021, including:

- Floods, bushfires and drought have demonstrated the need to build resilient communities and transport infrastructure.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how quickly we can adapt and adopt new habits such as remote working and learning, different transport choices beyond motor vehicles and a rethink of housing supply and demand.
- There is more urgency around reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industry and transport with a growing demand for electric vehicles and the NSW government making a commitment to Net Zero for transport operations by 2035.
- Connecting with Country now informs the planning, design, and delivery of built environment projects in NSW.

- The 6 Cities Region of the Greater Sydney has supplanted the Metropolis of Three Cities, and there is renewed emphasis on regional planning and development.
- The Movement and Place framework introduced in 2018 is now fully embedded in Transport for NSW policy.
- New targets for 15-minute neighbourhoods have been adopted by Transport for NSW under the NSW Active Transport Strategy 2022.
- Other important policies that support active transport infrastructure have been released, including the NSW Road User Space Allocation, Providing for Walking and Cycling in Transport Projects, the Walking Spaces Guide and the Cycleway Design toolbox.
- Micro-mobility in the form of mobility scooters, e-bikes and e-scooters is growing strongly, requiring consideration of these new transport modes in the road environment.

The Bourke Shire Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2014 has focused mainly on footpaths in Bourke and not the smaller towns, villages and non-urban areas that makes-up the balance of the Bourke Shire.

There is a need to widen the focus of active transport planning beyond footpaths and to other areas of the Bourke Shire.

Challenges

- Relatively small population base (2,625 people) which is projected to remain stable over the next decade.
- The sheer size of the Bourke Shire and vast distances between centres.
- Extensive summer heat, with temperatures typically around 40 degrees Celsius.
- Social and cultural connections and communication, with over 30% of the population being from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.
- Maintaining the road network is a constant challenge, with over 50% of Council's budget directed towards roads and communications.
- Health, education, animal control and crime prevention.
- Weeds and sediment movement over roads and paths and parkland facilities.

Opportunities

- Unique and beautiful landscapes, riparian areas, National Parks and reserves, with locals and visitors wanting to experience open freedoms and connection to Country.
- Supportive communities, with caring for Country, water management, innovation, resource sharing, health, education and transport being at the forefront of community focus.
- Building even more resilient / connected communities around education, health, sports, traditional environmental knowledge and natural landscapes and local business development.
- Providing active transport facilities to attractors such as to commercial precincts, schools, sports facilities and waterways.
- Using active transport initiatives to promote health, safety, environmental and economic / tourism goals.

Overview

Demographic	Period	Value
Estimated resident population	2022	2625
Projected population	2041	2650
Median person's income (weekly)	2016	\$500-\$599
Median Household Income (weekly)	2016	\$1750-\$1999
		\$2000-\$2499 (RISWI)
Employment		
Number of people who work in this region	2020	1036
Largest employing industry	2020	Public Administration and Safety
Average unemployment rate	September 2020 (September 2021)	3% (10%)
Economic Output		
Gross Regional Product	2020	\$164.3 M
Output	2020	\$287 M
Value Added	2020	\$153 M
Housing		
Building approvals (value)	2022-21	\$2.5M
Median weekly rent (3 bedroom)	2022	\$500
Median sales price (3 bedroom)	2022	\$145,000
Business Activity		
Count of businesses	2017	418
Industry with largest number of businesses	2020	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
Tourism		
Economic contribution of tourism	2020	\$13M
Proportion of local jobs attributable to tourism	2020	6.6%

Source: Bourke CSP

APPROACH + METHODOLOGY

04

Active transport users are far more attuned to the environment in which they are moving than faster moving motorists.

Planning for pedestrians and cyclists does not follow the same logic as motor traffic planning, which normally involves a motor vehicle - "trips" - routes - traffic network. It places more emphasis on the environment and the conditions along routes and at attractors.

An important aspect of the Bourke ATP is to build an understanding of the elements that will make a good pedestrian and cycling network in the local context. These include an understanding of the following:

- The types of existing / potential pedestrians and cyclists and their needs.
- The condition of the existing pedestrian and cycling network (including existing paths, gaps and barriers).
- Where pedestrians and cyclists are going and why.
- The traffic environment (speed and volume) that pedestrians and cyclists must deal with.

• The most appropriate design options that meet pedestrian and cyclist needs, including standard and innovative options.

• The views and aspirations of stakeholders.

• The key planning and engineering principles that underpin an effective and usable network.

• Mechanisms to program / fund improvements to the active transport network.

The approach is to develop new active transport plans that build upon existing infrastructure and that address the key issues and aspirations identified from community consultation and audits.

To achieve this approach, the Bourke ATP is being undertaken in a number of stages that are detailed overleaf.



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Stage 1 – Asset Review
 Bourke Shire Council continues to roll out its Integrated Planning and Report Framework, including 4-Year Delivery Programs and 1-Year Operational Plans that are used to guide the planning and investment infrastructure assets. The main elements of the existing network of active transport facilities have been recorded on maps in Section 5 of the Bourke ATP. This local data has been presented to key Council staff and Transport for NSW as the basis for reviewing the long-term management of the active transport network in Bourke Shire.

Stage 2 – Promotion
 Information about the Bourke ATP was published on local media and Council's website and Facebook page to inform community members about the preparation of the new plan.

Stage 3 – Preliminary Engagement
 Informal community meetings were held in Bourke, Byrock, Emgonia, Ford's Bridge, Louth and Wandering in March 2023.

These meetings were structured around a series of local area maps. Questions were asked about the pedestrian and cycling network and local conditions that led the conversation to allow for problems, solutions, suggested routes and feedback to be covered within the allocated workshop.

Throughout the meetings / workshops, the responses given had common themes which reiterated the desire for additional paths to popular destinations and routes within the community.

Stage 4 – Independent Audit Investigations
 Consultant planners and traffic engineers specialising in active transport planning and projects have been engaged by Council to independently investigate the existing active transport network. This audit work was undertaken by:

- ▶ Drive-through and walk-through surveys of the study area, with particular focus on settlement areas, primary routes and attractors.
- ▶ On-site meetings with community members where specific sites / issues needed to be observed / discussed.

The audits were not meant to gather a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and cycling assets in the Bourke Shire. The emphasis of the audits was on identifying gaps in the networks as well as the barriers to people using the network.

Stage 5 – Local Data Review and Planning

The audits and stakeholder feedback revealed a variety of pedestrian and cycling facilities provided in Bourke Shire, in varying conditions. Expectedly, the preliminary investigations and engagement findings identified a number of deficiencies and barriers in the network which are discussed in Section 5 in more detail. Where these involved minor issues, they were raised with Council staff for addressing. Project planning and development issues were also discussed with relevant staff to assist with the formulation of projects and priorities in the Bourke ATP.

Stage 6 – Draft Active Transport Project Plans

A draft Bourke ATP has been prepared (this report to record the relevant information in some succinct strategy document). Active Transport Project Plans have been prepared for Bourke, Byrock, Emgonia, Ford's Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wandering to 'visualise' the additional facilities required to achieve a more connected network (see Section 9).

A Matrix Table in Section 10 provides full visibility on how priorities and actions were decided. Concept designs of the top priority projects recommended for action are also shown in Section 12, along with project specifications, preliminary costings and any notes relating to project planning and implementation.

Stage 7 – Public Exhibition

Formal public exhibition of the draft Bourke ATP was undertaken in June and July 2023, with feedback on the draft plan used to finalise the Active Transport Project Plans and Matrix Table.

Stage 8 – Review of Submissions and Finalisation of Bourke ATP

Following public exhibition of the Bourke Shire Active Transport Plan has been finalised, ready for adoption by Council.

05

LOCAL CONTEXT

Bourke Shire

Bourke Shire is situated in north-western NSW and covers an area of 41,599.5 square kilometres.

The Shire population is approximately 2,625 people living in the main settlements of Bourke, Emgonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wanaaring and on pastoral properties.

The principal economic activities within the Bourke Shire include agriculture, services, retail and tourism. Pastoral grazing properties represent the largest land-use within the Shire, accounting for over 90% of the entire LGA.

The Darling River, historic town centres and national parks are major attractors in Bourke Shire. Other important community attractors include health and aged care facilities, schools, open space and recreational facilities.

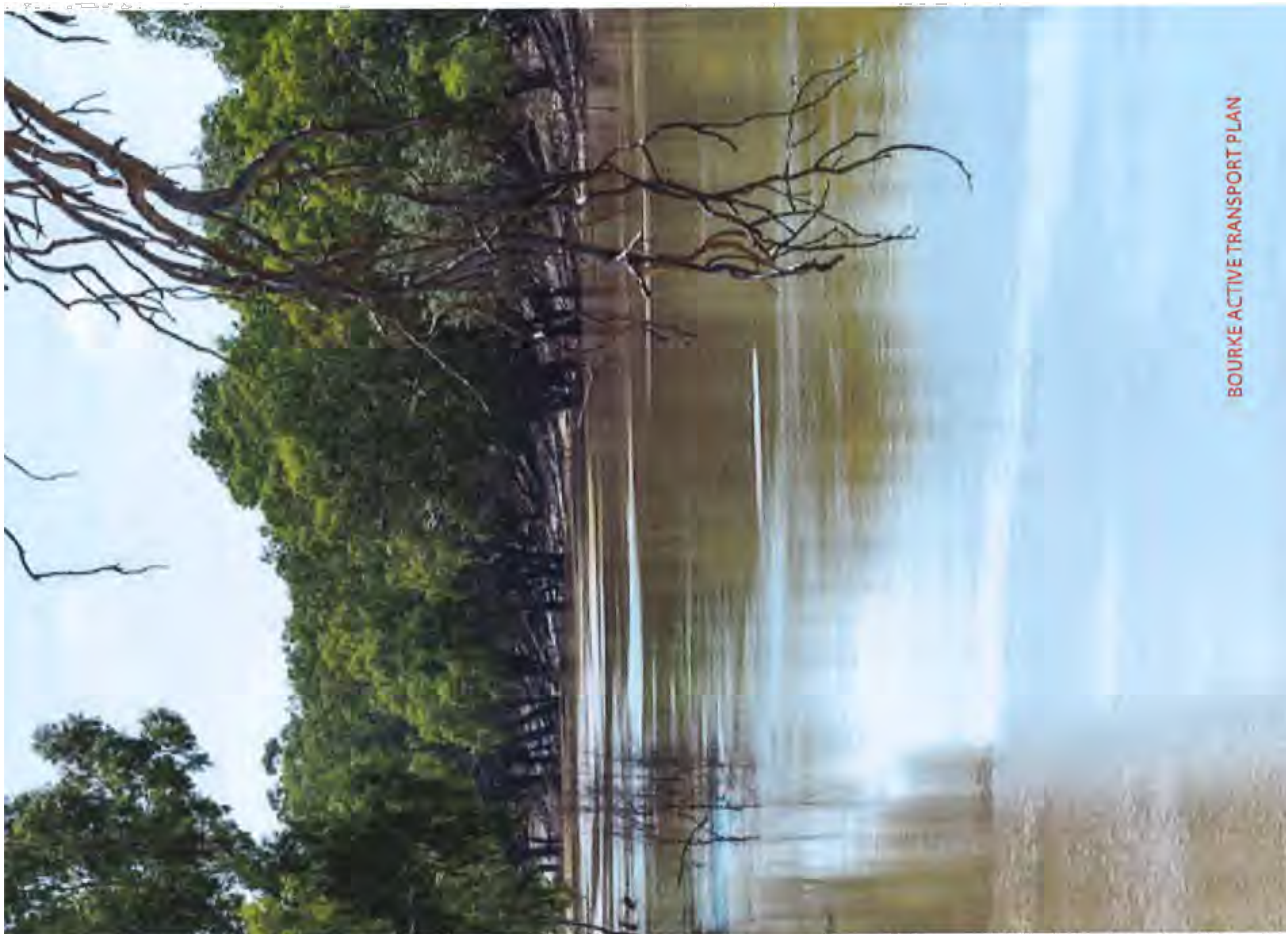
Travel patterns are dispersed across the Bourke LGA, with most inter-town trips being undertaken by private motor vehicle or Countrylink bus services. Within towns, walking is popular. Use of public transport is much lower and generally limited to school bus trips and Countrylink services between towns.

Access to private vehicle transport and public transport contributes to social disadvantage and accessibility issues in some sections of the community.

Town centres, schools, sports and recreational centres tend to have higher levels of active transport participation, particularly walking between attractors. Active transport trips between the homes of friends and relatives are also prevalent in towns.

The 2021 ABS Census data shows that Bourke Shire had a higher proportion of children and a lower proportion of persons aged 60 or older than Regional NSW. Over half of households manage on low incomes.

Access to education and support services and other attractors all need to be considered in the new Bourke ATP, and against the backdrop of infrastructure upgrades being planned in the Shire. A long-term focus on improving health and well-being are important issues to consider in order to cater to the needs of existing and future residents.



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

SECTION 05 | LOCAL CONTEXT

Bourke

Overview

Bourke is located approximately 365 kilometres west of Dubbo and is the main service centre for the wider Bourke Shire. The township is located on the banks of the Darling River at the intersection of major transport corridors - the Koolman Way, Mitchell Highway and Karribaroi Highway.

The Darling River is the heart of the Bourke community and provides economic sustainability, including tourism. River attractions such as the Jandra Paddle Steamer, North Bourke Bridge, Bourke Wharf, Port of Bourke and the Back O Bourke Exhibition and Visitor Information Centre are all strong attractors.

Other active transport attractors include Bourke Mainstreet, Bourke High School and Public School, Bourke TAFE, Bourke Multi Purpose (Health) Service, Central Park, Davidson Memorial Oval, Bourke Swimming Pool and Coolican Field and riparian areas.

Preliminary consultation and audit findings

The audit and consultation work undertaken in Bourke revealed a relatively extensive footpath network in good condition, with a number of notable gaps between existing concrete paths and to some important attractors.

The shared path network was also relatively extensive and comprised a mix of concrete, bitumen and gravel surface paths in good condition. Some flood damage was observed along pathways, which was in the process of being repaired / upgraded by Council.

North Bourke was noted as an integral part of the Bourke active transport network, with separate investigations and reporting warranted for North Bourke due to its size and complexity.

A number of opportunities and constraints (deficiencies, gaps and barriers) were identified in the Bourke active transport network, which are discussed in this section. A map summarising the audit / consultation findings of the Bourke investigations is also presented in this section.

Footpaths

The blue lines on the map show the existing network of concrete footpaths in Bourke. There is a general need to extend sections of footpaths to achieve connected routes to key attractors in Bourke, including the central urban precinct, Bourke High School, parklands and to levees providing informal river walks around town. There is also a need to review road crossings points and kerb ramps to ensure paths provide continuous all-weather and safe crossing conditions.

Shared Paths

The purple lines on the map show the existing network of shared paths in Bourke. The shared path network comprises a mix of concrete paths (mainly in the urban areas), bitumen paths (between Bourke and North Bourke) and gravel surface paths along levees. Recent flooding had caused damage to some shared paths and there is a need to repair flood damaged paths, especially the connection between Bourke and Mission Housing. A review of the cycle lanes along main roads in and around Bourke is considered appropriate that would benefit from a shared path.

Kerb Ramps

There are kerb ramps along constructed paths with varying levels of compliance. There is a need to fix some kerb ramps along existing paths to ensure they comply with modern standards. New kerb ramps should form part of any new footpaths / shared path treatments.

School Zones

All schools in Bourke have established school zones and there are existing footpaths along some adjoining streets. There is generally a need to extend the footpath / shared path network around school zones and along the main active transport routes to other attractors and residential neighbourhoods.

Bicycle Lanes

There are on-road cycling lanes along Koolman Way (Cornell Avenue, Richard Street, Karribaroi Highway / Mitchell Street) and the Mitchell Highway (Mooroolbark Street / Anzaco Drive). TNSW's Cycleway Design Toolbox does not recommend use of on-road visually separated cycling lanes and a review of the cycle lanes along main roads in and around Bourke is considered appropriate.

Road Crossings

There are centre islands along constructed footpaths with varying levels of compliance. Safe crossings at regular intervals on major town centre streets and other key district lines are important to support walking convenience and safety. Kerb biters and / or new centre islands should form part of any new footpath / shared path treatments, where appropriate. The existing centre islands along Tarcorn Street near Bourke High School need replacing as they are too narrow and / or do not follow district lines.

Barriers

The Karribaroi Highway presents as a barrier to active transport to the north of Bourke Highway School. The Darling River also presents as a barrier to Bourke and North Bourke active transport, particularly the Gateway Bridge at North Bourke does not have any pedestrian facilities.

Obstacles

The North Bourke bridge is closed to all traffic including active transport. Repair of the bridge for active transport would remove a major barrier / obstacle between these centres.

Trip Hazards

Bourke Mainstreet has quality footpath environments. Some footpaths, kerb ramps and grassed footpaths further afield of the town centre present as trip hazards. Provision of concrete footpaths and new kerb ramps along main walkways would help address potential trips and falls.

Lighting

No major issues were raised / noted.

Facility Indicators

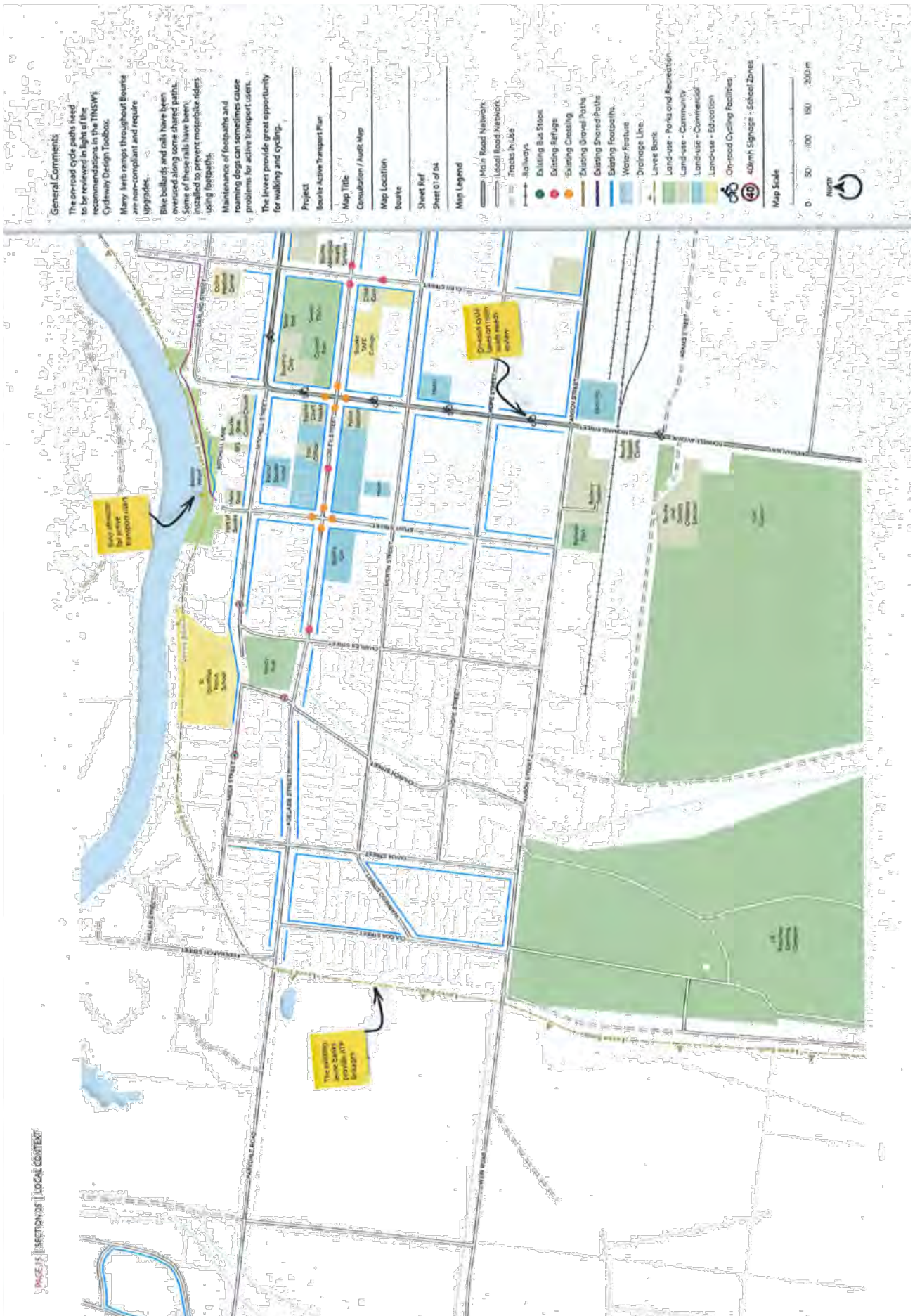
Generally absent in Bourke.

End of Trip Facilities

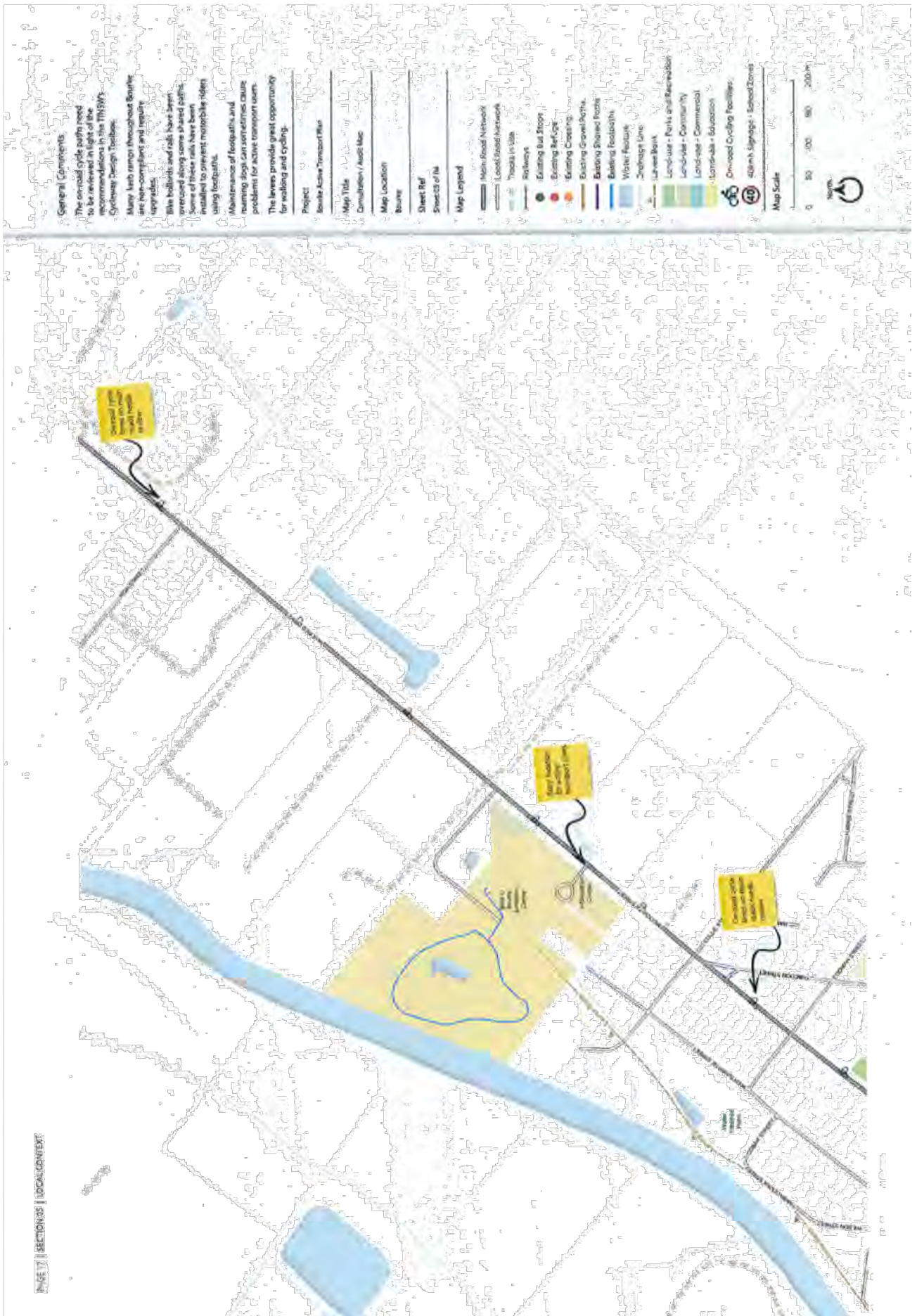
There is a good range of end of trip facilities at various locations in Bourke.

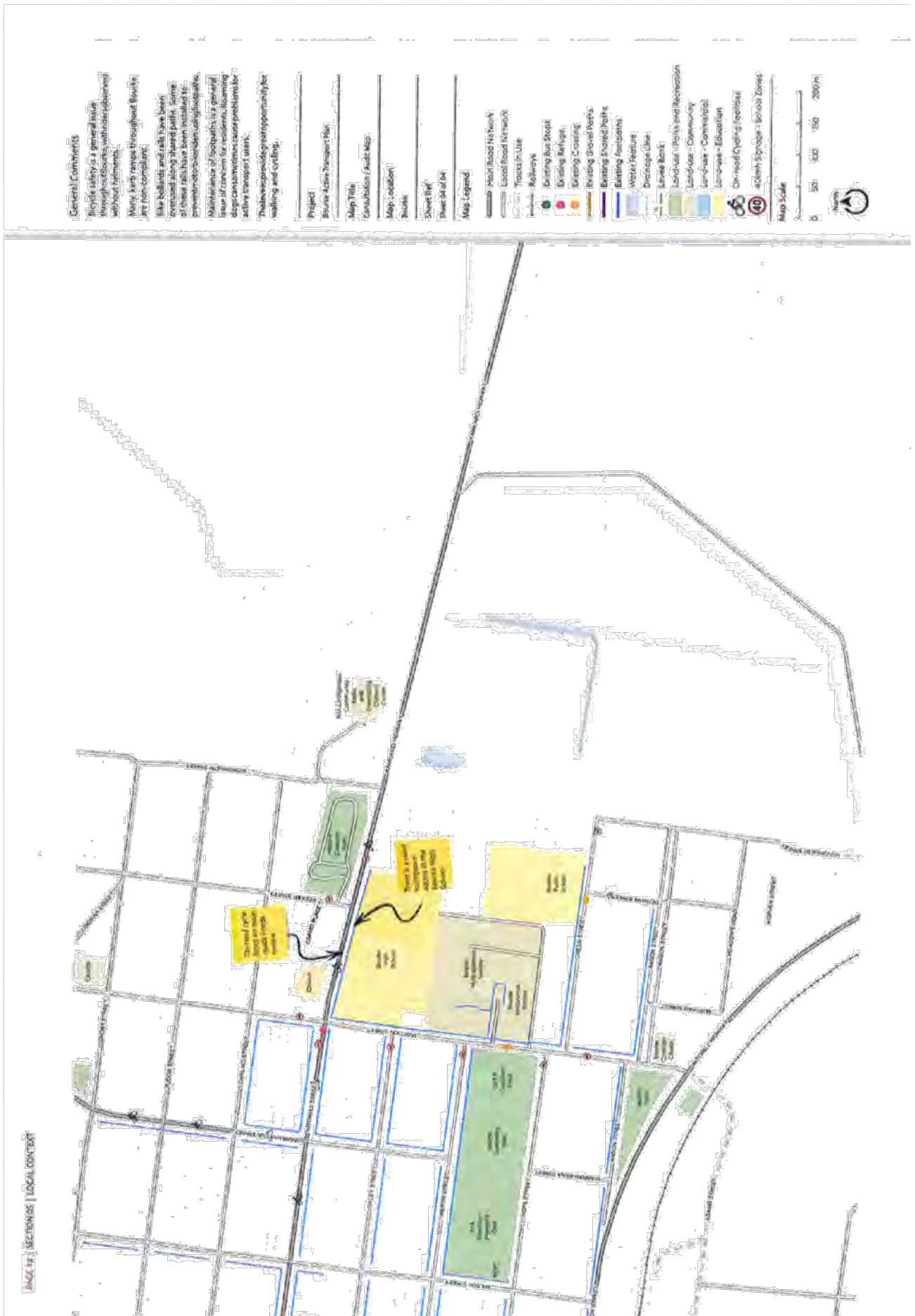
Signage

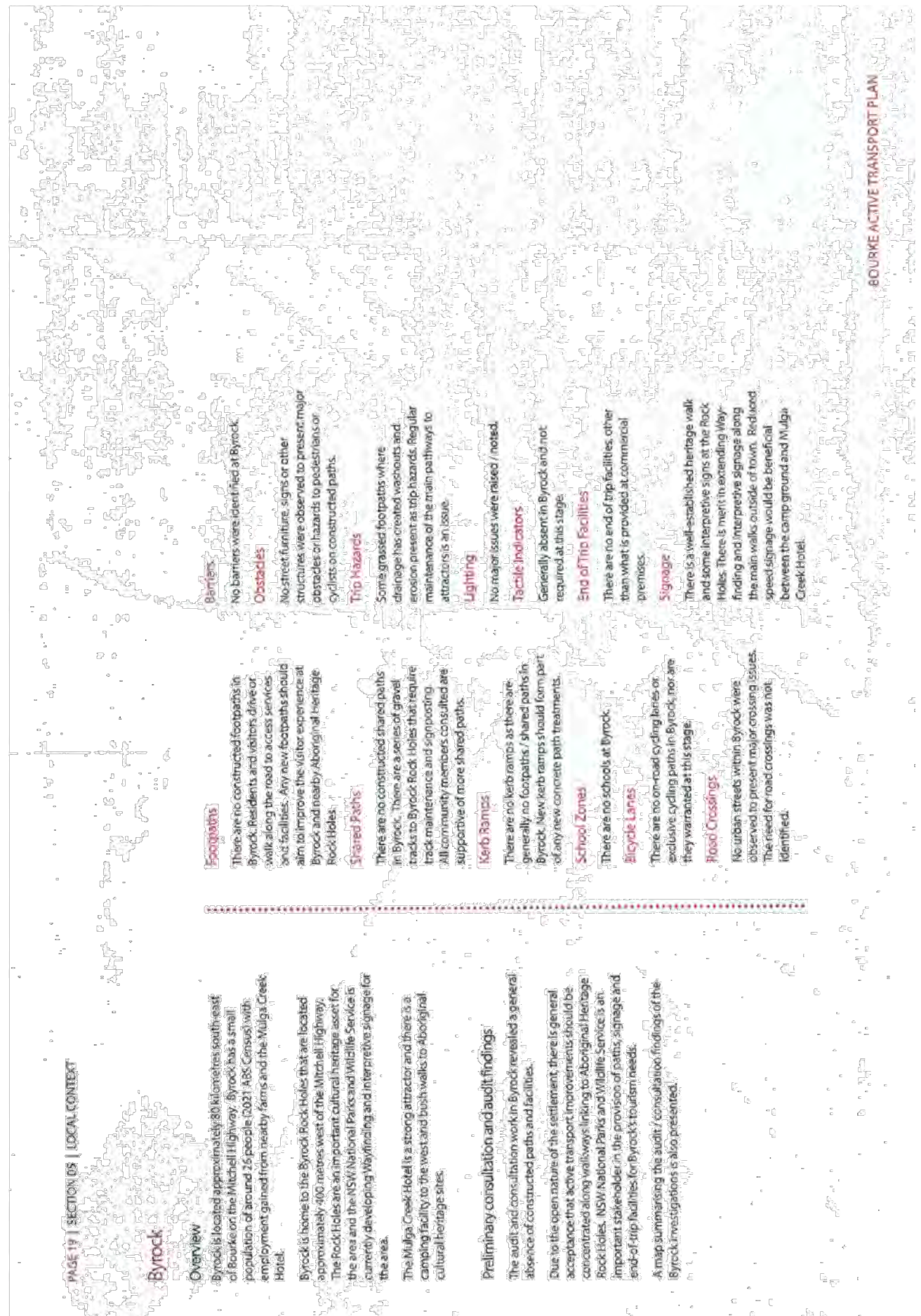
Generally absent in Bourke, except for main visitor attractors, 40km/h speed zones have been recommended by the Local Traffic Committee for Mitchell Street (between Clerin and Charles Streets), Richard Street (between Mitchell and Martin Streets) and Sturt Street (between Dilley and Mitchell Streets).











PAGE 19 | SECTION 05 | LOCAL CONTEXT

Byrock

Overview

Byrock is located approximately 80 kilometres south-west of Bourke on the Mitchell Highway. Byrock has a small population of around 26 people (2021 AGS Census) with employment gained from nearby farms and the Mulga Creek Hotel.

Byrock is home to the Byrock Rock Holes that are located approximately 400 metres west of the Mitchell Highway. The Rock Holes are an important cultural heritage asset for the area and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently developing Wayfinding and interpretive signage for the area.

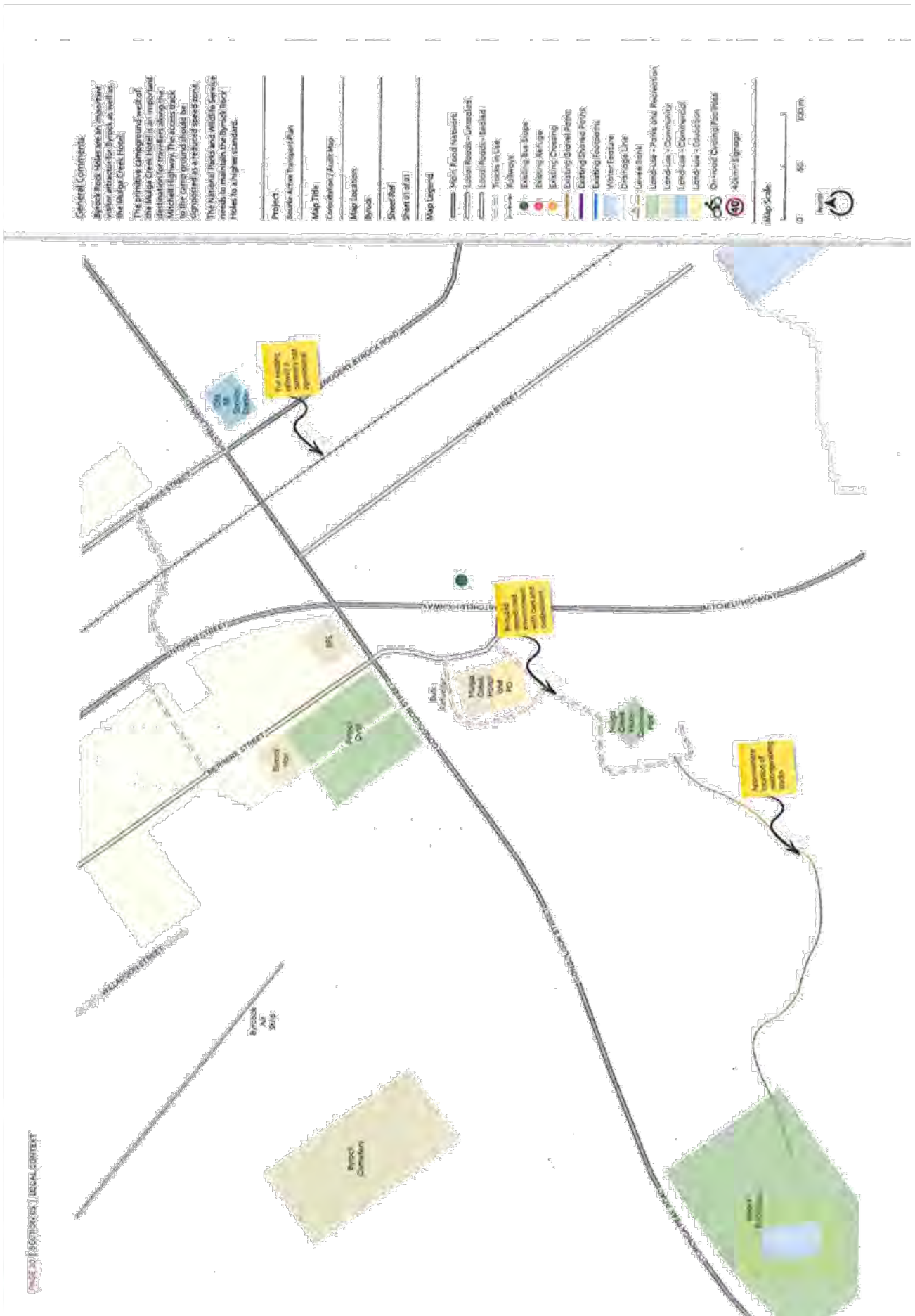
The Mulga Creek Hotel is a strong attractor and there is a camping facility to the west and bush walks to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

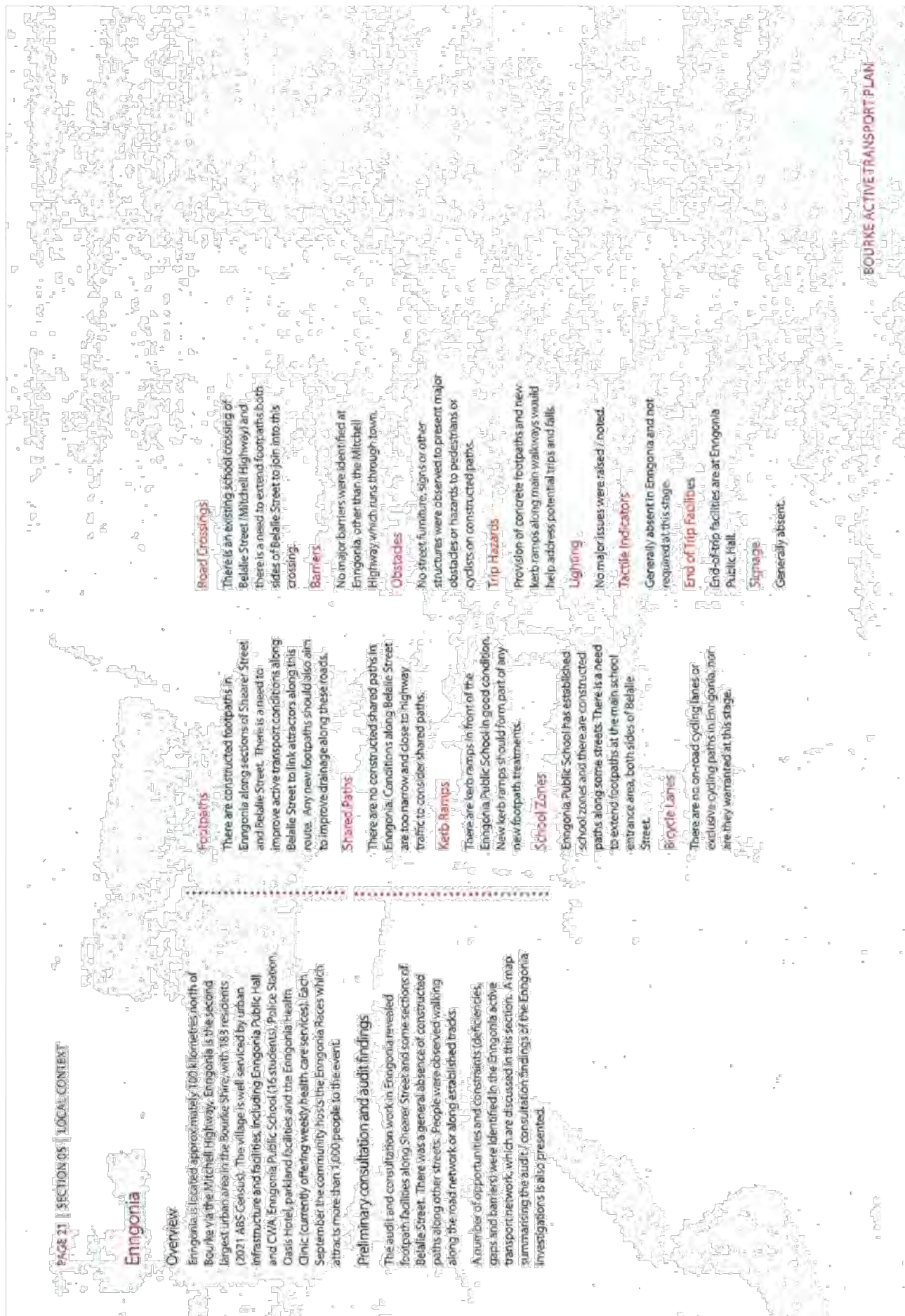
Preliminary consultation and audit findings

The audit and consultation work in Byrock revealed a general absence of constructed paths and facilities.

Due to the open nature of the settlement, there is general acceptance that active transport improvements should be concentrated along walkways linking to Aboriginal Heritage Rock Holes. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is an important stakeholder in the provision of paths, signage and end-of-trip facilities for Byrock's tourism needs.

A map summarising the audit / consultation findings of the Byrock investigations is also presented.







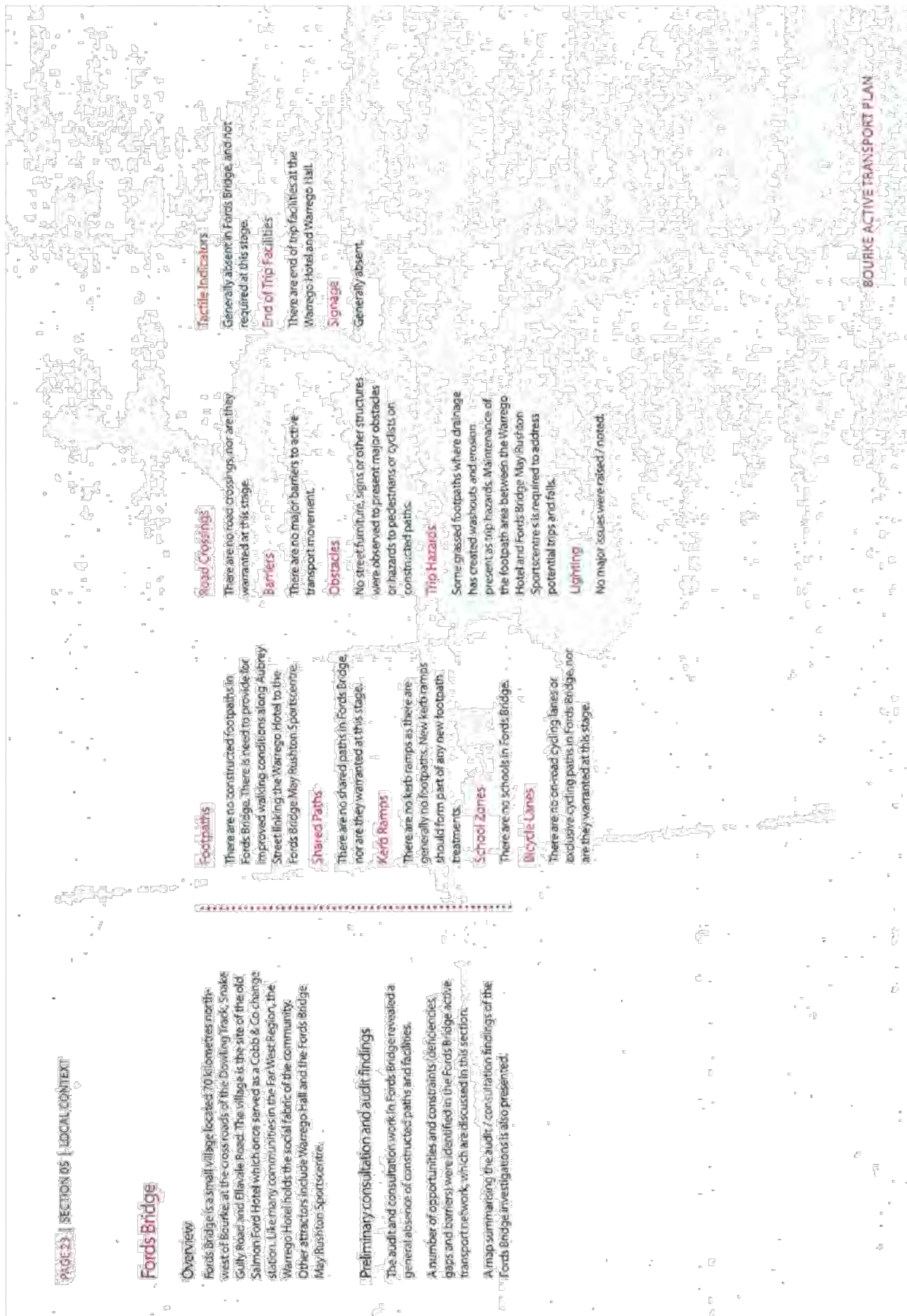
Fords Bridge

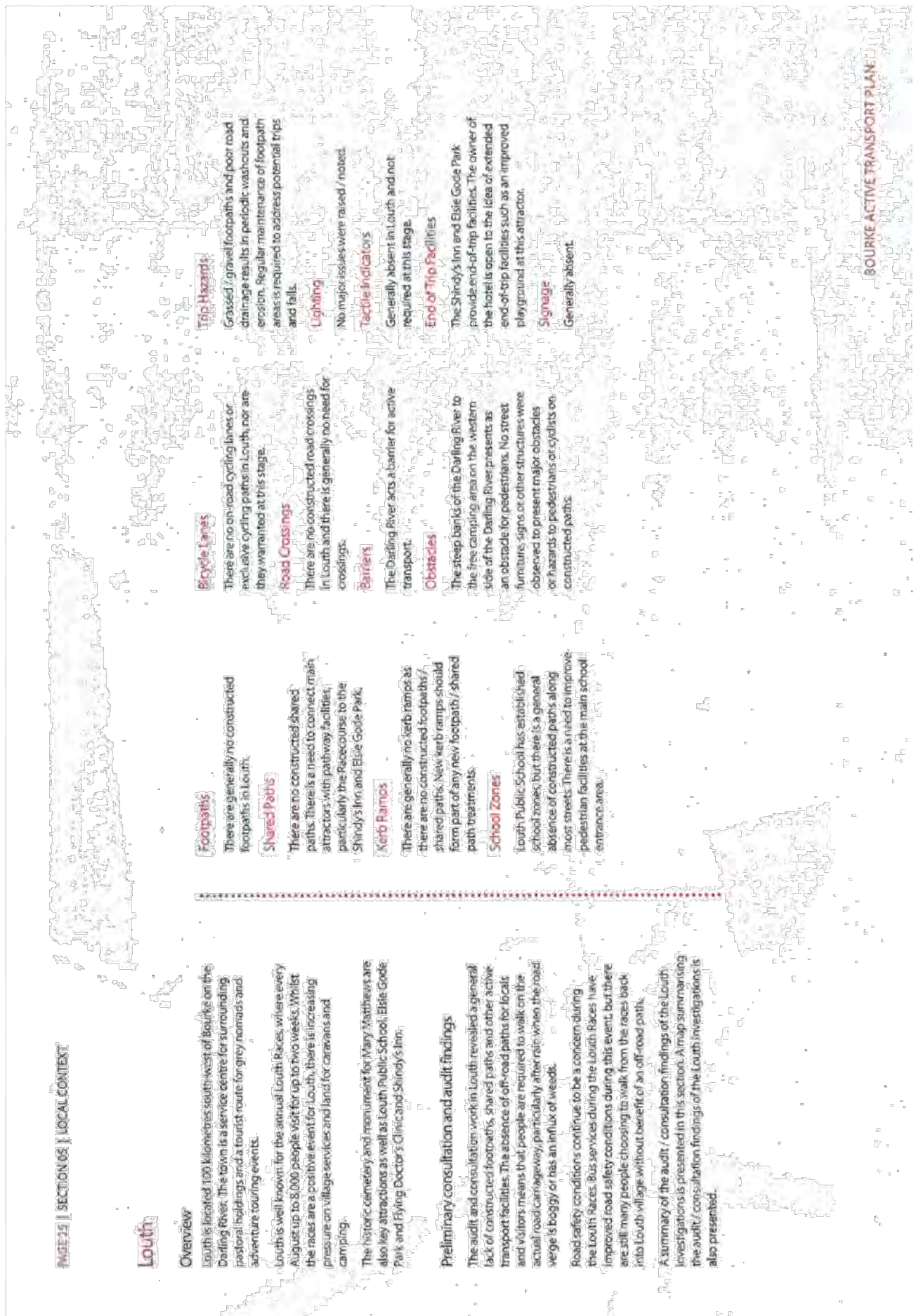
Overview

Fords Bridge is a small village located 70 kilometres north-west of Bourke at the cross roads of the Bowling Track, Snake Gully Road and Elviale Road. The village is the site of the old Salmon Ford Hotel which once served as a Cobb & Co change station. Like many communities in the Far West Region, the Warrego Hotel holds the social fabric of the community. Other attractions include Warrego Fall and the Fords Bridge May Rushton Sportscentre.

Preliminary consultation and audit findings

The audit and consultation work in Fords Bridge revealed a general absence of constructed paths and facilities. A number of opportunities and constraints/deficiencies/gaps and barriers were identified in the Fords Bridge active transport network, which are discussed in this section. A map summarising the audit / consultation findings of the Fords Bridge investigations is also presented.





PAGE 25 | SECTION 05 | LOCAL CONTEXT

Louth

Overview

Louth is located 100 kilometres south-west of Bourke on the Darling River. The town is a service centre for surrounding pastoral holdings and a tourist route for grey nomads and adventure touring events.

Louth is well known for the annual Louth Races, where every August up to 8,000 people visit for up to two weeks. Whilst the races are a positive event for Louth, there is increasing pressure on village services and land for caravans and camping.

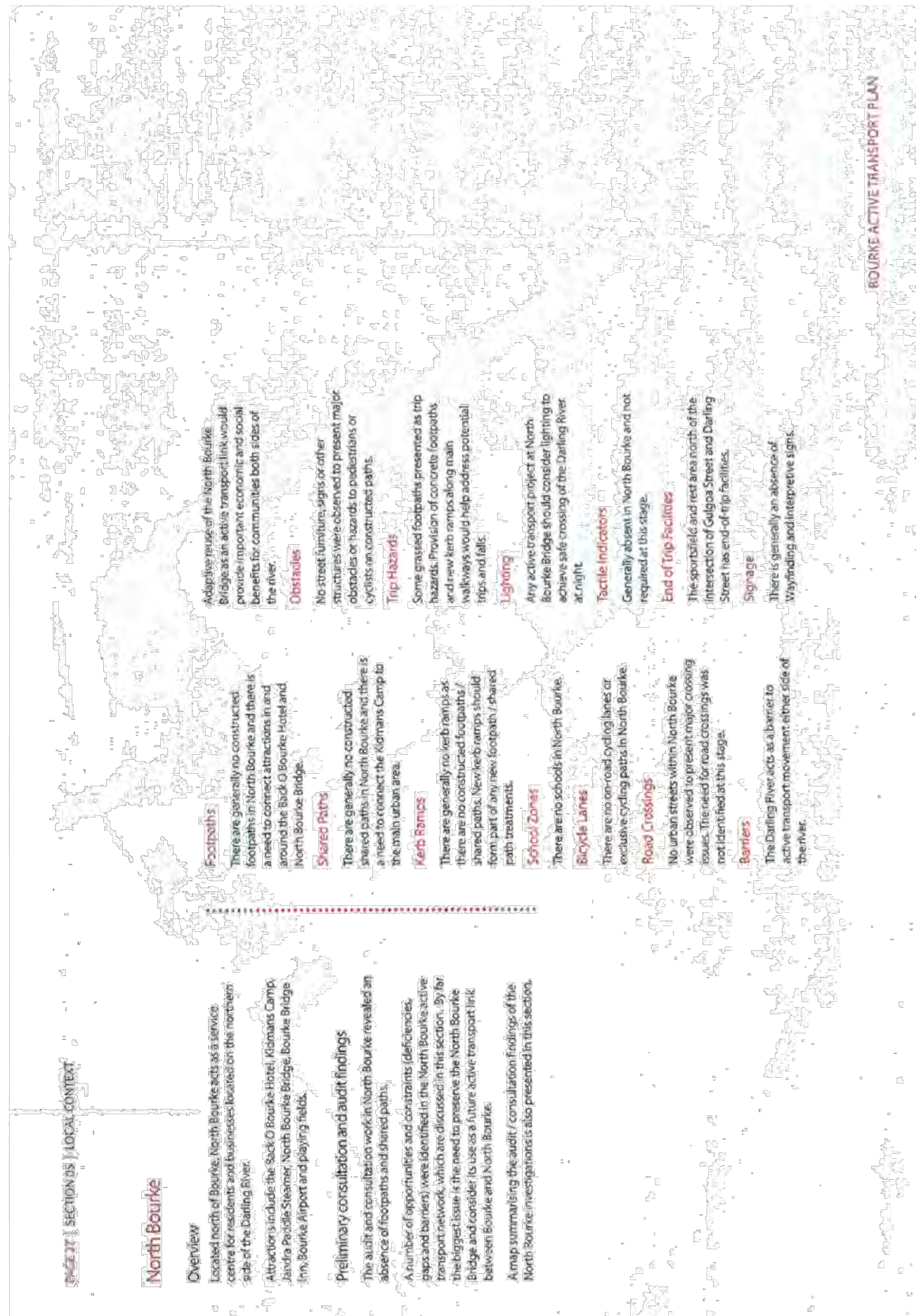
The historic cemetery and monument for Mary Matthews are also key attractions as well as Louth Public School, Elsie Goode Park and Flying Doctor's Clinic and Shindy's Inn.

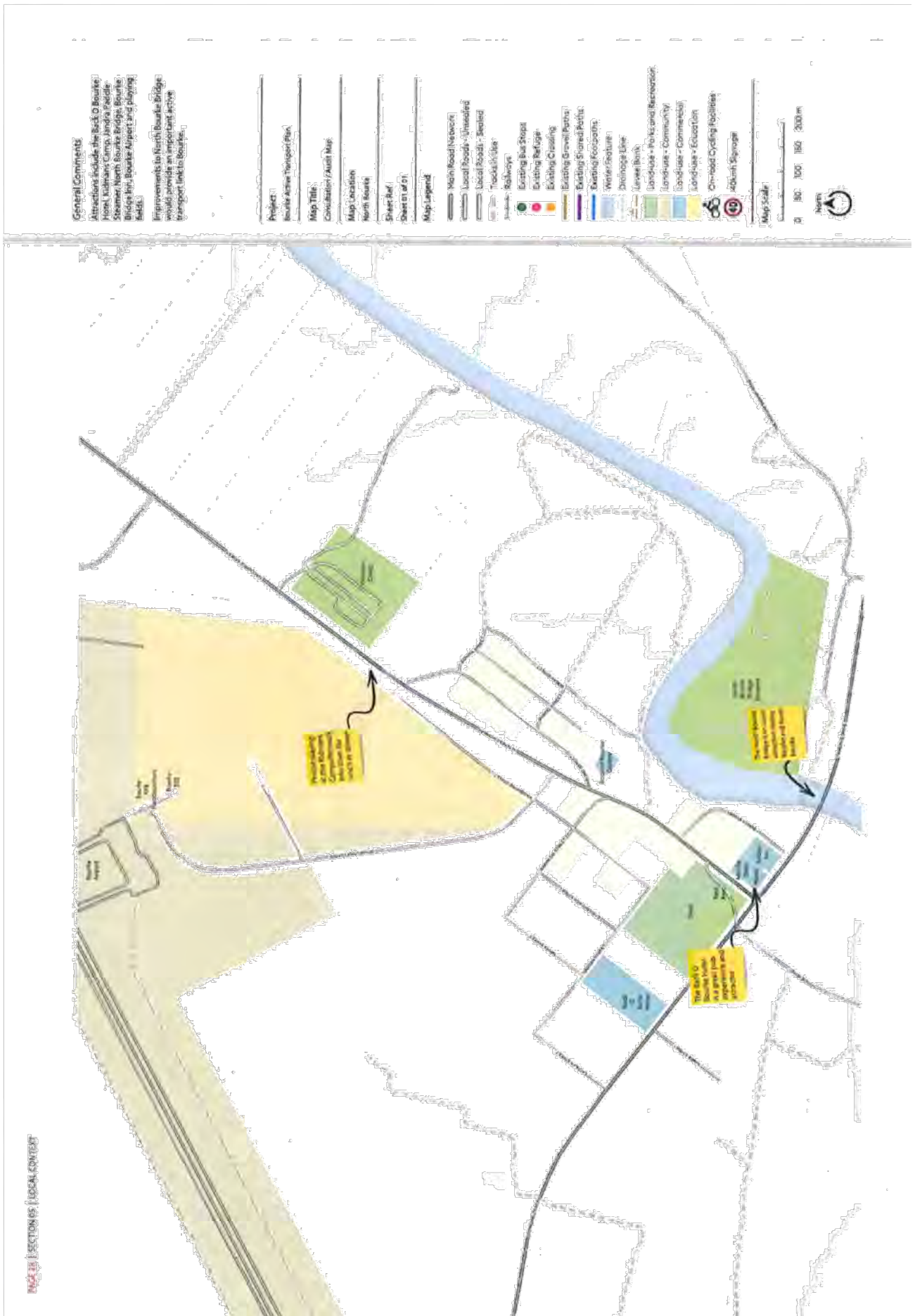
Preliminary consultation and audit findings

The audit and consultation work in Louth revealed a general lack of constructed footpaths, shared paths and other active transport facilities. The absence of off-road paths for locals and visitors means that people are required to walk on the actual road carriage way, particularly after rain when the road verge is boggy or has an influx of weeds.

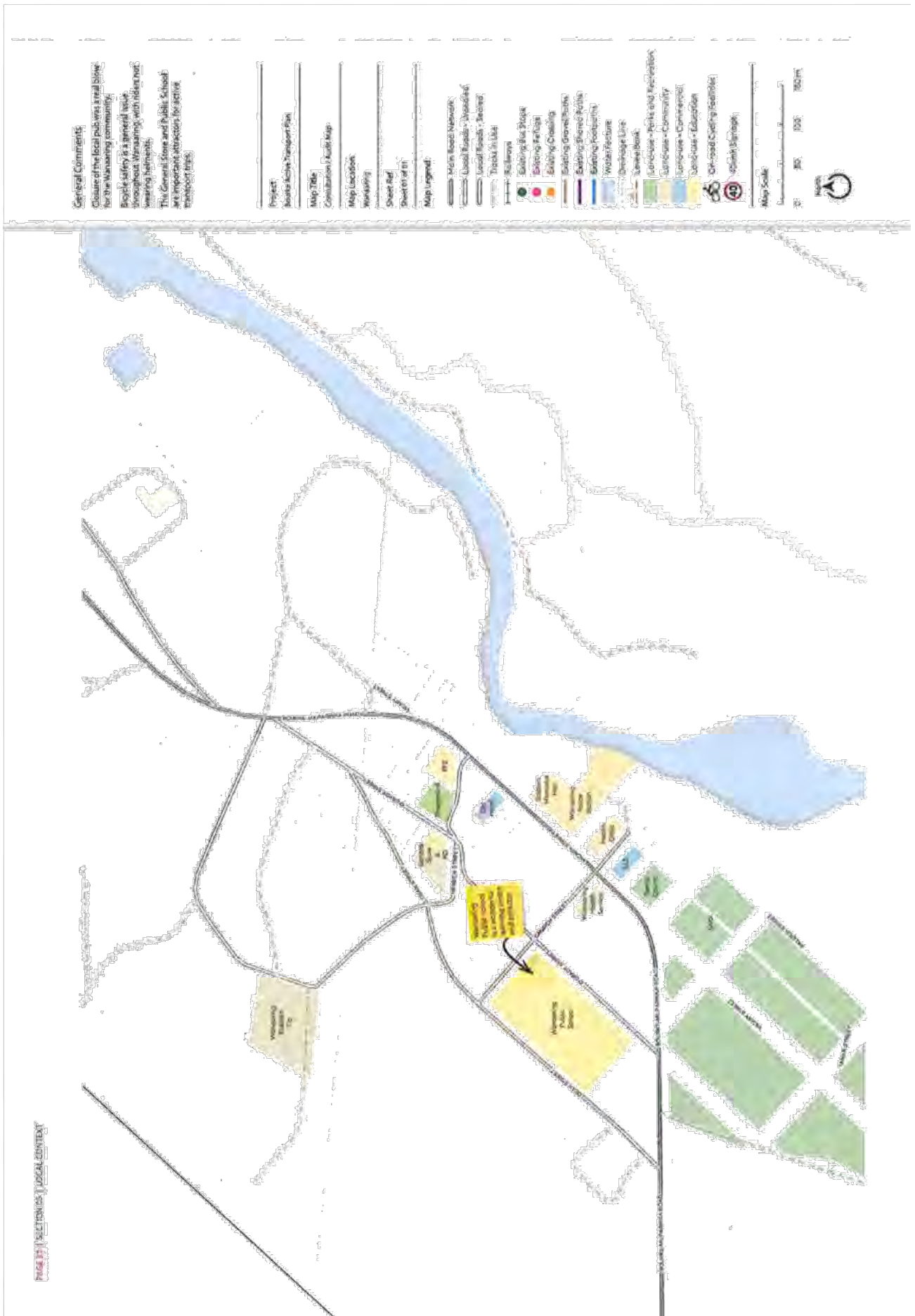
Road safety conditions continue to be a concern during the Louth Races. Bus services during the Louth Races have improved road safety conditions during this event, but there are still many people choosing to walk from the races back into Louth village without benefit of an off-road path.

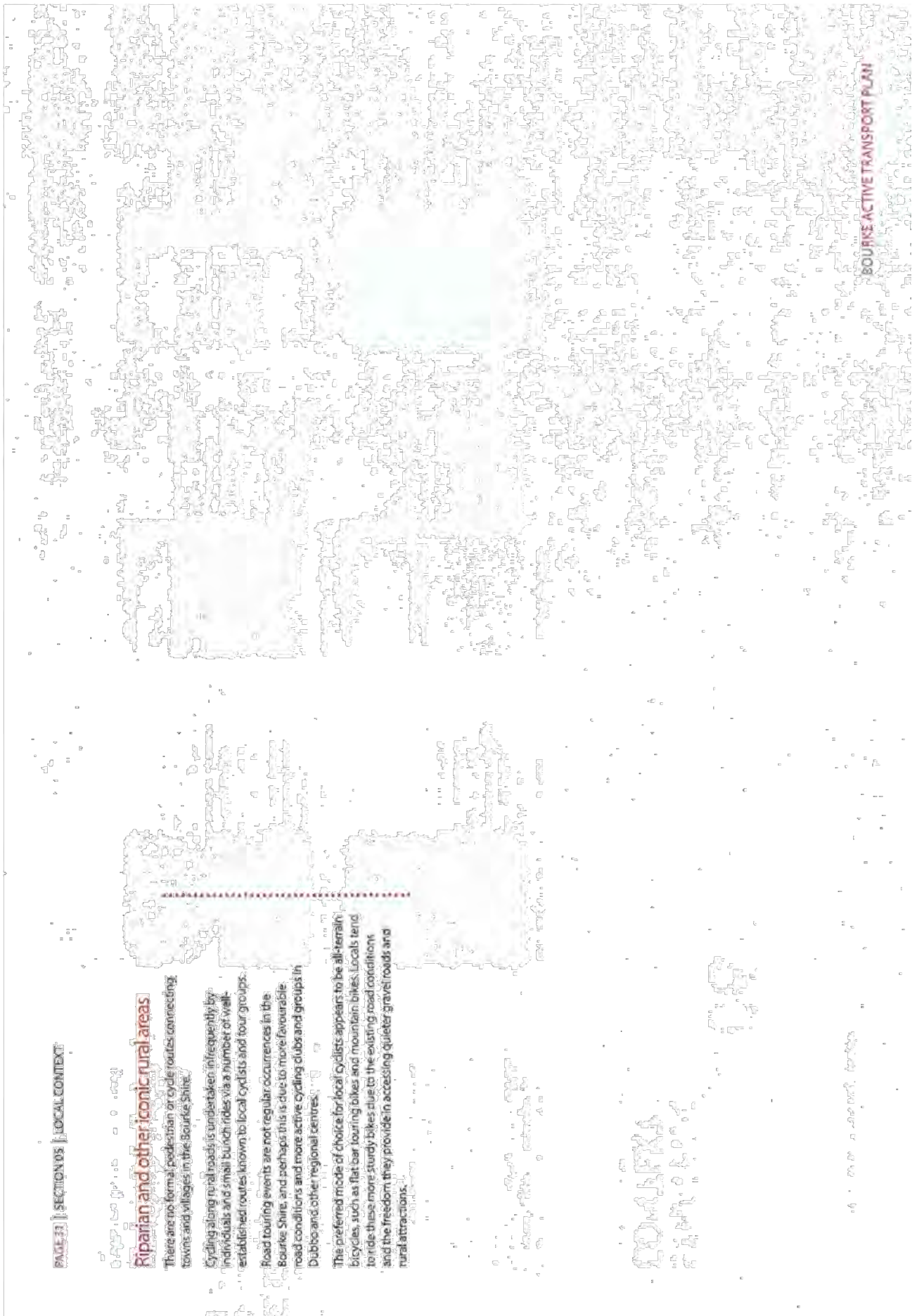
A summary of the audit / consultation findings of the Louth investigations is presented in this section. A map summarising the audit / consultation findings of the Louth investigations is also presented.











06

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Planning decisions at a local level are influenced by broader global, National, State and regional issues, trends, needs and planning priorities.

The review of supportive documents serves the following purposes:

- ✚ To ensure the strategy aligns with regional, State and national policy directions.
- ✚ To ensure the strategy aligns with the wider context of transport and land-use planning policy directions.
- ✚ To understand the projects, links and network connections being planned in adjoining local government areas that might benefit the strategy.
- ✚ To help understand the correct methodology and approach when preparing the strategy.
- ✚ To help identify any deficiencies within the current network and existing policies that may hinder ongoing success.

The following documents are particularly important.

Movement and Place Practitioner's Guide



Explains how built environment practitioners can apply a Movement and Place approach to projects and plans.

Walking Space Guide



Provides a set of standards and tools to ensure that sufficient space is provided on streets to achieve comfortable environments which encourage people to walk.

Cycleway Design Toolbox



Provides guidance on desired outcomes for cycling and micromobility. It establishes design principles for cycleways in specific contexts, including temporary initiatives and public bicycle parking facilities.

Network Planning in Precincts Guide



Provides best practice principles, tools, examples and case studies of a transport network that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods while supporting 15 minute neighbourhoods.

NSW Public Spaces Charter



The NSW Public Spaces Charter has been developed to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW. It identifies 10 principles for quality public space.

NSW Guide to Walkable Public Space



Outlines why walkable public spaces are needed. It includes ideas and opportunities for how they can be created and methods for trialling and evaluating improvement.

07

BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLANNING



Healthy Lifestyle

Leading an active lifestyle brings many benefits for the general health and well-being of Bourke Shire residents. Using footpaths, bicycle lanes and shared paths provide a cheap means of incorporating exercise into our daily routine. As a regular activity, walking, running, bike riding and rolling can aid the prevention of:

- Heart disease
- Stroke
- Type 2 diabetes
- Falls, fractures and injuries (through improved strength and coordination)
- Hypertension

Active transport activity can also improve psychological well-being, metabolism, muscle strength and flexibility, endurance, respiratory function, energy levels and weight management. All this aids in a speedy return to good health in the event of illness or recovery from trauma / surgery.

Children's health should include regular physical activity, with at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity being recommended for children 5 to 18 years of age to keep healthy. Outdoor activity, such as playing, walking, running, rolling and bike riding can contribute to children's health, as well as their development of physical, practical, emotional and social skills.

The presence of footpaths, shared paths and cycleways are associated with active travel across all age groups.



Creating a comprehensive movement network

Comprehensive road environments are ones that incorporate efficient transport options (roads, public transport, footpaths and cycleways) as well as aesthetic presentation and general walk-ability. Quality footpaths and shared paths are particularly influential in encouraging people across all ages to lead more active lifestyles.

Council and State government transport planners are focussing efforts towards achieving more comprehensive active transport networks that allow people to navigate between land uses or destinations via roads, pedestrian footpaths, cycle paths and shared paths routes, as well as using public transport routes where available.

The transport network in the Bourke Shire is largely based around private motor vehicles on roads. Continued lack of public transport options in the Bourke Shire are key reasons for improving the active transport network in the urban areas of the shire.

As the centres with the most activity in the shire, Bourke, Engongola, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wanaaring all need their own active transport project plans to cater for the growing needs of residents and visitors.

Achieving Safer Conditions

Pedestrians and cyclists are considered at risk road users due to their lack of protection against motor vehicles in the event of a crash. It is important for road safety reasons that facilities are available for active transport users that minimise their exposure to potential conflict with motor vehicles.

Connected active transport networks have been shown to be associated with more walking in older adults and children, but only when traffic-related issues are managed, and the local streets are perceived to be safe. Connected street networks that are perceived as safe by users tend to encourage greater levels of active transport across all age groups. Older adults, particularly women, are more fearful and more vulnerable to crime thus the design and location of active transport facilities to achieve good levels of perceived / actual safety is important to avoid people constraining their behaviour.

Evidence indicates that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) elements, such as good street lighting, neighbourhood upkeep, and less physical incivilities (e.g. litter, graffiti and vandalism) can encourage active transport. The design of commercial buildings and their relation to the street also has the potential to increase natural surveillance which improves safety and feelings of safety. Providing safe, well-lit building entrances that face the street and are directly accessible from the street and footpath and car parks has been shown to encourage active modes of transport to and from buildings.

Economic Benefits

For the wider community, leading a healthier lifestyle reduces the impacts on our health care system. It also reduces costs of living and boosts industry productivity from fit and healthy workers. Active transport creates more footfall for local businesses and caters to the burgeoning visitor market interested in exploring Mainstreet environments, heritage walking trails, riparian areas and bushland trails, either on foot or on a bike.

Social Benefits

Active transport, particularly walking is one of the most socially inclusive modes of transport. It provides opportunities to socialise with friends and neighbours and creates a safer, friendlier and more connected community. Benefits include:

- ✦ Encouraging family and community connectedness.
- ✦ Improving social skills and networks.
- ✦ Reducing isolation and loneliness.
- ✦ Enhancing self-esteem and confidence.
- ✦ Prolonging independent living for older people in the community.

Evidence suggests that active transport infrastructure, particularly footpaths around local shops and community facilities, are important for encouraging social interaction and social capital. Such facilities provide casual and chance interactions with other members of the community as well as providing places for people to meet friends and family and engage in social activities.



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Great Places

The way we design and build our streets and neighbourhoods has an effect on many residents' social connections, sense of community and social capital, and thus their use of active transport facilities. Neighbourhood walkability (a combination of residential density, mixed-use planning and street connectivity) is particularly associated with walking for transport and general walking.

Land-use decisions affect social connection by determining the places available for people to interact and spend time, and how far people have to travel to get to places where they can interact with others. A connected street network that is legible and permeable enables more movement choices around town. This encourages more walking and cycling, allowing for more interactions between neighbours and residents, which in turn increases the sense of community in residents.

Shorter travel distances between land-uses can enable easy access to facilities and services for all people, including the very young, older persons and people with a disability, which can reduce social isolation for these groups. For example, living within close proximity (400-800m) of a mix of destinations is associated with higher levels of active travel across all age groups.

In terms of active transport behaviours, increased connectivity reduces the distances between origins and destinations and provides a range of routes to choose from, increasing the likelihood of walking and cycling between locations.

Traditionally designed neighbourhoods tend to have a grid-style street layout, which create few barriers to direct travel, resulting in high levels of connectivity and a choice of routes. In contrast, more modern neighbourhoods are developed around a network of hierarchical roads, which often result in creating low levels of connectivity. Residents have little or no choice of route, as often there is only one road in and out of the development, and the indirect curvilinear streets increase active transport distances between destinations.

A review of the walking and cycling conditions in urban areas of Bourke Shire is therefore important and may provide opportunities for the review of other land-use/transport policies, particularly the overuse of cul-de-sacs that can result in a disconnected street system and general lack of active travel facilities in new residential estates.

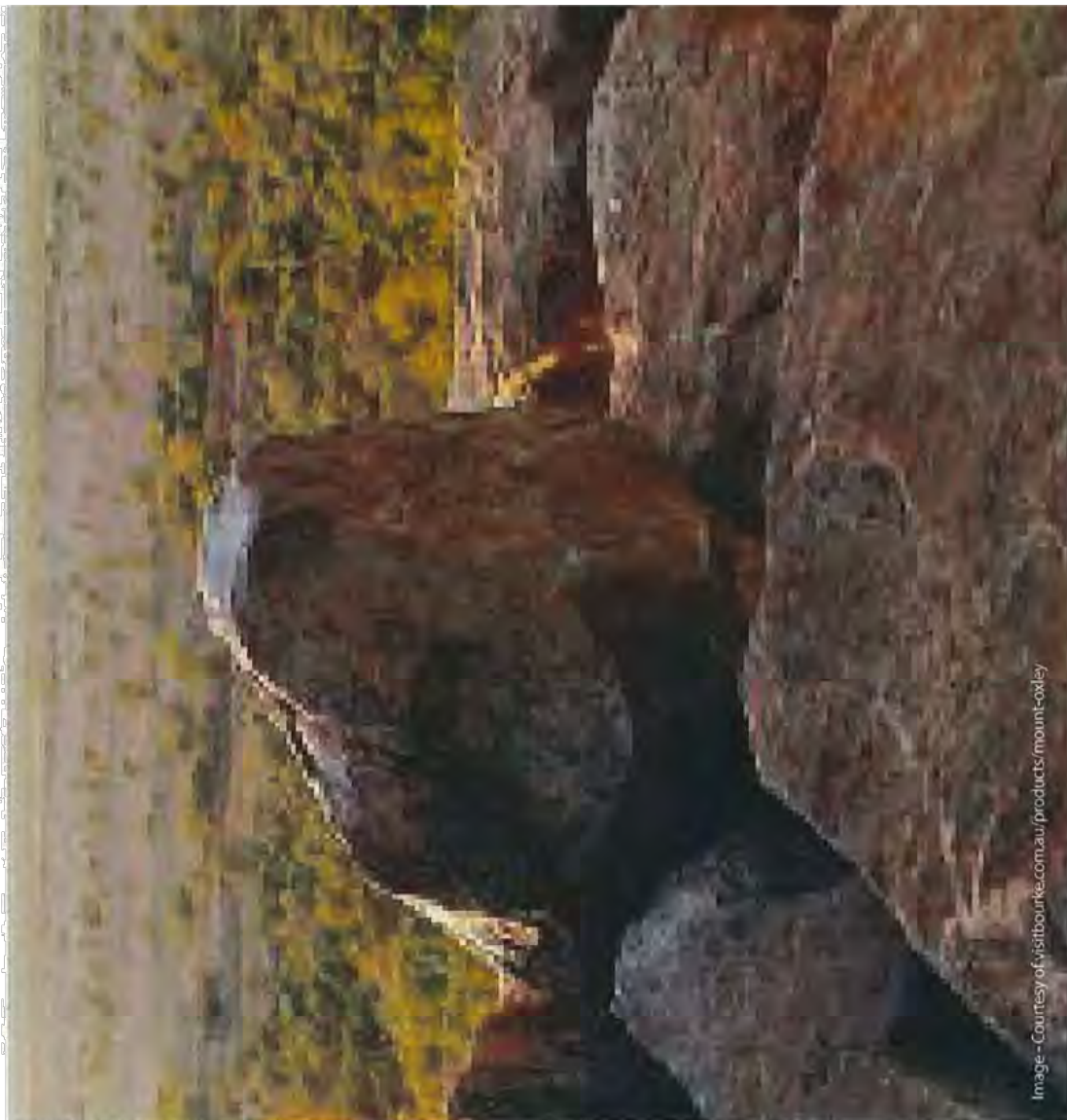


Image - Courtesy of visitbourke.com.au/products/mount-oxley

08

NETWORK PLANNING

Pedestrian Types + Needs

Everyone is a pedestrian, be it walking 30 metres from the car to a place of work, walking to school or the shops, using wheeled devices on footpaths or walking and running for fitness.

Pedestrians are considered 'at risk road users' due to the severe outcomes that can occur when they come into conflict with motor vehicles. On average, about one in six people killed on our NSW roads was a pedestrian.

In the Bourke Shire context, the main pedestrian groups are as follows:



Older pedestrians

Are generally less mobile than other pedestrians and prefer footpaths and shared paths with minimal gradients/steps and a high degree of safety and personal security.

Commuters

This group comprises adults and secondary age students who use the footpath network mainly as a mode of transport for journeys to and from a workplace, school or TAFE. They prefer the fastest safe route between their origin and destination and are generally more skilled and experienced. On-road lanes and footpaths are suitable for commuters.

Utility /shopping

Trips are generated for specific purposes, such as running errands, shopping, visiting friends and relatives and points of interest. Local trips are often short length trips and can be unpredictable. Users may be constrained by time and vary widely in skill and experience. They prefer



footpaths, shared paths, low volume roads, minimal gradients and a high degree of safety and personal security.

Secondary / tertiary students

Older students have similar characteristics as commuters and utility / shopping users. Footpaths, on-road lanes and shared paths are suitable for older students.

Infants / primary students

Infant and primary / school aged pedestrians have undeveloped cognitive skills, lack good peripheral vision, and have little knowledge of road traffic rules. They require adult supervision and / or off-road paths and facilities. Road crossing points must be carefully designed to give greater visibility / priority to children.



Fitness

Sports people use the road environment for fitness and training purposes and to access sporting events. They often travel alone or in small groups - seeking long distances for training purposes which can take them onto busier roads. Fitness pedestrians prefer footpaths and shared paths but will use any path or the road / road shoulder if necessary.



Cyclist Types + Needs

There are a range of cyclists who access different parts of the Bourke Shire on their bike for recreational, educational, shopping, commuting and other purposes.

Cyclists are considered at risk road users due to the severe outcomes that can occur when a rider crashes their bike or when they come into conflict with motor vehicles. Most cyclists are aware of their vulnerability on the road network and use safety/lights, helmets and high visibility gear when riding.

In the Bourke Shire context, there are different cyclist groups as follows:

Older bike riders

Older people in the local context are tending to avoid using bicycles.

Commuters

This group comprises predominantly adults who use the road to cycle to work. They prefer the fastest safe route between their origin and destination and are generally more skilled and experienced. On-road lanes and shared paths are suitable for commuter cyclists. Commuters ride reasonable distances, typically less than 20km. They prefer flat direct routes, but may tolerate up to 10% gradients, or 15% with e-bikes. Bike commuters desire all day secure parking, showers and change facilities.

Utility / shopping

A small percentage of people use a bicycle to run errands and do the shopping as well as visit friends, local destinations and points of interest.

Local trips may be 'spare-of-the-moment' decisions, where a bicycle is used to visit the shops for last minute supplies. Users may be constrained by time and vary widely in skill and experience. They may use footpaths, shared paths, and roads to access their destination, and sometimes may forget to take appropriate safety precautions.

Local trips may be 'spare-of-the-moment' decisions, where a bicycle is used to visit the shops for last minute supplies. Users may be constrained by time and vary widely in skill and experience. They may use footpaths, shared paths, and roads to access their destination, and sometimes may forget to take appropriate safety precautions.

Secondary / tertiary students

Older students in the local context are tending to avoid using bicycles, other than to access weekend sports, skate parks and friends.

Infants / primary students

Infant and primary school aged cyclists have undeveloped cognitive skills, lack good peripheral vision, and have little knowledge of road traffic rules. Fear of traffic and bike theft appear to be factors in this age group riding their bikes regularly.

Fitness

Adult riders are more confident mixing with traffic. If riding for training purposes, may ride very long distances, sometimes more than 100km. A number of adults use road bikes, touring bikes and mountain bikes for fitness and recreation. Road and touring cyclists often travel in small groups or larger bunch rides seeking long distances for training and recreational purposes, which can take them onto busier roads. Mountain bike riders and other off-road riders travel individually or in small groups, and seek quieter roads and off-road trails.

Families with children

Prefer separation from traffic. Ride shorter distances. Prefer flat routes with less than 5% gradient. Adults / guardians may be walking alongside young children on bicycles.



Access Impaired Needs

Disability is an issue that affects a significant proportion of the population. The 2019 ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers reported that 17.7% of Australians had a long-term disability that restricted their everyday activities.

Planning for the transport needs of disabled persons presents its own unique challenges, with a person in a wheelchair requiring different assistance to negotiate the active transport network than a person who is sight impaired. Navigation to end of trip facilities, such as parking facilities, water points and toilets also requires special consideration.

Motorized scooter usage is a growth industry and there is a need to review current and future innovations in these mobility devices to ensure infrastructure improvements are aligned with technology.

A key focus of the Bourke ATP should be to provide mobility and access facilities for disabled and older persons in our community, particularly in high activity areas such as commercial precincts, health care facilities, public buildings and parklands.



Aged Access Needs

Age is related to a variety of characteristics and skills that influence the risk of traffic injury. These age-related characteristics can also affect the way in which people of different ages interact with the movement network. In the 2010 NSW Health Falls Prevention Baseline Survey, 25.7% of people aged 65 and older, reported limiting their walking because of fear of falling whilst walking over rough or uneven surfaces, steps or stairs. The main needs of aged persons are for level walking surfaces that are free of hazards. Aged persons also appreciate end of trip facilities, such as seating, water points and toilets.

Older people continue to be over-represented in pedestrian crashes. As shown by Job RFS, Pedestrians at Traffic Light Controlled Intersections: Crossing Behaviour in the Elderly and Non-elderly, several factors work together to increase the risk of older people:

- Deterioration in visual acuity may have a negative impact on an older person's ability to cross the road safely.
- Reduced mobility can render older people unable to react quickly in imminent danger to avoid a crash.
- Underlying health conditions or frailty can result in greater injury severity when a crash occurs.
- Reduced speed when crossing the road can be an issue at automated signals that do not allow sufficient time for slower pedestrians to cross safely.

A key focus of the Bourke ATP should be to provide mobility and access facilities for disabled and older persons in the community, particularly in high activity areas such as commercial precincts, health care facilities, public buildings, parklands and town swimming pools. The following measures have been adapted from the WHO Pedestrian Safety Manual 2013 and the NSW Centre for Road Safety to improve the safety, comfort and amenity of elderly pedestrians:

- Increase the time allocated to pedestrians at signalized pedestrian crossings.
- Install high-visibility crossings and advance stop bars.
- Repair broken kerbs and pedestrian ramps.

- Replicating and/or upgrade existing signs.
- Install pedestrian refuge islands or, preferably, raised medians.
- Narrow roadways with traffic-calming techniques.
- Raise public awareness about the safety needs of elderly pedestrians.
- Reduce legal speed limits to where necessary.
- Strengthen enforcement of laws on speed limits, and drink-driving.



Needs of Young Children

Children are highly vulnerable road users. Infant and primary school aged children need their parents or other adult supervision when they ride along the road network, but they also need our confidence to explore their environment and learn how to do things independently. Children can use the same facilities as adults however they are at risk from traffic for many reasons. Infant and primary school aged bike and scooter riders have undeveloped cognitive skills, lack good peripheral vision, and have little knowledge of road traffic rules. Although children may think they can handle the road network, Kidsafe NSW advises they are:

- ✦ Easily distracted and focus only on one aspect of what is happening;
- ✦ They are smaller and harder for drivers to see, and less predictable than other road users.
- ✦ Cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles.
- ✦ Cannot accurately predict the direction that sounds are coming from.
- ✦ Unable to cope with sudden changes in traffic conditions.
- ✦ Do not understand abstract ideas, such as road safety.

✦ They may lack the ability to distinguish between safe and unsafe crossing gaps and sites, putting them at risk as they cross the road.

✦ They may lack understanding of the dangers presented under different conditions, such as wet weather or darkness.

An extensive network of structured sporting activities is available for children in Bourke Shire that helps to keep them active and engaged. There are also a number of areas where children can go 'off-road' and explore the environment and practice skills on their own or with friends. Some of these areas have become obscured and there are inadequate cues to invite children and their parents / guardians to use these spaces as part of the active transport network.

Key objectives of the Bourke ATP should be to highlight areas that provide opportunities for off-road play and to link these areas to residential neighbourhoods and the wider network.



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Network Planning Principles

The planning focus of the new active travel network is to make pedestrian and cycling activities a safe, healthy and attractive travel option throughout the Bourke Shire. To achieve this over such a vast area requires a targeted and systematic approach, based on a number of principles which are explored further in this section.

Coherence

Coherence can be characterised by the completeness of the network or the completeness of connecting routes. A cohesive network should be continuous and it should be clear to the user where the path leads. Sign-posting and line-marking should indicate major destinations as well as the serious transport intent of sections of road routes. The quality of network facilities should be consistent throughout the length of the route regardless of whether the facility uses a separate or shared road profile. End of trip facilities, such as seating, watering stations, toilets, change room facilities, bicycle racks and storage facilities should also be integrated into the cohesive network.

15 minute neighbourhoods

People will generally walk or use assisted mobility for 10-15 minutes to access local shops and services; depending on their age, health, the walking environment and the weather. Active transport networks are based on active transport trip distances of 15 minutes.

Suitability for all users

Quality environments must be available to all who choose to use them. Paths and facilities must have appropriate gradients and be continuous and free of obstructions such as signage, street furniture and overhanging tree branches. The needs of hearing and vision-impaired users should be considered at primary attractors, especially where user safety is an issue.

Safety

Perceived and actual safety is very important to pedestrians and cyclists. Pedestrians of all ages and genders need to feel that it is safe to walk, whenever they choose to do so. Route safety and security is important to pedestrians, who desire well-lit pathways and open-to-view routes. Road crossings present the greatest danger to pedestrians. Therefore, safe crossing locations need to be provided at regular intervals along major streets or where there are key desire lines to cross major streets. Pedestrians will rarely walk along an indirect route to access safe crossing points, so frequent crossing points must be provided.

Cyclists travel faster than pedestrians and therefore are less concerned about personal security. However, cyclists are still slower and smaller than motor cars and trucks, making them less likely to be seen. When they do come into conflict, cyclists have little protection in a collision. On-road paths and off-road paths reduce the risk of collision with motor vehicles, but still endanger cyclists at squeeze points and intersections with roads. They can also involve potential conflict with pedestrians where the off-road facility is a shared path. The general principles of predictability and clear priority remain important for off-road paths, including directional segregation and high visibility for all users.

Directness

Pedestrians and cyclists do not like to travel but of their way to reach a destination. This is a natural response to avoid the extra effort involved in walking or riding extra distances. Paths serving desire lines between activity areas need to be direct and legible in order to provide for and encourage walking and riding trips. Wherever possible, barriers should be overcome, with slight deviations or additional safe crossing points. A careful balance must be found between providing a direct route and also one free of delays, excessive energy expenditure, or safety concerns.

Amenity

People are more likely to walk or cycle in an attractive environment because it is enjoyable. Areas with high volumes of vehicular traffic, excessive noise and poor pavements may discourage walking and cycling. Urban areas should be maintained at a human scale that provides an attractive and safe environment. Pedestrian and cycling facilities should be designed to fit into the surrounding environment so that the enjoyment of the experience is enhanced. The route should be scenic, quiet, and free of heavy traffic and traffic travelling at high speeds. The best walking and cycling environments are often found along quiet rural roads, in urban parklands or residential areas that have been traffic-calmed.

Identifying Activity Generators

There are certain areas of the Bourke Shire that generate significantly more pedestrian and cycling activity than other areas. Identifying activity generators is particularly important to consider in the preparation of new active travel plans. The different activity generators have been divided into four main groups and are presented in this section. A series of maps showing the generators in Bourke Shire are also presented in the Bourke AITP.

Primary Activity Areas

Primary activity areas include commercial precincts, large schools and hospitals as well as other areas that attract large concentrations of people. Safety, connected/wide footpaths, road crossing points, disability access infrastructure, secure bike parking and end of trip facilities are important design goals for primary activity areas.

Secondary Activity Areas

These include neighbourhood shops, smaller schools, popular sporting and recreational facilities, clubs, hospitals and community facilities such as the larger congregation churches that are not centrally located within primary activity areas. These land-uses are busy places at certain times of the day or week.

Safety connected footpath networks and end of trip facilities are important design goals for secondary activity generators.

Primary Routes

These are routes from residential areas to the primary activity areas and secondary activity generators. They are collector level routes, which do not reach every property but instead form a network of routes that are accessible to a significant catchment of population.

Hazard Areas

Through the analysis of crash data and consultation undertaken, there are a number of areas / routes that have been noted from accident reports or from road users as being potentially dangerous or particularly stressful places for pedestrian and cyclists.



Identifying Appropriate Paths

The selection of the appropriate path type treatment depends on a combination of factors, including the level of demand for the path, the conditions present in the surrounding environment (traffic speed and volume), the availability of space in which to provide the path, and whether path users is for exclusive pedestrian or cycle use or shared use. The overall goal is to install facilities that are safe, practical and that respond to local conditions. A number of different path treatments can be applied, which are covered in this section:

Footpaths

Footpaths are suitable for a wide range of pedestrian situations. Footpaths are required to be designed and built to meet minimum dimension requirements. Design elements of footpaths include width, gradient, pavement materials that are slip resistant, type of kerb and adequate setback distance of the footpath from the roadway.

According to the Austroads Guide and other guidelines referred to in Section 6, the general minimum footpath width of 1.2m (or 1.0m as an absolute minimum) is adequate for most road and street situations except in commercial and shopping environments. TNSW's Walking Space Guide recommends minimum 2.0m wide footpaths to enable two wheelchairs to pass one another without the need to leave the path, which is relevant around the Bourke CBD and health facilities. A footpath wider than the minimum may also be necessary at locations where pedestrians gather such as the entrance to schools and associated crossings, recreation facilities and bus stops or on routes with high pedestrian traffic volumes.



PAGE 43 | SECTION 08 | NETWORK PLANNING

Shared paths

Shared use paths are a type of off-road facility that are generally wider than footpaths (minimum 2.4m) and allow common use of the facility by both cyclists and pedestrians. The minimum width for a shared path is 2.0m, the desirable width is 2.5m and in some situations a path width of 3.0m may be required depending on the location, purpose and anticipated level of walking / cycling activity.

According to the Austroads Guide and other guidelines referred to in Section 6, a shared use path may be appropriate where demand exists for both a pedestrian path and a bicycle path but where the intensity of use is not expected to be sufficiently great to provide separate facilities. Shared paths are a popular response to connecting attractors and as paths in large parklands.

In some situations shared paths may cause friction between pedestrians and cyclists. Displaying highly visible signs and rules applying to the proper use of share paths are important considerations when planning these paths.

Shared streets

Shared local streets are safer streets with design speeds of no more than 40km/h being advocated in the past that enable more people of all ages and abilities to cycle.

The Cycleways Design Toolbox recommends the sharing of traffic lanes only where design speeds are 30km/h or less and traffic volumes are very low.



Exclusive off-road cycle paths

According to the Austroads Guide and other guidelines referred to in Section 6, exclusive bicycle paths are most appropriate when there is a significant cycling demand and very few pedestrians desire to use the path or a separate footpath is provided, and there is very limited motor vehicle access across the path.

On-road cycle paths

On-road cycle paths are 'bicycle lanes' located alongside the motor vehicle traffic lane on a road. They can include physically separated bicycle lanes or visually separated lanes through the use of line-marking and/or contrasted green colouring of the bicycle lane surface. They are generally located on the far left of the road carriageway and often on the bitumen sealed road shoulder.

On-road painted bike lanes on road shoulders without physical barriers do not provide riders with protection from passing traffic and are often perceived as unsafe by current and potential everyday bike riders. For this reason, on-road cycle paths are not particularly effective in encouraging more local cycling trips and are not the preferred method of providing for short, everyday cycling trips.

Where possible, the Bourke ATP should give preference to new shared path installations as a strategy for increasing cycling activity throughout Bourke LGA. A review of the existing on road cycle lanes in and around Bourke is recommended.



Pavement Surfaces

There are a variety of pavement materials commonly used as part of the construction of new active transport infrastructure. These are described as follows:

Concrete and Asphalt

This provides a hard surface and is generally functionally appropriate. This material is ideal where footpaths are on a gradient and exposed to water as the texture of these surface materials are slip resistant. Most footpaths in Bourke Shire are of these construction types. Some main street beautification works use a combination of asphalt, concrete and brick paver to provide variety and interest.



Pavers and Bricks

For aesthetic reasons and to add interest and variety, pavers and brick paving are often used. Pavers have been used extensively in commercial areas and at tourist destinations. When used for pedestrian paths, glazed surfaces should be avoided as they are slippery when wet. Stone path surfaces should also be avoided as they can fail fitness tests. Pavers are ideal for sight impaired pedestrians as a guidance using different pavement colours, however overuse of colours can also be confusing.



Spray seal emulsion

Generally less hard wearing than concrete, asphalt or pavers. It is often used as a cheaper option in low trafficked areas where drainage is not an issue. It may also be considered where a new path is being trialled to determine its longer-term material type.



Loose surface material

These materials such as exposed aggregate, gravel, soil, sand, grass and tanbark should be avoided along heavily used routes. They can be very difficult to walk on and make it difficult for people in wheelchairs. However, gravel surfaces may be suitable for fitness walkers and runners and mountain bike riders.

Ideally loose surface paths should be free of obstructions and therefore should not include steps, stairways or obstacles that affect safety.





Lighting

Night time outdoor lighting has most often been designed for the vehicle driver, rather than for pedestrians and cyclists.

Where footpaths, bicycle lanes and shared pathways carry a substantial number of pedestrians and cyclists during periods of darkness, consideration should be given to the provision of path lighting. Lighting will increase both actual and perceived safety along the network and should be targeted along key pedestrian routes and activity zones.

The main objectives of pedestrian lighting are to ensure adequate lighting is provided to identify pedestrian routes and signage, illuminate pedestrians to other road users and to achieve facial recognition of another pedestrian at a reasonable distance.

The main objective of cycleways lighting is to ensure adequate lighting is provided so that cyclists, travelling at reasonable speed are able to avoid potholes and any other traffic hazards. Generally provision for public lighting for bicycles may occur where:

- ✦ Paths for cycling associated with promenades or a centre for night-time activity.
- ✦ Paths for cycling used for commuting by workers or students.

Lighting should be placed along key routes, key crossing points, intersections and places where people congregate. Direction and height of illumination, background and illumination levels are key considerations that should be addressed within the design.



End of Trip Facilities

Public amenities can be important mid-way or end of trip resources for pedestrians and cyclists. Examples of end of trip facilities including:

- ✦ Bicycle parking / repair stations.
- ✦ Seating / rest stops.
- ✦ Water points.
- ✦ Toilets.
- ✦ Shade structures.
- ✦ Way-finding signage.
- ✦ Personal storage lockers.
- ✦ Shower facilities and change rooms.

Exercise equipment is also being used / provided in some parks to facilitate more intensive fitness training. These facilities are the 'boutdoor' equivalent of a gym, and may include weights and resistance benches, step-up and pull-up devices.

Generally, end of trip facilities enhance the overall experience for pedestrians and cyclists, ensuring they have a comfortable and stress-free transition from active transport to their end destination.

Providing end of trip facilities at places that employ large workforces can also encourage more people to become more active, as they provide places to store bikes and training gear, and for workers to take a shower upon arrival to work.



Landscape Design

Landscape works which are poorly planned and designed can have negative impact on pathway use. It is important that landscaping is designed, constructed and managed to:

- ✦ Provide clear sightlines.
- ✦ Promote good visibility.
- ✦ Provide safe side clearances.
- ✦ Prevents intrusion into pedestrian / cycling operating space.
- ✦ Manages tree root damage to pathways.
- ✦ Provide passive surveillance and promotes an open easy-supervised environment.
- ✦ Manage weeds, especially, catheads.

Technical advice on key considerations for landscape design are provided in the *Austrroads Guide* and other guidelines referred to in Section 6.

Signage and Line Marking

Signage and / or markings should be provided throughout the entire network to guide pedestrians and cyclists use of the bicycle and shared path network.

Signage and / or markings should include both directional and informative information and be designed to be easily identifiable and consistent across both on-road and off-road networks. They will inform users of the direction and distance to key destinations, provide warning of changing conditions (e.g. intersection) and of approaching hazards and provide clear travel pattern advice, which is particularly important at intersections.

Signage and / or markings should be provided as new on-road bicycle and shared pathways are constructed and should be progressively retro-fitted across the existing network.

The use of a green surface for bicycle lanes which draws motorists' attention to the presence of bicycles is recommended at busy or higher-speed locations and areas where the road layout is complex.

Technical advice on signage and marking treatments is provided in the Austroads Guide and other guidelines referred to in Section 6.



09 ACTIVE TRANSPORT PROJECT PLANS

Active Transport Project Plans have been prepared for Bourke, Byrock, Engonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wandaring. The Active Transport Project Plans are presented in a series of maps, as necessary, for each location and typically include the following detail:

- ☐ Public Roads (sealed, unsealed, track-in-use).
- ☐ Railway Infrastructure.
- ☐ Primary Activity Areas.
- ☐ Secondary Activity Generators.
- ☐ Primary Routes.
- ☐ Hazard Areas.
- ☐ Other key landmarks and/or landmarks.
- ☐ Existing and proposed footpath locations.
- ☐ Existing and proposed shared path locations.
- ☐ Existing and proposed off-road path locations.
- ☐ Existing and proposed end of trip facilities.

Guiding Principles

Focusing efforts in areas of highest importance

Effective and useful planning relies on focusing effort and resources in areas where it is most needed. Bourke Shire Council has limited funds for improvements and these funds need to be carefully directed towards achieving optimal outcomes. The Active Transport Project Plans for Bourke, Byrock, Engonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wandaring need to focus efforts on areas with high levels of pedestrian and cyclist activity as well as the desire lines of high potential and demand. Consideration should also be given to locations which may merit a review of road conditions based on a poor safety record.

Focusing on potential pedestrian and cyclists

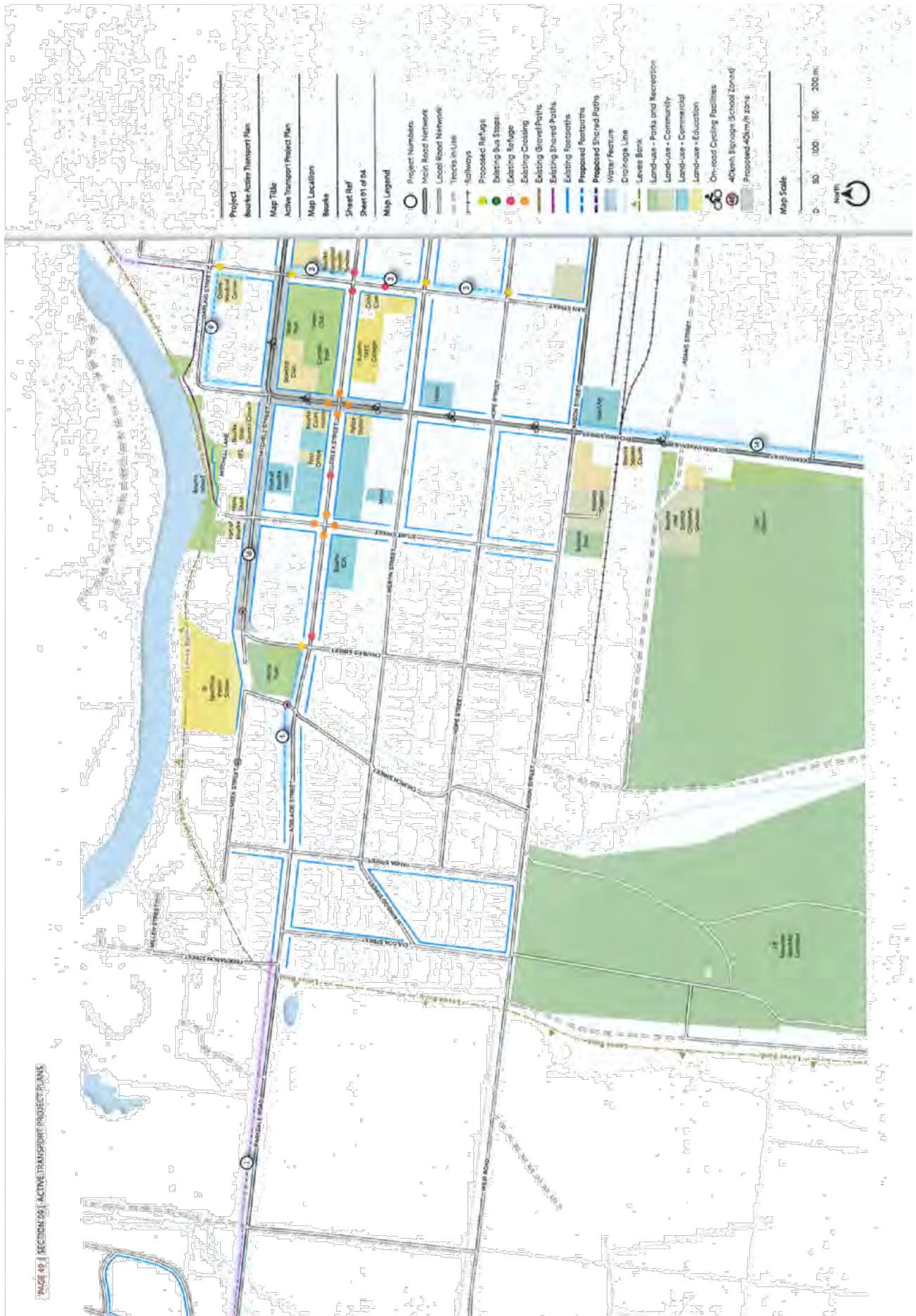
It is important to consider existing pedestrians and cyclists, however, the biggest advantage in terms of increasing patronage is to target people who currently are not active, pedestrians or cyclists, but who are likely to become so if conditions improve. The Active Transport Project Plans for Bourke, Byrock, Engonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wandaring need to consider ways to promote behaviour changes that encourages new users.

Developing effective infrastructure to improve conditions

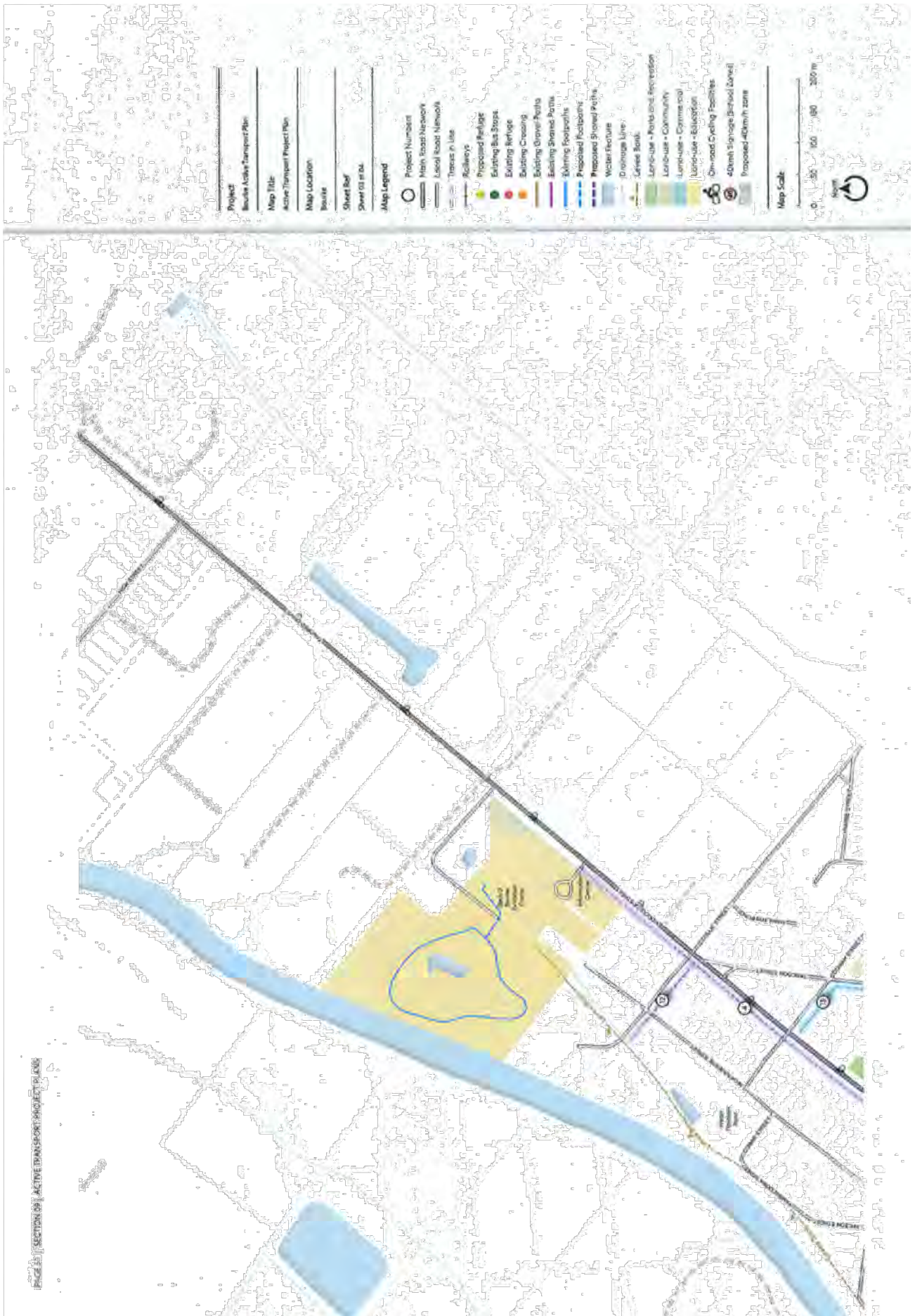
The Active Transport Project Plans for Bourke, Byrock, Engonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wandaring aim to develop innovative infrastructure interventions, based on the NSW guidelines and other applicable guidelines and standards.

Setting achievable targets

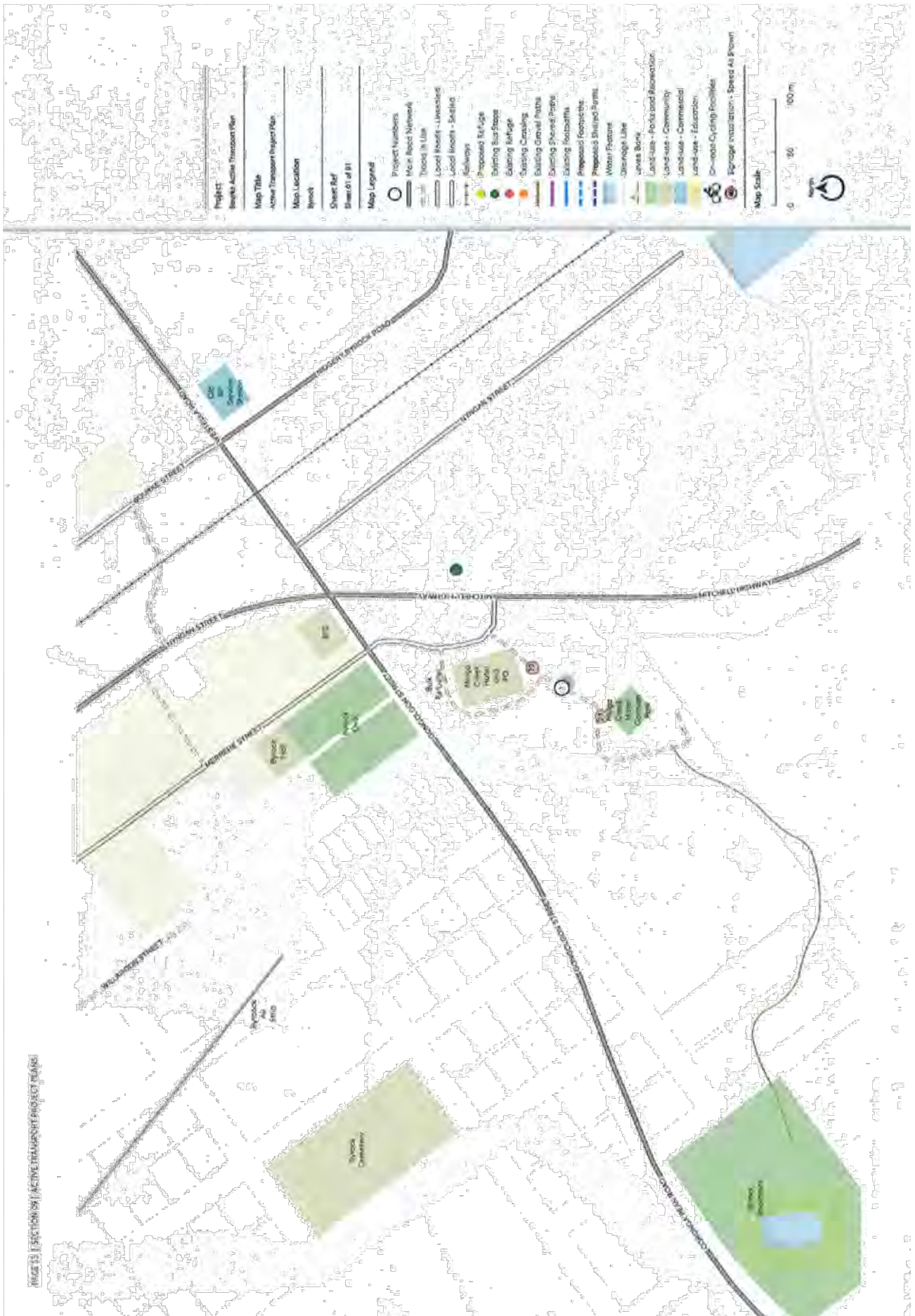
Funds are limited and there is a need to focus on specific actions that are achievable by Council. There is no sense in developing Active Transport Project Plans that propose excessive expenditure beyond the means of the community. It is better to set targets that can be realistically achieved over the intended 10-year implementation period. Should extra funding become available and targets are met earlier, it is a relatively simple task of reviewing the Active Transport Project Plans to set more goals and targets.

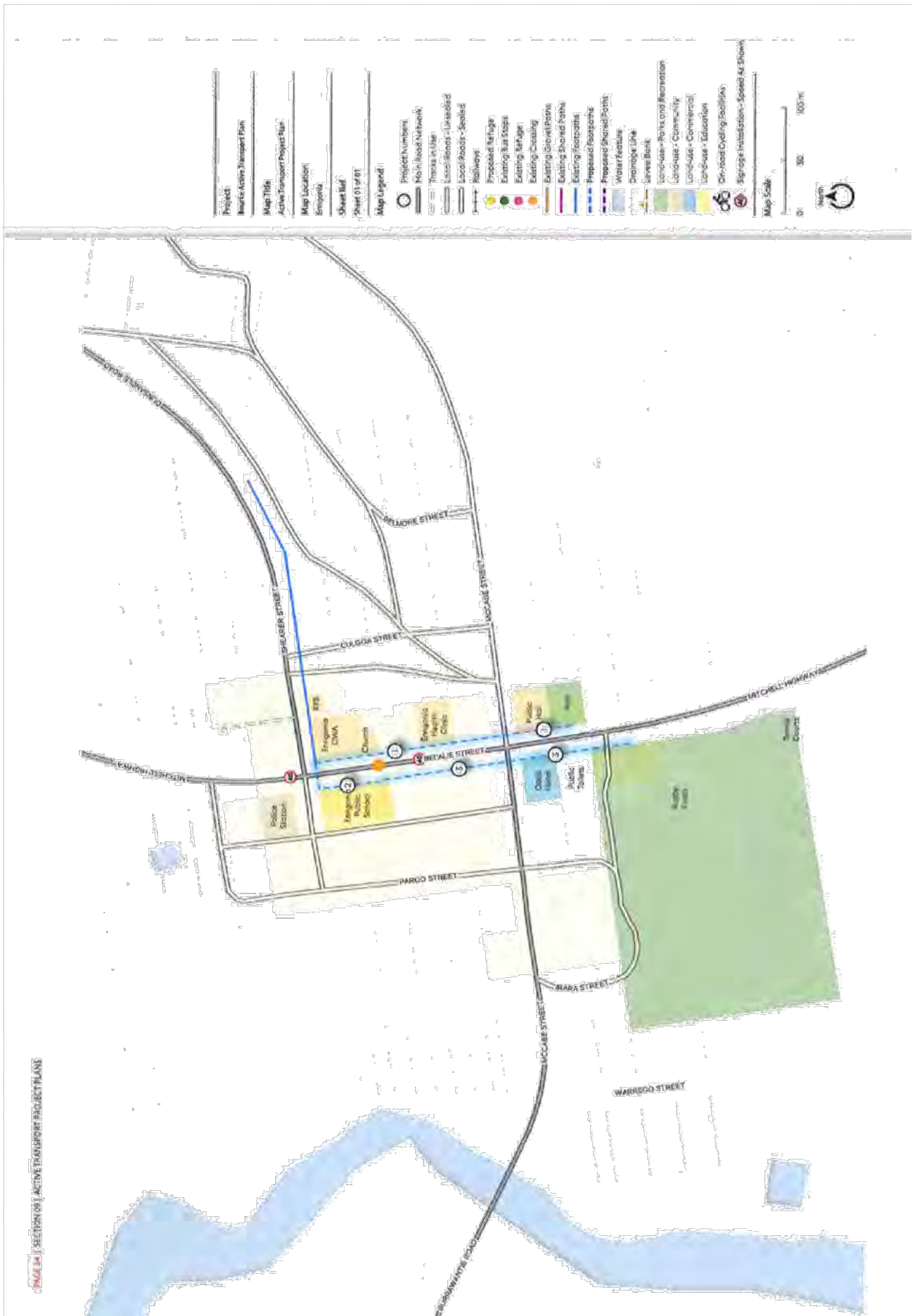




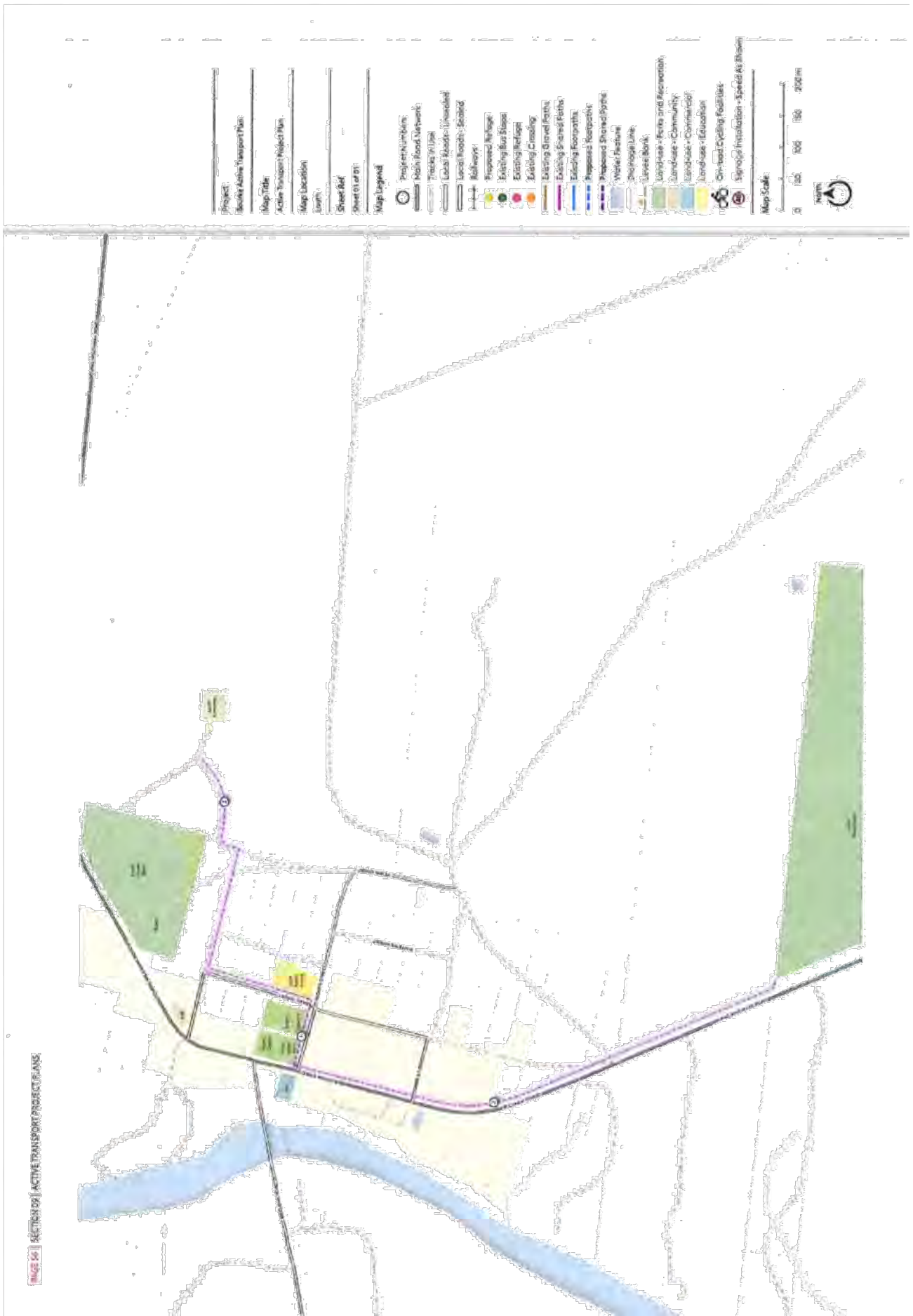


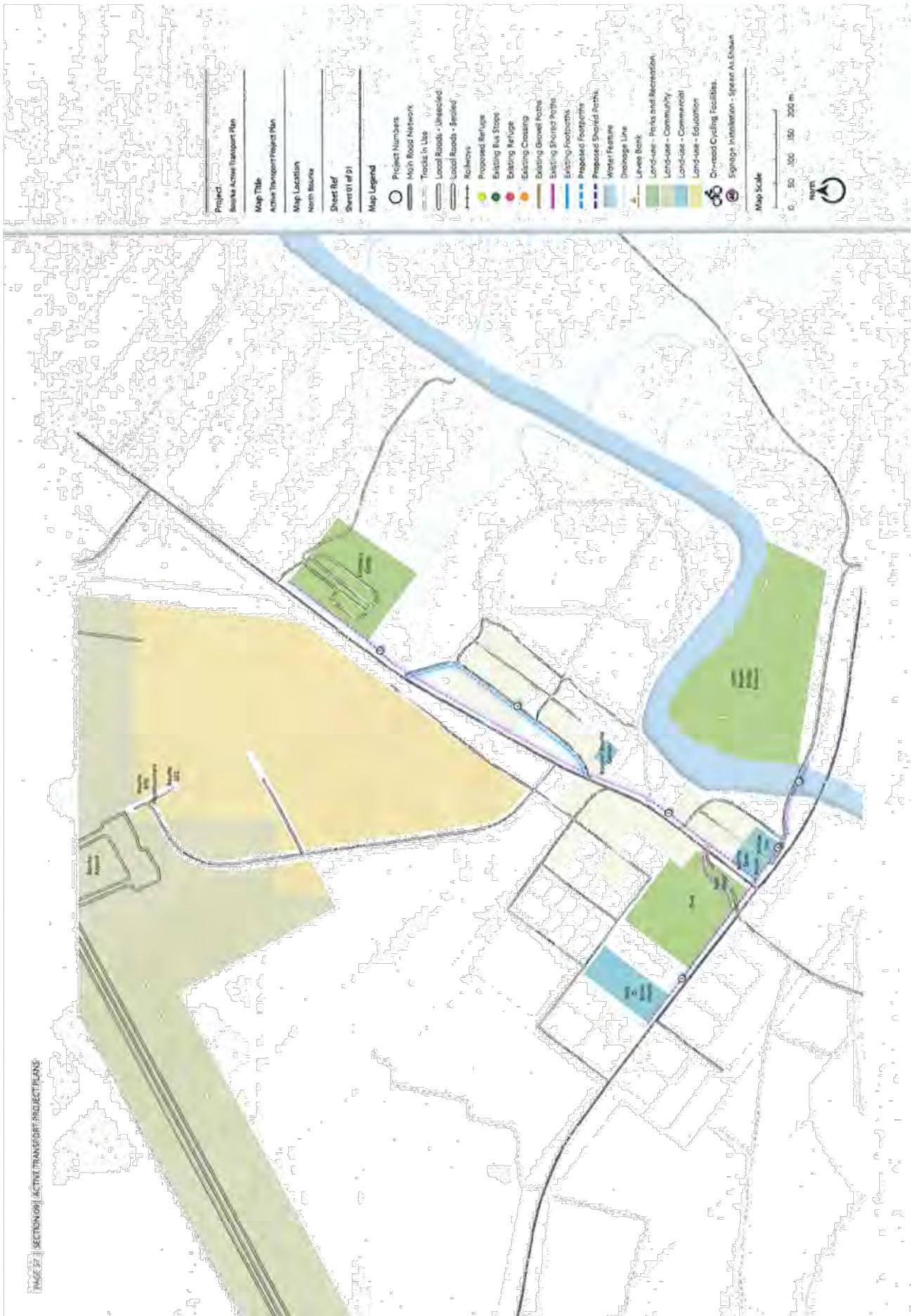


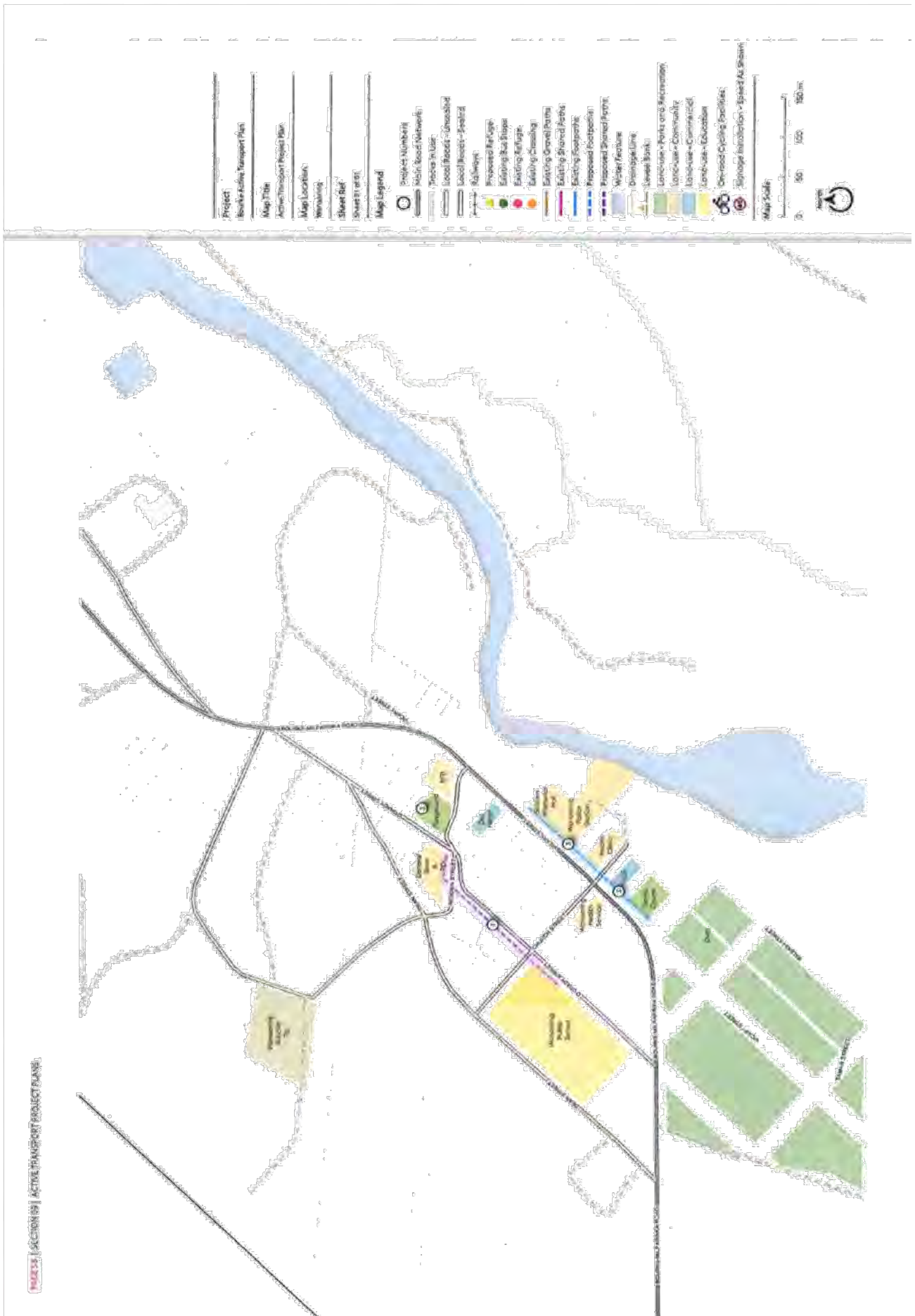






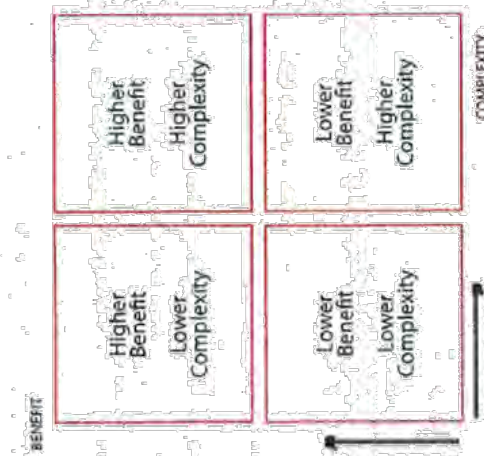






10

PRIORITIES + ACTIONS



The facilities and treatments required to create a more cohesive, safe, direct and attractive network forms the basis of the new Active Transport Project Plans developed for Bourke, Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Werrisailing.

The Active Transport Project Plans are the result of the consideration of a number of variables that have been examined in previous sections. A series of questions were asked and given a ranking score to reflect their importance in pedestrian and bicycle planning outcomes and these are listed as follows:

- Does it fill a gap in the network?
- Has it been identified in consultation, audits and inspections?
- Will it be suitable for all users? (safe, direct, comfortable, coherent)?
- Will it benefit more than one user type? (recreation, commuter, fitness, shopping / short trips, student)?
- Is it located in a high activity area? (primary activity area, secondary activity generator, primary routes)?
- Is it located in a hazard area? (in a black spot, or near mis area, arsenal or collector road, school zone, a place visited at night, or place where alcohol is available)?
- Does it improve pedestrian / cyclist separation from motor vehicles?
- Is it an iconic link that inspires greater uptake of walking and cycling?
- Will it lead to greater active transport trips, user support and general awareness?
- Is it practical / cost effective?

PAGE 69 | SECTION 10 | PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Project Description	From Street Name	To Street Name	Does it fill a network gap?	Has it been identified in consultation?	Is it suitable for all users?	Are there user type benefits?	Is it located in a high activity area?	Is it located in a hazard area?	Does it improve separation of motor vehicles?	Is it an iconic route that inspires greater activity?	Will it increase active transport trips and support?	Is it practical and cost effective?	Total
Bourke Projects													
Project #1	Parkdale Road footpath / shared path link	Charles Street	Bourke Mission	10	10	10	8	7	7	10	8	9	91
Project #2	Mitchell Street footpath link and road crossing	Becker Street	Bourke High School entrance	10	10	10	9	7	8	5	9	9	86
Project #3	Glenn Street footpath link	Hope Street	Mitchell Street	10	10	8	9	7	8	6	8	9	84
Project #4	Mooloola Street shared path link	Short Street	Back of Bourke Exhibition Centre	9	9	10	9	7	8	9	8	8	84
Project #5	Short Street and Darling River levee shared path link	Mooloola Street	Darling River levee	8	8	9	8	7	8	7	8	8	78
Project #6	Darling Street footpath link	Wilson Street	Glenn Street	8	8	8	9	7	7	8	8	8	77
Project #7	Denham Street footpath link	Meadows Road	Green Street	8	8	8	9	7	8	8	8	8	77
Project #8	Hope Street footpath link	Taroom Street	Wilson Street	8	8	8	9	7	8	6	8	7	76
Project #9	Darling Street footpath link	Mitchell Lane (west)	Mitchell Lane (east)	8	7	8	9	7	8	5	8	7	74
Project #10	Wilson Street footpath link	Mitchell Street	Martin Street	8	7	8	9	7	8	5	8	7	74
Project #11	Becker Street footpath link	Mitchell Street	Harris Street	6	6	8	9	7	8	5	8	7	71
Project #12	Cullis Street shared path link	Mooloola Street	Darling River levee	6	6	8	9	6	7	8	6	7	70
Project #13	Taroom Street footpath link	Existing crossing near Culligan Field	Warraveena Street	6	6	8	9	6	7	8	6	7	70
Project #14	Gorroll Avenue / Richard Street footpath link	Anson Street	Bourke Cemetery	5	6	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	68
Project #15	On-road bike review	Kidman Way Mitchell Highway and Kamilaroi Highway	Kidman Way Mitchell Highway and Kamilaroi Highway	3	6	5	6	9	8	7	7	7	67

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

PAGE 6 | SECTION 10 | PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Project Description	From	To	Does it fill a network gap?	Has it been identified in consultation?	Is it suitable for all users?	Are there user type benefits?	Is it located in a high activity area?	Is it located in a hazard area?	Does it improve separation of from motor vehicles?	Is it an iconic route that inspires greater activity?	Will it increase active transport trips and support?	Is it practical and cost effective?	Total	
Place	Street Name	Street Name	Street Name											
Project # 15 40km/hr speed zones - Mitchell Street (between Glenn and Charles Streets), Richard Street (between Mitchell and Martin Streets) and Sturt Street (between Oxley and Mitchell Streets)	Mitchell Street Richard Street and Sturt Street	Mitchell Street Richard Street and Sturt Street		3	8	3	6	8	2	3	4	7	6	57
Byrock Projects														
Project # 1 Mulga Creek Camp Ground 20km/hr shared zone	Mulga Creek Camp Ground	Mulga Creek Camp Ground		3	9	5	8	6	8	5	7	5	9	67
Enngonia Projects														
Project # 1 Beballe Street (east) footpath link	Shearer Street	Enngonia Public Hall and playground		8	8	9	9	9	7	8	6	7	8	79
Project # 2 Beballe Street (north-west) footpath link	Shearer Street	Enngonia Public School entrance		8	8	9	9	9	7	8	6	8	7	77
Project # 3 Beballe Street (south-west) footpath link	Enngonia Public School entrance	Rugby Oval and Tennis Courts		8	8	9	9	9	7	8	6	7	8	77
Fords Bridge Projects														
Project # 1 Aubrey Street bitumen seal footpath link	Warrago Hotel	May Rushton Sports Centre		9	8	8	9	9	7	8	6	7	8	79
Project # 2 Dowling Track footpath link	May Rushton Sports Centre	Warrago River		7	7	8	8	7	8	7	6	6	7	71
Project # 3 New free camp area, opposite Warrago Hotel	Intersection of Snake Gully Road and Aubrey Street	Intersection of Snake Gully Road and Aubrey Street		3	7	4	5	3	7	5	4	4	4	46
Louth Projects														
Project # 1 Becket Street shared path link	Hughes Street	Louth Public School entrance		8	8	9	9	8	7	8	5	8	8	78

PAGE 12 | SECTION 10 | PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Project Description	Place	Project Description	From Street Name	To Street Name	Does it fill a network gap?	Has it been identified in consultation?	Is it suitable for all users?	Are there user type benefits?	Is it located in a high activity area?	Is it located in a hazard area?	Does it improve separation of motor vehicles?	Is it an iconic route that inspires greater activity?	Will it increase active transport trips and support?	Is it practical and cost effective?	Total
Project #2:	Bourke Mitchanna Road shared path link		Elsie Good Park	Louth Race Course entrance	7	7	6	7	8	7	8	8	7	4	72
Project # 1	Louth Cemetery shared path link		Elsie Good Park	Louth Cemetery	6	6	9	7	6	7	8	5	7	5	66
North Bourke Projects															
Project # 1	North Bourke Bridge active transport upgrade		Bourke Bridge	Bourke Bridge	7	8	9	7	7	7	8	10	9	8	80
Project # 2	Gulgoa Street shared path link		Bourke Bridge (western side)	Back O Bourke Motel	7	8	9	8	8	7	8	7	8	8	78
Project # 3	Mitchell Highway (Kidmans Camp) shared path link		Gulgoa Street	Kidmans Camp entrance	7	8	9	8	8	7	8	8	8	5	76
Project # 4	Darling Street footpath link		Mitchell Highway and Darling Street intersection (north)	Mitchell Highway and Darling Street intersection (south)	5	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	5	64
Wanaaring Projects															
Project # 1	O Grady Street shared path link		Wanaaring Playground	Wanaaring Public School	8	8	9	8	8	7	8	5	7	7	75
Project # 2	Wanaaring Playground Half Court		Wanaaring Playground	Wanaaring Playground	0	9	8	7	3	7	0	3	8	9	54
Project # 3	Bourke Milparinka Road footpath link		Tennis Courts	Wanaaring and District Soldiers Memorial Hall	7	6	8	9	9	7	5	5	7	7	70

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

11

ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES

Supporting a Culture of Active Transport

Even a locally tailored evidence-based plan of action is not a guarantee of lasting results once completed and implemented. According to the WHO Pedestrian Safety Manual 2013, safe road-user behaviour and increasing user support depends on a number of factors, including:

- Knowledge and skills.
- Leaders.
- Community support.
- Perception of vulnerability and risk.
- Social acceptance to norms and change models.
- Engineering measures.
- Law/enforcement.

As this is a strategic document, detailed behaviour-change interventions and road safety programs have not been considered comprehensively. These issues need to be addressed over a longer period and with greater community input.

The following community awareness, education and activation strategies are suggested for further consideration by Bourke Shire Council and the wider local community over the life of the Bourke AIP:

Actions	Time frame
Create a cycling routes guide and / or way-finding map.	1 - 2 years
Review active transport path signage and investigate opportunities for improvements.	1 - 2 years
Encourage shared path etiquette, including signage and use of social media.	1 - 2 years
Investigate community crowd funding models that ensure delivery of priority projects for Bourke Shire	1 - 5 years
Install bicycle parking facilities, and encourage the inclusion of change room facilities in new employment generating developments.	5 - 10 years
Investigate / implement street tree plantings in appropriate locations along walking and cycling routes.	5 - 10 years
Partner with the NSW government and community organisations to deliver skills development and road safety awareness initiatives.	Ongoing

Maintaining the Active Transport Network

The development of a comprehensive maintenance program which identifies key tasks and frequency of works is an important part of a quality network.

Monitoring Progress

Implementing the priorities of the Bourke ATP will require on-going review of progress and regular feedback to key stakeholders and the wider community. Council will monitor, review and report on its progress under the Bourke ATP using the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting (4-Year Delivery Program) Framework under the Local Government Act 1993 to ensure that its planning priorities are being achieved.

Funding Programs, Initiatives + Infrastructure

Moving forward, Council has the opportunity to make significant upgrades to walking and cycling infrastructure across the Bourke Shire with support from other government authorities.

Options for funding the actions outlined within the Active Transport Project Plans include:

- Section 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 contributions – collected from new development in the relevant areas. However, these contributions will not be able to fund all of the actions in this Plan;
- Grants and contributions (operational and capital) – Council will actively pursue grant funding and other contributions to assist in the delivery of new infrastructure; and
- Delivery partnerships – where Council and key partners (such as State Government agencies or private developers) collaborate to deliver a new infrastructure.

The following grant programs are currently available for active transport in NSW:

- **Transport**, through the **Get NSW Active grant program**, – funds grants to local and State governments for walking and cycling infrastructure as well as the development of strategies that support walking and cycling in local communities. To fund the development and delivery of the 15-minute neighbourhoods, the Get NSW Active grant program will fund the delivery of links and networks that support 15-minute neighbourhoods, including the local links and networks that integrate with strategic cycleways.
- **The Liveable and Safe Urban Communities Initiative** – funds targeted, area-based actions and treatments to improve safety in busy urban places, the Safer Roads Program will deliver traffic calming, pedestrian facilities, and the expansion of safer speed settings.
- **The Streets as Shared Spaces program** – provides grants for NSW Councils to deliver temporary and demonstration projects that test and pilot innovative ideas for streets as safe, shared public spaces. The program tests possible permanent changes that can strengthen the amenity, accessibility and economic vitality of a high street and surrounding areas.





PAGE 65 | SECTION 12 | PROJECT SHEETS

12

PROJECT SHEETS

A number of project sheets have been developed for some of the priority projects in Bourke, Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke and Wanaaring. These project sheets are presented in the following sections of the Bourke ATP. Permission was obtained from all people in photos and recording of their views and ideas on projects.

Bourke Project #1

Project Name

Parkable Road footpath / shared path link to Bourke Mission

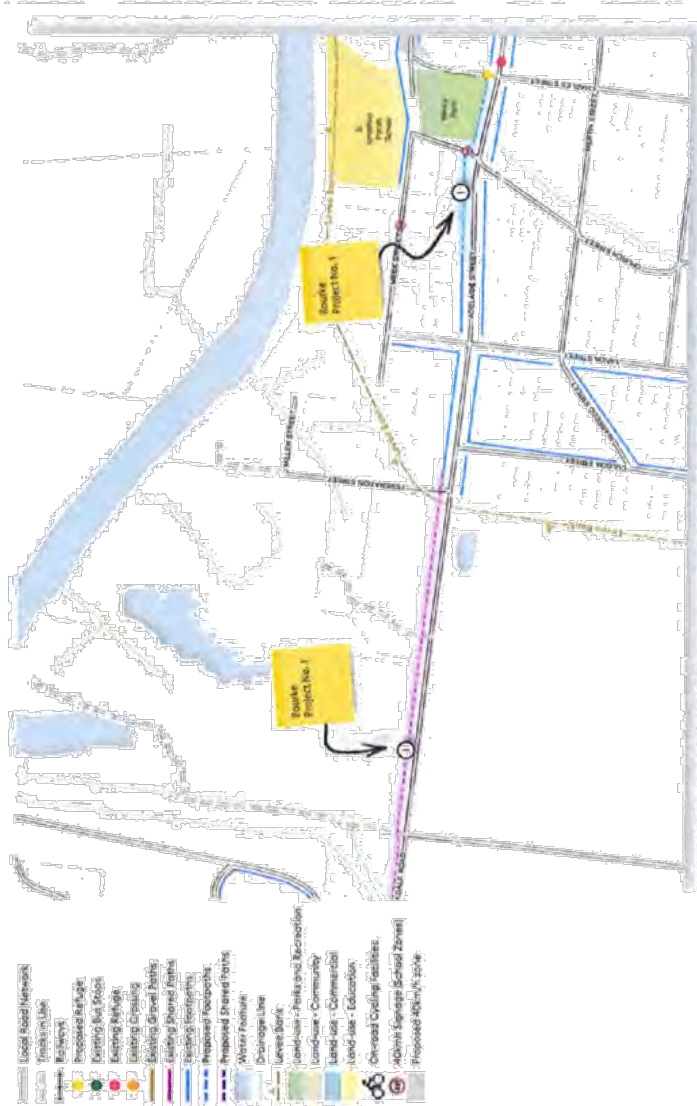
Scope of works

The pathway to Bourke Mission Park has been obliterated by recent flooding and there is no longer a recognisable active transport pathway. As part of the Bourke Mission, anyone walking or riding between the Mission and town must do so on the carriageway of Bourke Road. A new shared path is proposed between the Mission and town. A footpath underneath the existing Bourke Road will be used. A footpath link is proposed to fill an existing gap in the network along Adelaide Street.

Specifications

Shared path x 1.015m @ \$430/m
 Footpath x 2.65m @ \$275/m
 Kerb ramps x 6 @ \$3,500 each

Withholding signposts, shared path signage and hand rails, estimated @ \$4,750.
 Road sign, sign and facility rehabilitation contingency estimated @ \$2,500 for sign removal and works approval.
 Traffic control, estimated @ \$3000 for preparation / implementation of a Traffic Control Plan.
Estimated cost
 \$523,075



Site Photograph

Site Photograph

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN



PAGE 06 SECTION 12 PROJECT SHEETS

Bourke Project # 3

Project name

Green Street Boulevarde Link

Scope of works

The eastern side of Green Street has no active transport infrastructure despite the roadway being used by pedestrians seeking to access facilities through the centre of town. This project is proposed along the eastern side of Green Street from Hope Street to Mitchell Street to provide a more connected active transport network.

Specifications

Footpath extensions 410m @ \$370/m

Road refuge along 3 @ \$32,000

Kerb ramps x 6 @ \$3,500 each

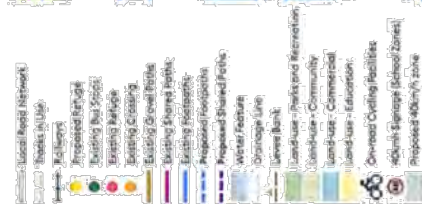
Asad P. Farber Boulevarde road refuge and footpath rehabilitation contingency estimated @ \$1500

Traffic control estimated @ \$8,000 for implementation

Implementation of a Traffic Control Plan

Estimated cost

\$65,250



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN



MAP 70 | SECTION 12 | PROJECT SHEETS

Bourke Project # 5

Project name:

Short Street and Darling River levee shared path link.

Scope of work:

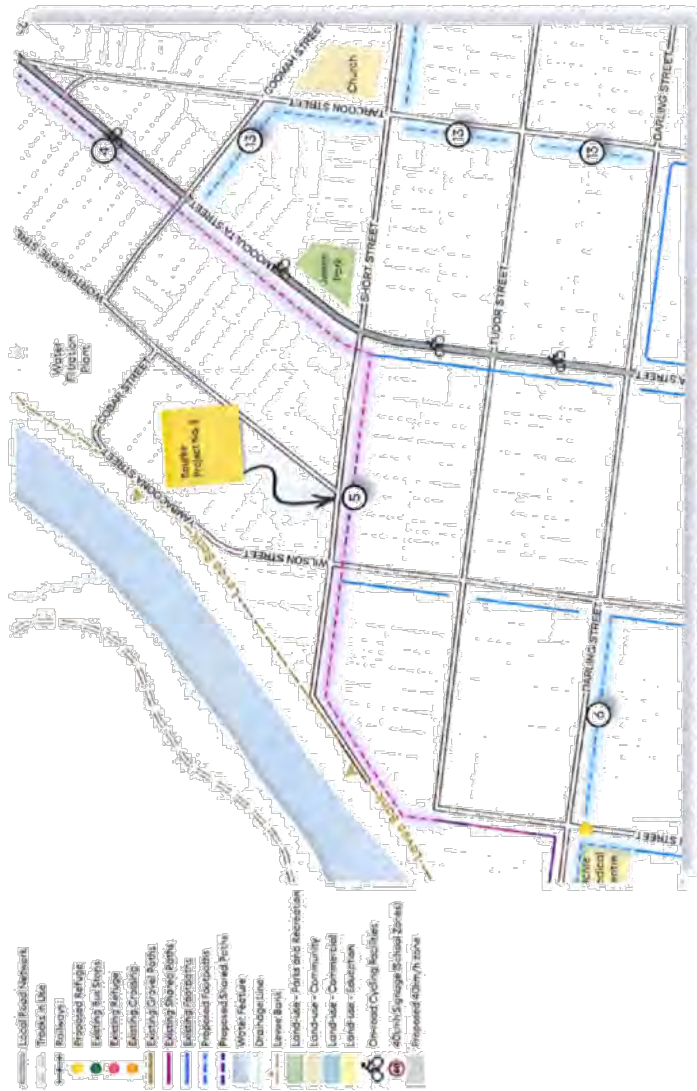
There are few formal links to the shared path along the Darling River levee and there are several barriers to the community active transport movements along the levee due to private ownership and fencing. Creation of a continuous path of travel along the Darling River levee would help active transport routes within town would increase active transport trips by residents and visitors. Implementation of the project may require acquisition of private land to secure a suitable pathway for active transport and riparian area rehabilitation. Installation of wayfinding and interpretive signage and hand rails are important aspects of the project.

Specifications:

- New concrete shared path x 300m @ \$430/m;
- Rebuild to gravel level shared path x 200m @ \$150/m;
- Possible land acquisition based on land valuation and scope of work) estimated at \$70,000;
- Wayfinding/signage shared path signage and hand rail, estimated @ \$1,67,750;
- Traffic control, estimated @ \$3,000 for preparation/implementation of a Traffic Control Plan;

Estimated cost:

\$332,650



Site Photograph Site Photograph

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

FIGURE 7.1 | SECTION 7.1 | PROJECT SHEETS

Bourke Project # 15

Project name

On-road bike paths review.

Scope of works

The existing on-road white painted cycle lanes along Kilmivan Way (Gorell Avenue, Richard Street), Kanyara Highway (Mitchell Street) and the Mitchell Highway (Moochulla Street, Tinned Drove) are starting to fade and there is a need to review whether or not to repaint cycling lanes or remove the painted cycle lanes altogether.

Should a decision be made to retain painted cycle lanes, there is a need to include painted blue symbols along lanes at appropriate intervals as well as the painting of green sections of green paint at the approach to intersections to highlight the potential need to give way to cyclists at intersections.

Should a decision be made to remove painted on-road cycle lanes, a shared path alternative should be coated and implemented.

Specifications

Subject to review by Bourke Shire Council, TMSM, NSW Police Force and other relevant stakeholders.

Estimated cost

As quoted by specialist traffic control planners.

- Local Road Network
- Tracks in Use
- Railways
- Proposed Right of Way
- Existing Bus Stops
- Existing Kerbside
- Existing Greening
- Existing Street Lighting
- Existing Street Trees
- Existing Substations
- Proposed Footpaths
- Proposed Shared Paths
- Water Feature
- Drainage Line
- Landscape
- Land-use - Parks and Recreation
- Land-use - Community
- Land-use - Commercial
- Land-use - Education
- Overhead Cycling Facilities
- Abient Storage School Zones
- Proposed Urban Form



Site Photograph: Typical - Moochulla Street Mitchell Highway

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Engongia Project # 1

Project name

Bellair Street (east) footpath link

Scope of works

The eastern side of Bellair Street (Mitchell Highway) has no active transport pathways despite this roadway being well used by students and residents seeking to access facilities along its route. A new footpath is proposed along the eastern side of Bellair Street from Shaver Street to the southern side of the Engongia Public Hall to provide a more connected active transport network.

Specifications

- Footpath extension 300m @ \$270/m
- Works price @ \$81,000 each
- Road shoulder and footpath rehabilitation contingency estimated @ \$3,500
- Traffic control estimated @ \$25,000 for preparation / implementation of a Traffic Control Plan.
- Estimated cost**
\$94,000

PROJECT NUMBERS
North Road Network
Road Link
Local Road Link
Local Road Link - Shared Highway

PROPOSED
Proposed Footpath
Proposed Shared Footpath
Proposed Shared Footpath
Proposed Shared Footpath

EXISTING
Existing Shared Footpath
Existing Shared Footpath
Existing Shared Footpath
Existing Shared Footpath

WATER
Water Feature
Drainage Line
Levee Bank

LAND-USE
Land-use - Parks and Recreation
Land-use - Community
Land-use - Commercial
Land-use - Education

OTHER
On-street Cycling Facilities
Signage Installation - Speed (A2)



BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

PAGE 24 | SECTION 12 | PROJECT SHEETS

Fords Bridge Project # 1

Project name:

Aubrey Street Blumensall and Footpath Link

Estimated cost:

\$37,250

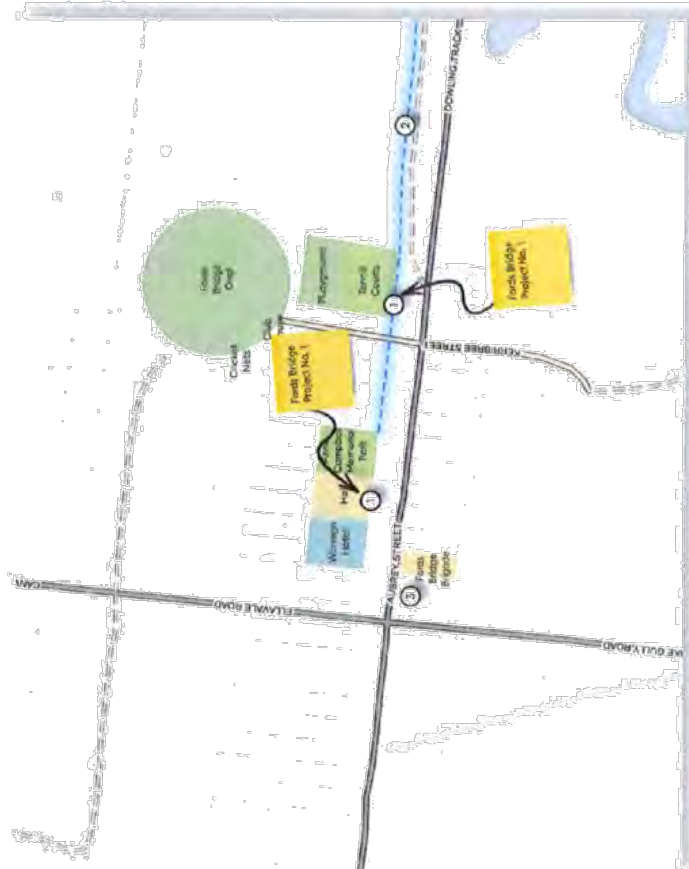
Scope of work:

There is a need to improve drainage and pedestrian access between the Wharfedale Hotel and the Public Hall and May Bushton Sportscentre. Site and drainage engineers want an extension of Blumensall and Footpath along this section of Aubrey Street.

Specifications:

- Blumensall road shoulder widening and reinstatement: 21.5m @ \$1500/m.
- Road shoulder and footpath drainage/rehabilitation contingency estimated @ \$33500.
- Traffic control, estimated @ \$1000 for preparation/implementation of Traffic Control Plan.

- PROJECT SHEETS:
 - High Road Network
 - Trails in Use
 - Local Routes - Unsealed
 - Local Routes - Sealed
 - Railways
 - Proposed Bridge
 - Existing Bridge
 - Existing Footpath
 - Existing Shared Paths
 - Proposed Footpaths
 - Proposed Shared Paths
 - Water Features
 - Drainage Line
 - Leisure Park
 - Land Use - Parks and Recreation
 - Land Use - Community
 - Land Use - Commercial
 - Land Use - Education
 - On-road Cycling Facilities
 - Signage/Inclusion - Streetlights



Site Photograph



Site Photograph

BOURNE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Louth Project # 2

Project name

Bourke Willemia Road shared path link

Scope of works

There are no pathway facilities leading to the Louth Racecourse and there is a need to provide an off-road shared path from the main entrance to the Racecourse to the Skyline and Blue Gate Park. This pathway would be valued by residents and visitors alike as it would be the most resilient pathway requiring periodic maintenance. Prevention of motor vehicles on the path is another important aspect of the pathway design.

Specifications:

New concrete shared path x 3.00m @ 5410/1ms Road 10/12er and footpath drainage (rehabilitation) emergency estimated @ \$2,300.

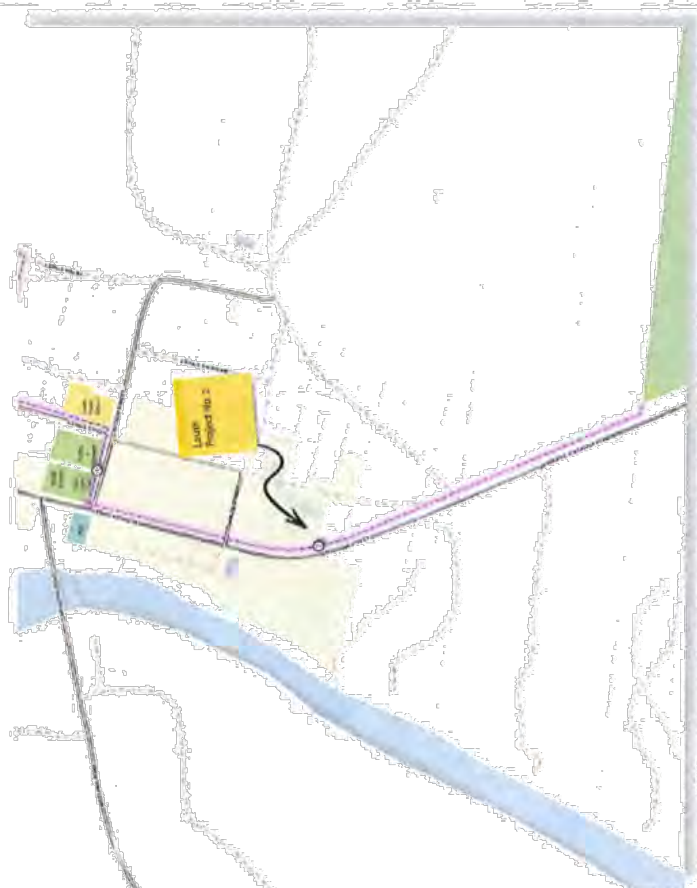
Retaining (rock) landscaping and signage to prevent vehicle access onto shared path, estimated @ \$18,300

Traffic control, estimated @ \$2,000 for preparation/implementation of a Traffic Control Plan.

Estimated cost:

\$58,890

- Project Number
- Main Road Network
- Track in Use
- Local Roads - Unsealed
- Local Roads - Sealed
- Railways
- Proposed Bridge
- Existing Bus Stops
- Existing Kerbs
- Existing Drainage
- Existing Gravel Paths
- Existing Shared Paths
- Existing Footpaths
- Proposed Footpaths
- Proposed Shared Paths
- Water Feature
- Drainage Line
- Level Bank
- Landuse - Parks and Recreation
- Landuse - Community
- Landuse - Commercial
- Landuse - Education
- On-road Cycling Facilities
- Expense Indicator - Shared Path



Site Photograph

Site Photograph

SOURCE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN



FIGURE 77 - SECTION 12 (PROJECT SHEET)

North Bourke Project # 1

Project Name

North Bourke Bridge active transport upgrade.

Scope of works

The North Bourke Bridge is closed to all traffic, including active transport. There is merit in investigating adaptive reuse and repair to the historic bridge to be used as a shared path route to join Bourke and North Bourke settlements. The project would be an iconic active transport route and used by residents and visitors.

Redesign of the North Bourke Bridge crossing needs to be carefully considered to address heritage, CYTED, community values and active transport guidelines. An Inquiry-by-Design process is recommended that involves inputs from NSW Police Force, TNSTV, Heritage NSW, Nulba Nulba LALC, Bourke Shire Council and interested community stakeholders.

Any works would need to be informed by structural engineering and specialist heritage advice.

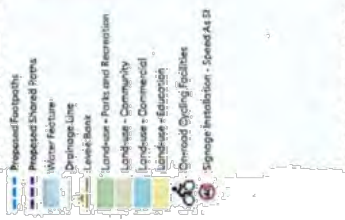
Specifications

Inquiry-by-Design, Structural Engineering Review and Review of Environmental Factors process with a budget set @ \$100,000 for design phase.

Bridge restoration works, subject to quotation after design phase.

Estimated cost

Subject to detailed costings and quotations.



Site Photograph - As Conceptualised

Site Photograph - As Existing



North Bourke Project # 2

Project name

Culpa Street shared path link

Scope of works

There are no active transport pathways joining the North Bourke Bridge to the attractions towards Darling Street. A new shared path is proposed along the northern side of Culpa Street (with all highway) to connect this important attraction to the rest of town.

Specifications

Shared path: 1300m @ \$400/m

Road shoulder and footpath rehabilitation contingency estimated @ \$1500

Wayfinding signage, shared path signage and road markings estimated @ \$3,250

Traffic control, estimated @ \$2,000 for preparation/implementation of a Traffic Control Plan.

Estimated cost

\$68,150



Site Photograph



Site Photograph

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

FIGURE 29 | SECTION 13.1 | PROJECT SHEETS

North Bourke Project # 3

Project name

Mitchell Highway (Kilman's Camp) shared path link

Scope of works

There are no active transport pathways linking the Kilman's Camp to North Bourke. A new shared path is proposed along the eastern side of Dorring Street (Mitchell Highway) to connect this important attractor to the rest of town.

Specifications

Shared path x 1,400 @ \$430/m.

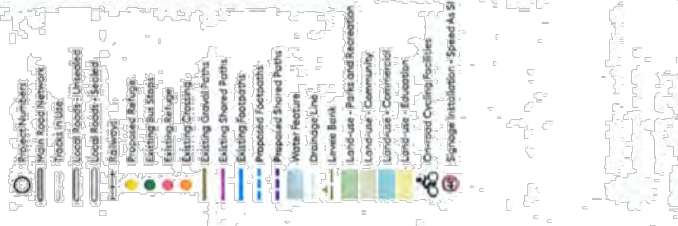
Road shoulder and footpath rehabilitation contingencies estimated @ \$4,500.

Wayfinding signage, shared path signage and handrails, estimated @ \$9,750.

Traffic control, estimated @ \$3,500 for preparation/implementation of a Traffic Control Plan.

Estimated cost

\$619,750



Site Photograph

Site Photograph

BOURKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN

Winning Project # 1

Project name:

Gravelly Street shared path link

Scope of works

There are two existing transport corridors (the 100m Winning to SAGE School) for which winners, in terms of winning the path, proposed along their sections (the 500m Gravelly Street to connect to the path) with the rest of town.

Specifications

Shared path x 400m @ \$110/m.

Road shoulder and footpath rehabilitation contingency estimated @ \$45,000.

Way finding (signage, shared path signage and handrails) estimated @ \$6,250.

Traffic control, estimated @ \$2,500 for preparation, implementation of a Traffic Control Plan.

Estimated cost:

\$207,250



SOURCE ACTIVE TRANSPORT PLAN



POSTAL ADDRESS
29 Mitchell Street
Bourke NSW 2840

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WEB
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POSTAL ADDRESS
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14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

14.1 FOOD SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY REPORT 2022 / 2023

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

Background

Under the Food Regulation Partnership (FRP) in New South Wales (NSW), Bourke Shire Council is appointed as an enforcement agency responsible for food surveillance within its Local Government Area. Council reports its food surveillance activities to the NSW Food Authority. Bourke Shire Council is classified as a category B council under the FRP Partnership.

Current Situation

Food surveillance activities are submitted through a report form, which captures information about food premises and inspection outcomes. The reports are used to improve industry compliance, control critical food handling practices, demonstrate council activity, improve consistency among councils and increase public awareness about food surveillance.

The benefits of reporting include demonstrating food safety achievements, focusing on key food safety areas, improving consistency in inspections, benchmarking food safety outcomes against the state, providing measurable performance indicators, justifying resources and funding, and enabling early recognition of program completion or the need for additional resources.

For the 2022/2023 reporting period, Bourke Shire Council conducted inspections of food business premises and classified them into High, Medium, and Low risk categories.

Reports for each inspection were produced using the NSW Food Authority Food Assessment Report (FPAR), which evaluates compliance with the Food Safety Standards (FSS) of the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code (FSC). The FPAR includes nine sections related to hygiene and food safety, focusing on critical foodborne illness risk factors.

Overall, Council staff recorded good compliance with the relevant food safety standards, though some premises required reinspection due to non-compliance. Council staff provided technical advice to businesses on compliance using factsheets and handouts. Additionally, a large percentage of food businesses in Bourke had a current food safety supervisor certificate.

Recommendation

That the Food Surveillance Activity Report for 2022/2023 as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be received and noted.

15 GENERAL MANAGER

15.1 DELIVERY PROGRAM REPORT 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

File Number:	P4.2
Author:	Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser:	Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments:	1. Council Review Delivery Plan as at 30 June 2023

Background

This report provides Council with information on the progress of Council's Delivery Program actions from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Current Situation

The General Manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to Council, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every six months.

Council's half yearly report to 31 December 2022 was presented to Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 27 February 2023.

The attached review presents a report on the progress in implementing the 2022/2026 Delivery Program for the period ending 30 June 2023.

Each item in the Delivery Program is referenced to one of the key priorities in Council's Community Strategic Plan - Economic Prosperity; Environmental Sustainability; Governance and Organisational Performance; Infrastructure and Liveable and Vibrant Community.

I am happy to advise that Council has achieved 87% of its goals identified for implementation in the Plan. The Departmental Managers and their staff are to be congratulated on this level of achievement.

Some of the notable achievements in the 2022/2023 financial year include:-

- Renewal of program (learn to swim) at the Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool completed;
- Construction of new pool entry and kiosk underway;
- New fence at Medical Centre installed;
- Roll-out of Corporate Branding and Signage Strategy continued;
- Additional sealing of 8 kilometres Wanaaring Road (MR405) undertaken such that only 20kms remains left to be sealed, with an additional \$5 million in funding received to complete the project;
- Road widening works undertaken on the Mitchell Highway, both north and south of Bourke, on behalf of Transport for NSW;
- Additional 3 kms of seal completed on MR68 South (Louth Road);

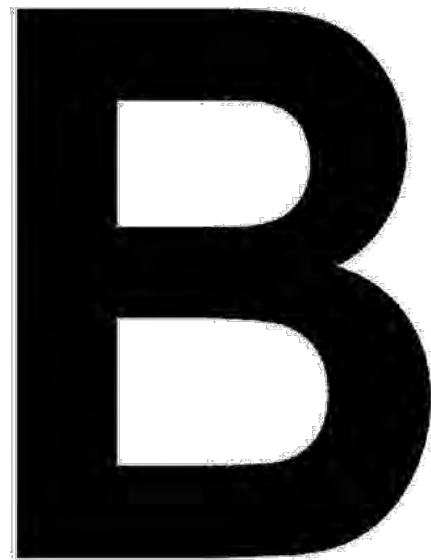
- Beautification works completed at the Wharf and Men’s Shed area and in Mitchell Street;
- Construction of the Charles St Water Reservoir completed;
- Reopening of Bourke Small Stock Abattoir;
- Infrastructure works to “drought proof” Bourke continued;
- Runway at Bourke Airport resealed;
- Annual Village meetings held in Byrock, Enngonia, Louth and Wanaaring;
- Bourke Library processed 7,116 book loans; and
- 17,713 visitors attend the Back O’ Bourke Tourist and Information Centre.

Financial Implications

Operational Plan and Budget for 2022/2023 provide for the delivery of the plan.

Recommendation

That Council notes the activity progress against the actions contained in the 2022/2023 Delivery Program for the period ending 30 June 2023.

A large, bold, black letter 'B' with a white outline, serving as a logo for Bourke Shire Council.

**BOURKE
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Council Review as at 30 June 2023

Environmental Sustainability

Managing the built environment sustainably

Action: At least one bulk pick up of stockpiled waste per year in conjunction with other Netwaste Councils

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Reduce the amount of waste to landfill	At least one bulk pick up of stockpiled waste per year in conjunction with other Netwaste Councils	MES	Completed	100%	Bourke Shire Council is part of the Netwaste Scrap metal regional contract which also includes the provision for Ewaste to be collected as part of the service. Council will continue to be part of the regional contract.

Action: Actively reduce the level of cardboard that goes to landfill

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Increase the level of recycling within the Shire	Actively reduce the level of cardboard that goes to landfill	MES	Progressing	30%	Investigation of ways to link recycling with the CDS Scheme implementation undertaken. Research into a viable recycling option for the Shire is ongoing.

Action: Develop recycling function in partnership with private business or community groups

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Increase the level of recycling within the Shire	Develop recycling function in partnership with private business or community groups	MES	Progressing	20%	Investigation of avenues to establish a viable recycling function in Bourke continue with the private sector and government agencies.

Action: Hold yearly public awareness campaign about watering in hot climate

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek to conserve water where possible and effective	Hold yearly public awareness campaign about watering in hot climate	MW	Completed	100%	Water conservation strategy implemented.

Action: Review LEP as per legislation

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a relevant and up to date Local Environmental Plan (LEP)	Review LEP as per legislation	MES	Completed	100%	Relevant and up to date LEP in place and adhered to.

Action: Maintain a minimum of two Heritage Advisor visits to Bourke each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain and active Heritage advisory service	Maintain a minimum of two Heritage Advisor visits to Bourke each year	MES	Completed	100%	Heritage advisor visits programmed quarterly.

Action: Clean up at least two long term overgrown blocks each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Encourage the clean-up of vacant blocks	Clean up at least two long term overgrown blocks each year	MES	Completed	100%	Works undertaken to clean up overgrown blocks. This work is undertaken in conjunction with the RFS to ensure adequate hazard reduction is completed to prevent lighting of fires.

Secure sustainable water and wastewater for all

Action: Incremental water and wastewater renewal each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure upgraded water and wastewater infrastructure	Incremental water and wastewater renewal each year	MW	Completed	100%	Completed for the period 2022-2023.Ongoing annual strategy.

Action: New water treatment plant operational

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure upgraded water and wastewater infrastructure	New water treatment plant operational	MW	Completed	100%	Water Treatment Plant fully operational except for fluoride dosing of water, which is progressing.

Action: Meet the standard guidelines as detailed by the Orana Water Users Alliance

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure an adequate water supply for Bourke	Meet the standard guidelines as detailed by the Orana Water Users Alliance	MW	Completed	100%	Currently meeting best practice and continuing to strive to secure sustainable water for Bourke.

Action: Ensure increased weir height for Bourke.

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure an adequate water supply for Bourke	Ensure increased weir height for Bourke.	MW	Progressing	20%	Betta Baaka and Western Weir Strategy progressing. Awaiting Federal Government funding for DPE to undertake Business Case in respect of raising the Bourke Weir.

Action: Ensure all repairs are undertaken as soon as possible

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure all Villages have access to non-potable water	Ensure all repairs are undertaken as soon as possible	MW	Completed	100%	All repairs completed in a timely manner.

Action: Ensure sewer conforms to EPA license requirements

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a reliable sewer system in Bourke	Ensure sewer conforms to EPA license requirements	MW	Completed	100%	Fully compliant.

Action: Respond to sewer chokes and boundary trap blockages within two hours

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a reliable sewer system in Bourke	Respond to sewer chokes and boundary trap blockages within two hours	MW	Completed	100%	Rectification works completed within the identified timeframe.

Ensure our heritage and culture are respected

Action: Co support at least one activity per year in regards to either land care or another community group achieving environmental outcomes

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure active local land care groups	Co support at least one activity per year in regards to either land care or another community group achieving environmental outcomes	MES	Completed	100%	Support by Council of local community groups to achieve environmental outcomes, such as fingerling release into Darling River with community groups, continues. Council received funding from DPI for release of fingerlings to take place March 2023 Bourke Landcare is in an infancy stage and looking to grow, which Council will also support.

Action: Review and update Bourke Shire Council's trust register every second year or when required

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Manage Council trusts and reserves to a high standard	Review and update Bourke Shire Council's trust register every second year or when required	MES	Completed	100%	Trust register updated.

Action: Maintain the new cemetery to a high level

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure maintenance of cemeteries	Maintain the new cemetery to a high level	MES	Completed	100%	Cemetery maintained.

Action: Maintain older portion of the Bourke cemetery to a satisfactory standard

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure maintenance of cemeteries	Maintain older portion of the Bourke cemetery to a satisfactory standard	MES	Completed	100%	Historic Cemetery maintained to a satisfactory standard in line with the Cemetery Management Plan.

Action: Maintain Village cemeteries as required

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure maintenance of cemeteries	Maintain Village cemeteries as required	MES	Completed	100%	Works at Village Cemetery's programmed within allocated budgets.

Liveable and Vibrant Community

Our community values its safe, healthy lifestyle and is caring towards each other

Action: Undertake activities that seek to increase our population

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Increase our local population	Undertake activities that seek to increase our population	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to strive to promote the region as an area of choice for people, business and service providers. Website, social media and general enquiries continue to gain interest. With the Darling River seeing an almost record flood at the end of 2022, the growth of economic diversity in the area appears in the positive mode.

Action: Six monthly formal meetings with health providers to discuss needs and improvements

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain a viable health system	Six monthly formal meetings with health providers to discuss needs and improvements	GM	Completed	100%	Regular discussions held with relevant health staff. The priority is to stop the erosion of any additional health services. In addition, Council supported the Bourke Aboriginal Health Corporation Service in building a new facility to provide for the community. The GM is a member of the Bourke Research Governance Group to provide Chemotherapy treatment in Bourke.

Action: The number of Doctors in town is maintained

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain a viable health system	The number of Doctors in town is maintained	GM	Completed	100%	Doctors numbers are stable at the current time. Meetings held with Ochre Health when requested or required.

Action: Increased visitation for dental services to broad community

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve access to dental services	Increased visitation for dental services to broad community	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Dental services continue to be available at the Aboriginal health service. Dental Services are also available in Brewarrina, Cobar and Nyngan.

Action: Actively participate in seniors week each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Respect and make welcome our senior citizens	Actively participate in seniors week each year	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Councils application for Seniors week funding was lodged and was unsuccessful. Seniors' week in 2023 was held in April. Bourke Rotary, Bourke Bowling Club and Bourke Garden Club assisted with events and activities.

Action: Support youth services quarterly

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a high level of youth services, amenities and activities	Support youth services quarterly	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council has supported all youth activities through the Maranguka school holiday program.

Action: Encourage greater amount of youth sport.

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a high level of youth services, amenities and activities	Encourage greater amount of youth sport.	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council, through NSW Sport, local agencies and schools, continues to support the Maranguka school holiday program. PCYC participates in all these activities and provides the space when needed to host events for youth. Sporting facilities and the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool are utilised during Summer and as part of other agency youth programs.

Action: Investigate opportunity for local bike track.

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a high level of youth services, amenities and activities	Investigate opportunity for local bike track.	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	50%	Included in the Central Park Masterplan.

Action: Ensure maximum access to sport facilities

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a high level of youth services, amenities and activities	Ensure maximum access to sport facilities	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council, through NSW Sport, has supported the Active Kids Program and the Maranguka school holiday program. These activities are held at Council Sporting Fields and PCYC Centre during the warmer months.

Action: Actively support Youth Council, PCYC and other NGO youth agencies

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Encourage youth leadership	Actively support Youth Council, PCYC and other NGO youth agencies	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council supports youth group activities through the PCYC and other associated youth focused agencies. Council is fully aware of the need to ensure youth of the region are engaged in pursuits that stimulate the development of the mind and body. Council, PCYC, Maragnuka Community Hub and other associated youth focused agencies worked in partnership to provide a comprehensive Summer Holiday Calendar. Council worked with a number of agencies and NGO's to ensure activities for Easter Holidays.

Action: Undertake the strategies within the Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve disability access	Undertake the strategies within the Disability Inclusion Action Plan	MW	Completed	100%	Completed and ongoing.

Action: Reduce Crime statistics including less engagement by youth in crime activity

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Work collaboratively to improve law and order	Reduce Crime statistics including less engagement by youth in crime activity	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continued to assist with School holiday calendar activities and events working alongside PCYC, Maranguka and other agencies to provide activities for youth in the community. Council partnered with PCYC and Police to hold a successful mental health youth program with the Goanna Project during May 2023. The project involved Greg Inglis visiting Bourke to work with at risk youth, local agencies and elders.

Enjoy a vibrant Bourke and Village Community

Action: Support at least one youth initiative each quarter

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Grow and invest in our future leaders	Support at least one youth initiative each quarter	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Youth activities supported through the PCYC program and the Bourke Swimming Pool. Council continues to support and fund School Holiday activities each quarter.

Action: Participate in inter agency, department meetings as requested and required

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Foster a community that respects diversity and is supportive of cultural differences, ages and liabilities of community members	Participate in inter agency, department meetings as requested and required	GM	Completed	100%	Interagency meetings attended regularly. Other meetings attended when invited.

Action: Fund initiatives included in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Foster a community that respects diversity and is supportive of cultural differences, ages and liabilities of community members	Fund initiatives included in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan	GM	Completed	100%	Disability Inclusion Action Plan adopted. Budget allocation available for implementation of aspects of the plan's initiatives Regard to Councils DIAP is had when improvements to Councils infrastructure upgrades are considered.

Action: Maintain grounds to a high standard

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Encourage sport and recreation activities	Maintain grounds to a high standard	MW	Completed	100%	Completed to Council's specifications.

Action: Support at least two youth initiatives each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Encourage sport and recreation activities	Support at least two youth initiatives each year	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	The Back O Bourke Easter Festival included numerous youth events across the long weekend, these included the Colour Run, Junior Rugby games, Park Run and Giant Easter egg hunt. Activities continue to be supported through the PCYC and Bourke Swimming Pool.

Action: Tangible improvements to mobile and data coverage

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve telecommunications services	Tangible improvements to mobile and data coverage	GM	Completed	100%	Representations made to Government on need for mobile black spots being addressed. Meetings held with Local Members to lobby for improved services to the outback.

Action: Attend meetings held with Regional Arts Board

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop and enhance the arts	Attend meetings held with Regional Arts Board	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council is represented on the Regional Arts Board with meetings attended .

Action: Undertake a number of activities locally

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop and enhance the arts	Undertake a number of activities locally	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	The Bourke Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Centre and Pottery Centre are two initiatives Council has undertaken with the community, along with supporting kids' activities with local artists during school holidays.

Action: Hold a number of functions/ activities yearly with local groups	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop cultural partnerships	Hold a number of functions/ activities yearly with local groups	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	<p>The 2023 Back O Bourke Easter Festival saw over 4,000 free and ticketed attendances across numerous music, sporting, art and cultural events. 280 people supported the Good Friday Music Festival on the first day with 'The Sullivan's'. The St Ignatius Colour Run saw 300 participants. The Bourke Rotary Wool Bale Rolling competition was extremely successful in a new location. The Back O Bourke Picnic races was conducted with over 2000 patrons attending. The Easter Egg hunt had over 280 children through the Back O Bourke gardens looking for the elusive Golden Eggs and collecting over 2500 Easter eggs. Council staff continue to be involved with future festivals, gatherings and annual community events. Summer School holiday campaign undertaken which included Free Entry to Bourke Swimming Pool on Australia Day. All events provide ongoing partnerships with community organisations and involved local business houses and service departments who assisted with supporting the events.</p>

Action: Undertake Australia Day activities

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop cultural partnerships	Undertake Australia Day activities	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	<p>Australia Day was the highlight event for January 2023, as held at Bourke Swimming Pool. Attendees enjoyed the pool inflatables, cold drinks, free entry, watermelon and a lamington stack to celebrate. The Australia Day Ambassador -Robina Beard OAM, (Author, Actor and Dancer) delivered the official ceremony along with Mayor, Cr Hollman. Priscilla Grimes delivered the Welcome to Country with the flag ceremony conducted by Clontarf Academy- Riley Parnaby, Dane Parnaby and Trae Wilson.</p> <p>The official winners for the day were: John Milgate- Citizen of the Year, Kobie Lollback-Young Citizen of the Year, Bourke Lady Bowls Team- Sportsperson of the Year, Thomas Bowden- Young Sportsperson of the Year, Karen Keuning (SES) - Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year and Anthony Mallon (Enngonia) - Bourke Shire Village Community Service Award.</p>

Action: Coordinate Seniors Week activities

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop cultural partnerships	Coordinate Seniors Week activities	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Seniors' week application was lodged and was unsuccessful. Seniors Week activities were coordinated by Council staff in April 2023 with the assistance of the Rotary Bourke, Bourke Garden Club and the Bourke Bowling Club. Seniors enjoyed trivia, entertainment, garden parties and mystery tours.

Action: Maintain our parks and ovals to a high standard

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Enhance our parks and ovals	Maintain our parks and ovals to a high standard	MW	Completed	100%	All parks and grounds well maintained and utilised.

Action: Complete and implement the Davidson Oval Masterplan

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Enhance our parks and ovals	Complete and implement the Davidson Oval Masterplan	MES	Progressing	90%	Consultant engaged and community consultation undertaken. Awaiting finalisation of Masterplan

Action: Complete the learn to swim pool at the pool complex

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Enhance our parks and ovals	Complete the learn to swim pool at the pool complex	MES	Progressing	95%	Learn To Swim Pool construction completed. Awaiting minor defects to be fixed.

Action: Review the Bourke Memorial Pool Masterplan

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Enhance our parks and ovals	Review the Bourke Memorial Pool Masterplan	MES	Completed	100%	Masterplan reviewed.

Action: Meet with educational leaders at least once per year to discuss community feedback in regards to education issues

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a high level of education	Meet with educational leaders at least once per year to discuss community feedback in regards to education issues	GM	Completed	100%	Ongoing interaction with representatives on a need's basis.

Action: Report monthly on the Ranger activities and issues arising

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure adequate Ranger Services	Report monthly on the Ranger activities and issues arising	MES	Completed	100%	Ranger activities reported.

Action: Undertake at least one youth related activity each quarter

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop improved youth activities and facilities	Undertake at least one youth related activity each quarter	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Work has been completed in Sturt Street, Mitchell Street and the Wharf precinct area. Central Park Upgrades continue. The plantings throughout the streets continue to grow well and the street and gardens look great with very positive comments received from both locals and visitors. Easter Celebrations are planned to be held around these area's during 2023 celebrations. A colour Run will start at the Wharf precinct encouraging residents and visitors to take in the beauty of Bourke.

Action: Meet yearly with the BDCS committee to discuss issues and feedback

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure a strong early childhood sector	Meet yearly with the BDCS committee to discuss issues and feedback	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Manager Economic Development represents the Council as a committee member and attends all scheduled meetings. Positive discussions have occurred in relation to the continuing support of this highly important community service.

Action: Focus quarterly on graffiti hotspots

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Minimise the amount of graffiti	Focus quarterly on graffiti hotspots	MW	Completed	100%	Monthly targets met.

Action: Minimum six day per week community transport service

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure adequate levels of public transport	Minimum six day per week community transport service	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	<p>TNSW bus to/from Dubbo continues to operate 5 x days per week. Since February 2023 the community has had a prebooked travel option with the services provided by Wilba the Empower Bus.</p> <p>Wilba is a shared service, and similar to an Uber. It needs to be prebooked to help people get to healthcare appointments, visit loved ones, go shopping, sporting commitments or simply around town.</p> <p>The new bus service runs from 8am to 7.30pm on Monday through to Friday, and 9am to 2pm on Saturday.</p>

Action: Seek continuous improvement in town lighting

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve lighting throughout the Bourke township	Seek continuous improvement in town lighting	MW	Completed	100%	Solar lights have been installed in strategic areas.

Economic prosperity

Our community welcomes new residents and businesses

Action: Action enquiries and send out information

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Promote Bourke as a business centre	Action enquiries and send out information	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to work with the Far Northwest Joint Organisation of Councils to develop a Tourism Strategy to bring visitors to the bush. The Strategy is now being implemented through the stages to promote the regions. Promotion includes Visit Bourke website, Bourke Shire Council Facebook and website along with Visit Bourke pages, and Tourism partnerships with Kidman Way Councils and tradeshows.

Action: Encourage new business opportunities

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop industries and business development opportunities	Encourage new business opportunities	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to promote the positives of the region and investigate new business and value-adding to existing businesses. Thomas Foods International is fully operational and bringing employment opportunities to the town. Interest in development continues with various opportunities showing interest in the area.

Action: Encourage new industry development

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop industries and business development opportunities	Encourage new industry development	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to promote the positives of the region and investigate new business and value-adding to existing businesses. Thomas Foods International Goat Abattoir is now fully operational, a positive for Bourke bringing employment opportunities to the town. Interest in the development of a Solar Farm, a new Motel Development, Aboriginal Health Service and Police Station are new development opportunities currently showing interest in the area.

Action: Encourage new employment opportunities

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Promote population growth	Encourage new employment opportunities	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to progress opportunities for business. Thomas Food International Abattoir allows an element of change and optimism for the Bourke community. There are numerous vacancies in the community throughout the hospitality, health and local government industries, employers are continuing to find it difficult to fill these positions. The Early Childhood sector have numerous vacancies.

Action: Host welcome to Bourke function each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure new residents have information about the town, region and opportunities	Host welcome to Bourke function each year	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	<p>The Welcome to Bourke Function was held on 15 March at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre for all new residents to the Shire, along with representation from a wide range of community groups.</p> <p>Over 80 people were in attendance with 24 new residents to Bourke. It provided those who were new to the area with the opportunity to meet members of the community. All new residents were provided with a complimentary gift bag of local goods and information.</p>

Action: Update new residents information each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure new residents have information about the town, region and opportunities	Update new residents information each year	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	A successful 'Welcome to Bourke' function was held in March at Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. The event welcomed over 82 new residents to Bourke. A gift bag included the Back O' Bourke "Little Black Book". These promotional books have received amazing feedback from residents and tourism partners. Local community agencies and groups were in attendance to help welcome new residences to our LGA.

Action: Actively ensure land is available for residential development

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure land availability across Bourke and its Villages	Actively ensure land is available for residential development	MES	Completed	100%	LEP adhered to in planning assessments, Land Use strategy funding application made but unsuccessful with first application, a second round has opened, and Council has made another application for funding

Action: Information available in newspapers and through direct mail

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure opportunities with regards to the NBN are maximised	Information available in newspapers and through direct mail	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council practices a variety of communication methods to ensure the community is well briefed and informed on operations and activities. These include the Council website, Facebook, emails, flyers, advertising in local paper and other methods. Flood information in early January was directed to the community in an efficient, effective and timely manner to gain major impact via social media channels. NBN is available in Bourke.

Action: Complete works in Mitchell St, Wharf precinct, Central Park

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure active community precincts	Complete works in Mitchell St, Wharf precinct, Central Park	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	95%	Work has been completed in Mitchell and the Wharf precinct. Central Park is nearing completion. The recent plantings throughout the streets continue to grow well and the street and gardens looks great with very positive comments received from both locals and visitors.

Action: Review other potential precincts

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure active community precincts	Review other potential precincts	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Community precincts identified. Darling River pontoons completed, Outback Show visitor and community experience planning underway, upgrade to displays at Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre completed and continued upgrade to the CBD including Mitchell Street, central park and wharf area.

Action: Participate in regional promotional committees

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek opportunities to grow our tourism industry	Participate in regional promotional committees	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Bourke Shire Council recognises the importance of regional committees for the western region. Staff continue to work closely with Destination NSW, Darling River Run, Kidman Way, Kamilaroi Highway committees along with the Far North West Joint Organisation. Connections through these organisations is vital for the region to remain vibrant and competitive. New promotional material and website, including all village information, has been delivered to these committees and surrounding LGA's.

Action: Host at least one training opportunity each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek opportunities to grow our tourism industry	Host at least one training opportunity each year	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	80%	Tourism staff are connecting with TAFE NSW to complete online training and onsite barista training. Destination Outback and Country NSW hosting online Accessible Tourism workshop.

Action: Include all villages in tourism initiatives

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek opportunities to grow our tourism industry	Include all villages in tourism initiatives	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	All villages included in Bourke Shire tourism initiatives.

Action: Work with at least one group each year to expand this potential

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
<p>Seek opportunities to develop cultural tourism experiences</p>	<p>Work with at least one group each year to expand this potential</p>	<p>Economic Development Manager</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>Bourke Shire has recently been granted funding to undertake the development of a business case, the initial development outline and apply for development approval for the development of a fifth building at the Exhibition Centre. The building and surrounding landscaping will be dedicated to Aboriginal Culture and stories of the local area and overall expand the local content of the Exhibition Centre.</p> <p>Local consultation is paramount, and Council will work with members of Maranguka and the Tribal Council to be part of this advisory group if they would like to get involved.</p> <p>Staff are working with an operator to gauge the potential for an 'Outback Show'. This will provide Bourke and the region with a unique selling proposition, thus opening the opportunity for it to be another popular activity for the visitor to engage in whilst visiting Bourke.</p>

Action: North Bourke Bridge reopened to vehicle and pedestrian traffic

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve access to the North Bourke Bridge	North Bourke Bridge reopened to vehicle and pedestrian traffic	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	95%	The North Bourke Bridge has broad community support. The bridge was closed due to the poor and deteriorating condition. A grant application was applied for to undertake a refurbishment of the bridge in 2022. Council was successful in receiving funding in 2023 to build a business case to obtain future funding to restore the bridge and reopen the Bridge for pedestrian traffic. Consultant engaged to progress project.

Action: Signage improved

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve signage	Signage improved	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	85%	Audit completed. Signage roll-out across the villages of Byrock, Wanaaring, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, Yantabulla and Barrington completed. The big Bourke entry signage continues to receive great reviews. The new Louth sign was installed late January 2023. Enngonia and Wanaaring will roll out early 2023/2024.

Action: Hold at least two functions per year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Encourage community events and festivals	Hold at least two functions per year	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	A successful 2023 Australia Day was held at Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool. The Welcome to Bourke evening hosted over 80 people and Back O' Bourke Easter Festival welcomed families and old friends back to Bourke at Easter.

Our community values its history and heritage and seeks to develop the tourism industry

Action: Host at least one training opportunity each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek opportunities to grow the tourism sector	Host at least one training opportunity each year	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	80%	Tourism staff have connected with TAFE NSW to complete online training and onsite barista training.

Action: Participate in regional promotional committees

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek opportunities to grow the tourism sector	Participate in regional promotional committees	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to work closely with Destination NSW, Darling River Run, Kidman Way and the Kamilaroi Highway Committee to promote tourism within the region.

Action: Work with at least one group per year to explore this potential

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Seek opportunities to develop cultural tourism experiences	Work with at least one group per year to explore this potential	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Council continues to progress the improvement of the cultural tourism experience at the Back O' Bourke Centre. Funding has been received to build a business case for a cultural centre to be built as building five in the grounds at the Back O 'Bourke Centre. Local aboriginal people have been engaged in the local tourism industry through the purchase of souvenirs, designs, youth activities and storytelling.

Action: Update signage

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve signage	Update signage	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Upgrading of history and heritage signage continues. Consultation was completed at each of the community meetings. New Village Signage completed in the shire villages of Byrock, Wanaaring, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, Yantabulla and Barrington.

Action: Reopen the North Bourke Bridge to pedestrian traffic

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve access to the North Bourke Bridge	Reopen the North Bourke Bridge to pedestrian traffic	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	75%	The North Bourke Bridge has broad community support. The bridge is closed due to the poor and deteriorating condition. A grant application was applied for to undertake planning for the refurbishment of the bridge in 2022. This was successful in 2023 with Council continuing to source funding opportunities to improve access and reopen the Bridge for pedestrian traffic.

Action: Jandra landing completed

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Develop tourism facilities at wharf precinct including Jandra landing	Jandra landing completed	Economic Development Manager	Progressing	85%	Two pontoons completed and installed at the Bourke Wharf and behind the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. Safe walkway access to the pontoons to be completed before end of 2023.

Governance and Organisational performance

Advocate the benefits of living and working in the Bourke Shire Council area

Action: Participate in meetings between Council and inter agency stakeholders

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Promote participation and coordination between the Council and community	Participate in meetings between Council and inter agency stakeholders	GM	Completed	100%	Staff attend Interagency Meetings held at the Outback Division of General Practice Quarterly. Meeting attendees include both Government and Non-Government Agencies.

Action: Undertake weekly column in the Western Herald

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Promote participation and coordination between the Council and community	Undertake weekly column in the Western Herald	GM	Completed	100%	Weekly Column published in the Western Herald.

Action: Bourke Shire Council's financial sustainability indicators improving

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Provide strategic leadership to the community	Bourke Shire Council's financial sustainability indicators improving	MCS	Progressing	50%	For the financial year 2021/2022, Council met 50% of 6 performance measures which are set by the Office of Local Government. However, the Council has been rigorously working towards improving financial sustainability indicators. The Council is in a sound financial position.

Action: Host yearly Village meetings

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Provide strategic leadership to the community	Host yearly Village meetings	GM	Completed	100%	Community meetings were held in February 2023 in Bourke and in the villages of Louth, Wanaaring, Fords Bridge, Enngonia and Byrock. The presentation at each of these meetings included updates in regard to councils achievements in 2022 and works undertaken.

Action: Chair local emergency management committee

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Provide strategic leadership to the community	Chair local emergency management committee	GM	Completed	100%	Chaired quarterly LEMC meetings and during times of emergency

Action: Noted improvements each year that are prioritised by Village committees

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Improve amenity within Bourke and the Villages	Noted improvements each year that are prioritised by Village committees	GM	Completed	100%	Village community meetings were held in February 2023. Actions reviewed at Manex and actioned in line with budget constraints.

Seek continuous improvement in the business of Council

Action: Promote resolutions and activities of Council, including through social media and newspaper

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure Council activity is promoted	Promote resolutions and activities of Council, including through social media and newspaper	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Community consultation meeting held in February 2023. Councillors and senior staff attended these meeting with a good number of community representatives. Community also invited to attend and provide feedback. Weekly GM's Desk is printed in The Western Herald which details the activities of Council. Media Releases, Facebook posts issued as required.

Action: Host at least two inter agency forums each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Participate in inter agency forums and opportunities	Host at least two inter agency forums each year	GM	Completed	100%	Meeting held with agencies as required. Attendance at Interagency meetings on a regular basis.

Action: Library open for 5.5 days per week

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain library services	Library open for 5.5 days per week	Economic Development Manager	Completed	100%	Library opens 5.5 days per week. Library staff also hosts events after hours for youth and community including Lego Club, online trivia competitions, and murder mystery nights.

Action: No reasonable customer complaints

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure excellent customer services	No reasonable customer complaints	MCS	Completed	100%	No reasonable complaints received. Council places a high priority on customer service.

Action: At least two meetings each with State and Federal Local Members each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain working relationships with senior politicians and local members	At least two meetings each with State and Federal Local Members each year	GM	Completed	100%	Meetings held with both Local Members during the period. Numerous other meetings held with various Ministers when visiting Bourke.

Action: Annual report completed on time

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure Council meets legislative governance standards	Annual report completed on time	MCS	Progressing	50%	Annual Report completed and lodged with relevant departments on time.

Action: No significant audit issues reported

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure Council meets legislative governance standards	No significant audit issues reported	MCS	Completed	100%	Legislative governance requirements have all been met. Regarding the RFS Red Fleet assets audit issue from the previous year, the Council determined that the value of these assets is not significant and that they should not be recognised in the financial statements.

Action: Report progress on other functions such as Business Continuity, WHS issues, Policy updates and staff training

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure Council meets legislative governance standards	Report progress on other functions such as Business Continuity, WHS issues, Policy updates and staff training	MCS	Completed	100%	Legislative governance standards were met. Council Policies are continually being reviewed. WHS requirements reviewed and identified issues addressed. Business Continuity Plan reviewed and updated.

Action: Review strategic needs of Council each budget period for year ahead

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain suitable Council owned housing	Review strategic needs of Council each budget period for year ahead	GM	Completed	100%	Housing stock maintained, budget process includes maintenance and upgrades. Additional housing is a priority for Council.

Infrastructure

Ensure adequate transport linkages

Action: Ensure that the roads schedule is completed each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain and seek to improve the road network in a sustainable way	Ensure that the roads schedule is completed each year	MRS	Completed	100%	The status of Road projects in the Shire for the 2022/2023 financial year follow: 1) Rural Road Maintenance-completed 2) RMCC-Capital Works and Maintenance.-completed. 3) Flood Damage repairs-ongoing. 4) Bullamunta Road - 3.4km sealed 5) Toorale Road - Nully: Sealing completed 6) Weelong- Road - 2.36 km Seal - completed 7) Toorale Road - Weelong to Trilby Seal - in progress. 8) Mitchell Lane-In Progress 9) Reseal Program- completed (Local Streets). 10) Bourke to Louth Road- 3 km Seal - completed 11) Wanaaring Road- Sealing of 8.3km completed 123.83-132.13km 12) Oxley Street - Hot mix Asphalt- In Progress 13) Hungerford Road 28.7-38.5km seal-completed.. 14) Kerb and Gutter Anson/Richard Streets-completed

Action: Improve at least two sections of our local roads each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain and seek to improve the road network in a sustainable way	Improve at least two sections of our local roads each year	MRS	Completed	100%	Bullamunta Road sealed. Branch off Airport Road sealed. Toorale Road Bends sealed. Janbeth Road Resheeted

Action: Update and implement heavy vehicle replacement strategy each year

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain heavy vehicle replacement strategy	Update and implement heavy vehicle replacement strategy each year	MRS	Completed	100%	Heavy Plant has been purchased in accordance with the 2022/2023 Budget provisions. Light Vehicles have been purchased in accordance with the 2022/2023 Budget provisions.

Action: Ensure adequate resources are provided to maintain the Bourke airport

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain the Bourke airport to a high standard	Ensure adequate resources are provided to maintain the Bourke airport	MW	Completed	100%	Runway upgrade undertaken. Airport manual has been updated.

Action: Adequate resources are provided to maintain the Village runways as required

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Maintain Village runways where appropriate	Adequate resources are provided to maintain the Village runways as required	MW	Completed	100%	Village airstrips maintained to Council's budget capability.

Manage the infrastructure needs of the Villages

Action: Yearly Village meetings held prior to operational plans being developed

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure good communication with Village committees	Yearly Village meetings held prior to operational plans being developed	GM	Completed	100%	Meetings held in Villages during February 2023. Councillors and senior staff attended.

Ensure adequate levels of community amenities

Action: Attend to breakdowns in the Villages as required and within guidelines.

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure Village water supplies are adequate	Attend to breakdowns in the Villages as required and within guidelines.	MW	Completed	100%	Ongoing maintenance schedules being met.

Action: Audit needs of Halls each year prior to budget process for consideration

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure Community Halls are maintained to a suitable standard	Audit needs of Halls each year prior to budget process for consideration	MES	Completed	100%	Works ongoing, hall maintenance programmed within budget, audits of halls undertaken for budget considerations. Village meetings, hall discussion for future works

Action: Ensure Village asset management plans are up to date

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure community infrastructure is well maintained where appropriate	Ensure Village asset management plans are up to date	MES	Completed	100%	Plans reviewed and updated with the long-term financial plan.

Action: Finalise development of the levee bank walk

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Enhance walking tracks along the levee bank	Finalise development of the levee bank walk	MW	Progressing	50%	Not currently progressing.

Action: Complete audit of levees in line with asset management strategy. Undertake a review of levees prior to each major flood event.

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure levee banks are maintained to a high standard	Complete audit of levees in line with asset management strategy. Undertake a review of levees prior to each major flood event.	MW	Completed	100%	Upgrades currently being undertaken following last flood in 2022.

Action: Ensure discussions with aged care providers

Strategy	Action Name	Responsible Officer Position	Status	Progress	Comments
Ensure adequate levels of aged care facilities	Ensure discussions with aged care providers	GM	Completed	100%	Ongoing - discussions held as required.

16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**16.1 *** BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - JULY 2023**

File Number: F1.1
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 July 2023

Balances as per Bank Statement	\$1,926,367.40
Plus: Deposit not shown	\$4,089.81
Less: Unpresented Cheques	\$4,642.34
Balance as per Cash Book	\$1,925,814.87

Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 31 July 2023

Fund or Account	Current Balance	Overdraft Statutory Limit
General	\$36,552,231.24	\$200,000.00
Water	\$3,089,943.01	
Sewer	\$2,527,580.87	
Trust	\$117,377.36	
	\$42,287,132.48	

Reconciliation as at 31 July 2023

Balance as per cash book	\$1,925,814.87
Investments	\$40,361,317.61
Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger	\$42,287,132.48

** In accordance with Council policy and legislative obligations, a complete breakdown of investments will be provided in the investment report for the month.*

Statement of Bank Balances as at 31 July 2023

	Balance	Transaction	Balance
	30 June 2023		31 July 2023
General Fund	\$37,269,177.72	-\$697,333.09	\$36,571,844.63
Water Fund	\$3,464,591.18	-\$388,097.25	\$3,076,493.93
Sewer Fund	\$2,791,043.12	-\$269,626.55	\$2,521,416.57
Trust Fund	\$117,895.83	-\$518.48	\$117,377.35
Investments	-\$42,892,290.38	\$2,530,972.77	-\$40,361,317.61
Totals	\$750,417.47	\$1,175,397.40	\$1,925,814.87

Balance of all Funds as at 31 July 2023

Balance as at 30 June 2023	\$750,417.47
Add Receipts for	
(a) Rates	\$869,813.90
(b) Other Cash	\$8,011,291.82
Deduct payments for	
(a) Payments	\$6,892,284.02
(b) New Investment	\$813,424.30
Balance as at 31 July 2023	\$1,925,814.87

Recommendation

That the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 31 July 2023 be noted.

16.2 * INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

File Number: F1.1
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, 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 2021

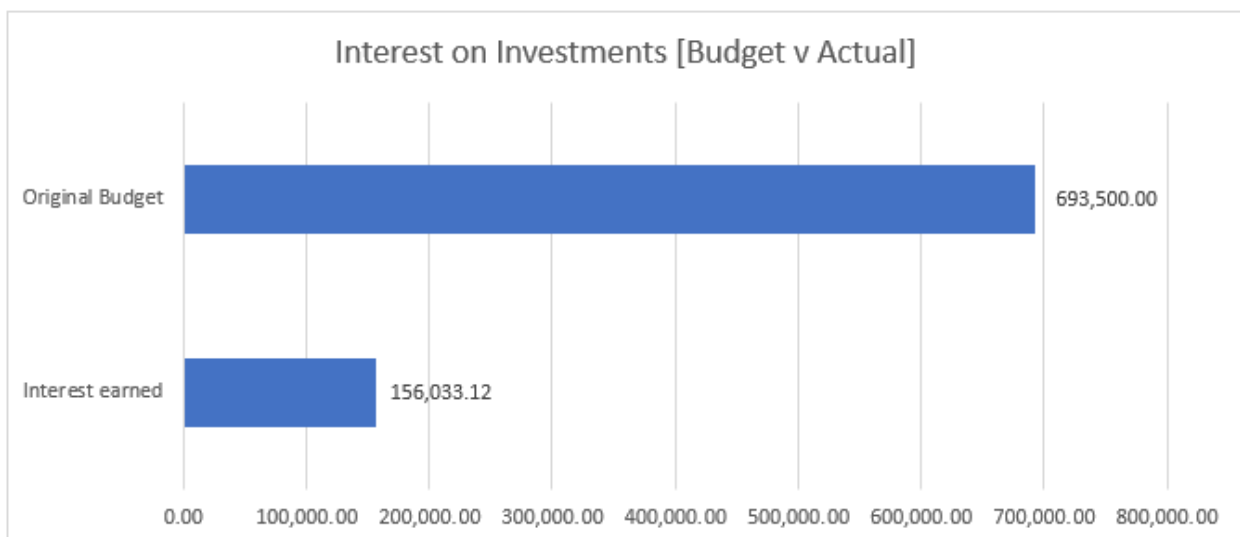
The management, of Council’s investments is delegated by the General Manager to the Manager Corporate Services.

Financial Implications/Consideration

The 2023/2024 Budget estimated the total investment revenue as \$693,500. 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 31 July 2023 was \$ 40,361,317.61

Investment income earned as at 31 July 2023 was \$ 156,033.12



It is anticipated that interest earned on investments will surpass the original budget due to a considerable increase in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of Australia and grants paid upfront, which were unanticipated at the time the budget was prepared. The variation will be closely monitored and reported accordingly during the Council's quarterly budget review.

Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Procedure

Policy 1.8.10(v7) – Investment Policy adopted 19 December 2022.

Ministerial Investment Order – 12 January 2011

Strategic Implications – Implications for Long Term Plans/Targets

Funds are invested in accordance with identified cash flow requirements.

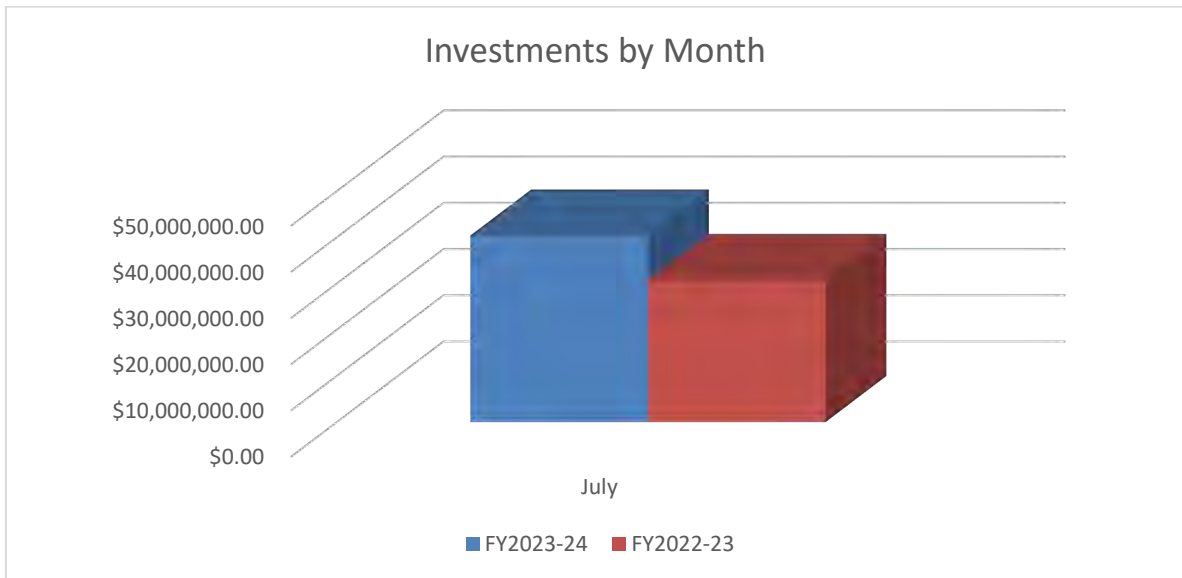
Investment Portfolio as at 31 Jul 2023

Institution	Invst#	Maturity Date	Amount	Rate	Days	S&P Rating
National Australia Bank	5	1/08/2023	1,088,291.01	4.02%	330	A-1+
National Australia Bank	6	21/09/2023	1,106,825.39	4.30%	365	A-1+
National Australia Bank	9	9/08/2023	707,486.48	4.00%	300	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	10	3/11/2023	458,508.37	4.41%	361	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	11	4/09/2023	1,162,900.41	4.35%	301	A-1+
National Australia Bank	27	8/08/2023	1,000,000.00	4.55%	92	A-1+
National Australia Bank	29	22/08/2023	500,000.00	4.65%	90	A-1+
National Australia Bank	30	29/08/2023	3,000,000.00	4.70%	90	A-1+
National Australia Bank	31	29/08/2023	3,000,000.00	4.70%	90	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	33	1/08/2023	2,000,000.00	4.43%	60	A-1+
National Australia Bank	34	4/09/2023	2,000,000.00	4.79%	90	A-1+
National Australia Bank	37	27/09/2023	3,000,000.00	5.08%	90	A-1+
National Australia Bank	38	27/09/2023	3,000,000.00	5.08%	90	A-1+
National Australia Bank	39	27/10/2023	3,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	40	27/10/2023	2,500,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	41	4/09/2023	2,000,000.00	4.55%	63	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	42	4/09/2023	1,500,000.00	4.50%	61	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	43	7/08/2023	3,000,000.00	4.15%	32	A-1+
National Australia Bank	44	31/10/2023	2,000,000.00	5.07%	96	A-1+
National Australia Bank		At Call	4,337,305.95	Flex		A-1+
Total Investments			40,361,317.61			

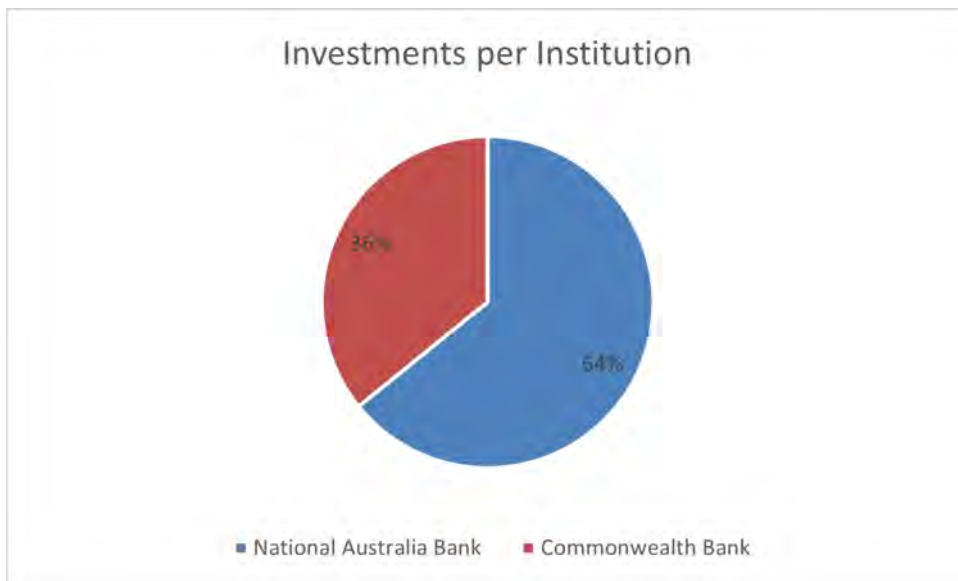
Term Deposits

Discussions/Comments

There has been increased on Investment portfolio for July 2023 by \$9,618,388.85 as compared to last month.



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.

Ang Pasang Rai
Responsible Accounting Officer

Recommendation

- 1. That the report regarding Council's Investment Portfolio 31 July 2023 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

16.3 * RATES WRITE OFF ASSESSMENT 01886, 01737 AND 01760**

File Number: R2.5
Author: Meredith Thompson, Revenue Officer
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The properties, “Comeroo Station”, 8104 Burrawantie Road, “Maranoa Station” and “Muttawary Station” all of Yantabulla were previously privately owned at the time that Council Rates for 2023/2024 were made.

Current Situation

These properties were sold to the Minister Administering The *National Parks And Wildlife Act 1974* on 13 July 2023. Accordingly, these properties are now required to be made non-rateable under Part 6, Section 555 (1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, “land within a national park,whether or not the land is affected by a lease, licence, occupancy or use”.

As Council had levied 2023/2024 “farmland” rates on these properties to the previous owners, given the sale of the properties to the Minister on 13 July 2023, it is appropriate that the properties be now deemed non-rateable and rates for the balance of 2023/2024 be recommended for write off .

Financial Implications

The rates levied and to be written off in 2023/24 amount to \$10,625.62.

Recommendation

That as a result of the sale of Rates Assessment Nos. 01886, 01737 and 01760 for the purposes of a National Park, Council deem the property non-rateable and in doing so write off rates levied for 2023/2024 in the amount of \$10,625.62.

17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Nil

19 POLICIES

Nil

20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

21 ACTIVITY REPORTS

**21.1 ENGINEERING SERVICES - ROAD WORKS AND WORKSHOP - WORKS UNDERTAKEN
ACTIVITY REPORT**

File Number: E7.1
Author: Paul Flanagan, Manager Roads
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The following information outlines works undertaken from 19 July 2023 to 31 July 2023 inclusive.

ENGINEERING SERVICES – Road Works – Works Undertaken		
Michael Willoughby, Roads Supervisor		
NORTH TEAM – Denis Tiffen, Team Leader		
Location	Work Type	Completed
RLR -28	Re-sheeting	N
RLR - 49	Re-sheeting	N
MR 405 Wanaaring Road 135.4-143.7km	Construct and seal	Y
SOUTH TEAM – John Reed, Team Leader		
Location	Work Type	Completed
State Highways SH-29	Heavy Patching	N
State Highways SH-7 N	Heavy Patching	N
State Highway SH-7 S	Heavy Patching	N
TRANSPORT TEAM – Simon Wielinga, Team Leader		
Location	Work Type	Completed
RLR - 28	Re-sheeting	N
MR 405 Wanaaring Road 135-144km	Construct and Seal	Y
BITUMEN TEAM – Phillip Harvey, Team Leader		
Location	Work Type	Completed
Bourke Township	Pothole Patching	N
State Highway Patching	Pothole Patching	N
SH 7 South of Bourke	Control vegetation (ongoing)	N
MR 421 Kidman Way	Control vegetation (ongoing)	Y
CONTRACTORS		
Location	Work Type	Completed
MR-68 S	Maintenance Grading (Sandford)	Y
RLR-3	Maintenance Grading (NAK)	Y
RLR-10	Maintenance Grading (Sandford)	N
RLR-31	Maintenance Grading (NAK)	N
RLR-30	Maintenance Grading (NAK)	Y
MR-68 S	Re-sheeting (Sandford)	Y

RLR-39	Maintenance Grading (THM)	Y
RLR-37	Maintenance Grading (THM)	Y

Workshop - Works Undertaken
Colin Kiley, Team Leader Tradesman

Plant #	Plant Type	Work completed
21	Mazda CX-5	Repaired damage to rear light.
92	2014 Western Star 4800FS	Replaced damaged clutch line and bleed system.
110	2015 Toro GM 360 Quad steer	Replaced blades and repaired fuel leak.
134	2019 John Deere 770G	Removed, manufactured and replaced hydraulic hose. Completed 4,750 hour service. Performed registration check
141	John Deere Grader	Removed, repaired and replaced 2 leaking tyres.
146	2022 Ford Ranger	Completed 70,000km service.
147	2020 Trailer	Completed 50,000km service.
172	Isuzu 1500 FXY	Parts at rear of truck removed, cleaned, repaired and replaced.
212	Genset	Completed 9,000 hour service. Cleaned radiator and replaced belt on the generator frame.
245	2022 Isuzu Generator	Completed 3,250 hour service.
265	Isuzu NQR 450	Completed 110,000 service. Repaired oil leak on gear box drain and refilled box.
310	2014 Caterpillar	Removed, repaired and reassembled damaged parts from oil cooler. Repaired leaking hydraulic hoses.
505	Kenworth Prime mover	Completed 290,000km service.

Training

Forklift Licence	Ben Dorrington and Ray Simmons
Backhoe Licence	Ben Dorrington
TAFE – Heavy Vehicle Mechanic	Ben Dorrington and Denzel Jackson

Recommendation

That Council note the information in the Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023.

21.2 PARKS AND GARDENS / TOWN SERVICES / WATER AND WASTE WATER 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 during the period 7 July to 31 July 2023 inclusive.

Current Situation

PARKS & GARDENS – Frank Hollman, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
General	All parks, sporting grounds and gardens - regular mowing and maintenance completed. Sporting grounds facilities cleaned and maintained. Public toilets cleaned and maintained. Facilities cleaned. General graffiti removal carried out on Council facilities.
Louth	Mowing and maintenance completed. Public toilets cleaned and maintained. Facilities cleaned.
Small Plant	Maintenance and service carried out on all ground plant.
Works Requests	Actioned and ongoing.
Town Streets	General maintenance carried out.
Wharf	General maintenance carried out.
Council Office	General maintenance carried out.
Renshaw Complex	General maintenance carried out.
Coolican Oval	Grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained. Prepared grounds for Soccer.
Davidson Oval	General maintenance carried out. Prepared grounds for Rugby Union mid-week Competition. Prepared grounds for Rugby Union and League Training. Prepared grounds for Rugby Union Game. Prepared grounds for BDRL 2023 Season. Prepared grounds for School Athletic 's Carnivals.
Central Park	Skate Park - regular mowing and maintenance carried out, including graffiti removal.
Villages	Mowed grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained.
Airport	General maintenance carried out.
Darling Park	General maintenance carried out.
Boat Ramp	General maintenance carried out.
Fishing Reserve	Inspection and general maintenance carried out.

North Bourke Truck stop	General maintenance carried out. General graffiti removal carried out on Council facilities.
Staff Training	Nil.

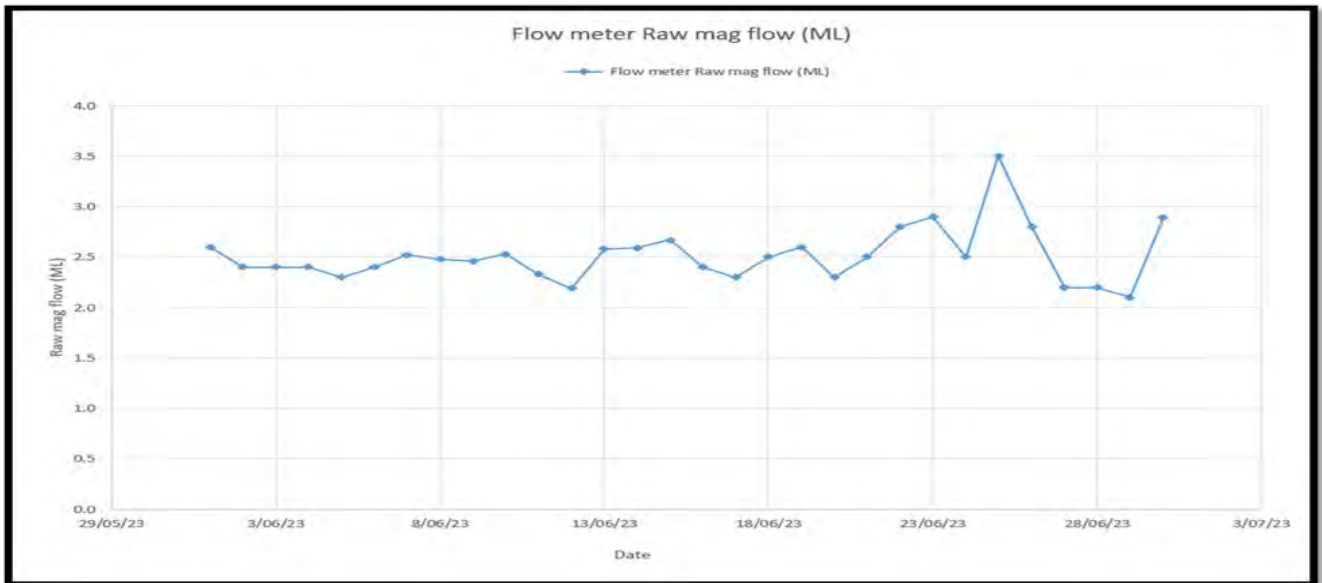
TOWN SERVICES – Troy Hayman, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Actioned and ongoing.
	Weekly - sand applied to footpaths.
	Weekly - town mowing.
	Daily - Main Street Program.
	Airport slashing and mowing.
	Mowed around airport lights.
	Watered trees.
	Sand applied to footpaths.
	Town slashing and laneways.
Cemetery	Graves prepared on 10,13 and 27 July 2023.
Rest Areas	Weekly cleaning and water pressure clean 65km Cobar Road new toilets. Monthly service and collection of roadside rubbish.
Staff Training	Nil.
Works Request	Pruned trees along foot paths.
	Assisted Dougie Berthold replace the levee flood gates.
	Erected “No Camping” signs at North Bourke.
	Delivered and operated crane on two occasions for private works (Sundry Debtors).
	Removed rubbish from town streets.
	Marked lines at 45 degrees at the Bowling Club and Court House.
	Delivered gravel for the plumbers at TAFE lane.
	Removed concrete footpaths at Central Park.
	Delivered signage for Essential Energy road closures.
	Delivered and operated crane for plumbers lifting pumps.
	Applied cold mix to pot holes in town streets.

WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
Works Request	Daily.
SPS	Routine maintenance, monitoring and reporting.
Alice Edwards village	Routine maintenance and monitoring as per ACP Management Plan.
Clara Hart village	Routine maintenance and monitoring as per ACP Management Plan.
Emergency Bore water supply	Additional bore capacity and powerline works ongoing.
Read meters	Monthly water meter reads from all Councils water sources.
14 Glen Street	Connected storm water drain.
Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool	Replaced air valves on 50m pool.
Rainbar camp	Repaired leaks in accommodation facility.
Louth	Checked toilets and pump site at Louth. Repaired leaking toilet.

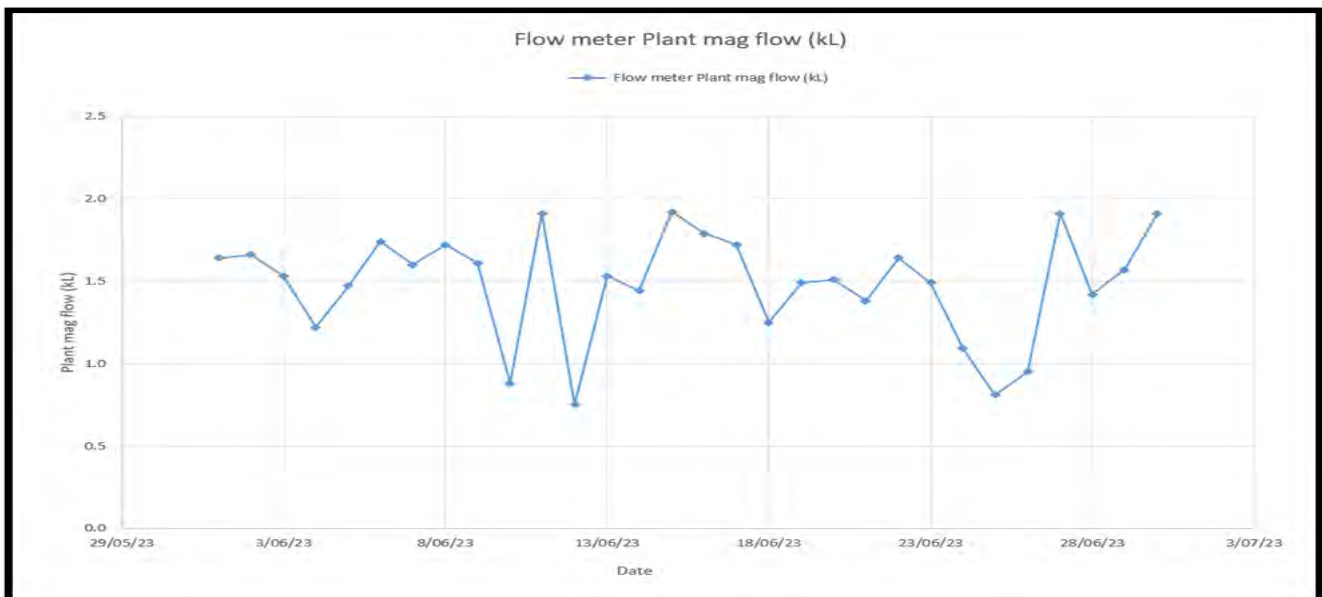
WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
Wanaaring	Checked toilets and hall for leaks.
Enngonia	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired leak.
Mans Shed	Installed sprinkler system.
Mertin Street Sewer pump station	Pulled out pump and cleared choke.
Council Depot	Installed storm water pit near Store.
66 Short Street	Replaced manhole lid.
17 Tudor Street	Sewer choke. Dug sewer main and cleared choke.
6 Wilson Street	Sewer choke.
5 Glen Street	Sewer choke.
45 Mertin Street	Sewer choke.
Becker Street	Sewer choke.
48 Tudor Street	Sewer choke.
157 Anson Street	Sewer choke.
5 Hume Place	Sewer choke.
48 Tudor Street	Sewer choke.
7 Oxley Street	Sewer choke.
48 Tudor Street	Sewer choke.
18 Mertin Street	Sewer choke.
5 Glen Street	Sewer choke.
32 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
69 Mertin Street	Sewer choke.
Moculta Street	Sewer choke (internal).
54 Hope Street	Sewer choke.
15 Green Street	Sewer choke.
35-37 Anson Street	Sewer choke.
84 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
BOB Centre	Sewer choke.
17 Tudor Street	Sewer choke.
Cottage 11 AEV	Sewer choke.
1a Oxley Street	Sewer choke.
Central Park	Repaired filtered 25mm poly line.
48 Oxley Street	Dug 200mm filtered water main and repaired 20mm service.
66 Oxley Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
32 Tarcoon Street	Dug 100mm filtered water main and repaired main.
24 Mooculta Street	Dug 100mm filtered water main and repaired 50mm service.
26 Short Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
18 Becker Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
21 Tarcoon Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
5 Yanda Street	Dug 100mm filtered water main and repair 20mm Service
Under North Bourke Bridge	Dug 100mm filtered water main and repaired main.
3 Meek Street	Replaced fire hydrant.
Golf Club	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired leak.
5 Richard Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired 25mm service.
60 Anson Street	Replaced sprinklers.
32 Short Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired 25mm service.

WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
Sale yards	Dug 50mm raw water main and repaired leak.
119 Anson Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
134 Meadows Road	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
157 Anson Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
126 Meadows Road	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
Cemetery	Dug 50mm raw water main and repaired leak.
Clara Hart Village	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired leak.
Enngonia	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired leak.
46 Hope Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired 25mm service.
36 Short Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired 25mm service.

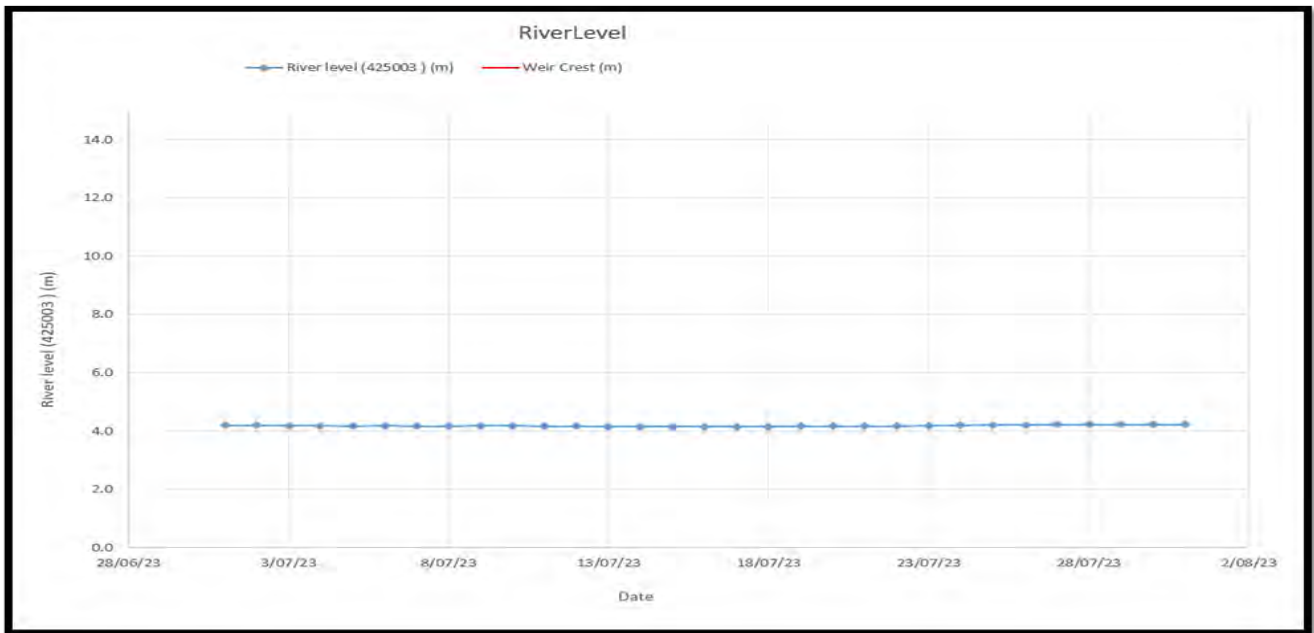
Raw Flow Meter



Plant Flow Meter



Current River Levels



Monthly Readings

Month	Raw water ML	Filter magflow pump 2 ML	Raw Water North Bourke KL	Filter Water North Bourke KL
July 2022	45	27	10,254	1,518
August 2022	49	25	15,321	1,622
September 2022	55	30	9,635	1,532
October 2022	52	27	7,862	1,544
November 2022	73	30	7,564	1,223
December 2022	138	41	23,264	1,325
January 2023	178	45	22,546	1,254
February 2023	170	43	32,365	1,534
March 2023	179	54	30,210	1,325
April 2023	138	44	29,421	1,526
May 2023	87	41	11,944	2,130
June 2023	75	41	10,125	2,135
July 2023	71	40	8,850	1,832

Water Approvals and Annual Consumption

Work Approval	Extraction Site	Site Name	Start meter read 01/07/2023	Meter read July-23	usage Year to Date			Comment
85CA753414	ESID 121627	Water Plant TWS	16043.5	16114.13	70.63	ML	3200ML	
85CA753420	ESID 121630	North Bourke TWS	1930.965	1939.815	8.85	ML	300ML	
85CA753421	ESID 121630	North Bourke Abs	34.023	35.053	1.03	ML		
85CA751207	24634	Engonia Village TWS	47.653	51.326	3.673	ML	150ML	
85CA753599		Wanaaring Station	23.298	25.388	2.09	ML	25ML	
85CA753412	ESID 121626	(LWU Louth)	34.09	35.237	1.147	ML	25ML	
85CA751215	24639	Fords Bridge TWS	3.701	3.956	0.255	ML	2ML	
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	29.469	29.469	0	ML		Road Works
	209518	Stoney Rise Bore	26.844	27.844	1	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

Council’s Water Access Licences – WAL’s

Process	Parameter	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Lower critical lim	Upper critical lim	No. of samples
River level	River level (425003)	4.20	4.26	4.31	3.9		30
Raw Water	pH	7.20	7.48	7.66			30
Raw Water	turbidity	9.00	76.27	167.00			30
Filtered water	pH	7.40	7.81	7.99	6.5	8.7	30
Tower	Free Cl2	1.35	1.80	3.89	0.2	5.0	30
Bourke High School	Free chlorine	2.10	2.10	2.10	0.2	4.0	2
Bourke High School	pH	7.40	7.45	7.50	6.5	8.5	2
Bourke High School	Turbidity	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.0	0.5	2
WTP	Free chlorine	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.2	4.0	2
WTP	pH	7.40	7.43	7.46	6.5	8.5	2
WTP	Turbidity	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.0	0.5	2
Bourke Primary School	Free chlorine	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.2	4.0	1
Bourke Primary School	pH	7.30	7.30	7.30	6.5	8.5	1
Bourke Primary School	Turbidity	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.0	0.5	1
Meadows Rd	Free chlorine	1.90	2.05	2.20	0.2	4.0	2
Meadows Rd	pH	7.50	7.60	7.70	6.5	8.5	2
Meadows Rd	Turbidity	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.0	0.5	2
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	0.40	0.75	1.10	0.2	4.0	2
Alice Edwards Villa	pH	7.50	7.53	7.55	6.5	8.5	2
Alice Edwards Villa	Turbidity	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.0	0.5	2

Health Guidelines

Bourke drinking water supply scheme CCPs - summary				
Parameter	Frequency	Target Limit	Alert Limit	Critical Limits
CCP 1 Filtration				
Turbidity (NTU)	Continuous	<0.2	>0.45	>0.5
CCP 2 Chlorine Disinfection				
Free chlorine (mg/L)	Continuous	1.5 – 2.5	<1.0	<0.6mg/L winter <1.2mg/L summer
CCP 3 Fluoridation (future)				
Fluoride (mg/L)	Continuous	0.95 - 1.05	<0.95 or >1.2	>1.5
CCP 4 Integrity of Reservoirs				
System integrity (sealed and secure)	Weekly	No evidence of integrity breach	Integrity breach	Visual evidence of contamination
Bourke drinking water supply scheme OCPs - summary				
Parameter	Frequency	Target Limit	Alert Limit	Critical Limits
OCP 1 Oxidation				
Iron (mg/L)	Weekly	<0.05	>0.05	>0.1
Manganese (mg/L)	Weekly	<0.05	>0.05	>0.1
OCP 2 Coagulation, Flocculation, Clarification				
Turbidity (NTU)	Continuous	<1	>2.5	>5
UV Transmittance (%)	Continuous	>80	70 - 80	<70
OCP 3 UV Disinfection				
Status	Continuous	Operational	Operational but alarming	Offline

Treatment Plant EPA Licence Compliance

Record of Effluent Analysis

Pollutant	Unit Of Measure	Licence 100 Percentile Concentration Limit	July 2023 Test	June 2023 Test	May 2023 Test
Oil & Grease	mg/L		<2	<2	n/a-no flow
pH			8.39	8.65	n/a-no flow
Nitrogen (total)	mg/L		8.5	10.8	n/a-no flow
Phosphorus (total)	mg/L		3.02	2.17	n/a-no flow
Total suspended solids	mg/L		71	134	n/a-no flow
Biochemical oxygen demand	mg/L		2	2	n/a-no flow

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 July 2023 was 14.4 mm
- Hottest day for July 2023 was 27.5 degrees
- Coldest day for July 2023 was -1.5 degrees

Recommendation

That Council note the information in the Parks and Gardens, Town Services, Water and Wastewater Engineering Services Activity Reports as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023.

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

Current Situation

The report relates to activity during the period 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023

Development Approvals			
Delegated Authority or Council	Consent Type and Consent Number	Subject Land	Nature of Development
Nil			
Total value of Approved Works for July 2023			\$0
No. of Development Application Approvals for July 2023			0
No. of Complying Development Application Approvals for July 2023			0

Building Services Report	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Actioned and ongoing
Risk Assessments	Completed with every job
Training	As required
Contractors	Maintenance work completed as required Upgrade work completed as per Operational Plan
Buildings	Maintenance work completed as required
Airport	Maintenance work completed as required

Animal Control		
Bourke Shire Council Holding Facility	Dogs	Cats
Animals in Pound at Beginning of Month	6	0
Seized Animals	2	0
Surrendered Animals	1	0
Total	9	0
Euthanised	5	0
Released from Pound	0	0
Rehomed / Adopted	0	0
Escaped from Pound	0	0
Died in Pound	1	0
Animals Remaining at End of Month	3	0
Total	9	0
Stock Rested in Stock Yards	0	

- 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, 28 August 2023 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

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 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.

3 August 2023

Domestic Violence (DV)

Put simply, the level of domestic and family violence across NSW is a blight on our society. How often do we hear and read reports where a victim of domestic violence is murdered by their partner after a long period of domestic violence concerns? A recent focus by authorities in respect of domestic and family violence is addressing the difficulty that victims experience in coming forward to report violence. I read recently that research shows that it takes 25 instances of domestic violence before the victim is ready to report the crime to Police. With this reluctance to report in mind, and then the difficulty in achieving a successful prosecution against the perpetrator, NSW Police have developed an innovative new mobile phone application (an App)

designed to discreetly document abuse and provide better access to support services. Unveiled recently, the 'Empower You' app has been developed to ensure better outcomes for victims of domestic and family violence across NSW.

'Empower You' includes a private diary, a coded emergency signal feature, which can also send victims GPS location, simple connectivity to Triple Zero for emergencies, and links local support services. With these features, victims can easily document abuse, which would be understandably difficult to recall when in distress or when it occurs over long periods of time. The app is "user friendly, intuitive, and interactive, while still having the best safety features for user privacy and discretion" according to NSW Police Domestic and Family Violence Portfolio Owner, Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith. He said that "it has inbuilt features to keep it private on any mobile, including passcodes and quick lock, and has a modest-looking icon that's designed not to alert perpetrators." The diary feature allows a victim to collect their thoughts – including photos of injuries and property damage, and screenshots of emails or messages – and document an incident when it happens, no matter how minor or whether they report it to Police at that time. "This is especially important in terms of coercive control, where we know a victim often feels helpless, so with 'Empower You', the abuse is clearly demonstrated, and the power comes back to the victim," said Commissioner Smith.

The 'Empower You' app is available in the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store, and NSW Police officers have QR codes on their MobiPOL devices to link to the app in the stores to download. Victims of domestic and family violence can also seek advice and services by contacting 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) or visiting: <https://www.1800respect.org.au>. Reports of domestic and family-related crime or abuse can be made by contacting or attending your local Police station. In an emergency or life-threatening situation, contact Triple Zero (000). Anyone with information relating to domestic and family-related violence is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence.

Déjà vu

The Cambridge Dictionary defines déjà vu as "that strange feeling that in some way you have already experienced what is happening now." I had my own déjà vu moment recently when I opened a link to a Local Government related publication which had as its heading, "Tasmanian Premier declares: 'there will be no forced amalgamations.'" The heading rapidly took me back to 2015 and 2016 when the NSW State Government was in the throes of progressing the amalgamation of numerous NSW Councils and, at the same time, attempting to progress its Far West Initiative, all as part of its "Fit for the Future" Agenda. Ultimately the Far West Initiative evaporated, thankfully, in favour of the formation of non-compulsory Joint Organisations. For Bourke Shire, it is a member of the Far North West Joint Organisation (FNWJO), one of the more successful Joint Organisations to be operating across Regional NSW. With a small membership of only three (3) Council, the FNWJO has a project focus in respect of its operations and a vision to be "a vast region of diversity and opportunity that cares for its people and environment."

One of the projects that the JO is currently commencing to implement, following the receipt of government grant funding, is the pursuit of innovative projects that will progress energy management and net zero outcomes for the FNWJO Region. With the Australian government having released its Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan to achieve a net zero emissions economy through a technology-based approach, whilst protecting relevant industries, regions and jobs, by 2050, the JO's project is most timely. To progress this project, the JO has engaged a Project Officer

for a 12-month period. This officer will be responsible for delivering a Regional Energy Management and Net Zero Plan that encompasses a diverse range of projects including the preparation of business cases, running regional procurements, delivering community education programs and working with FNWJO member councils to identify innovative solutions to common problems.

2023 Referendum

I recently wrote in my Column (20 July 2023) that in readiness for the upcoming national referendum on “THE VOICE”, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is encouraging people to enrol to vote or check their details online at www.aec.gov.au to ensure people above 18 years of age have their say. More recently the Commission (AEC) has reported some fantastic, possibly best in the world, enrolment figures.

The AEC is advising that as at 30 June 2023 the estimated national voting enrolment rate is 97.5%. These figures are up from 97.1% since the end of 2022 and up from 89.7% in 2010. With these numbers, the 2023 referendum will have the best base for democratic participation than any federal electoral event in Australia’s history. In terms of Indigenous enrolment, the national rate is estimated at 94.1%. This figure is above 90% for the first time and is up from 74.7% since 2017 and 84.5% since the end of 2022. This means that 60,000 more Indigenous Australians have enrolled since the end of 2022. Pleasingly, every state and territory has improved their Indigenous enrolment rates significantly.

From my perspective as General Manager, I am not here to push a position regarding the outcome in which way the result of an election or referendum goes. Rather, I consider promoting how people can have the opportunity to have their say, is most important.

Rising Insurance Costs

As part of the Agenda for Councils July 2023 meeting, a report was submitted regarding Council’s Annual Risk Management Program for 2023/2024. Council holds insurances in respect of 14 categories to provide a comprehensive level of cover in relation to its various activities and in this regard, an annual review in terms of identifying exposure to risk and the extent to which risks can be insured is undertaken.

The interesting issue is the increases in insurance costs this year. Councils total premiums for its various classes of insurance excluding Public Liability, Property and Workers Compensation for 2023/2024 is \$247,785. This is 9.05% more than the premium paid in 2022/2023. For Public Liability insurance, Council is a member of the Statewide Liability Mutual Scheme. Statewide Liability Mutual is an organisation set up to provide public liability insurance cover to Local Government through a “pooling” arrangement. Statewide is able to negotiate renewal terms for the “pool” through various London Underwriters. Council’s contribution for 2023/2024 is \$145,360, an increase of 7.5%. For its Property coverage, Council is a member of the Statewide Property Mutual Scheme. This scheme provides Council with industrial special risk type cover for all of its properties. The majority of councils in NSW are members of the scheme with Council’s property premium for 2023/2024 being \$296,620. This is 12.48% more than the premium paid in 2022/2023. Certainly, the past twelve months has seen the global insurance market continue to harden, impacted by catastrophic losses, which in 2020 saw unprecedented fires, and then in 2021 and 2022 communities severely impacted by flooding and storms.

In terms of Councils Workers Compensation insurance, it has been placed with StateCover Mutual Limited since 2003. This scheme has been developed through an initiative of Local Government New South Wales and is a specialised Workers Compensation insurer for Local Government only. Workers Compensation premiums will be dependent upon a combination of Council's previous claims history and actual claims submitted during each financial year. Council is awaiting advice from StateCover as to the 2023/2024 estimate.

Quote: "Our preference is to come over here and win the Ashes. Retaining it is nice, but we're fully focused on trying to get the win. Whatever happened here doesn't change the way we look at The Oval next week." – Pat Cummings, reflecting on retaining the Ashes.

10 August 2023

New National Park

I was disappointed to learn of the purchase by the NSW Government of another significant parcel of land in the far west area of the State to be utilised for the purposes of a National Park. The recent purchase of the 37,422-hectare Comeroo Station aggregation at Yantabulla by the NSW Government, follows the acquisition in February 2023 of the 437,394-hectare Thurloo Downs, located between Bourke and Tibooburra. These purchases add to the existing NSW National Parks owned and operated land portfolio in the Bourke Shire. These comprise Brindingabba, Gunabooka and Toorale National Parks and Ledknapper and Nocolche Nature Reserves, located east of Enngonia and south of Wanaaring, respectively. Whilst very much understanding that the sale of any parcel of land to whomever is the vendor's right, the impact of the ongoing purchase by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of prime agricultural land, and the subsequent elimination of pastoral operations, surrounding Bourke is a concern for Council.

In terms of the land purchase, the aggregation of the properties of Comeroo, Muttawary and Maranoa, is located some 150km north-west of Bourke in the Yantabulla district of Bourke Shire. NPWS have advised that the acquisition of Comeroo is part of a major public-private conservation initiative that will protect a combined area of 101,725 hectares – linking 2 national parks, Comeroo and Brindingabba (33,903 hectares), and 2 properties with conservation agreements with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Naree (14,400 hectares) and Yantabulla (16,000 hectares). According to NPWS, Comeroo protects "one of Australia's most important wetlands-9,660 hectares of the Yantabulla Swamp. Yantabulla Swamp is a mosaic of channels and wetlands in the Cuttaburra basin connecting 2 iconic rivers-the Bullo and the Paroo rivers. The area is considered the healthiest floodplain system in the Murray Darling Basin." NPWS further advise that the wetlands are home to up to 50,000 waterbirds and further supporting up to 13 threatened species. In addition to the floodplains and wetlands, the properties comprise grasslands, stony desert shrublands and gibber plains and woodlands of poplar box and desert bloodwood.

With an estimated 12-month period for the transition of the properties from the ownership of the Sharpe family to National Parks, the yet to be named park will be promoted as an important stop for visitors across the rapidly expanding network of western New South Wales national parks, with the new park expected to be open to the public in late 2024. Interestingly, once Comeroo and other recently acquired lands are reserved, the NSW national park estate will cover over 8.24 million hectares, which is over 10.3% of the area of NSW.

The Sharpe family has held Comeroo since 1919. Bruce Sharpe has been a strong supporter of the maintenance of the Yantabulla Hall and has interacted with Council staff in a professional manner in progressing matters relating to the Hall. Notwithstanding Council's concerns, best wishes are extended to the Sharpe family for their future endeavours.

2023/2024 Volunteer Grants

Member for Parkes, the Hon Mark Coulton is encouraging community groups in the Parkes electorate to apply for a share of \$66,225 in funding to support the work of their volunteers. Interested eligible organisations in the electorate can visit Mr Coulton's website, www.markcoulton.com.au to obtain further information and download an Expression of Interest form for submission to his office by 5pm on Friday 8 September 2023.

NBN School Student Broadband Initiative

Another matter that staff from Mark Coulton's office brought to my attention is the recently announced program titled the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI). The SSBI is an Australian Government program to support students that do not have access to the internet at home. The program aims to boost educational opportunities by providing up to 30,000 eligible Australian families with school aged children (K-12) with free nbn-powered broadband internet at home for an initial 12 month period.

To be eligible for the program, families must have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school in 2023; not have an active nbn network internet service at home (having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility); be referred by a nominating organisation (of which Mr Coulton is); and lastly, live in premises that can access the nbn network. The program is not means tested, so if you have school children and don't have an active NBN connection please give consideration to lodging an application.

To nominate, it's a matter of contacting Mark Coulton's Moree office, Leah is the best person to speak to and the contact phone number is 02 6751 1251. Alternatively, you can email Mark's office as follows: Mark.Coulton.MP@aph.gov.au with the following information: student name and school; the name of primary contact point for the family; contact details of the primary contact; and the home address where the connection will be installed.

It is important that consent is obtained from the family to provide their personal information to nbn. Upon receiving the required information, Mr Coulton's office will submit such information to the nbn Government Relations Unit who will: (a) contact the family (email, call or text) to provide notice of nbn's privacy policy and that their personal information will be managed in accordance with that policy; and (b) respond to Mr Coulton's office within two (2) business days to confirm if the family is eligible or not. For families who are eligible, nbn Government Relations will generate a printable voucher which will be sent to Mr Coulton's office who can then provide it to the recipient in person, or via email. Once received, the voucher can be redeemed by the family at a participating retail service provider listed on the voucher.

Electricity Bills

Much has been written by many as to the current state of the electricity industry and the staggering level of electricity bills that residents and businesses are receiving. The Australian

Government in its 2023/2024 budget announced cost of living relief relating to electricity when it announced energy bill relief for low-income households & small business. A joint initiative between the NSW & Australian governments, there will be a one-off rebate of \$500 for eligible households and a one-off rebate of \$650 for those eligible small businesses that use greater than 100MWh. Not everyone is eligible for the payment, with payment being automatic if electricity customers are on the Low-Income Household rebate. If you're an electricity customer and are not currently on the Low-Income Rebate, here is the link for you to check your eligibility, just in case: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-for-the-low-income-household-rebate-on-supply-customers>

In terms of small business, the rebate will be automatically applied through their retailer (excluding those working from home). More information is available from: <https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-grants-and-schemes/national-energy-bill-relief>

Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification

As primary producers in our Shire would be aware, sheep and farmed goat industries and Government, both State and Federal, have agreed to transition towards mandatory electronic identification (eID). For information, a farmed goat is defined as, “any breed or type of goat that is not a harvested rangeland goat, which is managed or semi-managed on a property and is subject to animal husbandry procedures and managed breeding programs.” The NSW Government, via the Rural Assistance Authority, has now released details in respect of its Sheep and Goat eID rebate scheme to offset the costs of purchasing and installing electronic identification tagging systems. Saleyards, stock and station agents, primary producers and processors may be eligible for the rebate. In this regard, rebate applications for saleyards and stock and station agents opened on 1 August 2023 whilst primary producers and processors will be able to apply from 3 October 2022. Guidelines have been issued for the rebate program for processors and saleyards that will see, in respect of processors for example, a rebate of 50% of the cost of purchasing and installing eID equipment, up to a maximum of \$44,400 and \$52,000 for small and medium processors respectively. In terms of eID equipment to be acquired, these include eID readers (panel or handheld); eID hardware (computers, laptops, tablets); infrastructure for connectivity between eID hardware; and the purchase, installation and training for software connected to eID infrastructure. It will be interesting to see the level of rebates available to producers. For further information, go to <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au> and search sheep and goat id.

Road Condition Reports

With the majority of roads within the Shire being unsealed, when it rains, these unsealed roads are all closed, and a Road Condition Report is emailed to a multitude of rural residents within the Shire. A copy of the report is also made available on Council's website (<https://bourke.nsw.gov.au/engineering/road-conditions/>). Council interacts with adjoining landowners as to the condition of the various roads and then issues updated Reports having regard to such information.

Council on behalf of the community, expends considerable funds maintaining roads. Valuable resources are wasted repairing damage done by vehicles using closed, wet roads. Offenders may be prosecuted and be held responsible to pay for any damage caused. The catch cry is, “If it's wet

forget it!" If you require further information as to whether a road is closed or opened, please contact 02 6830 8000 or after hours on 0419722055.

Quote: "Full implementation of the (Murray Darling) Basin Plan will not be possible by June 30, 2024" - MDBA chair, Sir Angus Houston, in advice to federal Environment and Water Minister, the Hon Tanya Plibersek.

17 August 2023

Everything Old Is New Again

As most people would know, late last year singer John Farnham underwent a 12-hour operation for mouth cancer. With his son being recently on television advising that his Father was now "cancer free", hopefully we will see John Farnham performing again in the goodness of time. In May this year a documentary titled 'John Farnham: Finding the Voice' was released to the public via Australian cinemas with the documentary subsequently screened on national television in July 2023. The interesting thing is that John Farnham's popularity has had a massive resurgence as a result of the documentary with his previously released albums from the 1980's and 1990's returning to the Australian Records Industry charts of today. Entertainment reporter Peter Ford said that "everybody has kind of rediscovered John Farnham" having 12 of the top 20 in the ARIA albums charts and then another five albums in the top 20 to 40 albums.

In addition to this resurgence, former Beatle Paul McCartney is touring Australia in late October and early November this year. McCartney is now 81 years of age and such is his popularity that as a result of initial demand for tickets for his Sydney concert of Friday 21 October, a second concert at Allianz Stadium has been announced. I have seen television clips of the crazy scenes when the Beatles toured Australia way back in 1964. McCartney has gone on to be arguably the most successful of the "Fab Four" in terms of their individual careers. I certainly enjoyed recently watching when British Talk Show Host, James Corden, headed to Liverpool for a day with Paul McCartney, the city of Paul's youth, visiting his childhood home where he wrote music with John Lennon, performing songs in a local pub and driving around singing some of McCartney's biggest hits, as part of Corden's Carpool Karaoke segment. You can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjvzCTqkBDQ> As I say, "Everything Old Is New Again"!

Cancer Treatment In Bourke

In May last year, the University of Sydney – School of Rural Health, in conjunction with the Western NSW Local Health District, invited involvement from members of the Bourke community to join a Committee to design how cancer services can best be provided to people in Bourke.

With cancer levels being so unfortunately high across the Shire, great strides have been made for the region in terms of treating cancer with the construction and operation of the Western Cancer Centre at Dubbo. The Centre provides significantly expanded chemotherapy services and provides access to radiation therapy and PET CT services in the western area for the first time. It's easy to forget the "inconvenience" and cost that western area patients had to endure travelling to either Orange or Sydney for extended periods to undertake required treatment. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is nothing better than a physical on-site medical professional to attend to one's issues, it is further acknowledged that the provision of various specialised services will not generally be available on a one-on-one basis with specialists in many western localities, let alone

in terms of infrastructure. This is where virtual or telehealth can come in. Recently Dr Emma Webster Senior Lecturer in Rural Research at the University of Sydney - School of Rural Health in Dubbo along with Dr Florian Honeyball, medical oncologist based at the Western Cancer Centre Dubbo; Dr Sidney Pye, Senior Resident Medical Officer at Liverpool Hospital and A/Prof Rob Zielinski, Senior oncology physician and Director of clinical trials unit at Orange Hospital, authored an article which stated that research had shown that “patients in regional NSW had positive experiences of virtual health care.”

Whilst acknowledging that there were both “good” and “bad” views of virtual health care, they wrote of the positive experiences of seven cancer patients in western New South Wales who received video-assisted chemotherapy treatments remotely. Referred to in the article as teleoncology, the telehealth system allows patients to receive cancer treatments locally, in lieu of otherwise having to travel hundreds of kilometres for treatment or short routine treatment follow-up sessions.

The article provides that “research demonstrated to the researchers how important it was for rural patients to receive oncology treatments in their hometown where they had strong social networks and enduring connections with local health providers. These were the social and professional networks which had supported people through the health challenges life had thrown their way and would continue to support them no matter how successful their cancer journey was to be. For these patients, teleoncology brought expert advice and treatment to them at their local hospital, strengthening their local health care team rather than uprooting their whole existence to receive treatments far from home in a cancer centre. Patient experiences of teleoncology were enhanced when care was provided in a hybrid model (combining both in-person and telemedicine consultations) to foster the therapeutic relationship between oncologist and patient.”

Whilst virtual health care is still relatively young in its evolution, it certainly has its benefits and one that is a discussion point for the provision of cancer services in Bourke.

NGO Flood Recovery Program

The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have announced the launch of the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Flood Recovery Program. The Program focuses on the longer-term resilience of individuals, families and communities. A total of \$6.5 million in Open Competitive Grants are available to help communities thrive as they recover from the floods. Grants are available to run programs that support individuals, families and communities in four districts of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) including the Western District, of which the Bourke Shire area is part of. Funding at four levels, beginning at \$10,000, is available to support and embed resilience in flood affected communities. DCJ are keen for local NGO's to be aware of the program and give consideration to submitting an application. Applications are now open until 5pm Friday 1 September 2023. Information about the program can be found at: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/flood-recovery-grants.html> including program guidelines, FAQs and a link to apply. Potential applicants can also contact the DCJ team with any queries at: SPCGrantsTeam@fac.nsw.gov.au

The Matildas

By the time this Column is published, the Matildas will have played either France or Morocco in their Quarter Final Game and if they had won that game, they would have played last night in a

Semi-Final against either England, Columbia or Jamaica. Win or lose, the Matildas have certainly captured the interest of the Nation. This is evidenced by the number of people watching their games on television.

For the Matildas game against Canada back on 31 July, the viewing audience was 2.46 million. For comparative purposes, 1.115 million viewers tuned into *Session One* of Day Five of the fifth *Ashes* cricket test match. It was the first time that more than 2 million viewers had watched a female team sports match in Australia. For the Matildas game against Denmark on 7 August, it has been reported that some 3.5 million viewers tuned in with these numbers being well in excess of the number of viewers who watched either the 2022 AFL or NRL Grand Finals and the 2023 State of Origin (Game 1), which had a high of 1.98million viewers. To put this 3.5million viewer figure further in perspective, it is understood this figure equates to some 54% of the total viewing audience.

It is great to see the community's interest and support of the Matildas. Whilst I clearly remember footage from back in 1983 when the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, famously declared after Australia won the America's Cup for the first time, "Any boss who sacks anyone for not turning up today is a bum!", I cannot go so far to agree with various calls for a public holiday to be declared should the Matildas win the World Cup. In NSW we already have 12 annual public holidays with these public holidays coming at a significant cost to employers. In this regard, employers are required to pay their full or part time employees their minimum pay rate for the ordinary hours that they would usually work on that day. Employees who work on a public holiday must be paid a penalty rate with this rate being higher than their minimum pay rate. It all costs. If people are that keen to celebrate the Matilda's journey, I would suggest they apply for a day's annual leave!

Quote: "We are aware ... we're probably facing our first significant fire season since Black Summer" – Murray Watt, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management Australia commenting on an expected El Nino weather pattern.

24 August 2023

Murray Darling Basin Plan Review

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has recently advised that it is now preparing to undertake its 2026 Basin Plan Review. The Authority is advising that the review "isn't about starting again, instead it's about being responsive to the impacts of climate change, seeing what's working and what's needed to best protect the Basin and its values for the future." In this regard, the Authority considers that 10 yearly reviews of the Basin Plan are required to allow for improved management of more variable climate patterns, and for new information, and new ways of managing water resources to be considered.

With an anticipated warmer and drier climate future that includes more frequent droughts and extreme weather events, the review is considered as an opportunity to incorporate new knowledge and evidence that has evolved since the Plan was adopted. To this end, the Authority has developed a "Roadmap" to assist everybody understand the work planned and shows how the MDBA will approach the next 3 year's leading up to the completion of the review. Such Roadmap provides for the release in mid 2024 of an Early Insights Paper, an Evaluation of the Basin Plan in mid 2025 before the release of an Outlook for the Basin being released in late 2025. Formal consultation and the availability to make submissions will commence in early 2026 when a

Discussion Paper will be released. The Authority is then anticipating a Final Report on the Review to be available in later 2026. For further information go to <https://www.mdba.gov.au> and search 2026 Basin Plan Review.

I recently made a submission, on behalf of Council, to the Productivity Commission in regard to its enquiry regarding the Murray-Darling Basin. The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Under the *Commonwealth Water Act of 2007*, the Commission is required to undertake an inquiry every five years into the effectiveness of the implementation of the Basin Plan and water resource plans. This is the second such inquiry conducted by the Commission, with the previous review having been conducted in 2018. Council's submission followed a visit to Bourke in July 2023 by members of the Commission and the Basin Authority. In making the submission, amongst other matters, I was quick to point out that as a community in the Murray Darling Basin, Bourke has been significantly impacted as a result of the implementation of the surface water diversions Cap (the Cap) and from the water buy back requirements of the Basin Plan. In this regard I advised that it had been estimated that up to 60% of the local economy had been impacted as a result of the implementation of the Cap process with a further 10% of the economy impacted through the water buyback process. Both these processes have resulted in both economic and social reduction to our town.

As part of their review documentation, the Commission stated that "concerns continue to be raised about water quality and security in some areas". I noted in the submission that from Council's perspective, the issue of Water Security for Bourke was at the top of Councils list of strategic priorities. As readers of this column for at least the past 10 years would be aware, the issue of the raising of the Bourke Weir is one that has been long pursued without success, to date, by the Bourke Community. We all know that a reliable and sustainable water supply is required for the proper functioning of the town. The need to ensure water security for Bourke is necessary for critical human needs, town water supplies and to provide related socio-economic, environmental and cultural benefits.

The previous NSW State Government committed \$4.21m to develop a Strategic Business Case for the Bourke Weir – this was as part of the Western Weirs Program. The Western Weirs Program was identified as Critical State Significant Infrastructure as part of the Water Supply (Critical Needs) Bill 2019. In 2020 it was identified that the Western Weirs Program had a broad timeframe of some four (4) years until construction commences. We are now in 2023 and are no further advanced with The Better Baaka Program having absorbed the previous Western Weirs Program. Council continues to lobby both the Commonwealth and State Government to support this important project. Without additional water security, the Bourke community is unfairly exposed and vulnerable to the forecasted extreme summer(s) ahead, noting that once water ceases to flow over the Bourke Weir, the community has but six (6) month's supply of water from the Bourke Weir Pool.

Grand Finals

Magpie Park, Goodooga was the scene of the Barwon Darling Cup Rugby League Grand finals played on Sunday, 13 August 2023. My local rugby league correspondent has informed me that a large and well-behaved crowd was on hand to watch and support their respective team in the five (5) grand finals played on the day. From under 15's men's and women's, under 18's, Ladies League

Tag and ultimately the Men's First Grade game, my correspondent was most complimentary at the great spirit shown in all games played.

For the Bourke Warriors, it was a long trek home from Goodooga for both the under 18's and First Grade sides after going down to the Brewarrina Golden Googars and the Goodooga Magpies in their grand finals, respectively. Congratulations to the Bourke sides for getting to the Grand Final. At this time of the winter sports season, there has to be a winner and a loser. On that issue I have to say, there has to be a better way to decide soccer games rather than by penalty shoot-out! After playing for two (2) hours it comes down to a shoot-out. Whilst "winners are grinners", I certainly feel for the losers in the event of such shoot outs. I don't like "golden point" in rugby league games either.

I travelled to Wagga Wagga recently to watch one of my sons play for the Ken McMullen Cup in the Southern Inland Rugby Competition as part of his Hay Cutters Club team. It was worth the drive as the Cutters prevailed by 27 to 26 against Wagga City, in ordinary time, thank goodness. I mentioned to one of my friends the name Ken McMullen and he said that Ken McMullen played for the Wallabies in the early 1960's having represented Australia against the All Blacks and the South African Springboks. He also said that Ken McMullen changed codes and moved from Wagga Wagga to Sydney to play Rugby League for the Eastern Suburbs Rugby League Team (the Roosters). In the late 1960's he then moved to Dubbo to manage the Orana Mall Complex on Wellington Road. In Dubbo, he was Captain/Coach of the Dubbo CYMS side, transforming the club from perennial wooden spooners into a professional organisation and in doing so, winning various Group XI competitions. Mr McMullen unfortunately passed away at the early age of 46 from cancer. His brother presented the trophy to the Cutters on Saturday.

Fishing Competition

The Bourke "Aint Caught Nuffin" Fishing Club successfully held its annual Outback Fishing Challenge last weekend. As per previous events, the Challenge was again a "Catch-n-Release" competition for the longest Cod and Yellow Belly fish and to enter these species in the competition, apart from initially registering for the event, contestants had to present a clear photo of the fish taken on a brag mat or tape measure along with the registration ear tag at the "weigh-in". The prize for longest Carp and the greatest number of Carp required competitors to physically present their fish at the "weigh-in". Any initiative that removes these pests, that carp are, from our river system is a good one with scientists having found that Carp as introduced species have contributed significantly to the degradation of our natural aquatic ecosystems.

The Club organised substantial prizes and conducted a raffle with over 200 prizes valued in excess of \$8000. With demand high for Fishing Club merchandise and a successful "weigh in" on the Sunday at the Bourke Golf Clubhouse, well done to the organisers of this event. With all money raised from the Challenge going back into the river for the purchase of native Cod and Yellow belly fingerlings for future anglers and importantly, adding to the sustainability of native fish stocks in our river system, it is an important feature on many locals, and visitors, recreational calendar.

Quote: " Hey Dad, Elliot here. I'm alive. Safe now. Love you. Chat later." Elliot Foote to his Father after he and 3 mates were found safe after going missing off the coast of Indonesia.

Recommendation

That the information in the General Manager's Activity Report as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

21.5 LIBRARY MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JULY 2023

File Number: L4.1
Author: Jodi Hatch, Library Manager
Authoriser: Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development
Attachments: Nil

Current Situation

The following items for the July 2022 and July 2023 period are presented for information.

Item	July 2022	July 2023
Loans	652	681
New Members	14	19
Internet/Word Processing	26	38
Wireless Tickets	11	34
Number of Visitors	553	622
Scans	22	27
Information Requests	71	72
Technical Assistance / Printing	48	64
Faxes/ Laminating	2	0

- July has been a busy month in the Library. There were ten (10) children attend the Harry Potter craft session, with another six (6) attending the drop-in craft sessions. Four (4) children attended the LEGO session.



- The Tax Help program began in the last week of July, with Library staff assisting with the completion of 8 tax returns.
- A very successful Harry Potter trivia afternoon was held at the end of the month. Thirty nine (39) people attended the event, and all expressed their enjoyment of the trivia, the themed food and the photo booth.



Recommendation

That the information in the Library Manager’s Report for July 2023 as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

21.6 TOURISM AND EVENTS REPORT

File Number: T4.3
Author: Ben Nott, Coordinator Tourism Operations
Authoriser: Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development
Attachments: 1. BOBEC Website Statistics July 2023
 2. BOBEC Statistics July 2023

Background

The Bourke Shire Councils Tourism and Events report provides Council with an updated status report for July 2023, 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

During the month of July 2023, the Tourism and Events Team participated in the following activities:

Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre

Performance Indicator	June 2023	July 2023	% Difference
Vend Turnover (ex GST)	\$97,000.96	\$83,682.73	▼ 14.7%
Visitor Numbers	1971	2520	▲ 24.5%
Email Enquiries	353	429	▲ 19.4%
Incoming Calls	634	553	▼ 13.6%
Website Enquiries	2,100	2,200	▲ 4.6%
Exhibition Tickets	774	831	▲ 7.1%
PV Jandra Tickets	961	325	▼ 98.9%
PV Jandra Cruises	46	18	▼ 87.5%
Café Turnover (ex GST)	\$34,667.51	\$33,862.73	▼ 2.4%
Café Event Catering	5	5	=
Functions	6	6	=
Mt Oxley Tickets	164	139	▼ 16.5%
Tour Groups	6	5	▼ 18.2%
Financial YTD Turnover (ex GST)	\$665,111.54	\$83,682.73	First month of first quarter

BOBEC continued operations 7 days per week in July 2023. The Café opening hours are Monday to Sunday from 9.00am to 3.00pm and the Exhibition Centre opening hours are Monday to Sunday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre

The Back O’ Bourke Information Centre garden staff were kept busy in July 2023, completing work with mulching of gardens and top dressing lawns. Staff have commenced spraying broad leave

weeds in the lawns and gardens. The B2/B3 pond is complete, with work commencing on the artesian pond during August 2023.

Crossley Engine

Maintenance on the Crossley engine continued with 1 engine still out of action. Staff are currently trying to start the Crossley engine daily with only the one engine. Started 60% of the time in July 2023.

Café and Functions

The Café and Information Centre were very busy in July with Sundays continuing to be the busiest day of the week. The Café provided five (5) catering jobs for the month, these included 3 function centre bookings and a lunch for the Brewarrina Public school comprising 28 meals. The Centre had six (6) function bookings, these included NSW water, Shine Lawyers, Child Care, Birrang, Local Land services and Productivity Commission.

Coach Bookings

There were five (5) tour group bookings during July 2023, these included Casey Tours, Outback by Air x 2, Fun Over fifty and Simmos Outback tours.

The site was very busy overall again in July 2023, thanks again to all the staff. BOBEC are always on the lookout for more staff.

Visitor Numbers to the Back O’ Bourke Tourist and Information Centre

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	448	560	325	326	302	348	386	782	1109	816	603	609
Feb	157	397	271	373	391	220	282	1043	386	630	725	557
Mar	570	1500	1051	1342	1612	1245	1274	1021	412	1389	1100	1006
April	2144	3103	3146	3849	3118	3114	4024	3166	0	2387	2323	1709
May	2891	3758	3988	4602	4073	3983	4770	3693	0	2564	2016	1713
June	3216	4492	4275	5437	5199	4754	5634	4490	993	2366	2227	1971
July	4643	5173	6241	6002	5941	5982	7614	6834	2570	1068	2998	2520
Aug	4162	4410	4793	5078	4951	5051	5548	4052	1898	255	2557	
Sep	5074	4275	4764	4489	4532	4246	4676	3601	3325	0	2203	
Oct	3967	2383	2486	2370	2475	2463	3574	2222	5246	409	1094	
Nov	930	789	671	610	1031	876	1014	1220	1989	866	710	
Dec	347	207	242	272	281	255	630	860	1194	897	586	
Total	27649	31044	32253	34750	33906	32537	39454	32984	19122	13647	19142	

Regional Promotional Committees

Darling River Run

- Tourism Marketing teams meeting conducted 20 July 2023 for all tourism operators along the Darling River Run.
- Social media campaign discussed.
- Visitor numbers continue to increase.

Far North West Joint Organisation

- Far Northwest Joint Organisation (FNWJO) meeting attended in Dubbo on 14 July 2023 (FNWJO) regarding the rollout of the tourism marketing campaign for the region.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

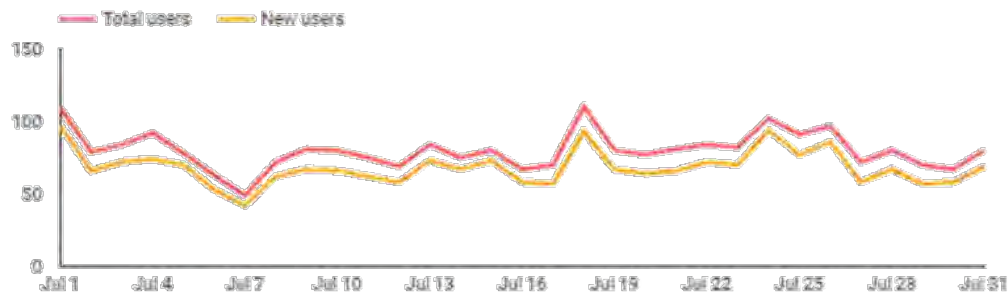
Recommendation

That the information in the Tourism and Events Report for July 2023 as presented to Council on Monday, 28 August 2023 be noted.

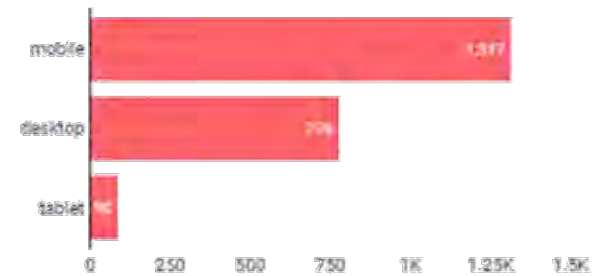
BOBEC Website Statistics July 2023

Total users 2.2K ↑ 2.2%	New users 2.1K ↑ 2.4%	Sessions per user 1.3 ↑ 1.8%	Page views 7K ↑ 8.5%	Conversions 358 ↑ 22.2%	Device category ▾
					Country ▾
					User source / medium ▾

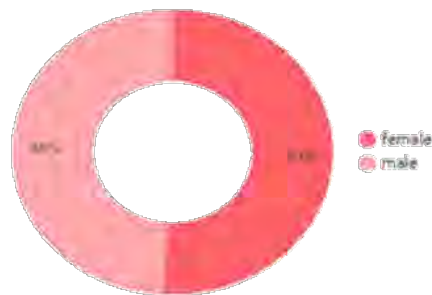
Total users



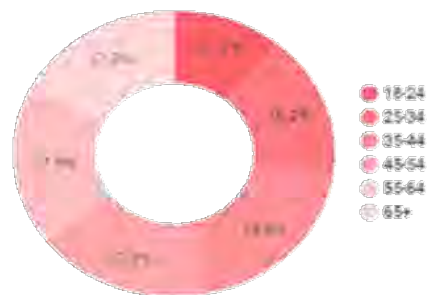
Users by Device category



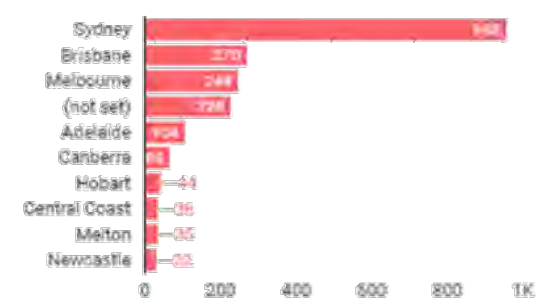
Users by Gender



Users by Age



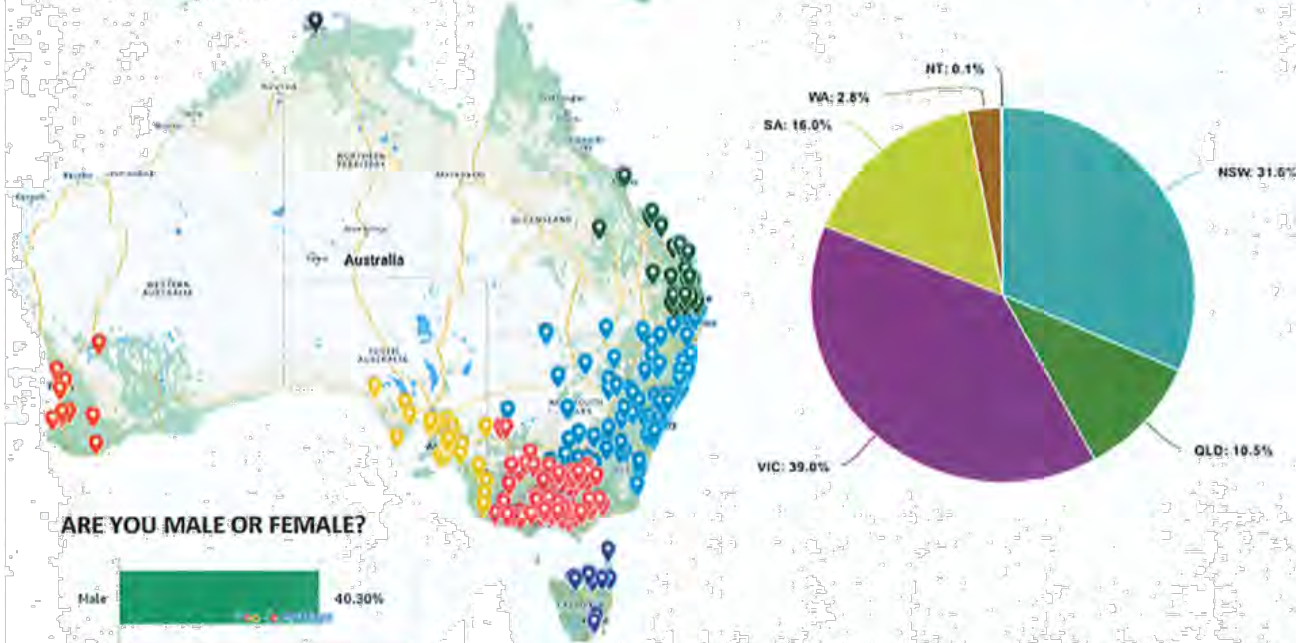
Users by City



ROAM

JULY 2023

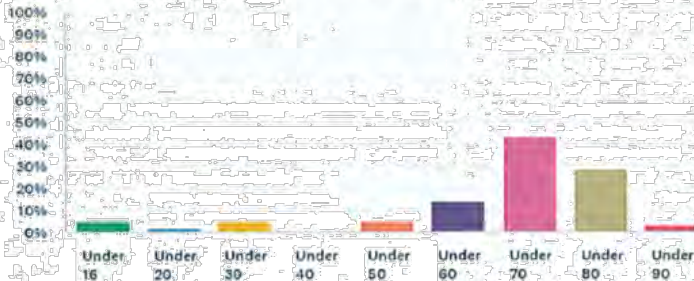
WHAT IS YOUR HOME POSTCODE?



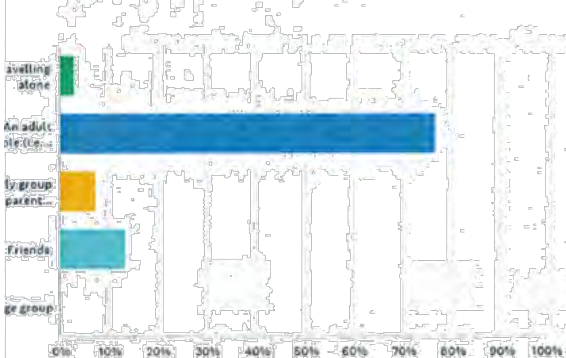
ARE YOU MALE OR FEMALE?



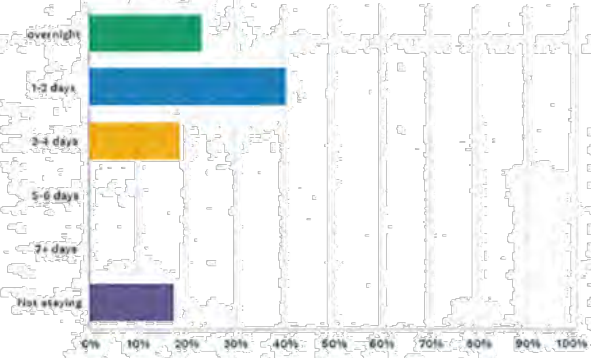
WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PARTY?

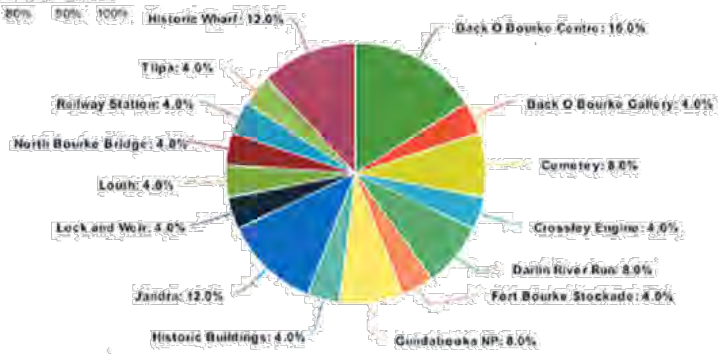
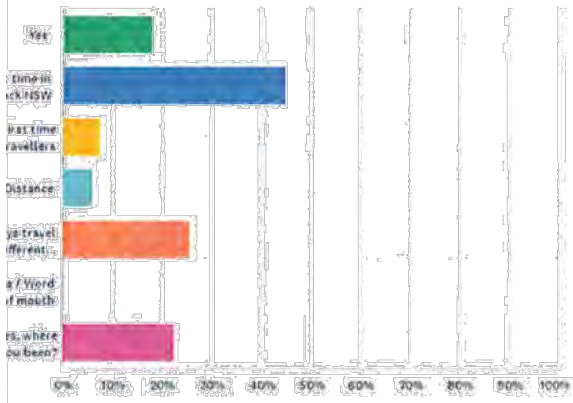


HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING FOR?

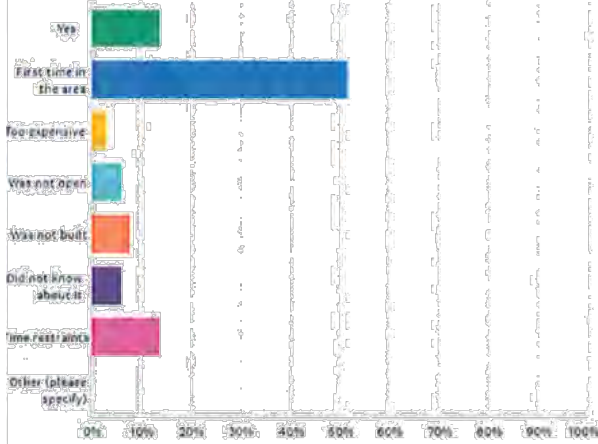


JULY 2023

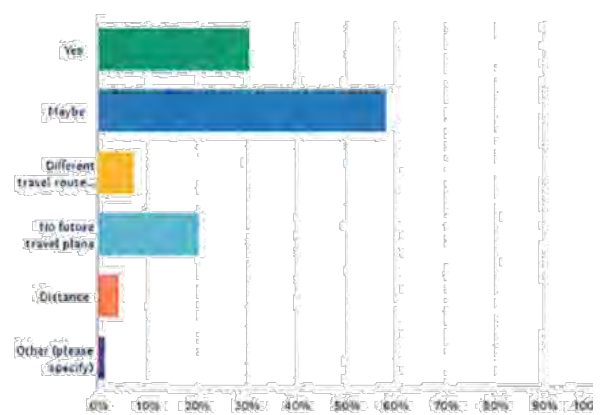
HAVE YOU BEEN TO BOURKE BEFORE?



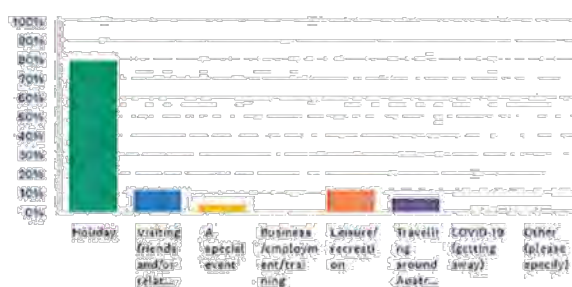
HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH BACK O BOURKE CENTRE?



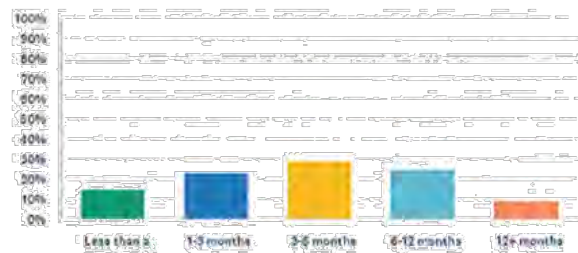
WILL YOU BE RETURNING TO BOURKE?



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP?

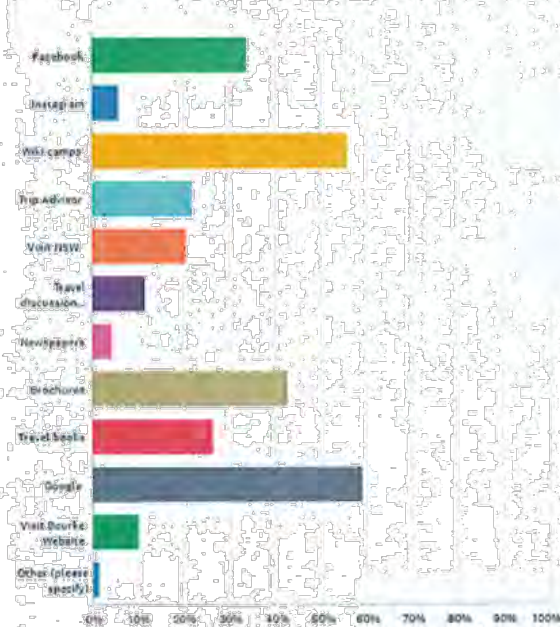


HOW LONG AGO DID YOU PLAN FOR THIS TRIP?



JULY 2023

WHAT FORMS OF MEDIA DO YOU USE TO FIND INFORMATION?



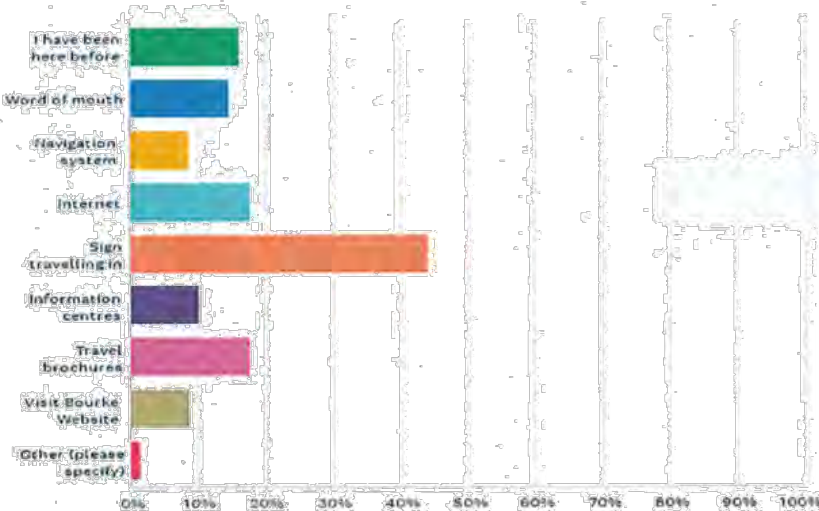
WHAT DETERMINES YOUR DECISION AS TO WHERE TO GO?



WHAT INFORMATION ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AT THE INFORMATION CENTRE?

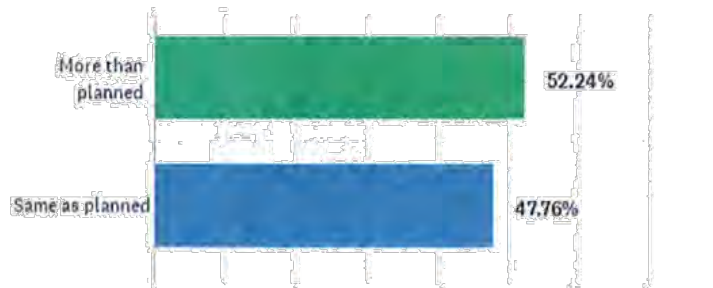


HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS INFORMATION CENTRE?

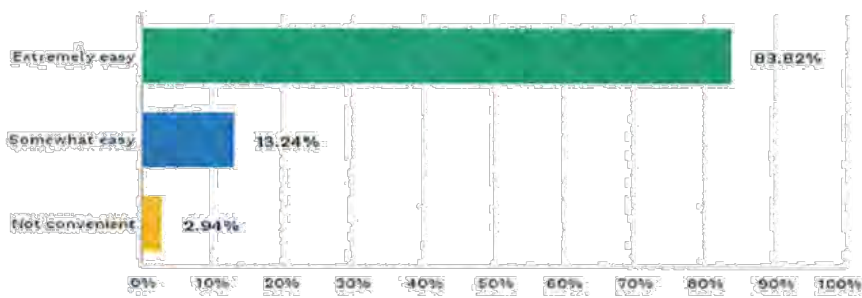


JULY 2023

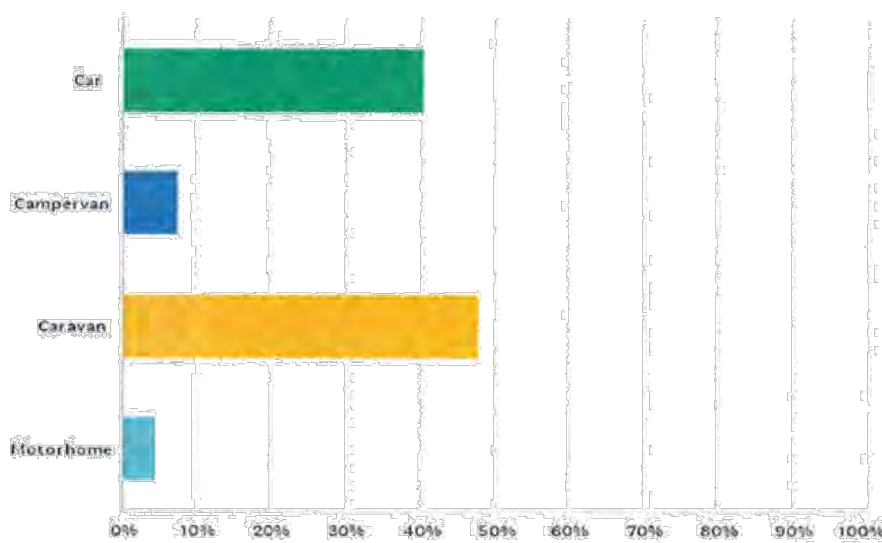
HOW DO YOU THINK THE INFORMATION THAT YOU GAINED FROM THE CENTRE MIGHT INFLUENCE HOW LONG YOU STAY AND THE ACTIVITIES YOU DO?



IN YOUR OPINION, HOW EASY WAS IT TO FIND OUR LOCATION?

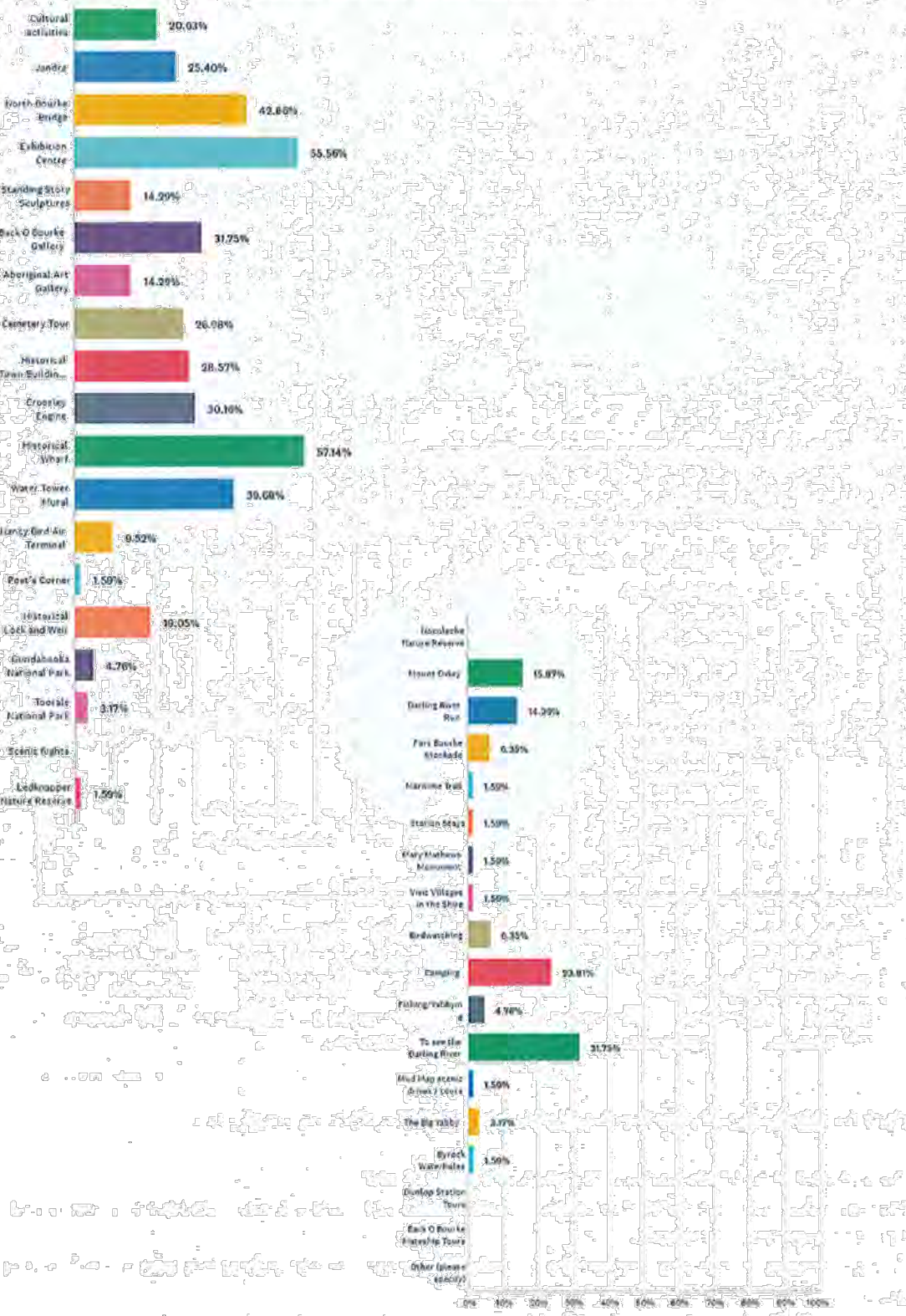


HOW DID YOU TRAVEL TO BOURKE?



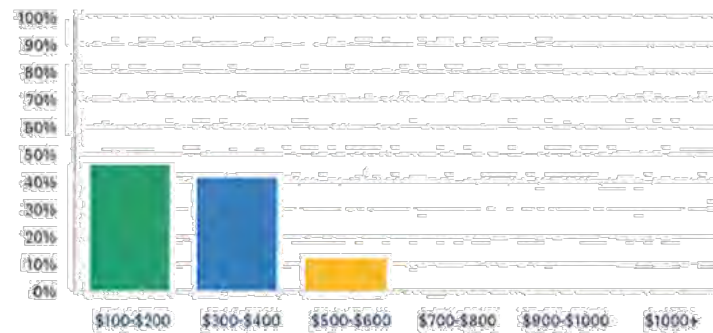
JULY 2023

WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU DONE OR PLAN TO DO DURING YOUR STAY?

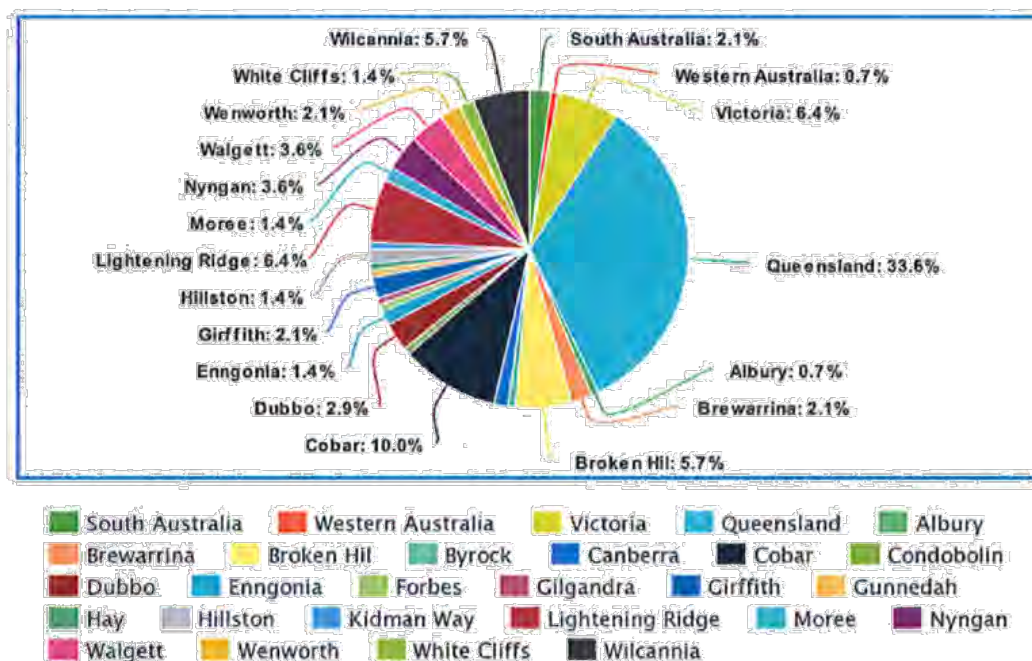


JULY 2023

OVER THE ENTIRE STAY IN BOURKE, HOW MUCH IN TOTAL, INCLUDING ACCOMMODATION, DO YOU ESTIMATE YOU HAVE/WILL SPEND IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS?



WHAT TOWNS HAVE YOU VISITED, OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT ON THIS TRIP?



meta-chart.com

PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT ANY FEEDBACK YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING YOUR STAY.

- "love central park, Mitchell street, friendly town would return"
- Kidman camp: excellent! Exhibition centre – outstanding and excellent focus on Indigenous history and honest storytelling. Thank you!!"
- "enjoyed staying at kidman camp, exhibition centre – excellent, helpful staff at info centre – café was very good"
- "very friendly helpful at the visitor info centre"
- "We are very great full that we could do activities with our dog"

JULY 2023

- "Exhibition as pretty expensive and not very well presented. Too wordy. Not many historical items or exhibits. Video was rubbish. A lot of attractions were poorly maintained or not operating Kidman camp rude attendant stuff inoperable paddle steamer, bridge, toilets, dump point, bbqs, Bathurst burrs everywhere Very disappointed"
- "Great trip so far. Loved all the museums and heritage centres along the way. Thank you."
- "Excellent exhibition, glad it featured First Nations people"
- "Kidman camp - lovely camp but facilities aren't up to scratch due to no trades people to fix things"
- "More interesting designs on clothing for souvenirs"
- "Information attendant friendly"
- "Loved the way old historic buildings (took many photos) the back o Bourke Centre is absolutely amazing! The Chinese restaurant at the bowling club was very good food"
- "Provides good insights about people shaped area. Glad to see some First Nations people's culture and history, including killings of local people described."
- "Great staff thank you Great cafe !!!! Good products"
- "Enjoyed it."
- "Nice caravan park Mitchell"
- "Please put explanation of sculptures on them. A beautiful place with so much to see. Did jandra trip. Lovely and privilege. Never stayed before but have been through before. Well done Bourke"
- "Excellent"
- "This exhibition centre is fantastic."
- "Staff at st the centre are an asset with knowledge. The cafe is a wonderful idea. First time visitors learning a lot about the outback - for example the weather conditions"
- "So far everything good"
- "Caravan park fantastic Mitchell"
- "We loved this info centre - we have tried to bide as many as possible And this one is at the top of the list"
- "Amazing when we passed through on the way up. So had to stop by again on the way home. Very friendly staff and good merch"
- "Staff friendly"
- "We will most likely return with more time to spend"
- "We have loved every minute of this trip"
- "The initial video was good, but would prefer if it wasn't all cartoon characters to tell the story. The exhibition was very interesting however some of the lighting is backlighting made it difficult for me to read some of the information, video were too small in the last room. Also some of the exhibits were out of offer. I was reading them left to right , right to left. Breaker Morant came before afghan etc ie historical out of sequence I did enjoy listening to some of the stories"
- "Re back o Bourke exhibition and info centre. The intro movie was too long/should include 50% more real images and video instead of all CGI. Similarly the money and effort invested in the static exhibits could have been better spent 1. Chronologically arranged and easier to follow info 2. More readable lightning and video screen that work. Otherwise a very well presented display, which would be so much better with a little objective assessment. Best wishes"
- "Rubbish bun near dump station"
- "Well presented exhibition thanks"
- "Very interesting"

22 **CLOSED SESSION**

Nil