



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

Date: Monday, 18 December 2023
Time: 9.15am
Location: Bourke Shire Council
29 Mitchell Street Bourke NSW

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting

18 December 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 Peter Walton	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 4.1of 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	32
	Nil	
11	Notices of Motion	32
	Nil	
12	Business Arising	33
	12.1 Calendar of Events	33
	12.2 Information to Councillors	34
	12.3 *** Business Arising Report	36
13	Engineering Services Department	45
	Nil	
14	Environmental Services & Development Department	45
	Nil	
15	General Manager	46
	15.1 *** Annual Report 2022/2023	46
	15.2 *** Community Consultation Meetings 2024	48
	15.3 *** Audit Risk and Improvement Committee - Meeting Minutes	50
	15.4 *** Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Review	60
	15.5 *** Murray Darling Basin Plan	62
	15.6 Western Weirs Program update	65
16	Corporate Services Department	73
	16.1 *** Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - 30 November 2023	73
	16.2 *** Investment Portfolio Report as at 30 November 2023	75
17	Economic Development Department	79

Nil

18 Delegates and Councillors Reports..... 79

Nil

19 Policies..... 79

Nil

20 Précis of Correspondence 80

20.1 *** Bourke Laundry Service Incorporated - Request for Assistance 80

21 Activity Reports..... 86

21.1 Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity Report 86

21.2 Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services, Water and Waste
Water Activity Report..... 89

21.3 Planning, Regulatory & Environmental Services Activity Report 97

21.4 General Manager's Activity Report 99

21.5 Library Activity Report..... 114

21.6 Tourism and Events Activity Report 116

22 Closed Session..... 129

- 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: 1707
Author: Barry Hollman, Mayor
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

The Activities of the Mayor from 20 November 2023 to 12 December 2023 were as follows:

Date	Meeting	Location
21/11/2023	Far North West Joint Organisation Ordinary Meeting.	Teams Meeting
22/11/2023	Meeting with Gerry Collins, Director Regional NSW.	Dubbo
23/11/2023	Meeting with the Hon Jenny Atchison, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and meeting with the Chief of Staff for the Hon Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Water, Housing and Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth and the North Coast.	Parliament House, Sydney
24/11/2023	Ordinary Meeting and AGM of the Country Mayors Association of NSW.	Parliament House, Sydney
27/11/2023	Bourke Shire Council Meeting.	Council Chambers
29/11/2023	Meeting with Mr and Mrs Davis – North Bourke Drainage.	Conference Room
06/12/2023	Bourke – Walgett School of Distance Education Presentation Day.	Bourke High School Multi-Purpose Centre
07/12/2023	World Gliding Championships Mayoral Welcome.	Soul Food Depot and Gallery, Narromine
08/12/2023	Alliance of Western Councils Board Meeting.	Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo
12/12/2023	Bourke Public School Presentation	Bourke Public School
12/12/2023	Meeting with Premier Chris Minns ,MP.	Full Gospel Church
12/12/2023	Roundtable meeting with The Hon Tara Moriarty, Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW and Western NSW.	Full Gospel Church

Recommendation

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities Report as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

8 STARRING OF ITEMS

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 November 2023



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

27 November 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	4
6	Disclosures of Interest	5
7	Mayoral Minute	6
	7.1 Mayoral Minute - Mayoral Activities	6
8	Starring of Items	6
9	Confirmation of Minutes	7
10	Rescission Motions	7
	Nil	
11	Notices of Motion	7
	Nil	
12	Business Arising	7
	12.1 Calendar of Events.....	7
	12.2 Information to Councillors	7
	12.3 *** Business Arising Report	8
13	Engineering Services Department	8
	Nil	
14	Environmental Services & Development Department	8
	Nil	
15	General Manager	8
	15.1 *** Regional Drought Resilience Plans	8
	15.2 *** Naming of North Bourke Oval	9
	15.3 Licencing of Infrastructure for Communication Purposes	9
16	Corporate Services Department	10
	16.1 *** Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - 31 October 2023.....	10
	16.2 *** Investment Portfolio Report as at 31 October 2023	10
	16.3 *** 2022/2023 Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Reports	11
	16.4 *** Quarterly Budget Review to 30 September 2023	11
17	Economic Development Department	11
	Nil	
18	Delegates and Councillors Reports	11

	Nil	
19	Policies	11
	Nil	
20	Précis of Correspondence	11
	Nil	
21	Activity Reports	12
21.1	Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity Report	12
21.2	Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services, Water and Waste Water Activity Report.....	12
21.3	Planning, Regulatory & Environmental Services Activity Report.....	13
21.4	General Manager's Activity Report	13
21.5	Library Activity Report.....	13
21.6	Tourism and Events Activity Report	14
22	Closed Session	14
22.1	*** Tender for Supply of Traffic Control Services.....	16
22.2	*** Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Bitumen Emulsion.....	16
22.3	*** Tender for Provision of Design Services.....	17
22.4	*** Tender for Provision of Surveying Services	18
22.5	*** Tender for Supply and Laying of Asphalt (including Milling Keyins)	18
22.6	*** Sale of Land to Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service	19
22.7	*** Tender for Removal of Existing Sail and Supply and Installation of Shade Sail – Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre.....	19

**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF BOURKE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW
ON MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 9.15AM**

PRESENT: Cr Barry Hollman (Mayor), Cr Sarah Barton, Cr Sally Davis, Cr Cec Dorrington, Cr Lachlan Ford (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Rice, Cr Grace Ridge, Cr Nathan Ryan, Cr Robert Stutsel

IN ATTENDANCE: Leonie Brown (General Manager), Peter Brown (Manager Works), Paul Flanagan (Manager Roads Services - via Audio Visual Link), Melanie Milgate (Economic Development Manager), Ang Pasang Rai (Manager Corporate Services), Dwayne Willoughby (Manager Environmental 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:

Martin Bligh	Margaret Anne Dixon	Kevin Dover
Barbara Hanson nee Davis	John Thalari	

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

Resolution 2023/249

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That the apology received from Councillor Victor Bartley be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Carried

5 ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sarah Barton declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 12.3 of the Agenda - Business Arising, 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 should Council consider this matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Agenda.

Cr Sarah Barton declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 15.1 of the Agenda - Regional Drought Resilience Plans. 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 during Councils consideration of Item 15.1 of the Agenda.

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 this declaration, Cr Davis advised she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider this 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 leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Agenda.

Cr Grace Ridge declared a significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 12.3 of the Agenda - Business Arising, 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 President of 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 leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council consider this matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Agenda.

Cr Nathan Ryan declared a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12.3 of the Agenda – Business Arising, 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 should Council consider this matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Agenda.

Cr Nathan Ryan declared a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 22.6 of the Agenda – 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 Item 22.6 of the Agenda.

7 MAYORAL MINUTE

7.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

File Number: 1707

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

Resolution 2023/250

Moved: Cr Barry Hollman

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities Report as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

8 STARRING OF ITEMS

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

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

Item No	Name of Report	Officer
21.1	Regional Drought Resilience Plans	Leonie Brown

Resolution 2023/251

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the recommendations as detailed in the un-starred items as contained in the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on Monday, 27 November 2023, be adopted save and except for Item No 21.1 of the Agenda, with such item to be considered separately.

Carried

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution 2023/252

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 October 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as correct minutes and signed by the Mayor and the General Manager.

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 2023/253

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the General Manager regarding the Calendar of Events, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 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 2023/254

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the General Manager regarding Information to Councillors, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

12.3 * BUSINESS ARISING REPORT**

File Number: C12.1

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

Resolution 2023/255

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the General Manager regarding Business Arising, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Nil

14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

15 GENERAL MANAGER

At this juncture, Cr Sarah Barton left the meeting, the time being 9:55 am.

15.1 * REGIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE PLANS**

File Number: 1228, 2897

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding Regional Drought Resilience Plans.

Resolution 2023/256

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

- 1. That the report of the General Manager regarding the preparation of Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDRP), as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.**
- 2. That the participation of the Mayor and General Manager (to work with the FNWJO Drought Project Officer) in the RDRP process on behalf of Council, be endorsed.**
- 3. That Council undertake local media promotion of the RDRP process to promote the launch of the consultation process.**
- 4. That the RDRP Project Plan involving Bourke Shire Council (RDRP 004) be endorsed for implementation by the FNWJO.**

Carried

At this juncture, Cr Sarah Barton returned to the meeting, the time being 9:58 am.

15.2 * NAMING OF NORTH BOURKE OVAL**

File Number: 1355 (A10.12)

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Naming of North Bourke Oval.

Resolution 2023/257

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

1. That it be noted that responsibility for the naming of places in NSW, including reserves, rests with the NSW Geographical Names Board.
2. That consideration of the proposal to name the North Bourke Oval, "The Neville Simpson Memorial Sports Ground" be deferred until the February 2024 Council meeting, noting the requirement of the Geographical Names Board's Naming Policy requires that any commemorative naming is to be done posthumously, at least one year after the decease of the person.
3. That in the intervening period, the General Manager be requested to ascertain further details of Mr Simpsons community involvement and importantly, seek the thoughts of Mr Simpson's family to the naming proposal, for a full report to Council on the matter.
4. That Mr Les Bunyan be advised of Councils resolution.

Carried

15.3 LICENCING OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES

File Number: L5.1-W2.2.4 / LD-L2.37

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Licencing of Infrastructure for Communication Purposes.

Resolution 2023/258

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

1. That Council proceed to enter into a Licence Agreement with BAI Communications Pty Ltd for their siting of a SBS satellite dish and associated transmitter building at Councils Water Treatment Plant in Wortumertie St, Bourke.
2. That the terms of such licence be for an initial term of five (5) years commencing 1 October 2023 and terminating 30 September 2028, with a further five (5) year option term available, at an initial annual rental of \$652.57 (ex GST) per annum, subject to annual CPI increments.
3. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action in respect of such licence.
4. That the licence document be executed under the Common Seal of Council.

Carried

16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

16.1 * BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - 31 OCTOBER 2023**

File Number: 2108

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - 31 October 2023.

Resolution 2023/259

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

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

Carried

16.2 * INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2023**

File Number: 2101

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Investment Portfolio Report as at 31 October 2023.

Resolution 2023/260

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

- 1. That the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 October 2023, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

Carried

16.3 *** 2022/2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORTS

File Number: 2112

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the 2022/2023 Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Reports. The Council reports having met, via audio-visual link, with Ms Cathy Wu from the NSW Audit Office and Mr Brett Hangar from Nexia Australia Accountants, in respect of this matter.

Resolution 2023/261

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That the 2022/2023 Bourke Shire Council Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Report as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be adopted.

Carried

16.4 *** QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

File Number: 2023

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Quarterly Budget Review to 30 September 2023.

Resolution 2023/262

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

- 1. That the document titled "Quarterly Budget Review Statement – September 2023" be received and noted.**
- 2. That the variations of income and expenditure as identified in the "Quarterly Budget Review Statement – 2023" be adopted.**

Carried

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 ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 1945

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

Resolution 2023/263

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

That the report of the Manager Roads regarding Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

21.2 ENGINEERING SERVICES - PARKS AND GARDENS, TOWN SERVICES, WATER AND WASTE WATER ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: E7.1

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Works regarding the Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services, Water and Waste Water Activity.

Resolution 2023/264

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the Manager Works regarding Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services and Water and Wastewater Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

21.3 PLANNING, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 1102, 1322, 1059, 1165

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

Resolution 2023/265

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the Manager, Regulatory, Planning & Environmental Services regarding Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

21.4 GENERAL MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 4170

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

Resolution 2023/266

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the General Manager regarding General Manager Activity for October 2023, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

21.5 LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 2780

The Council had before it the report of the Library Manager regarding the Library Activity.

Resolution 2023/267

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the Library Manager regarding Library Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

21.6 TOURISM AND EVENTS ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: T4.3

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

Resolution 2023/268

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the report of the Coordinator Tourism regarding Tourism and Events Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 27 November 2023, be noted.

Carried

22 CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution 2023/269

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

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 * Tender for Supply of Traffic Control Services**

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 * Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Bitumen Emulsion**

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.

22.3 * Tender for Provision of Design Services**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.4 * Tender for Provision of Surveying Services**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of

a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.5 * Tender for Supply and Laying of Asphalt (including Milling Keyins)**

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.

22.6 * 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.

22.7 * Tender for Removal of Existing Sail and Supply and Installation of Shade Sail – Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre**

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.

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session with the livestreaming of the meeting being paused at 10.13am.

22.1 * TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES**

File Number: 20332

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Roads regarding the Tender for Supply of Traffic Control Services.

Resolution 2023/270

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

- 1. That Watchout Traffic Control, D and D Traffic Management, Lack Group and Maliyan Traffic Control be awarded the contract for the provision of Traffic Control Services as Panel Source Suppliers to Bourke Shire Council for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.**
- 2. That a provision be allowed for a 12-month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance, which may take this contract through to 31 December 2026.**
- 3. That Regional Procurement be advised of the Council Resolutions.**
- 4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.**

Carried

22.2 * TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BITUMEN EMULSION**

File Number: 20333

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Roads regarding the Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Bitumen Emulsion.

Resolution 2023/271

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

- 1. That Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd Group be awarded the Single Source supplier contract for the supply of Bitumen Emulsion to Bourke Shire Council for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.**
- 2. That such contract include a provision for a 12-month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance, which may take this contract through to 31 December 2026.**
- 3. That Regional Procurement be advised of Council's resolution.**
- 4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.**

Carried

22.3 *** TENDER FOR PROVISION OF DESIGN SERVICES

File Number: 20334

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Tender for Provision of Design Services.

Resolution 2023/272

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

1. That the following organisations be awarded the contract for the provision of design services as Panel Source suppliers to Bourke Shire Council for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025;
 - Barker Ryan Stewart Pty Ltd
 - Barnson Pty Ltd
 - Bridge Knowledge Pty Ltd
 - Bridgeford Group Pty Ltd
 - Complete Urban Pty Ltd
 - Constructive Solutions Pty Ltd
 - Crossroads Civil Design Pty Ltd
 - NSW Public Works
 - DGP Water Pty Ltd
 - Engeny Australia Pty Ltd
 - Epicentre Engineers Pty Ltd t/a Epicentre Consulting Engineers
 - GHD Pty Ltd
 - Haro Designs Pty Ltd t/a Haro Civil Engineering
 - Valley Civilab Pty Ltd t/a Hunter Civilab
 - Hunter H2O Holdings Pty Limited t/a Beca HunterH2O
 - J. Wyndham Prince Pty Ltd
 - JHK & Associates Pty Ltd t/a C.W. Henstock & Associates
 - Leckring Pty Ltd t/a MIENGINEERS
 - MU Group Consulting Pty Ltd t/a MU Group Consulting
 - Premise Australia Pty Ltd t/a Premise
 - Hails Family Trust t/a RHM Consulting Engineers
 - SAFEgroup Automation Pty Ltd
 - TechnoMars Pty Ltd t/a TechnoMars
2. That a provision be allowed for a 12-month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance, which may take this contract through to 31 December 2026.
3. That the documents and considerations in this matter remain confidential to Council.

Carried

22.4 *** TENDER FOR PROVISION OF SURVEYING SERVICES

File Number: 20335

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Tender for Provision of Surveying Services.

Resolution 2023/273

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

1. That the following organisations be awarded the contract for the provision of surveying services as Panel Source suppliers to Bourke Shire Council for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025;
 - Barker Ryan Stewart Pty Ltd
 - Barnson Pty Ltd
 - Clement & Reid t/a Project Surveyors Pty Ltd
 - Delfs Lascelles Consulting Surveyors Pty Ltd
 - Linke & Linke Surveys, Geo AI
 - McMullen Nolan Group t/a MNG
 - MinStaff Survey Pty Ltd
 - W.W.M Newcastle Pty Ltd as Trustee for W.W.M unit Trust t/a Positive Survey Solutions
 - Premise Holdings Pty Ltd t/a Premise Australia
 - Western Survey Pty Ltd
2. That a provision be allowed for a 12-month extension based on satisfactory supplier performance, which may take this contract through to 31 December 2026.
3. That the documents and considerations in this matter remain confidential to Council.

Carried

22.5 *** TENDER FOR SUPPLY AND LAYING OF ASPHALT (INCLUDING MILLING KEYINS)

File Number: 20347

The Council had before it the report of the Roads Supervisor regarding the Tender for Supply and Laying of Asphalt (including Milling Keyins).

Resolution 2023/274

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

1. That Fenworx P/L Trading as Newpave Asphalt be awarded the contract for the Supply and Lay of Asphalt (including Milling Keyins) for the re-sealing Oxley Street Bourke.
2. That Local Government Procurement be advised of the Council Resolutions.
3. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

Carried

22.6 * SALE OF LAND TO BOURKE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION HEALTH SERVICE**

File Number: 1322, 19926

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

Resolution 2023/275

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

1. That the yet to be executed contract for the sale of lots 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 in Plan DP 35797, Mitchell St, Bourke, to the Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service be amended such that it includes the following provisions:
 - i) tipping fees at the Bourke Waste Depot, up to the amount of \$45,000 for the removal of soil from lots 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 in Plan DP 35797, Mitchell St, Bourke, be waived; and
 - ii) Council form and seal the rear lane to those properties which front Mitchell St, from Warraweena St through to Tarcoon St, at its cost as part of Councils Town Streets and Laneway Re-sealing Program.
2. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action.
3. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

Carried

22.7 * TENDER FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING SAIL AND SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SHADE SAIL – BACK O’ BOURKE INFORMATION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE**

File Number: 20372

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Tender for Removal of Existing Sail and Supply and Installation of Shade Sail – Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre.

Resolution 2023/276

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

1. That the contract to remove the existing shade sail and supply and install the new shade sail over the extension to Building B1 at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre be awarded to Absolute Shade at a contract price of \$218,000 (Ex GST).
2. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

Carried

Resolution 2023/277

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

That Council moves out of Closed Council into Open Council.

Carried

Open council resumed at 10.37am.

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 10.44am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 December 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				
December	18	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
2024				
February	9	9.00am	Border Region Organisation of Councils	Brewarrina
February	26	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
March	8	9.00am	Alliance of Western Councils Board Meeting	Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo
March	25	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
April	22	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
May	27	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
June	14	9.00am	Alliance of Western Councils Board Meeting	Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo
June	24	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
July	22	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
August	26	9.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding the Calendar of Events, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 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 20 November 2023 to 11 December 2023 follows:

Date	Information Sent	Author	Email
20/11/2023	Media Release: Murray Darling Association Welcomes New Leadership Team	Murray Darling Association	✓
20/11/2023	Reminder: Council Meeting and Citizenship Ceremony	Margo Anderson	✓
21/11/2023	NSW Farmers welcomes Minns Government's \$250 million Drought Fund	NSW Farmers Association	✓
21/11/2023	Topical stories regarding Local Government issues	Inside Local Government	✓
21/11/2023	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 20 November	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
21/11/2023	Upskill before the end of 2023 Upcoming courses for Councillors	Local Government NSW	✓
22/11/2023	GMs Column for publication - 23 November 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
22/11/2023	Topical stories regarding Local Government issues	Council Magazine	✓
22/11/2023	Business Papers for the November Ordinary and Closed Session Council Meeting , Monday 27 November 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
24/11/2023	Late Report for the Closed Session of Council meeting Monday, 27 November 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
27/11/2023	The Weekly Newsletter, 21 November 2023	Local Government NSW	✓
28/11/2023	Minutes of the November 2023 Council Meeting	Leonie Brown	✓
29/11/2023	GMs Column for publication - 30 November 2023	Leonie Brown	✓
30/11/2023	The Weekly Newsletter, 28 November 2023	Local Government NSW	✓
30/11/2023	CMA Communique - November AGM and General Meeting	Country Mayors Association	✓
01/12/2023	Annual Report 2022/2023	Leonie Brown	✓
04/12/2023	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 4 December	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
06/12/2023	Business Arising Report	Leonie Brown	✓
06/12/2023	GMs Column for publication - 7 December 2023	Leonie Brown	✓

06/12/2023	Details of Business Arising Report for review / consideration by Councillors	Leonie Brown	✓
07/12/2023	Invitation to attend the Mayors Christmas Dinner – 18 December 2023	Margo Anderson	✓
08/12/2023	Corruption Matters Issue 62 - December 2023	Independent Commission Against Corruption	✓
11/12/2023	Council Meeting Monday, 18 December 2023	Margo Anderson	✓
11/12/2023	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 11 December	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
11/12/2023	Details of visit by Premier Chris Minns, MP and Roundtable meeting with Minister Moriarty MLC on Tuesday, 12 December 2023.	Leonie Brown	✓

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding Information to Councillors, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

12.3 * BUSINESS ARISING REPORT**

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	MED MANAGER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2021/355 December Meeting	ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PAUL FLANAGAN – ROADS MANAGER
FILE NO	R7.1, R7.4.3

RESOLUTION

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.
4. Representation made through the Country Mayors Association to accelerate the Regional Roads Reclassification and Transfer Programs.

5. The General Manager made contact with Minister Aitchison’s office and arranged a meeting with the Minister 23 November 2023 in Sydney.
6. Meeting held with Minister in Sydney 23 November 2023.

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.
14. Further technical advice to be sourced by Council from consulting engineer, prior to further discussions being held with Mr and Mrs Davis, noting that consulting engineer has been on extended leave returning mid-October 2023.
15. Meeting to be held with Mr and Mrs Davis 29 November 2023 to further discuss technical advice received.
16. Meeting held and advice discussed. Awaiting advice from landowners as to intention to sell 2.21ha of their land to Council for the purpose of Council constructing a retarding basin.

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	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 advised of a planned visit to Bourke in August 2023 to hear the concerns of the community.
 11. Details provided to the Mayor of Narromine, Craig Davies as Chair of the Alliance of Western Councils Board who will present to 200 water professionals regarding water issues in the area.
 12. Mayor and General Manager attended Murray Darling Association Annual Conference in Murray Bridge 27 and 28 September 2023. Representation were made both at and post the conference to the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP Federal Minister for the Environment and Water for water security at Bourke.
 13. On 30 October 2023 the General Manager made contact with Minister Jackson’s office and arranged for a meeting with the Minister 23 November 2023 in Sydney.
 14. Meeting held with Ministers Chief of Staff in Sydney on 23 November 2023.
 15. Further report submitted to Councils December 2023 meeting.

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"> 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. 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"> 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. Manager Works has contacted NSW Health, matter is progressing.

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"> 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. That the sale of such land be subject to development consent being forthcoming for the proposed primary care clinic. 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. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.

ACTION TAKEN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Letter forwarded to BACHS re Council resolution. Formal acceptance of offer from BACHS. Contract documentation prepared and submitted to Solicitor for BACHS. Still awaiting exchange of contracts. Meeting held with BACHS representatives re preparation of development application. Legal advice being sought as to the status of Council’s adopted Flood Study (April 2023) in respect of this proposed development for advice to planning consultants for BACHS.

- 4. Correspondence received from BACHS regarding clean-up of block and sealing laneway. See report in November 2023 Business Paper.
- 5. Council resolved to assist with tipping fees and sealing of rear lane. Instructions issued to Councils Solicitor re amending of contract. Awaiting exchange of contracts.

2023/218 September meeting	NORTH BOURKE BRIDGE RESTORATION
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	4373

RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council endorse the series of desired outcomes to lead the restoration project, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) To make the bridge an attraction of choice to visitors, tourists, the local and surrounding communities, in conjunction with the historic Jandra Paddle Steamer tourist attraction. b) To restore the bridge to allow pedestrian and cyclist access and to provide for weddings and other similar community functions. c) To restore the wrought iron lift bridge span to a safe and accessible condition, with the lift span to remain fixed in position. d) To restore the iron structure where deemed necessary. e) To make safe the bridge decking, by removing the existing timber decking and replacing with new alternative decking material, that allows visibility to the iron trusses below and reduces future deck maintenance costs. f) To demolish and replace the timber approach structures with other suitable access such as concrete or steel approaches (approx. 3-4m wide), and possibly accommodating a maximum loaded truck of 15 tonnes. g) Wherever possible, seek leverage with the current similar upgrade works being undertaken on the nearby Brewarrina Bridge, via FBE and TfNSW. 2. That Council acknowledge that an estimated \$1.2m in funding is required to undertake Stage 1 and Stage 2 design and documentation works (\$800,000) and the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the Bridge (\$400,000). 3. That Council note the advice of NSW Public Works regarding the deteriorated condition of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge and the advice “that the approach spans should be demolished as early as practicable.” 4. That Council endorse the engagement of NSW Public Works and Focus Bridge Design (as a sub-contractor), with a view to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the development of documentation, and a recommendation regarding the engagement of a contractor to undertake the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the bridge; and b) the development of the necessary designs and documentation that would result in indicative restoration costs being identified that allow Council to seek grant funding to engage a contractor(s) to restore the North Bourke Bridge and further, ensure the project is “shovel ready” to proceed once a tender for the required restoration works is awarded, once grant funding is attained; at a combined estimated cost of \$1.2m. 5. That NSW Public Works be requested to prepare a revised project brief, in conjunction with Focus Bridge Engineering, such that demolition of the timber approaches to the bridge are included in what were Stages 1 and 2 of their proposal dated 18 June 2023. 6. That Council note the actions taken by Staff to secure funding for the required design and deconstruction works. 7. That Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to take the necessary action in respect 	

<p>of the use of available Council funds, having regard to the success or otherwise of Councils various applications for funding for the design and deconstruction works.</p> <p>8. That the General Manager be requested to report to Council, in due course, the outcome of its applications to Government for the required design and deconstruction works.</p> <p>9. That the General Manager be requested to update the community on the status of the bridge project.</p> <p>10. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.</p>
<p>ACTION TAKEN</p> <p>1. Matter progressing.</p> <p>2. Meeting held with Transport for NSW for additional funding through the Active Transport Fund. Application made to PWA for flood damage funding for damage sustained to the approaches of the bridge . Awaiting outcome of applications.</p> <p>3. NSW Public Works requested to prepare revised project brief, in conjunction with Focus Bridge Engineering, such that demolition of the timber approaches to the bridge are included in what were Stages 1 and 2 of their proposal dated 18 June 2024. Awaiting revised brief.</p> <p>4. Additional funding of \$200,000 received from Transport for NSW to complete Business Case. PWA continue to seek funding for additional deconstruction work.</p> <p>5. Public Works and sub consultant engaged with necessary work underway and progressing.</p> <p>6. General Manager has updated the community on the status of the bridge project. In this regard, an extensive piece on the bridge was included in a GM’s Column which was followed by an article in the Western Herald.</p>

2023/222 October Meeting	MAYORAL MINUTE – CROSS BORDER MOU – BULLOO SHIRE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	BARRY HOLLMAN - MAYOR
FILE NO	C6.7, T4.1, A3.32
RESOLUTION	
<p>1. That Council advise the Border Region Organisation of Councils (BROC), Bulloo Shire Council and Paroo Shire Council that it supports the Cross Border initiatives.</p> <p>2. That Council agree to entering into separate Memorandums of Understanding with Bulloo Shire Council and Paroo Shire Council, generally based on the draft MoU as provided by BROC.</p> <p>3. That the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to take the necessary action to negotiate, finalise and enter into separate Memorandums of Understanding with Bulloo Shire Council and Paroo Shire Council.</p>	
ACTION TAKEN	
MOU signed with Paroo Shire Council 10 November 2023. Meeting yet to be held with Bulloo Shire Council.	

2023/257 November Meeting	NAMING OF NORTH BOURKE OVAL
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	1355
RESOLUTION	
<p>1. That it be noted that responsibility for the naming of places in NSW, including reserves, rests with the NSW Geographical Names Board.</p>	

2. That consideration of the proposal to name the North Bourke Oval, “The Neville Simpson Memorial Sports Ground” be deferred until the February 2024 Council meeting, noting the requirement of the Geographical Names Board’s Naming Policy requires that any commemorative naming is to be done posthumously, at least one year after the decease of the person.
3. That in the intervening period, the General Manager be requested to ascertain further details of Mr Simpsons community involvement and importantly, seek the thoughts of Mr Simpson’s family to the naming proposal, for a full report to Council on the matter.
4. That Mr Les Bunyan be advised of Councils resolution.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Letter written to Mr Les Bunyan outlining timeframes and actions according to the requirements of the Geographical Names Board.
2. Further enquiries to be undertaken in the New Year.

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding Business Arising, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Nil

14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

15 GENERAL MANAGER

15.1 *** ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

File Number: 1211
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

This report is presented to Council to note the publication of Council's 2022/2023 Annual Report.

Section 428 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993 details the requirements for the preparation of the Annual Report for Councils.

428 Annual reports

- (1) Within 5 months after the end of each year, a Council must prepare a report (its annual report) for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.*
- (2) The annual report in the year in which an ordinary election of Councillors is to be held must also report as to the Council's achievements in implementing the community strategic plan over the previous 4 years.*
- (3) An annual report must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines under section 406.*
- (4) An annual report must contain the following:*
 - (a) a copy of the Council's audited financial reports prepared in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting published by the Department, as in force from time to time,*
 - (b) such other information or material as the regulations or the guidelines under section 406 may require.*
- (5) A copy of the Council's annual report must be posted on the Council's website and provided to the Minister and such other persons and bodies as the regulations may require. A copy of a Council's annual report may be provided to the Minister by notifying the Minister of the appropriate URL link to access the report on the Council's website.*

The Annual Report is one of the suite of documents required to be produced under section 406 of the Local Government Act 1993 dealing with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

Current Situation

Council prepared its 2022/2023 Annual Report within five (5) months of the end of the 30 June 2022 financial year with the report outlining Council's achievements in implementing its Delivery Program. Information, as per the Local Government Regulations has also been included in the Report as have Council's Audited Financial Statements for 2022/2023.

A copy of the report was published on Council's website and notification was sent to the Minister for Local Government, both on 30 November 2023.

Access to the 2022/2023 Annual Report is available at the following address:

<https://bourke.nsw.gov.au/council/reports/>

Financial Implications

Funding is provided in Councils 2023/2024 Operational Plan to fund the preparation of the Report.

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding Councils 2022/2023 Annual Report, as presented to Council on Monday, 19 December 2022 be noted.

15.2 * COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS 2024**

File Number: 3323,3324,3325,3326,3328
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Over the past ten (10) years, Bourke Shire Council has conducted a series of community meetings across the Shire to provide the opportunity for residents to have input into the development of Council’s Annual Operational Plan (budget). The meetings have also provided residents with an overview and update of Council’s current operations and proposed works schedule. In addition, the meetings enable community members to build relationships with Councillor’s and senior staff and discuss any issues and ideas for the future.

Feedback from the engagement with communities ensure that services and facilities provided by Council are in accord with the wishes of the community and subject to financial constraints, are meeting the expectations of the community.

Current Situation

Planning for the 2024 Community Consultation round have commenced with the following dates and times proposed. When dates are confirmed, venues will be organised and communities notified.

Proposed Meeting Schedule

Village	Day	Date	Time
Byrock	Tuesday	6 February 2024	1.00pm
Bourke	Tuesday	6 February 2024	5.30pm
Louth	Wednesday	7 February 2024	8.00am
Wanaaring	Wednesday	7 February 2024	1.00pm
Enngonia	Tuesday	13 February 2024	9.00am
Fords Bridge	Tuesday	13 February 2024	12.00pm

The format of the meetings will be similar to that of previous years.

Financial Implications

The costs associated with holding of the various meetings is provided for in Councils 2023/2024 Operational Plan.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council note the scheduling of the 2024 Community Consultation Meetings.**
- 2. That Councillors indicate to the General Manager which meetings they are able to attend so transport and catering can be coordinated.**

15.3 * AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

File Number: 20383
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: 1. Minutes ARIC - 16 November 2023

Background

Council at its meeting held on 23 May 2022 considered the matter of the establishment of an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee for Council. In respect of this matter Council resolved:

- 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.*

In respect of the membership of the Committee, following the Expression of Interest process and subsequent interviews undertaken by the Far North West Joint Organisation, the following appointments were made, noting that these people will sit on the respective Audit Risk and Improvement Committees for Bourke, Cobar and Walgett Shires:

Mr Ray Smith (Independent Member – Chair);

Mr Ron Gillard (Independent Member); and

Ms Liz Jeremy (Independent Member).

For information, Mr Ray Smith has a strong background in Local Government having held various General Manager positions during his career, including at Grafton, Cobar and Bland Shire councils.

Mr Ron Gillard practiced as a commercial accountant and now sits on numerous ARIC Committee's around the state including at Cowra Shire, Hilltops Shire, Lithgow City, and Tamworth Regional councils. Ms Liz Jeremy has held senior positions at metropolitan councils including Blacktown City and most recently was the General Manager at Bellingen Shire Council before retiring.

All the appointed members bring with them a wealth of both professional and practical experience.

Current Situation

The Bourke Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee met for its inaugural meeting on 16 November 2023.

The minutes of such meeting are attached herewith for consideration and determination by Council, with the recommendation being that such minutes be adopted.

It is further advised that in previously resolving to form an Audit Risk and Improvement Committee, Council resolved, in part, that it appoint a Councillor to serve as the non-voting board member on the Bourke ARIC. Subsequent to this determination, on 4 December 2023 the Office of Local Government issued Circular 23-15 advising that the Local Government (General) Regulation 2022 had been amended to give statutory force to key elements of the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Government in NSW. The amended regulation will become effective on 1 July 2024. One of the requirements of the Regulation, relating to membership of the Committee, is that Councils may appoint one councillor (who must not be the Mayor) as a non-voting member of the ARIC.

Accordingly, if Council is of the view that it wishes to appoint a councillor as a non-voting member to the Committee, it is considered appropriate that it does so in readiness for the next meeting of the ARIC, planned for February 2024.

Whilst the Guidelines include various operational aspects regarding the functioning of the ARIC, it is noted that Councils must adopt terms of reference for the ARIC by resolution. As previously advised, Council adopted terms of reference for its Audit Risk and Improvement Committee at its meeting of 23 May 2022. It is advised that such terms of reference were considered by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee at its meeting of 16 November 2023 wherein the Committee recommended that it "endorse the Terms of Reference for the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee as adopted by Council."

Financial Implications

Funding has been provided for in Councils 2023/2024 Operational Plan for the operation of this Committee.

Recommendation

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee held on 16 November 2023, be adopted.**
- 2. That Council proceed to determine whether to appoint a councillor as a non-voting member to the Committee.**
- 3. That should Council be of the view to appoint a councillor (who must not be the Mayor) as a non-voting member to the Committee, it proceed to determine the Councillor on the Committee for the period from December 2023 up until the Ordinary Council elections to be held on 14 September 2024.**



MINUTES

Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting

16 November 2023

Contents

1 WELCOME..... 3

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE..... 3

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST..... 3

4 REPORTS..... 3

4.4 EXTERNAL AUDIT..... 3

4.4.1 Audited Annual Financial Statements for Financial Year 2022/2023 3

4.4.2 Audited Reports for Financial Year 2022/2023 4

4.1 AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) TERMS OF REFERENCE 4

4.1.1 Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Terms Of Reference 4

4.2 RISK MANAGEMENT 5

4.2.1 Risk Management Policy 5

4.2.2 Risk Register 5

4.2.3 Risk Profile Impacts 5

4.3 INTERNAL AUDIT 6

4.3.1 Internal Audit Charter 6

4.3.2 Internal Audit Plan 6

4.3.3 Non-ARIC Reviews / Audits 6

4.5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 7

4.5.1 Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement of Quarter Ending 30 September 2023 7

4.6 FUTURE MEETING DATES..... 7

4.6.1 Future Meeting Dates 7

4. GENERAL BUSINESS..... 7

5. MEETING CLOSED..... 7

**MINUTES OF THE AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW
ON THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 8:30AM**

PRESENT: Ray Smith (Independent Member – Chair), Ron Gillard (Independent Member), Liz Jeremy (Independent Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Leonie Brown (General Manager), Ang Pasang Rai (Manager Corporate Services), Margo Anderson (Executive Assistant - Minutes)

ATTENDING VIA AUDIO VISUAL LINK (AVL):

Ross Earl (Executive Officer, Far North West Joint Organisation), Brett Hanger (Nexia Australia – External Auditor) and Cathy Wu (Audit Office of NSW - External Auditor)

1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance to the inaugural meeting of the Audit Risk Improvement Committee (ARIC).

2 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

4 REPORTS

At this juncture, the Chair proceeded to deal with Item 4.4 of the Agenda – External Audit, to allow participants attending via AVL to contribute to the item before leaving the meeting.

4.4 EXTERNAL AUDIT

4.4.1 AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Audited Annual Financial Statements for Financial Year 2022/2023.

Recommendation 2023/1

Moved: Liz Jeremy

Seconded: Ron Gillard

That the Committee receive and note the Bourke Shire Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Chair congratulated Council on the results of the Financial Statements, stating the team is to be commended.

4.4.2 AUDITED REPORTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Audited Reports for Financial Year 2022/2023.

Recommendation 2023/2

Moved: Ron Gillard

Seconded: Liz Jeremy

That the Committee receive and note the following Audit Reports as received by Council:

- 1. Report on the Conduct of the Audit**
- 2. Engagement Closing Report**
- 3. Final Audit Management Letter**
- 4. Interim Audit Management Letter**
- 5. Annual Engagement Plan**

At this juncture, Brett Hanger and Cathy Wu (External Auditors) departed the meeting, the time being 8:42am.

Following further discussion, Ross Earl (Executive Officer, Far North West Joint Organisation) departed the meeting, the time being 9.22am.

4.1 AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) TERMS OF REFERENCE**4.1.1 AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) TERMS OF REFERENCE**

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Terms of Reference.

Recommendation 2023/3

Moved: Ron Gillard

Seconded: Liz Jeremy

That the Committee endorse the Terms of Reference for the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee as adopted by Council.

4.2 RISK MANAGEMENT**4.2.1 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY****File Number: 20318**

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Risk Management Policy.

Recommendation 2023/4**Moved: Liz Jeremy****Seconded: Ron Gillard**

1. That the Committee note the Risk Management Policy adopted by Council in January 2012.
2. That Council review the current Policy with the General Manager requested to provide an updated copy of the Policy to the Committee at the next ARIC meeting, to be held in February 2024.

4.2.2 RISK REGISTER**File Number: 20318**

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Risk Register.

Recommendation 2023/5**Moved: Ron Gillard****Seconded: Liz Jeremy**

That the Committee note the Risk Register of the Council.

4.2.3 RISK PROFILE IMPACTS**File Number: 20318**

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Risk Profile Impacts.

Recommendation 2023/6**Moved: Liz Jeremy****Seconded: Ron Gillard**

That the Committee note the Risk Profile Impacts discussion.

4.3 INTERNAL AUDIT

4.3.1 INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Internal Audit Charter.

Recommendation 2023/7

Moved: Ron Gillard

Seconded: Liz Jeremy

That the Committee note the Council is developing an Internal Audit Charter.

4.3.2 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Internal Audit Plan.

Recommendation 2023/8

Moved: Liz Jeremy

Seconded: Ron Gillard

That the Committee note that the matter of an Internal Audit Plan was discussed at the meeting.

4.3.3 NON-ARIC REVIEWS / AUDITS

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding non - ARIC Reviews / Audits.

Recommendation 2023/9

Moved: Ron Gillard

Seconded: Liz Jeremy

That the Committee note that the Council reviews and undertakes operational or procedural reviews as required.

4.5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

4.5.1 DRAFT QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT OF QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement of Quarter Ending 30 September 2023.

Recommendation 2023/10

Moved: Liz Jeremy

Seconded: Ron Gillard

That the Committee receive and note the Draft Quarterly Budget Review Statement of Council for the Quarter ending 30 September 2023.

4.6 FUTURE MEETING DATES

4.6.1 FUTURE MEETING DATES

File Number: 20318

The Committee had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding Future Meeting Dates.

Recommendation 2023/11

Moved: Ron Gillard

Seconded: Liz Jeremy

- 1. That meetings of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee in 2024 be held on the third Thursday of February, May, August and November 2024.**
- 2. That the Committee’s meetings in February, May and August 2024 be by way of A-V Link with the November 2024 meeting to take place in person at the offices of Bourke Shire Council.**
- 3. That the next meeting of the Committee be held on 15 February 2024, commencing at 8:30am till 10.30am, via A-V Link.**

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

The General Manager extended the thanks of Council to Committee members for their attendance at Bourke for the inaugural meeting of the Committee and also for their assistance to Council in joining the Committee.

5. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 10.15am.

.....
Chair

.....
Date

15.4 * LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL REVIEW**

File Number: 1749
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal hands down its determination for Mayoral and Councillor fees each financial year.

Current Situation

The Tribunal has commenced its review for the 2024 annual determination. The Tribunal is required to make an annual determination on the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors. The determination is to take effect from 1 July 2024.

The minimum and maximum fee levels for each category will be assessed by the Tribunal as part of the 2023/2024 review process.

The tribunal is now inviting submissions from individual councils as part of this review.

Bourke Shire Council is categorised as a Rural Council. Council fees effective 1 July 2023 for Rural Councils are:

Councillor Member Annual Fee		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee	
Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
\$9,850	\$13,030	\$10,490	\$28,430

Should Council wish to make a submission as part of the review, the submission is to be endorsed by the governing body of Council. Submissions are to be received no later than 21 December 2023. It is not proposed that Council make a submission.

The Tribunal undertook a review of the categories and allocation of councils into each category in 2023. The Tribunal is only required to determine categories at least once every three years and will consider the model criteria applicable to each category and the allocation of councils in detail in the 2026 review.

Financial Implications

Provision will be made in the 2024/2025 Operational Plan for the payment of fees to the Mayor and Councillors.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council note the report of the General Manager regarding Councillor Remuneration for 2024/2025.**
- 2. That Council not make a submission to the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for the 2024 annual determination.**

15.5 * MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN**

File Number: R6.1
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Despite the best efforts of numerous Murray Darling Basin based organisations and councils, including Bourke Shire, Thursday 30 November 2023 saw amendments to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan passed by the Federal Parliament which legislated an extension to the timeframe for delivering the basin plan by three (3) years and removed a cap on water buy-backs that was introduced by the previous government.

Titled “Restoring Our Rivers”, the legislation seeks to ensure that the goals of the original 2012 Basin Plan, which sought that environmental water flows in the Basin were restored by 3,200 gigalitres a year, are achieved. This followed an audit which found that the original Basin Plan would fall short by some 750GL of water by the original deadline of June 2024.

About 315GL of the shortfall is due to major water saving projects either running late or failing to materialise. The legislation provides that the States responsible for this infrastructure should deliver the infrastructure by 2026. The legislation extends a deadline for the recovery of 450GL of environmental water to ensure flows to South Australia to 2027. It also lifts a cap on buybacks to allow the government to purchase more water for the environment.

Current Situation

About 315GL of the shortfall is due to major water saving projects either running late or failing to materialise. The legislation provides that the States responsible for this infrastructure should deliver the infrastructure by 2026. The legislation extends a deadline for the recovery of 450GL of environmental water to ensure flows to South Australia to 2027. It also lifts a cap on buybacks to allow the government to purchase more water for the environment.

The Australian Government has now passed the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023. To secure passage of the bill, the Government negotiated a series of amendments with crossbench Senators. Such amendments include an assurance in the legislation that the 450GL of water a year for the southern basin will be recovered by 2027. In addition, the amendments gives the Government approval to cancel projects that are found to be unviable and it also creates more flexibility in how the government can recover water for the northern part of the basin.

The Government also agreed to include an option to allow irrigators to lease their water entitlements, rather than selling them, a commitment of \$50.5m in funding for the health of the Upper Murrumbidgee, along with a boost to funding for the Aboriginal Water Entitlement Program to \$100m. In addition, the amended legislation requires that before the Minister “approves a program under which water access rights are proposed to be purchased for the purpose of increasing the volume of the Basin water resources that is available for environmental

use by 450 gigalitres, the Minister must consider the social and economic impact of the program on communities in the Murray-Darling Basin.”

Council continues to be concerned about the impacts of the legislation on the Bourke Shire community. The Bourke LGA has already paid a significant price in respect of the impacts which resulted from the implementation of the CAP in 2006 and buybacks in 2008 and 2009, Efficiency Scheme 2019. These concerns have only been exacerbated as a result of this new legislation. Bourke will need to be well-prepared for future recovery programs if it is to garnish future assistance from State and Federal governments, on behalf of the community. The impacts of the previous buybacks and takebacks are highlighted regularly through many forums. The detail of such impacts, however, has never been researched, collated or documented by a notable economist or researcher.

In this regard, it is considered that a comprehensive report which documents the full socio-economic impacts on the Bourke Community since water recovery action commenced prior to 2006 would go a long way to providing factual evidence of these impacts when the governments commence the recovery phase of the plan. This will provide Council with factual evidence of the impact of the past.

With the preparation of such a document in mind, it is further advised that the Mayor and General Manager made representations to the Chief of Staff in the Office of NSW Water Minister, the Hon Rose Jackson, in Sydney on Thursday, 23 November 2023, seeking support for funding for such a study to be completed.

In respect of potential funding, it is understood that the Governments Community Adjustment Team is currently completing the framework on how to determine the social and economic impacts on communities in the future. The following points highlight the intent:

1. That the framework for ‘Community Adjustment’ would be State-run and that local governments would need to direct their concerns through State channels when the framework is released over the next few months. This is primarily because the State governments agreed to the Restoring Our Rivers Bill legislation and not local governments;
2. That they were currently in discussions with the states regarding developing principles for guiding future community adjustment projects;
3. That there would be Local Government business development funding aimed toward supporting long-term economic sustainability;
4. That Local Government would have an opportunity to engage with state government early in the new year;
5. That there would be grounds for the Bourke community to request funding for a review of past socio-economic outcomes from all previous water recovery actions as part of its ‘Building Knowledge’;
6. That the level of adjustment funding would depend on the volume of recovery within a local government community.

Whilst Council will continue to work proactively with governments, to be well-armed to benefit from the impacts of any further social and economic impact to our community as best we can, it is considered that Council should proceed to fund the preparation of its own impacts report, at its own cost, such that it has researched and accurate data to take advantage of the government assistance packages, as and when they become available. Unfortunately, preparation of such a research document will not be inexpensive, with a cost estimate being in the vicinity of \$40-\$50,000. I am however confident that with solid data, Council can develop a strong and analytical case for funding at the appropriate time.

Financial Implications

Council has made representation to Government to fund a report on the previous impacts to the Bourke Local Government Area regarding water recovery actions. Notwithstanding it is considered that Council should progress the commissioning of such a report, sooner rather than later. Funding for such a report is available in Councils reserves.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report of the General Managers regarding the ‘Restore Our Rivers’ Legislation, be noted.**
- 2. That the General Manager be requested to undertake the necessary action that will result in the commissioning of, and preparation by, an appropriately qualified consultant, of documentation that articulates with data the socio-economic impacts on Bourke from previous water recovery actions emanating from the Murray Darling Basin Plan.**
- 3. That funding for such a report be sourced from Council Reserve Funds.**

15.6 WESTERN WEIRS PROGRAM UPDATE

File Number: W3.5
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: 1. Fact Sheet - Western Weirs Program

Background

In 2019 the New South Government allocated funding to develop a Western Weirs Program. Once implemented, the Program is “expected to provide for enhanced water delivery efficiency, resulting in improvements to river connectivity, subsequently leading to improved long-term water availability and access for far west regional communities”.

The first step in establishing the program was a teleconference on 16 December 2019 involving Water NSW representatives and representatives of other stakeholders.

Bourke Shire Council was represented on the teleconference and representatives of Council reaffirmed the desire to see the Western Weirs Program expedited.

At the time, Water NSW produced a “Fact Sheet” on the Western Weirs Program and it detailed the proposal and approximate timelines. A copy of that fact sheet is attached.

In March 2020 Council received correspondence from Water NSW advising that they were preparing a strategic Business case for the Western Weirs Program. To progress they sought answers to a questionnaire provided. Council provided a response.

Water NSW also advised that the completion of the final business case would be completed by the end of the year. Due to COVID-19 there was an extension until quarter one in 2021.

A number of meetings were attended throughout 2021 and 2022 by Council representatives with a view to progressing the Western Weirs project.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday, 22 August 2022, Ms Ingrid Emery, Executive Director, Project Interfaces and Program Management at Water Infrastructure NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) provided Council with an update on the Western Weirs Strategy. In brief the following points were raised;

- The Western Weirs Program had been absorbed into the Better Baaka Better Bidgee Program
- The forecast future for the project does not look positive as DPE had not been able to achieve funding to progress the Business Case development, partly because of the Commonwealth Government change in May.
- DPE are still having conversations with the Federal Government, but they have a focus on the Murray Darling Basin Plan.
- The biggest challenge is to secure funding to progress.

Advice provided on where the business plan was up to at this time included:

1. The Department has funding to complete a Strategic Business Case.
2. The Department would then need to complete a Final Business Case. Bourke Weir is shortlisted along with a couple of others.
3. They are advocating for funding with details around the cost to complete.
4. The program is high up the list of priorities.
5. Writing letters to Minister Plibersek and Minister Anderson for funding recommended.

Ms Emery indicated disappointment that the Program had stalled and noted the concern of Council regarding the decommissioning of weirs.

Current Situation

With a view to potentially progressing the Western Weirs Final Business Case, Bourke Shire Mayor, Cllr Barry Hollman, made contact 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.

Unfortunately, Minister Jackson has not had an opportunity to visit Bourke to date. Further to such invite, on 30 October 2023 a meeting was arranged to be held with Minister Jackson at Parliament House, Sydney, on Thursday, 23 November 2023 with the Mayor and General Manager to attend. On the day, the Minister was not available to attend the meeting having been "called to the Premiers Office". The Mayor and General Manager met with staff from the Ministers office – Evie Madden, Chief of Staff and Cameron Munro Departmental Liaison Officer.

The following items were discussed in regard to water security for Bourke.

- Water security for Bourke is top of Councils list of strategic priorities.
- A reliable and sustainable water supply is required for critical human needs and proper functioning of the town socially and economically.
- In 2020 it was identified the Western Weirs program had a broad timeframe of 4 years until construction commences – The previous Government committed \$4.21m to develop a Strategic Business Case as part of Western Weirs program. Where is this program at?
- During 2018 and 2019 – the weir did not flow for 400 plus days.
- Only six (6) months' supply of water remains in the Bourke weir pool once water ceases to flow over the weir. Community is exposed and vulnerable to the predicted extreme summer ahead.
- Once river drops 300-400 ml below weir – there is an increase in evaporation and an increase in salinity.
- Evaporation rates are estimated to be 20ML per day when over 40 degrees. The community is fighting a losing battle when on restrictions - community use is some 6ML per day.
- Water security for Bourke may be achieved by raising the current weir, building a new weir, or an off river storage or pipeline.
- Regulation of river to at least Bourke.
- Environmental Releases are important – connectivity – saturation of river bed.

- Drought proofing Bourke through Bore scheme appreciated – only have 100meg licence - 40 days of Water – where to then?

Minister Jackson's staff listened to the Mayors concerns and advised that funding for the final Business Case was not yet available. They recommended that Council make an application through the National Water Grid Fund when the grant was available to complete the Final Business Case.

On Friday, 24 November 2023 Council received advice that the National Water Grid Fund Expression of Interest (EOI) closed on 5 December 2023. The types of projects funded under the program include:

- Conduct of a feasibility study/research study.
- Development of a preliminary business case.
- Development of a detailed business case.
- Undertaking construction work.

This funding will be for up to 50 per cent of the project value. The NSW Government was calling EOI's to participate in the Australian Governments National Water Grid funding application. Council immediately made contact with staff from DPIE to assist with an application. Below is an excerpt of the email as sent to their office.

On Thursday, 23 November 2023, the Mayor and I had a meeting booked with Minister Rose Jackson in Sydney at Parliament House to discuss water security for Bourke and the options available for such security. Unfortunately, at the last minute the Minister was not available and the Mayor and I met with two staff from the Ministers Office. We were very disappointed that the Minister was not available to hear our concerns firsthand.

At the meeting we were advised that the next step in the final business case may be funded through the National Water Grid Fund.

On Friday, 24 November 2023 Council received advice that there was only 12 days left to apply for water infrastructure projects in regional NSW, with the National Water Grid Fund EOI due by 5 December 2023.

(<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water-infrastructure-nsw/grants-and-funding/national-water-grid-authority>)

Council was not aware of the funding opportunity prior to this notice.

Bourke Shire Council would like to make an application to the EOI for the completion of the Final Business Case to secure water for Bourke. The State and Commonwealth Government have both advised funding is not available through their normal funding streams. I have commenced the application but, will require assistance as to the expected costs, the process (who will complete, time to complete and details of what is required) and will the State and Federal Government partner with Bourke Shire Council to complete this important piece of work.

Council is reaching out for any assistance you may be able to provide or who Council should contact as the window to the complete the EOI is very narrow.

DPE staff assisted with the correct contacts within the Department and Council commenced the application on Monday, 27 November 2023.

A meeting with DPIE staff was held on Monday, 4 December 2023 to discuss how to progress the EOI application. Attendees at the meeting were Ben Carey – Manager Business Case Development DPE, Shagofta Ali - Director RWS Northern Basin, Water Strategy DPE, Peter Brown - Manager Works, Belinda Colless - Grants Officer and Leonie Brown General Manager.

An overview by the Department was provided in regard to the Regional Water Strategy, Biodiversity impacts and Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) greater than 1 (A project with a BCR above 1 provides a net economic gain and can be considered economically justified), and funding is 50/50 for the EOI process.

It was determined at the meeting whoever is going to progress the Business Case would determine who is to put in the EOI form. The group decided that the State Government should undertake the Business Case and make the application. DPE Water would put in the application.

The preferred approach has 3 options:

1. Progressing Bourke by itself (not a small task with a lot of work being required).
2. Split the Western Weirs in two sections, Bourke and above and Bourke and below. (Looking longitudinal along the river rather than LGA's).
3. Funding the full works for Western Weirs (issue around deliverability within the scope, would be a very large project)

There is a need for a program of works that can be delivered to be developed. There are approval risks with doing small sections of the river as there may be changes to the hydrology in the river. There would be environmental impacts that may require something to be removed to add something else in to balance out the environmental impacts. DPE will work through the process, they are all very complicated pieces of work.

The need for a fish way on Bourke weir has been raised since the 1990's. There is currently a separate piece of work being undertaken for improved connectivity from upstream to down stream to help the fish move through the system.

Council made the point that the preferred option would be to undertake the full works as the preferred option. Bourke is an important piece to the puzzle, but the puzzle is made up of many pieces and other communities, we don't want to take away from other communities. The solution needs to be integrated.

The State Government made an application for the EOI to the National Water Grid Fund 2024 for the Western Weirs Final Business Case – Phase 1, focussed on water security in the Bourke Local Government Area. If the EOI is successful round one of application commence in January 2024. The application identifies that the State and Commonwealth Governments Co- fund the project.

Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications for Council at this stage although Council has indicated its preparedness to fund its own study if required.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council continue to monitor the development of the Western Weirs final business case as it relates to the Bourke Shire Council area.**

- 2. That Council continue to support the NSW Department of Planning and Environment with any further information required to progress the funding application if the EOI is successful.**

Fact Sheet



Western Weirs Program



WaterNSW is developing a Preliminary Business Case for the holistic management and operation of the weirs in the Barwon-Darling unregulated and Lower Darling regulated systems to support remote community water supplies and other benefits.

BACKGROUND

The Western Weirs Program covers the Barwon-Darling River which comprises both the Barwon-Darling Unregulated River Water Source and the Lower-Darling Regulated River Source, from Mungindi to Wentworth.

There are over 29 weirs along the Barwon-Darling River and the adjoining tributaries. WaterNSW owns a number of weirs in the system, however ownership of the other weirs is unclear.

The current infrastructure is also known to have a number of deficiencies from poor condition of weirs, no system level functionality, flow regulation limitations, town water supply and security concerns and unclear responsibility of structures.

WaterNSW is investigating a holistic approach to the management of weirs in the far west.

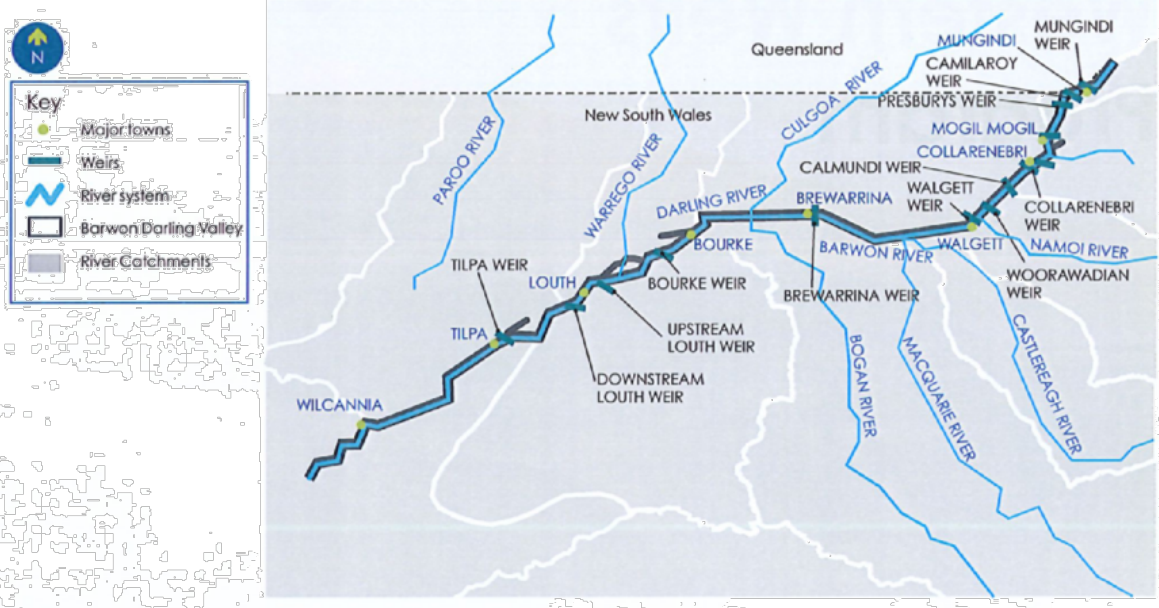
The investigation outcomes are expected to recommend WaterNSW assume the ownership of weirs, upgrade weirs to become gated structures (regulators), provide fish passages, and continue to operate and maintain the new regulators.

Once implemented, the Program is expected to provide for enhanced water delivery efficiency, resulting in improvements to river connectivity, subsequently leading to improved long-term water availability and access for far west regional communities.

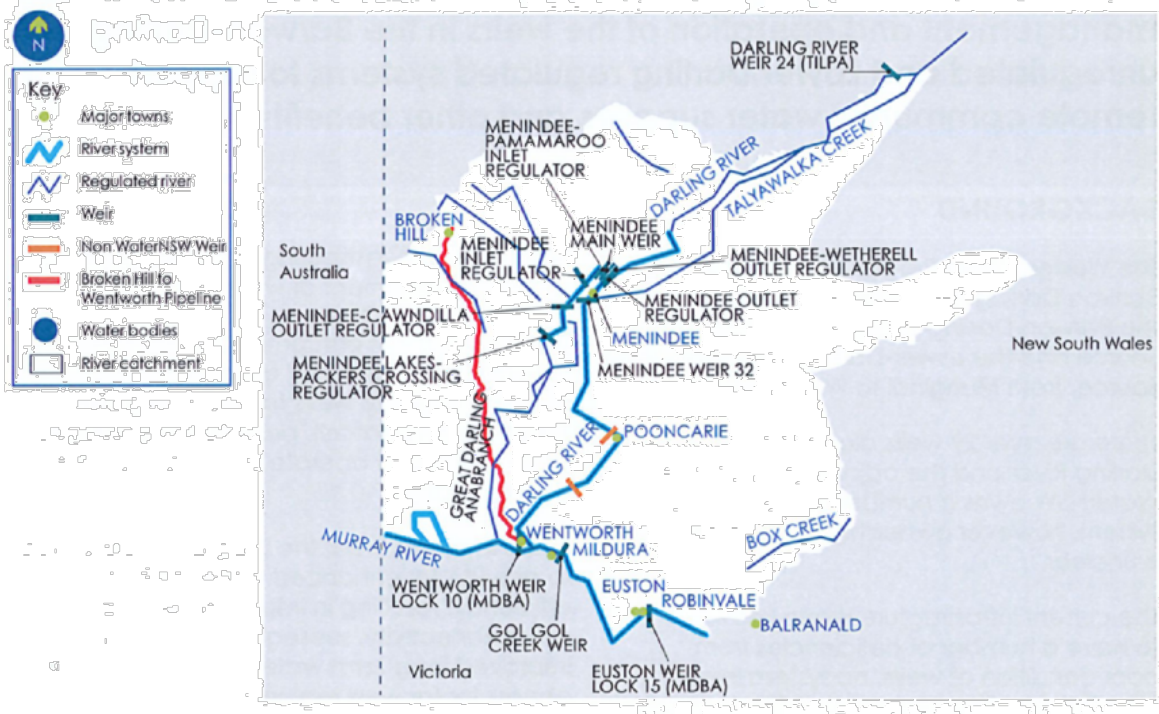


More information is available at waternsw.com.au/drought

MAP OF THE BARWON-DARLING RIVER SYSTEM



MAP OF THE LOWER-DARLING RIVER SYSTEM



Estimated cost: \$500M

State Government has committed \$4.2M for a Preliminary Business Case

PROGRAM DETAILS

If fully implemented, the Program is expected to deliver:

- Construction of a new integrated system of gated weirs to replace current fixed weirs along the river allowing WaterNSW to more effectively manage flow along the whole system.
- Provision of fish passage on all new and existing fish barriers along the river.
- Removal of weirs and structures that provide no benefit to the system.
- Implementation of new ownership, maintenance, operations and cost recovery arrangements for infrastructure and operations along the river.
- Amendments of the Water Resource Plan considering the new operational regime on the river.

KEY BENEFITS

Key benefits expected to be achieved from a holistic management and operation approach include:

- Improved water resource management and enhanced water security for all water users.
- Improvement of river health and reduction of no-flow events.
- Better management of environmental flows (including first flush and low-flow scenarios).
- Collective outcomes are likely to provide positive flow-on benefits and revitalise the regional communities and economies in the remote far west of NSW.
- Improved asset condition and capability.
- Additional control barrier to enable local water utilities to manage water quality for town supplies.

NEXT STEPS

WaterNSW will develop a Preliminary Business Case for consideration and funding decision by Government including:

- Investigation of the current asset condition, ownership and operations - modelling the existing system operations and identifying opportunities for optimisation
- Developing recommendations for a holistic approach to ownership, upgrades, operation and management of the western weirs.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

2020:

Community engagement commences

Year one:

Investigation, modelling and concept design

End of year two:

Program determination

Year three:

Project level design, approvals and determination

From year four:

Construction commences

KEEP IN TOUCH:



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16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

16.1 * BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - 30 NOVEMBER 2023**

File Number: 2108
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 November 2023

Balances as per Bank Statement	\$1,542,708.90
Plus: Deposit not shown	\$10,509.98
Less: Unpresented Cheques	\$5,851.37
Balance as per Cash Book	\$1,547,367.51

Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 30 November 2023

Fund or Account	Current Balance	Overdraft Statutory Limit
General	\$37,075,084.39	\$200,000.00
Water	\$4,256,226.23	
Sewer	\$2,599,365.18	
Trust	\$124,196.46	
	\$44,054,872.26	

Reconciliation as at 30 November 2023

Balance as per cash book	\$1,547,367.51
Investments	\$42,507,504.75
Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger	\$44,054,872.26

** 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 30 November 2023

	Balance	Transaction	Balance
	31 October 2023		30 November 2023
General Fund	\$31,407,763.27	\$5,667,321.12	\$37,075,084.39
Water Fund	\$4,070,357.06	\$185,869.17	\$4,256,226.23
Sewer Fund	\$2,663,615.59	-\$63,950.41	\$2,599,365.18
Trust Fund	\$124,167.46	\$29.00	\$124,196.46
Investments	-\$36,570,723.21	-\$5,936,781.54	-\$42,507,504.75
Totals	\$1,694,880.17	-\$147,512.66	\$1,547,367.51

Balance of all Funds as at 30 November 2023

Balance as at 31 October 2023	\$1,694,880.17
Add Receipts for	
(a) Rates	\$577,813.48
(b) Other Cash	\$9,706,363.24
Deduct payments for	
(a) Payments	\$3,687,421.36
(b) New Investment	\$6,744,268.02
Balance as at 30 November 2023	\$1,547,367.51

Recommendation

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

16.2 * INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2023**

File Number: 2101
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The Investment Portfolio 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

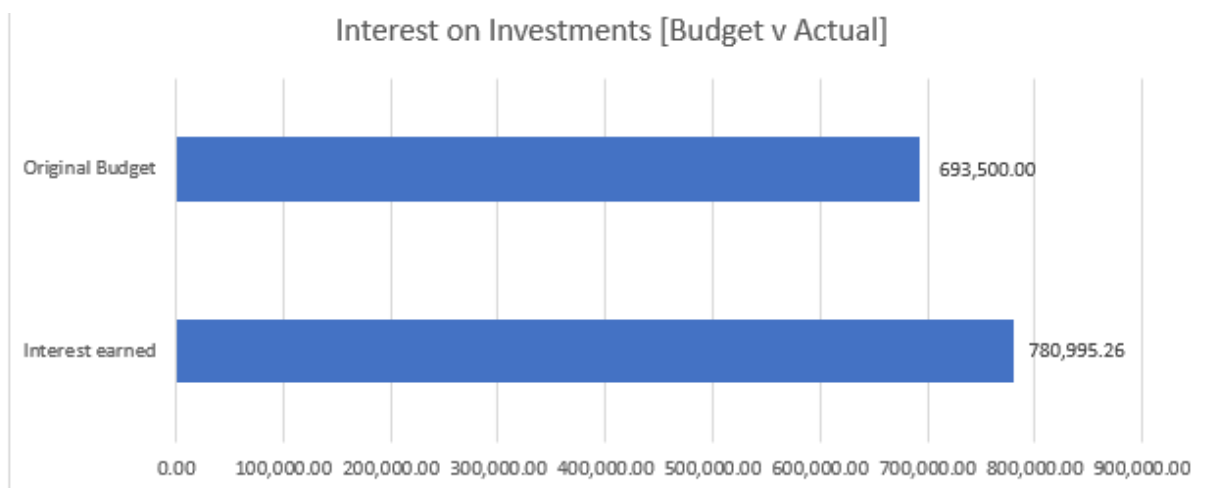
The management, of Council’s investments is delegated by the General Manager to the Manager Corporate Services.

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 of 30 November 2023 was \$ 42,507,504.75.

Investment income earned as of 30 November 2023 was \$780,995.26.



It is obvious 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.

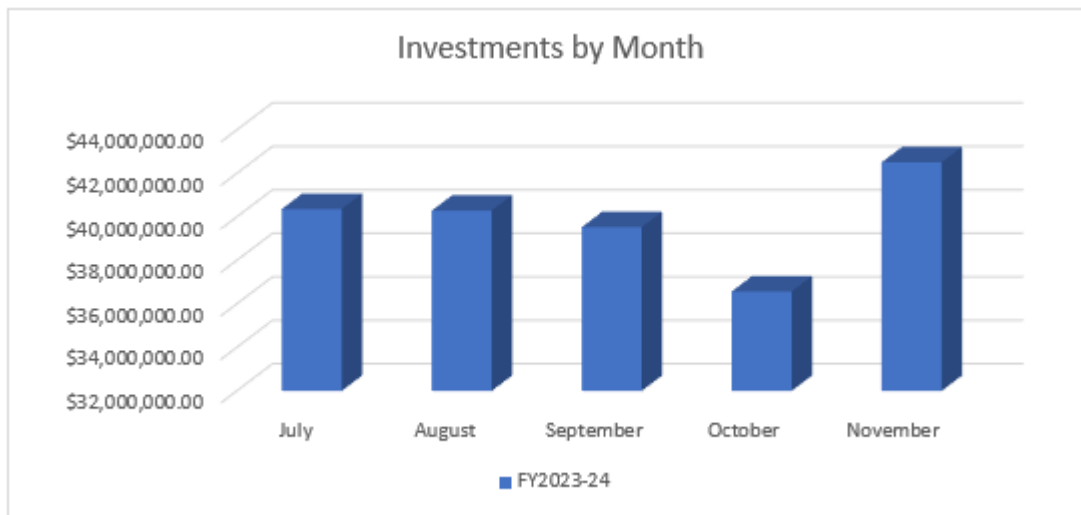
Investment Portfolio as at 30 November 2023

Institution	Invst#	From	Maturity Date	Amount	Rate	Days	S&P Rating
National Australia Bank	54	4/09/2023	4/12/2023	2,000,000.00	4.90%	91	A-1+
National Australia Bank	58	27/09/2023	27/12/2023	3,000,000.00	4.90%	91	A-1+
National Australia Bank	59	27/09/2023	27/12/2023	3,000,000.00	4.90%	91	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	60	3/10/2023	4/12/2023	2,000,000.00	4.43%	62	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	61	4/10/2023	4/12/2023	1,500,000.00	4.37%	61	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	62	4/10/2023	4/12/2023	1,000,000.00	4.37%	61	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	63	6/10/2023	6/12/2023	2,000,000.00	4.37%	61	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	64	20/10/2023	20/12/2023	2,000,000.00	4.43%	61	A-1+
National Australia Bank	65	27/10/2023	25/01/2024	2,000,000.00	5.00%	90	A-1+
National Australia Bank	66	27/10/2023	30/01/2024	2,000,000.00	5.00%	95	A-1+
National Australia Bank	67	30/10/2023	29/01/2024	1,000,000.00	5.00%	91	A-1+
National Australia Bank	68	31/10/2023	29/01/2024	2,000,000.00	5.00%	90	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	69	6/11/2023	11/12/2023	2,000,000.00	4.29%	35	A-1+
National Australia Bank	70	8/11/2023	6/02/2024	1,000,000.00	5.05%	90	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	71	20/11/2023	20/12/2023	2,000,000.00	4.33%	30	A-1+
National Australia Bank	72	27/11/2023	1/02/2024	3,000,000.00	4.70%	66	A-1+
National Australia Bank	73	27/11/2023	29/01/2024	3,000,000.00	4.70%	63	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	74	30/11/2023	15/01/2024	1,000,000.00	4.33%	46	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	75	30/11/2023	29/01/2024	2,000,000.00	4.61%	60	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	76	30/11/2023	29/01/2024	2,000,000.00	4.61%	60	A-1+
National Australia Bank			At Call	3,007,504.75	Flex		A-1+
Total Investments				42,507,504.75			

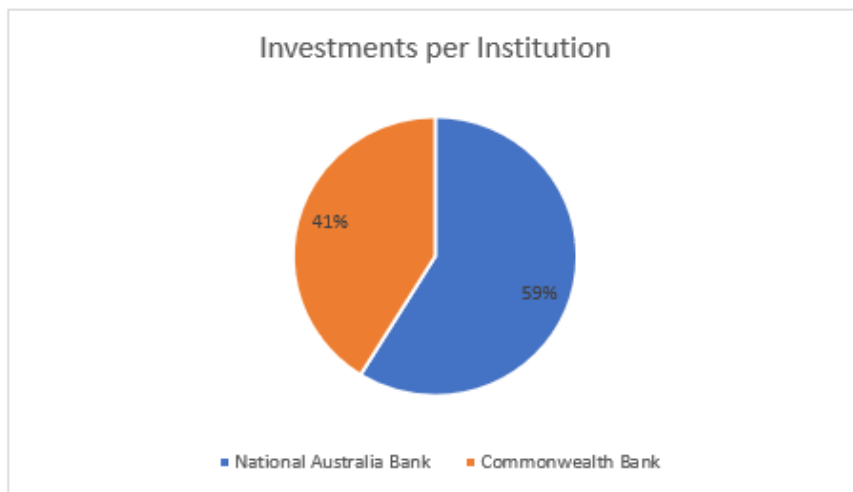
Term Deposits

Discussions/Comments

Compared to October 2023, there has been an increase of \$5,936,781.54 in Council’s Investment portfolio as at 30 November 2023.



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 2021* and Council’s Investment Policy.

Ang Pasang Rai
Responsible Accounting Officer

Recommendation

- 1. That the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 30 November 2023, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Nil

19 POLICIES

Nil

20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

20.1 *** BOURKE LAUNDRY SERVICE INCORPORATED - REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

File Number: 1232,1725
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser: Margo Anderson, Executive Assistant
Attachments: 1. Application for Financial Assistance

Background

The Bourke Laundry Service Incorporated is a not-for-profit organisation that was established in 1992 as an avenue for employment for people with disability. The organisation has been providing laundry service to individuals and business in the Bourke Shire during that time and more recently has contributed to the limiting of waste in the Shire by operating the 'return and earn scheme' within the Bourke Local Government Area.

The organisation has requested that Council facilitate the settlement of its unpaid rates and water use charges at 32 Richard Street, Bourke which are due to Council. Council has been providing help to the organisation by covering the tip fees for waste generated via return and earn scheme boxes.

Current Situation

Council has received an application for financial assistance from the Bourke Laundry Service Incorporated, a copy of which is attached herewith. The organisation has been under financial pressure since the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which resulted in the loss of annual funding of \$100,000.

Therefore, the organisation has requested financial assistance in the form of a donation of \$7,000 which is the equivalent to the following outstanding amount of:

- Rates \$5,000
- Water Usage Charges \$2,000

Financial Implications

Council has available funding in its 2023/2024 Operational Plan for funding under the Community Contributions Fund to financially assist community organisations. Sufficient funds are available in this fund to meet the request.

Recommendation

That Council support the application from the Bourke Laundry Services Incorporated for monetary assistance of \$7,000 being for the equivalent of outstanding Rates and Water Usage Charges due to Council.

To be eligible, organisations must:-

- submit an application on the prescribed form
- meet the criteria and the guidelines set out in this policy, and
- explain why their request was not submitted through the annual process



**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
(DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIP, "IN KIND" SUPPORT)**

Name of applicant organisation:	BOURKE LAUNDRY SERVICE INC
Postal Address:	PO BOX 57 BOURKE 2840
Contact person:	LISA CROTHERS
Position:	SECRETARY
Phone number:	0419 291979
Mobile number:	0419 291979
Fax number:	
Email address:	crothers@bigpond.net.au

Enquiries are to be made to Council's Manager Corporate Services on 0268308000.

Completed applications are to be returned to Council no later than 4pm Friday,

(Date(s) to be specified each year)

An electronic version of the form can be made available upon request, or applications can be posted or hand delivered to:-

Bourke Shire Council
 Financial Assistance Program
 P O Box 21 / 29 Mitchell Street
 BOURKE NSW 2840
 Phone: 02 68308000 Fax: 02 68723030
 Email: bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au

INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Please provide a brief overview of your group /organisation:-
 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION ESTABLISHED
 IN 1992 TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO PEOPLE
 WITH DISABILITY. OPERATES COMMERCIAL
 LAUNDRY & DEPOT FOR NSW RETURN & EARN
 SCHEME

Is the Group/organisation based in Bourke Shire?:- Yes/No
 If no, where is it located?

What is the number of current members of your group/organisation? 4

Purpose for which the donation will be used:-
 REDUCE FINANCIAL PRESSURE DUE TO
 THE EXTREME ADVERSE EFFECT THE
 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NDIS HAS HAD
 ON OUR ~~ORGANISATION~~ ORGANISATION. EFFECTIVELY
 WE HAVE LOST ANNUAL FUNDING OF
 \$100,000

If not stated above, briefly describe the way in which this donation will benefit Bourke Shire:-

- PROVISION OF LAUNDRY SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESS IN BOURKE LGA
- PROVISION OF RETURN & EARN SCHEME LIMITING WASTE IN BOURKE LGA

<p>Has your group/organisation received financial or in kind support from Bourke Shire in the last 12 months? Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>If yes, please provide amount and details of purpose: WE DO NOT PAY TIP FEES FOR WASTE THAT COMES FROM THE RETURN & EARN SCHEME - MAINLY BOXES ETC THAT BOTTLES/CANS ARE DELIVERED IN</p>
<p>Has your group/organisation received any grants from the State or Federal Government in relation to the project for which this donation is sought? No <input checked="" type="radio"/></p>
<p>If yes, briefly list details and amount of grant</p>
<p>Rates Donations - if you are only applying for a donation of rates (general or water) please provide the following details:-</p>
<p>Property for which rates donation is sought: 32 RICHARD ST, BOURKE</p>
<p>Council's Rates Assessment Number: 00841-0000000-000</p>
<p>Owner of land on which property is located: BOURKE LAUNDRY SERVICE INC</p>
<p>Purpose for which the property is used: LAUNDRY / RETURN & EARN</p>
<p>Approximate number of days per year that the property is used for these purposes: 365</p>

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

What is the total amount of your request (exclusive of GST)?	\$	
Is your group / organisation registered for GST?	Yes	No
Does your group / organisation have an ABN (Australian Business Number)?	Yes	No
Is your group / organisation incorporated?	Yes	No
If yes, please quote your ABN		
If yes, please quote your Incorporation No		
Does your group / organisation have Public Liability Insurance?	Yes	No
If yes, please attach a Certificate of Currency		

To be completed for "in kind" support:-

(Please arrange appointment with appropriate Council staff to obtain a quote where necessary)

ITEM	Applicant's Contribution	Support sought from Council
A. Monetary		
<i>RATES</i>		<i>5000</i>
<i>WATER</i>		<i>2000</i>
Total (A)		
B. Equipment costs		
Total (B)		
C. Labour costs		
Total (C)		
D. Other project costs		
Total (D)		
TOTAL COSTS (A+B+C+D)		<i>7000 -</i>

ORGANISATION'S BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Name of bank:	
Name of bank account:	
Bank BSB Number:	
Bank Account Number:	

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- For first time applicants, a copy of your group/organisation's constitution and if that constitution changes, then an updated copy is to be forwarded with any subsequent application
- A copy of the most recent annual report (including financial statements of income and expenditure) – preferably audited
- Copy of notification of ABN Number and GST Registration (if applicable) from the Australian Taxation Officer
- Evidence of Incorporation
- A copy of the applicant's current public liability insurance policy (i.e. Certificate of Currency)
- Where the applicant is a registered public charity, a copy of the registration certificate is required

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all the details supplied in this application form and in any attached documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that the application has been submitted with the full knowledge and agreement of the applicant group / organisation.

I have read the Financial Assistance Policy provided with this application form.

Signed: 

Name: USA CROTHERS

Position: SECRETARY

Date: 26/09/2023

21 ACTIVITY REPORTS

21.1 ENGINEERING SERVICES - ROAD WORKS AND WORKSHOP ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 1945
Author: Paul Flanagan, Manager Roads
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The following information outlines works undertaken during November 2023.

ENGINEERING SERVICES - Road Works – Works Undertaken		
Michael Willoughby – Roads Supervisor		
NORTH SECTOR – Denis Tiffen, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-49 West Culgoa Road	Re-Sheeting	N
RLR-49 West Culgoa Road	Formation	N
MR-404 Dowling Track	Maintenance Grade	Y
SOUTH SECTOR - John Reed, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
MR-68S	Maintenance Grade	N
State Highways	Control Vegetation (Reseal Prep)	N
RLR-49 West Culgoa Road	Formation	Y
TRANSPORT SECTOR - Simon Wielinga, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-49 West Culgoa Road	Gravel Carting	N
RLR-49 West Culgoa Road	Watering	N
BITUMEN SECTOR – Phillip Harvey, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
Bourke Township	Pothole patching	Y
Regional Roads	Pothole patching	Y
State Highways	Pothole patching	Y
SH 7 (South of Bourke)	Control vegetation (ongoing)	N
MR 421 (Kidman Way)	Control vegetation (ongoing)	N
CONTRACTORS		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-32 Kingbolt Road	Maintenance Grade (NAK)	Y
RLR-14 Avondale Road	Maintenance Grade (Sandford)	N
RLR-10 Toorale Road	Gravel Resheeting (Sandford)	N
RLR-50 Mooleyarrah Road	Maintenance Grade(NAK)	Y
MR-404 Dowling Track	Maintenance Grade (NAK)	N
Bourke Town Streets	Pothole Patching (Ausroads)	Y

WORKSHOP – Works Undertaken		
Colin Kiley, Team Leader, Tradesman Plant Mechanic		
Plant no	Plant Type	Work Completed
50	Kenworth	Completed 440,000km service, diagnosed air leaks, repaired leaks, and replaced air tractor valve.
66	Caterpillar Backhoe	Completed 2,000 hour service.
76	2004 Moore Road Train Tipper	Removed and replaced rear mud flap bracket and repaired wiring on tarp.
92	2014 Western Star 4800fs	Removed and replaced side mirror, repaired wiring and replaced blades.
110	2015 Toro GM 360 Quad Steer	Removed and replaced broken wheel studs. Cleaned radiator and cooler.
120	2020 Mazda BT-50	Completed 80,000km service.
132	John Deere 770g	Completed 7,000 hour service, repaired broken step, replaced and adjusted circle shims and blade side pads.
134	2019 John Deere 770g	Completed 5,500 hour service, adjusted blade circle and blade, repaired broken steps.
141	John Deere Grader	Removed and replaced mirrors. Upgraded lights for firefighting.
148	Dolly	Repaired air leaks and welded cracks in rear light bracket.
155	2021 Isuzu 155	Completed 70,000km service and cleaned radiator.
172	Isuzu 1500 FXY	Removed and rebuilt rear shoot box and replaced hydraulic pump and auger.
174	2020 Mazda BT-50	Completed 150,000km service.
181	Mitsubishi Triton	Completed 70,000km service.
226 - 227	2020 Boggie Water Cart	Removed and replaced 2 air operated water taps.
248	2022 John Deere 6125m	Repaired wiring and bracket for flashing light.
257	2021 Hino FE 1426	Completed 2,000 hour service, diagnosed hydraulic leak, removed water tank, manufactured new hoses and replaced hose and tank, diagnosed faulty condenser fan, replaced blown fuse.
265	Isuzu NQR 450	Completed 120,000km service and replaced rear mud flaps.
278	22 Isuzu 15 155	Completed 30,000km service , removed and replaced battery.
330	Ford Ranger	Completed 110,000km service.
370	Wing Slasher	Removed and replaced hydraulic lift wing hoses and cylinder.
400	Seca Sewer Machine	Completed 10,000km service
420	2022 Ford Ranger	Completed 25,000km service. Removed and upgraded suspension. Removed and replaced damaged intercooler hoses.
428	2023 Bomag BBW216D5	Removed shells and mud teeth, fitted blade drum scraper to drum.

506	Kenworth Primemover	Diagnosed noise under cab, repaired broken cab mount. Removed and replaced mud guards, brackets and spring mounts.
522	Moore's Dolly	Repaired wiring on tarps.
Small Plant		Carried out repairs and serviced small plant.
Registration Checks		Registration checks completed on BSC plant and external vehicles.
Staff Training		
TAFE		Ben Dorrington.
RMS Induction		All workshop staff.

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Roads regarding Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

21.2 ENGINEERING SERVICES - PARKS AND GARDENS, TOWN SERVICES, WATER AND WASTE WATER ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: E7.1
Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

The following information outlines works completed for the month of November 2023.

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 completed on all ground plant.
Works Requests	Actioned and ongoing.
Town Streets	General maintenance carried out. Mowed and cleaned footpaths.
Wharf	General maintenance carried out.
Council Office	General maintenance carried out.
Renshaw Complex	General maintenance carried out.
Coolican Oval	Grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained.
Davidson Oval	General maintenance carried out. Remarked football oval, recovering of cricket pitch, toilets and facilities cleaned in preparation for Hot 9’s football competition.
Central Park	Regular mowing and maintenance carried out at the Skate Park, 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.

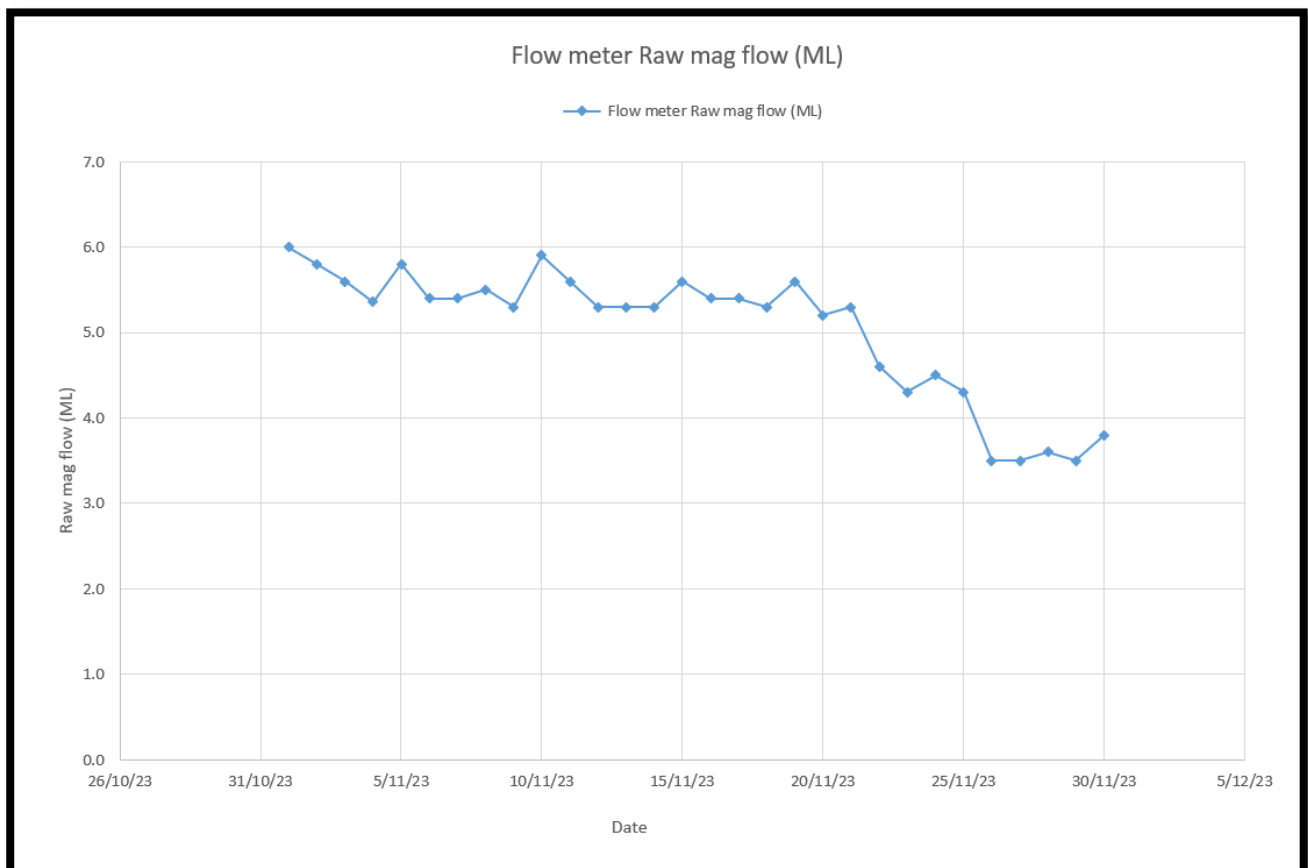
TOWN SERVICES– Troy Hayman, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Actioned and ongoing on a daily basis as requested.
Cemetery	Prepared one (1) grave and replaced headstone on another.
Rest Areas	Weekly cleaning and water pressure clean of new toilets - 65km Cobar Road. Monthly service and roadside rubbish removal.
Staff Training	Nil.
General Works	Erected new “Give Way” signs at the corners of Yanda Street and Hope Street, and Mertin Street and Yanda Street. Applied additional concrete to “Give Way” sign at Warraweena Street. Watered trees every Wednesday and Friday. Applied cold mix to hole in Oxley Street (CBD). Repaired tree guards in Mitchell Street. Loaded Contractor with gravel and cold mix. Cleaned up rubbish in Tarcoon Street, behind houses and vacant blocks. Applied sand to footpaths. Removed rubbish from BOBEC. Ongoing cleaning and pruning of trees in laneways. Moved grids using the crane at the Depot. Spread sand at Renshaw Sporting Complex using bobcat. Sundry debtor 0467 – Bowling Club. Delivered crusher dust to BOBEC. Sundry debtor 0468 – Brewarrina Shire. Used crane to unload truck load of pipes at the Depot. Removed fallen tree branches following storm. Used crane to lift and replace sewer well pumps. Removed fallen tree in laneway and patched holes. Replaced “Give Way” sign in Darling Street, North Bourke. Fixed signage at the entrance to the Airport. Removed fallen tree from 6 Glenn Street and cleaned up back yard. Erected Christmas flags. Erected Christmas Tree in Central Park.

WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
WTP	Routine maintenance, monitoring and reporting.
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.
Meter reads	Monthly water meter reads from all Councils water sources.
Bourke and North Bourke	Flushed fire hydrants.
Refuelled Generator	North Bourke pump site, Enngonia pump site, Council Office.

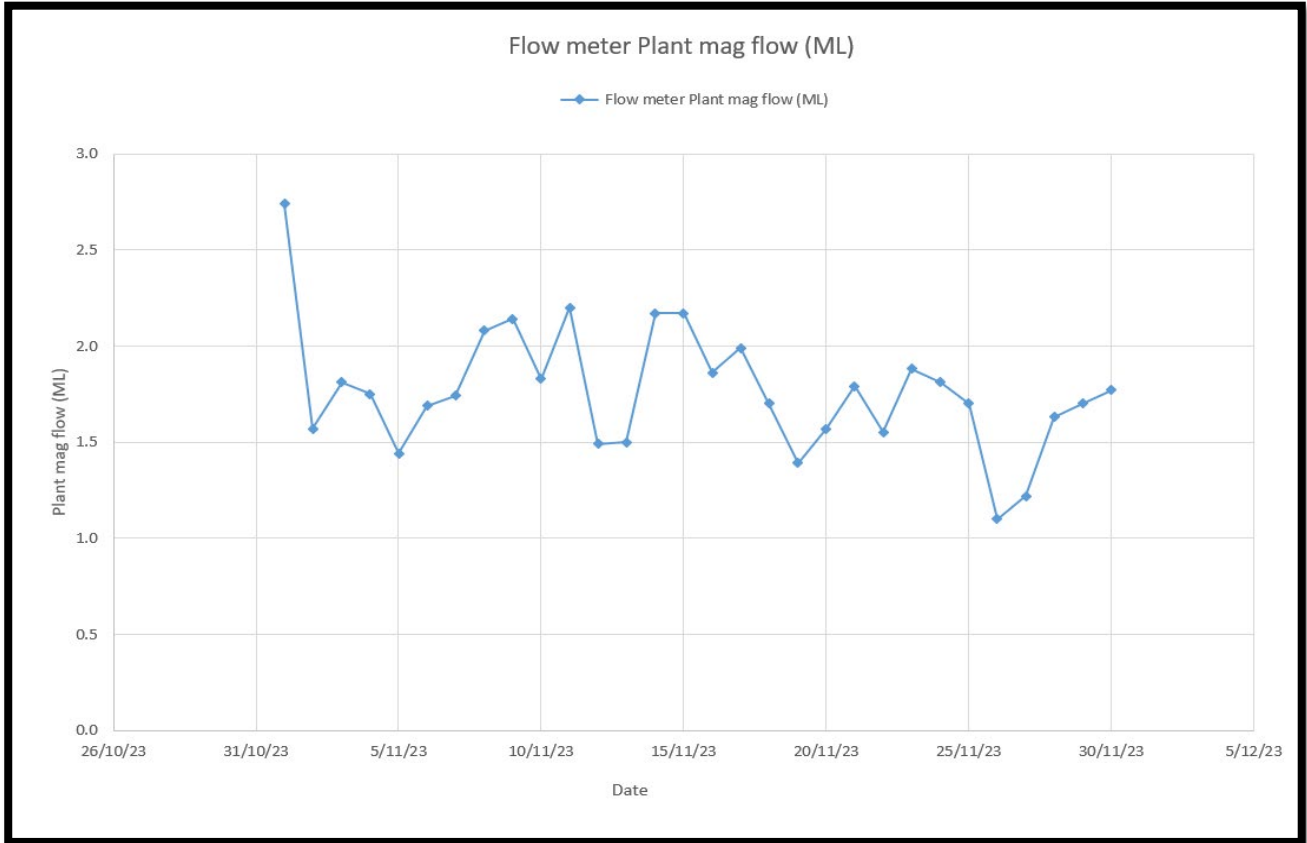
WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
Bourke Memorial Swimming Pool	Checked Splash Park filters. Cleaned and repaired leaks LTS pool filters. Connected air conditioner in LTS Pool pump shed. Delivered chemicals.
Depot	Installed hot water tap new toilets. Repaired leak in welding bay. Repaired leak at parks and gardens shed. Blew out stormwater drains.
Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre	Located power and water services. Repaired stormwater pipe. Adjusted filter and checked sprinkler system.
Davidson Oval	Repaired leak behind the grandstand.
Wharf	Adjusted filter and checked sprinkler system.
Renshaw Sporting Complex	Adjusted filter and checked sprinkler system.
Darling Park	Adjusted filter and checked sprinkler system.
PCYC	Repaired leaking toilet.
6 Glen Street	Cleared stormwater lines.
14 Darling Street	Repaired leaking sprinklers.
Ceramic Centre	Repaired leaking air conditioner.
Enngonia	Reset generator. Repaired leaking air conditioner at the Hall. Flush fire hydrants. Repaired leaking service at the health clinic.
Byrock	No raw water pressure - blow out and clear.
36 Tudor Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired leak.
66 Hope Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired leak.
Tudor Street	Repaired leaking fire hydrant.
Anson Street Standpipe	Cleaned 150mm valve.
150 Anson Street	Repaired leaking service.
20 Anson Street	Turned offline running through.
6 Wilson Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
9 Green Street	No raw water - pressure blow out and clear.
150 Meadows Road	No raw water - pressure blow out and clear.
56 Short Street	No raw water - pressure blow out and clear.
Court House	Dug 150mm filtered water main and repaired main.
47 Moculta Street	Dug 50mm filtered water main and repaired main.
3 Moculta Street	Dug 150mm filtered water main and repaired main.
9 Wilson Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
8 Mertin Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
16 Meek Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
104 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
13 Sturt Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
62-64 Darling Street Nth Bourke	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
56 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
170 Anson Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
58 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.

WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre	Sewer choke.
Becker Street	Sewer choke.
High School House	Sewer choke.
Exhibition Centre	Sewer choke.
High School house	Sewer choke.
Riverside Motel	Sewer choke.
79 Oxley Street	Sewer choke.
Donna Webber	Sewer choke.
near Rivergum Lodge	Sewer choke.
Yanda Street	Sewer choke.
7 Charles Street	Sewer choke.
2 Sturt Street	Sewer choke.
36 Mertin Street	Sewer choke.
Mertin Street SPS	Removed and cleaned pump.
35 Anson Street	Dug sewer main and cleared choke
Staff Training	Fluoridation of a public water supply

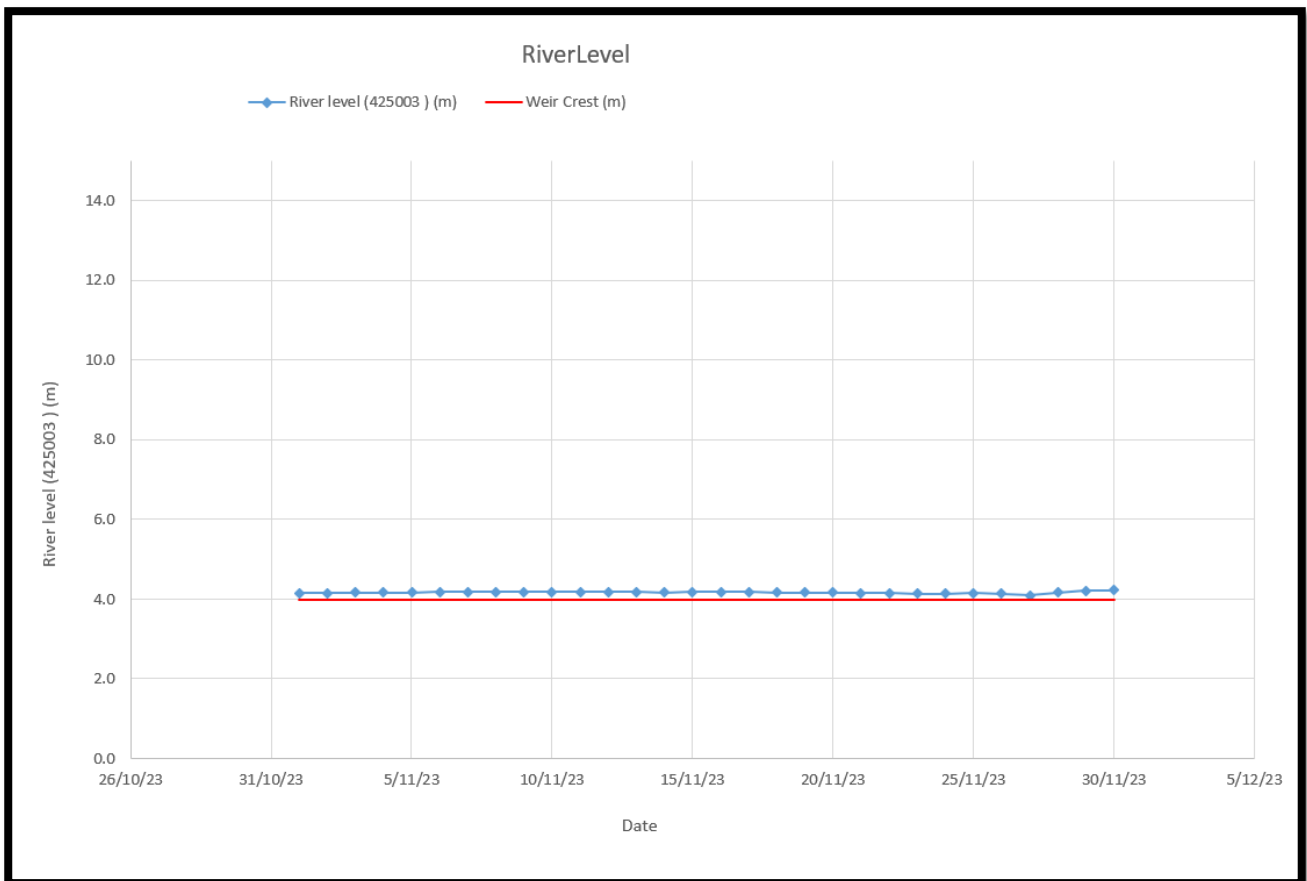
Raw Flow Meter



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
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
August 2023	99	38	11,568	1,996
September 2023	137	42	27,685	1,865
October 2023	165	48	37,524	1,542
November 2023	151	48	27,809	2,564

Council’s Water Access Licences – WAL’s

Work Approval	Extraction Site	Site Name	Start meter read 01/07/2023	Meter read Nov-23	usage Year to Date		Water Access Licence	Comment
85CA753414	ESID 121627	Water Plant TWS	16043.5	16665.6	622.1	ML	3200ML	
85CA753420	ESID 121630	North Bourke TWS	1930.965	2049.337	118.372	ML	300ML	
85CA753421	ESID 121630	North Bourke Abs	34.023	178.095	144.072	ML		
85CA753599		Wanaaring Station	23.298	36.719	13.421	ML	25ML	
85CA751207	24634	Engonia Village TWS	47.653	72.197	24.544	ML	150ML	
85CA753412	ESID 121626	(LWU Louth)	34.09	53.427	19.337	ML	25ML	
85CA751215	24639	Fords Bridge TWS	3.701	4.956	1.255	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	31.089	1.62	ML		Road Works
	209518	Stoney Rise Bore	26.844	41.236	14.392	ML		No Meter Not Active
	222419	Toll Bore			0	ML		
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
NA	NA	Byrock	0	0.809	0.809	ML		Meter installed October 2023

Water Quality Data Summary

Process	Parameter	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Lower critical lim	Upper critical lim	No. of samples
River level	River level (425003)	4.08	4.16	4.21	3.9		30
Raw Water	pH	7.53	7.73	8.01			30
Raw Water	turbidity	12.00	54.70	147.00			30
Filtered water	pH	7.05	7.37	7.47	6.5	8.7	30
Tower	Free Cl2	1.44	2.84	4.22	0.2	5.0	30
Bourke High School	Free chlorine	1.70	1.70	1.70	0.2	4.0	2
Bourke High School	pH	7.45	7.48	7.50	6.5	8.5	2
Bourke High School	Turbidity	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.0	0.5	2
WTP	Free chlorine	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.2	4.0	1
WTP	pH	7.46	7.46	7.46	6.5	8.5	1
WTP	Turbidity	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.0	0.5	1
Bourke Primary School	Free chlorine	1.20	1.20	1.20	0.2	4.0	1
Bourke Primary School	pH	7.53	7.53	7.53	6.5	8.5	1
Bourke Primary School	Turbidity	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.0	0.5	1
Meadows Rd	Free chlorine	1.60	1.60	1.60	0.2	4.0	2
Meadows Rd	pH	7.46	7.51	7.56	6.5	8.5	2
Meadows Rd	Turbidity	0.19	0.21	0.23	0.0	0.5	2
Mitchell St	Free chlorine	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.2	4.0	1
Mitchell St	pH	7.42	7.42	7.42	6.5	8.5	1
Mitchell St	Turbidity	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.0	0.5	1
Alice Edwards Villa	Free chlorine	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.2	4.0	2
Alice Edwards Villa	pH	7.60	7.60	7.60	6.5	8.5	2
Alice Edwards Villa	Turbidity	0.20	0.21	0.21	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	November 2023 Test	October 2023 Test	September 2023 Test
Oil & Grease	mg/L	10	No Flow	5	<2
pH		6.5-8.5	No Flow	9.17	9.1
Nitrogen (total)	mg/L	15	No Flow	0.1	9.1
Phosphorus (total)	mg/L	10	No Flow	1.93	2.21
Total suspended solids	mg/L	20	No Flow	115	108
Biochemical oxygen demand	mg/L	15	No Flow	14	16

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 November 2023 was 64mm.
- Hottest day for November 2023 was 36.4 degrees.
- Coldest day for November 2023 was 7.7 degrees.

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Works regarding Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services and Water and Wastewater Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

21.3 PLANNING, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 1102, 1322, 1059, 1165
Author: Dwayne Willoughby, Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Development Approvals			
Delegated Authority or Council	Consent Type & Consent No.	Subject Land	Nature of Development
Nil			
Total value of Approved works for November 2023			= \$0
No. of Development Application & Complying Development Approvals for November 2023			= 0

Building Services Report	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Actioned and ongoing
Contractors	Maintenance works completed as required Upgrade works completed as per Operational Plan

Animal Control		
Bourke Shire Council Holding Facility	Dogs	Cats
Animals in Pound beginning of Month	4	0
Seized Animals	1	0
Surrendered Animals	2	0
Total	7	0
Euthanised	3	0
Released from Pound	0	0
Rehomed/Adopted	0	0
Escaped from Pound	0	0
Died in Pound	0	0
Animals Remaining at End of Month	4	0
Total	7	0
Stock Rested in Stock Yards	0	

- Attended complaints in regard to 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

Swimming Pool Attendance for November 2023	
Adults	332
Children (2+)	1230
Children (<2)	130
School Groups/Other	435
Total for Month	2127

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Planning, Regulatory & Environmental Services regarding Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

21.4 GENERAL MANAGER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 4170
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Current Situation

Relevant activity by the General Manager for the month of November 2023, including meetings and discussions with external organisations, were as follows:

Day	Date	Meeting	Location
Wednesday	01/11/2023	Attended meeting with Peter Thomas and Shona Whitfield - Regional Engagement Officers, Murray Darling Basin Authority.	Conference Room
Wednesday	01/11/2023	Spoke with staff from Minister Jenny Aitchison's Office regarding meeting with Minister in Sydney.	Phone discussion
Wednesday	01/11/2023	Attended LEMC "After Action Review" meeting following 2022 Flood Event.	RFS Headquarters North Bourke
Thursday	02/11/2023	Road and village inspections undertaken with Manager Roads – Janbeth (RLR28), Toorale (RLR10), Landsdown (RLR13), Avondale (RLR 14), Emeroo (RLR29), Wanaaring (MR405), Mooleyarrah (RLR50), Hungerford (MR405) visited villages of Louth, Wanaaring, Hungerford and Fords Bridge.	Louth, Wanaaring, Hungerford and Fords Bridge
Friday	03/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor, the Memorial Service for Cr Peter Abbott.	Cobar
Monday	06/11/2023	Spoke with Gerry Collins – Department of Regional NSW.	Phone discussion
Monday	06/11/2023	Spoke with Miranda Fry – Senior Electorate Officer, Cobar Office of Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon.	Phone discussion
Tuesday	07/11/2023	Chaired LEMC meeting and attended LRC Committee Meeting.	RFS Headquarters North Bourke
Wednesday	08/11/2023	Spoke with staff from Mark Coulton's Office regarding potential funding opportunity for the North Bourke Bridge Project and Remote air strips funding.	Phone discussion
Wednesday	08/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor, a meeting with Mayor Suzette Beresford, and CEO Cassie White, of Paroo Shire Council regarding MOU.	Teams Meeting
Thursday	09/11/2023	Attended Barwon Darling Water Meeting.	Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre
Thursday	09/11/2023	Along with the Mayor, travelled to Tenterfield and	Tenterfield Council

Friday	10/11/2023	attended the Border Regional Organisation of Councils meeting.	Chambers
Saturday	11/11/2023	Along with the Mayor, attended the Remembrance Day Service.	Bourke Cenotaph
Sunday Monday Tuesday	12/11/2023 13/11/2023 14/11/2023	Along with the Mayor, travelled to Sydney and attended the LG NSW Annual Conference.	Rosehill Gardens Racecourse
Wednesday	15/11/2023	Along with the Mayor, attended Bourke High School Opening.	Bourke High School
Wednesday	15/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor a meeting with Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism, the Hon. Yasim Catley MP.	Conference Room
Wednesday	15/11/2023	Attended Bourke Clontarf Academy End of Year Awards presentation.	Bourke High School
Thursday	16/11/2023	Attended the Bourke Shire Council ARIC meeting.	Council Chambers
Friday	17/11/2023	Attended the White Ribbon Day Event.	PCYC
Saturday	18/11/2023	Attended the Bourke Hot Nines Rugby League Nines Tournament.	Davidson Oval
Tuesday	21/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor, the FNWJO Ordinary Meeting.	Teams Meeting
Wednesday	22/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor a meeting with Gerry Collins, Director Regional NSW.	Dubbo
Thursday	23/11/2023	Along with the Mayor, travelled to Sydney and met with Minister Jenny Atchison, the Chief of Staff for Minister Rose Jackson and Local Member, Roy Butler.	Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Friday	24/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor, the Country Mayors Association Meeting.	Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Saturday	25/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor, the Seniors Luncheon.	Back O' Bourke Exhibition Center
Monday	27/11/2023	Attended Bourke Shire Council Meeting.	Council Chamber
Tuesday	28/11/2023	Attended presentation by LGNSW on undertaking Service Reviews for Council operations.	Nyngan Sports Centre
Tuesday	28/11/2023	Along with the Mayor, attempted to attend Wanaaring School Presentation night. Due to inclement weather however, returned to Bourke without reaching Wanaaring.	Wanaaring Road
Wednesday	29/11/2023	Attended meeting with Outback Arts Executive Director, Jamie-Lea Trindall and Ange Bunner, Partnerships and Engagement Officer.	Conference Room
Wednesday	29/11/2023	Attended with the Mayor, a meeting with Mr and Mrs Davis – North Bourke Drainage.	Conference Room

“From the General Manager’s Desk” columns, which appear in the Western Herald Newspaper during November 2023, are provided below.

2 November 2023

Cyber Security

The need for people and businesses to be cyber smart is at an all-time high with reports of scams being most regular. Recently, various Councils across NSW were targeted by multiple phishing activities, including impersonation attacks and payroll diversion scams. Basically, cybercriminals were getting the name and email address information of council employees via Council websites and other means and then sending emails pretending to be those people. These impostors then asked the targeted employee to do things like buying gift cards or changing bank details, and in doing so asking the staff to keep things discreet and only communicate through email.

To mitigate these cyber risks, it is suggested that people take the following precautions:

1. **Be Sceptical:** Always exercise caution when receiving unsolicited emails, especially those requesting sensitive information or financial transactions. Verify the sender's identity if in doubt.
2. **Check the Email Address:** Scammers can easily change the display name for who an email is from, but it is harder to change the address. Always check the email address next to the senders name.
3. **Report Suspicious Activity:** If you receive any emails or messages that seem suspicious, report it to the forwarding organisation immediately.
4. **Verify Requests:** Independently verify any unusual requests, especially those related to financial transactions, by contacting the person directly using trusted contact information, not the information provided in the email.

To assist businesses, the Australian Government has previously established the Cyber Security Centre. The Centre has developed what it calls the Exercise in a Box Tool for businesses. Business can use the tool to develop and test their cyber threat response and understand how they can improve their cyber practices. The tool includes a number of exercises that addresses scenarios such as a ransomware attacks delivered by phishing emails; mobile phone theft and response; being attacked from an unknown Wi-Fi network; third party software compromise; threatened leak of sensitive data; home and remote working and supply chain software.

Further information is available at: <https://www.cyber.gov.au/resources-business-and-government>

Country Mayors Association

Originally established in 1980, the Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc. (CMA) is an organisation formed to advocate to Government in respect of rural and regional councils and issues that affect their communities. Bourke Shire Council, along with 81 other NSW Councils, is a member of this important organisation which represents the vast majority of local government areas outside the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Recently the Association joined forces with the NSW Police Association and NSW Farmers in calling for a Parliamentary Inquiry into crime and law and order in rural and regional New South Wales. The background to calling for such an Inquiry is the unfortunate statistics that show that residents of rural, regional and remote NSW are more likely to be sexually assaulted, more likely to have

their cars stolen, more likely to have their homes broken into and more likely to be impacted by domestic violence, all when compared to metropolitan localities.

The CMA have examined data released by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) to determine their position. What the CMA found, in addition to alarmingly high incident counts in regional New South Wales, was that the rate of incidents per 100,000 people was, in some cases, “horrificing” when compared to metropolitan figures. Up to 90% of crimes including vehicle theft, breaking and entering, sexual assault and domestic assault are happening in regional communities.

We are all unfortunately aware of incidents of crime occurring in our community. The inquiry would bring to the fore the many issues that rural and regional communities constantly face, that is of course, if the inquiry proposal ultimately proceeds. My understanding is that the proposal will be considered this month by the NSW Parliament with Mayor Barry and I certainly seeing it as a worthwhile pursuit.

Basin Plan

The Murray Darling Basin Plan has had a significant negative impact on Bourke Shire. Unfortunately, and despite Councils considerable efforts, it would appear that such negative impacts are not finished yet. The Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 is a piece of Federal legislation that has passed the Federal House of Representatives and is currently before the Senate for consideration. The Bill seeks to make numerous amendments to the *Water Act 2007* and *Basin Plan 2012* including expanding the type of projects that can deliver the Basin Plan target of 450 gigalitres (GL) of additional environmental water.

Council in recent times has been vocal in its opposition to the Federal Governments plans to acquire (buyback) a further 450 gigalitres of water for environmental purposes. Some of the impacts of the Plan on Bourke, as raised by Mayor Barry during recent forums, has been repeated in Federal Parliament by Members of Parliament as they spoke in opposition during the debate on the Bill in the House of Representatives recently. Our Federal Member for the seat of Parkes, Mark Coulton MP, in speaking against the Bill, stated that “the 450 extra gigs that came in later was not part of the plan. I've never supported that, and now we have the member for Indi saying: 'That's fine, leave my area alone. We'll take it from up in the northern basin.' Incidentally, the Parkes electorate represents a third of the northern basin. My community has already been gutted by this. I suggest that the members might like to..... go to Toorale station and see what it's like at Bourke when a hundred jobs and 10 per cent of the ratepayers at Bourke Shire Council are removed.”

In addition, as part of a Statement to Parliament by a Member on the Basin Plan matter, Rowan Ramsey MP, Member for Grey which is centred on Port Pirie SA, made comment regarding a recent Senate enquiry hearing at Moree. He stated “that Barry Hollman, the Mayor of the Bourke Shire Council, said: “When they bought Toorale (station and water) it was like taking BHP out of Wollongong. Ten percent of our productivity was gone. It used to employ 100, now it employs three. Schools closed. We lost two tractor dealers and the Ford and Toyota dealerships.”

If you're interested in reading what our Nation's political leaders are saying about further water buy backs, you can read the House of Representatives Hansard from Wednesday 18 October 2023 available at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard

Caravans

As a “caravanner” I have noted not only a significant increase in the number and size of caravans on the road, but also a significant increase in the number of news articles which report on caravan related accidents. The industry advice is that overweight vehicles and a lack of experience are the key factors contributing to these caravan incidents. In a lot of cases, drivers simply attach the new van and head off with basically no experience in respect of not only driving such a large load, but also making sure their van is packed such that their load is correctly balanced.

To assist “caravanners” in Bourke, Transport for NSW will be hosting a Safety Information and Caravan Weighing Day in Bourke, tomorrow Friday 3 November, from 9am-2pm at the Back O' Bourke Information & Exhibition Centre, Kidman Way. It is a great opportunity to make sure that your car and van are up to the task.

When towing a van, “I know caravans” or “nothing will ever happen to me” approaches aren't appropriate. As an example, a friend of mine and his new wife were recently on their caravan honeymoon, when, travelling along a freeway near Melbourne at some 100km/h, their van became unhooked from the tow ball of their tow vehicle. The van fell and scraped along the ground, being held to the vehicle by safety chains. As a long time triple road train driver, my friend had the wherewithal not to hit the brakes but rather coasted to a stop after the van had reacted rather violently when it came off the tow ball. Whilst he acknowledged that it was his fault as he hadn't checked the vans locking system on the tow ball, the couple acknowledged they were very lucky that the honeymoon didn't come to a very quick end.

Quote: “There are only two different types of companies in the world: those that have been breached and know it and those that have been breached and don't know it.” — Ted Schlein – US Venture Capitalist talking on IT data breaches Capitalist.

9 November 2023

Welcome Baby Back

In my weekly column of 21 September 2023, I wrote regarding the then upcoming “Welcome Baby Back to Bourke Community” event being an excellent initiative of the Western NSW Local Health District. I am delighted to note that the Secretary of NSW Health, Ms Susan Pearce AM shares my views of the event with the “Welcome Baby Back to Bourke Community” winning the Secretary's Award at the recent 25th Anniversary NSW Health Awards in Sydney. This is a major award with the Secretary, NSW Health being the person responsible for the overall governance, oversight and control of the NSW public health system and public health organisations, including public health system performance. In this capacity, the Secretary, NSW Health has the function of giving directions to local health districts, to ensure that they fulfill their statutory and financial obligations and to assist the State meet its own obligations as system manager. The Secretary is also responsible for entering into performance and Service Agreements with local health districts and employing staff of local health districts on behalf of the State. That is one very important role.

The “Welcome Baby Back to Bourke” ceremony reduces the cultural disconnection and gives the babies a sense of identity and belonging right from the beginning. Babies go into life knowing who they are and the country that they belong to. They can take pride in their culture, their traditions, and their identity. It is a significant way to connect new babies to their community, country and

Aboriginal Elders. The ceremony is facilitated by Aboriginal Elders and Health staff. It includes a traditional welcome, a formal welcome and a presentation of the children to the community. The whole family is involved and supported by other community members and importantly acknowledged by the Aboriginal Elders. In 2021, 32 babies were welcomed in the ceremony, this number increased to 35 babies in 2022. Additionally, a special ceremony where 137 older children (3 - 21 years) were welcomed to Bourke was held. The 2023 ceremony was held 26 September with 30 babies being welcomed to Bourke.

My congratulations go out to all involved in this important cultural event for our community. From the initiators of the ceremony right through to the families who participate in the ceremony, all are to be congratulated on the receipt of this award.

Net Zero Emissions

Readers have no doubt heard the term “Net Zero”. The NSW Government has committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050 (OEH 2016). Achieving net zero emissions seeks to slow down the increase in global temperatures and the associated increased likelihood of climate-related risks for natural and human systems. This will require action by governments, communities, and business. Working towards a net zero emissions target is about more than meeting our obligations, it will help us plan for and drive the transition to a cleaner, more efficient and resilient society. The world which we live in today is in transition. As the world moves to net zero emissions, Australia will be part of the global transformation of the world’s energy system. This will attract investment and job opportunities in emerging industries such as advanced energy, transport, carbon farming and environmental services. Councils are uniquely positioned to help the drive towards net zero emissions through their connection to local communities, and their existing mandate to provide support and infrastructure to residents and businesses. Net zero related actions include carbon-positive energy efficient buildings, smarter infrastructure, renewable energy technologies, circular economy waste solutions, sustainable transport services and increasing canopy cover and green restoration projects.

As part of the pursuit of Net Zero Emissions, I am happy to share a great initiative that residents can use in regard to Solar. This initiative is titled SunSPOT and it has been developed by the not-for-profit, Australian PV Institute and built by solar engineers at the University of NSW. Supported by the Australian and NSW Governments, the SunSPOT website allows householders and business owners to undertake a simple but reliable roof assessment of their property in regard to their energy usage and solar provisions. Before getting quotes from solar sales companies, users can quickly and simply get key benchmark figures from SunSPOT to help them understand solar on their roof. Users can learn what their suggested system size for the best return on investment is and get an estimate of the cost, annual savings, and what size system they can fit on suitable parts of their roof. Users can also find out about potential savings from installing a battery. SunSPOT is free and private to use, so get your most recent electricity bill and try the website at: www.sunspot.org.au.

NSW Public Works

NSW Public Works is a state government organisation whose operation in NSW dates to 1859. Public Works have a very strong history of bringing major projects to fruition including the icons of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. Council regularly engages with and utilises the services of NSW Public Works who provide an extensive range of infrastructure

services for state and local government agencies. Its staff are engaged in asset and facilities management; architectural, landscape and urban design; heritage and conservation; and all aspects of project management and water cycle management. Most recently Public Works undertook the project management on behalf of Council in respect of the successful construction and commissioning of the new Bourke Water Treatment Plant. Their expertise in delivering major infrastructure projects is of great benefit to their clients.

I was interested to recently review their 2022/2023 Annual Report which reported that over the past financial year, Public Works had supported **1,983 critical projects** across NSW and partnered with **more than 300 government agencies and councils**. Reflecting the wide expertise that Public Works “brings to the table”, they also worked across **more than 40 asset classes**, helping rural, regional and metropolitan communities realise the benefits from the federal and state governments' significant investment spend. They also helped NSW **communities recover** from the horrible natural disasters of last year and for Bourke Shire Council, they are but a phone call away for assistance and advice, as was the case during our floods of last year.

Water Update

Towards the end of October 2023, NSW Water provided its monthly update on the state of all things water throughout NSW. I noted that throughout the State, total rural storage levels are at 88% of the total accessible storage capacity, compared to 102% this time last year. In terms of the climate and water outlook, the Bureau of Meteorology have now released their long-range forecast overview for the November to January which, and there are no surprises here, predicts that median rainfall is likely to be below average for NSW; above median maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely; maximum and minimum temperatures are two and half times more likely to be unusually high and the El Nino and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole are underway. A video of this overview can be accessed at the following link:
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/video>

November

It's been around for quite some year's now, but Movember is a great and successful initiative across the world each November to raise the level of knowledge in respect of men's health and raise funds to undertake research to improve men's health. Men's health is an issue. Men die on average 4.5 years earlier than women, and for largely preventable reasons. A growing number of men – around 10.8M globally – are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Globally, testicular cancer is the most common cancer among young men, and across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day, with males accounting for 69% of all suicides. These are not good figures. Movember encourages men to grow a moustache and in doing so, they seek sponsorships to raise funds to undertake men's health research projects globally.

At this stage in November, it's probably too late to start growing an effective moustache come 30 November! However, if you know someone who is growing that sometimes elusive moustache, please donate and assist this most important of causes.

Quote: “They are trying to bulldoze through with a [basin] plan that will shut down farms, destroy jobs and increase the price of food.” – National Farmers Federation President, David Jochinke, commenting on the Murray Darling Basin Plan water buy back proposals.

16 November 2023**Roads Inspection Tour**

Councils Roads Manager, Paul Flanagan, and I recently undertook a tour of the western edge of the Shire to look at the condition of our roads and inspect various road projects that Council currently has underway. Whilst it was a long day, travelling close to 800 kilometres (km), the maintenance of Councils rural road network is one of our more challenging issues. With Councils transport assets having a value approaching \$213 million, and with the potential for further Government funding in upcoming months, I was keen to see the issues firsthand with respect to our roads. Whilst “out and about” we also took the opportunity to say hello to various village residents.

Our travels on the day commenced with an inspection of works recently completed on Janbeth Road (RLR28). This project involved 20 km of gravel re-sheeting. From there we travelled to Toorale Road (RLR10) and drove from the roads beginning to its end, in the Bourke Shire at least, at the Central Darling Shire boundary. We inspected 20km of gravel re-sheeting works which are currently underway along the road, meeting with the contractor who is undertaking/project managing these works.

Whilst travelling Toorale Road, we diverted into Louth and inspected the new picket fence that now surrounds the Louth Cricket Ground. It is a sight to behold. Paul and I also identified signage in the Village that required upgrading. We also inspected the progress of construction relating to the new bowling green in the Village, noting that the contractors had completed the concrete surrounds and the sub-base of the green had also been compacted. All in all, the project is progressing well.

From Toorale Road we travelled across to, and then along Landsdown Rd (RLR 13), onto Avondale Rd (RLR14), turned off onto Emaroo Rd (RLR29), before coming back onto Avondale Rd and then onto Wanaaring via Wanaaring Road (MR405). At Wanaaring, it was lunch at the local store where we were able to chat with various locals. From Wanaaring we travelled to Hungerford along the Mooleyarrah Road (RLR 50) and met with the grader crew who are undertaking a maintenance grade of this road. In Hungerford it was through the border gate and into Queensland and onto the Hotel to say hello to the publican. After Hungerford it was back to Bourke via Yantabulla and Fords Bridge on the Hungerford Road (MR404).

All in all, a most worthwhile day and in coming months Paul and I will be looking to inspect the many other roads in our Shire.

Council Elections

The NSW Local Government Act provides that an ordinary election of councillors for each council area in the State is to be held on the second Saturday of September in every fourth year. As per this cycle, an ordinary election for Bourke Shire Council would normally have been held on Saturday 12 September 2020. However, due to the outbreak of COVID and resulting restrictions, these elections were subsequently postponed till 4 September 2021 and then again until they were ultimately held on 4 December 2021. In Bourke, the number of nominations to be a Councillor received equalled the number of Councillor positions available. This situation, referred to as an uncontested election, resulted in the 10 candidates who nominated duly elected to

Bourke Shire Council. The term of these Councillors is for 3 years instead of the normal 4 years, with the next election to be held on 14 September 2024.

Given that we are now but ten (10) months from these next elections, I would encourage community members to start thinking about running for Council for the Council term commencing September 2024 and ending September 2028. As the NSW Office of Local Government states, as a Councillor, you get to represent “the community’s needs, wants and aspirations and make important decisions on behalf of the community. You don’t need any formal qualifications and you will receive training, fees and superannuation if you are elected.”

The Office of Local Government has previously produced a document titled “Stand For Your Community – All you need to know about becoming a Councillor in NSW.” Whilst the guide is dated May 2021, the guide is a great starting point to assist you in deciding whether you would like to run in the upcoming Council election. The guide is available at:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/become-a-councillor-section/information-for-candidates/>.

Christmas in the Park

In conjunction with Maranguka Community Hub, Council is again holding the Christmas in the Park event from 5:30pm - 8.00pm at Central Park on 8 December 2023. With entertainment, a giant slide, jumping castle, sumo wrestling, a kid’s playground, markets and food and drink stalls, along with the obligatory visit by Santa and his Elves, a great evening is again anticipated. All are most welcome.

If you are interested in being a stall holder and selling your market wares to gain those extra dollars for Christmas, then Council would like to talk to you. If you are interested in holding a stall, please contact the Back O' Bourke Information & Exhibition Centre on 6872 1321 or send an email to info@backobourke.com.au and staff will be able to help you with any enquiries you may have.

Regardless of whether you are a stallholder or not, please mark the date of 8 December 2023 in your diary to attend this annual event which, traditionally, has been very well supported by the Bourke community.

Australia Day Awards

Don’t forget that nominations for the Bourke Shire Council's annual Australia Day Awards for 2024 are now open. With awards for Citizen of the Year; Junior Citizen of the Year; Sportsperson of the Year; Junior Sportsperson of the Year; Village Service Award; Emergency Services Person of the Year, and a new award, being the Event of the Year Award, nominations close with Council at 4.30 pm on Monday 4 December 2023. The nomination process allows residents to input into recognising those in our community that have made outstanding contributions to the local community during 2023 and/or contributions to the local community over a number of years. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.bourke.nsw.gov.au or by accessing a copy from Council at 29 Mitchell St, Bourke.

Award winners will be announced at the Australia Day ceremony to be held at the Bourke Wharf precinct on Friday 26 January 2024.

Preparing for Summer

By all accounts it's going to be a very hot summer. Already in Bourke we have recently experienced temperatures approaching 40 degrees Celsius. The NSW Government is understandably most concerned at the threat of bushfires, storms and floods and heatwaves based on what occurred in the most recent northern hemisphere summer, where all these events occurred, some at a catastrophic level.

With summer being the time to get out and enjoy the warmer weather and focusing on the risks of storms and heatwaves in Bourke, it is important that we take the time to now prepare for like events such that if they do occur, the community can respond quickly and efficiently. It is important that we understand the specific needs and risks for ourselves, our households and our community. It is also important to stay informed, take preventative measures where you can and plan the steps you need to take when an event occurs. In terms of storms, now is the time to prepare your home for storms to help keep you, your family and the community safe. Check your roof and keep it in good condition, clean gutters, downpipes and drains to prevent blockages, trim trees and overhanging branches, and put away loose items that can blow around in strong winds. Further information is available at the following link on the State Emergency Services home page: <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/getready>.

In respect of heatwaves, as mentioned, the authorities are saying that there is an increased risk of heatwaves this summer. Your everyday actions can make a difference to staying cool and healthy. If you or your family are more at risk or sensitive to heat, NSW Health provides information on its website as to how to Beat the Heat:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/beattheheat/Pages/health-in-hot-weather.aspx>.

When the expected hot temperatures do arrive, reduce the risk by preparing your home by shutting windows and blinds, using fans or air-conditioning and by avoiding use of the stove or oven.

Quote: "The whole region is sinking in a sea of hatred that will define generations to come." - Jordans Foreign Minister talking about the current situation in the Middle East.

23 November 2023

North Bourke Bridge

The restoration of the iconic North Bourke Bridge has been a focus of Council for many years. Significant progress has essentially been delayed however, due to the unavailability of adequate funding. In more recent times, Council has engaged with NSW Public Works and their expert bridge engineer, to develop a brief of works that would be required such that Council is able to seek quantified funding to undertake the restoration of the bridge and when funding is available, be able to invite tenders for the actual works.

With a brief of work with NSW Public Works now in place, Council has been able to secure \$400,000 of funding from the Transport for NSW - Get Active Program to undertake the design and documentation phase in respect of ultimately undertaking work to restore the bridge. At this point it is important that the community is aware that it won't be financially feasible to restore the bridge and approaches to the same extent as to what it originally comprised. To this end, Council has adopted a series of desired outcomes to lead the restoration as follows:

- a) To make the bridge an attraction of choice to visitors, tourists, the local and surrounding communities, in conjunction with the historic Jandra Paddle Steamer tourist attraction.
- b) To restore the bridge to allow pedestrian and cyclist access and to provide for weddings and other similar community functions.
- c) To restore the wrought iron lift bridge span to a safe and accessible condition, with the lift span to remain fixed in position.
- d) To restore the iron structure as deemed necessary.
- e) To make safe the bridge decking, by removing the existing timber decking and replacing with new alternative decking material, that allows visibility to the iron trusses below and reduces future deck maintenance costs.
- f) To demolish and replace the timber approach structures with other suitable access such as concrete or steel approaches (approx. 3-4m wide), and possibly accommodating a maximum loaded truck of 15 tonnes.

In developing the project brief with NSW Public Works, what quickly became evident from discussions, inspections, and reports, were concerns regarding the significant deterioration of the timber approaches to the bridge itself. The level of decay to the timber approaches to the bridge has been an issue for some time. Public access to the bridge has been barricaded off since 2015 (northern end) and then 2016 (southern end) with the bridge being now fully barricaded. As a result of the latest inspection, the level of deterioration of the timber approaches were of such significant concern to PWD and the Bridge Engineer that PWD advised Council that “due to the hazards to the public and the heavily deteriorated condition of the timber approach spans, our view is that the approach spans should be demolished as early as practicable”.

Accordingly, the initial phase of the bridge project will comprise the development of documentation and a recommendation regarding the engagement of a contractor to undertake the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the bridge. To achieve this deconstruction, the project will need to obtain heritage, environmental and other statutory approvals and undertake community and stakeholder engagement. Project procurement, project management, demolition and bat management plans will need to be developed, a cost estimate prepared, and a risk assessment undertaken, All this is before a contractor is engaged to de-construct the timber approach spans.

The good news is that the wrought iron component of the bridge appears to be generally in a good condition. Work will need to be undertaken to make the centre span of the bridge safe noting that the weights that once enabled the centre section of the bridge to be raised, such that paddle steamers could pass under the bridge, are still in place and are placing some structural forces on the bridge. This phase of the project would see studies undertaken such that the design and documentation would be prepared to make the bridge safe and ultimately allow the installation of new decking and the construction of new bridge approaches. Once all this documentation is in place Council can, with confidence, seek Government funding to undertake the actual physical works.

Community engagement is most important on projects such as this. In the goodness of time Council will be inviting interested community members to participate in the engagement process for the bridge and in this regard, such meetings will be advertised in the Western Herald and on Councils Facebook site and website.

Fuel Prices

If we thought that fuel prices in Bourke and across the western region were expensive, we should spare a thought for people in New Zealand. A friend of mine recently spent time in Auckland and sent me a photo of the price of fuel in the north island city of some 1.5 million people. Premium 98 Unleaded Fuel in Auckland was close enough to NZ \$3.28 per litre. Converted to Australian dollars, that's \$3.02 a litre. When I received the photo of the fuel prices, I happened to be driving through Dubbo, where the price of 98 fuel that day was \$2.16 per litre. 91 Octane fuel in Auckland was NZ \$2.94 (AUS \$2.71) whilst in Dubbo on the day I was there, it was \$1.93 litre. That's a big variance between the two (2) countries. The interesting fuel type was in respect of the price of diesel. In Auckland, diesel was NZ \$2.38 (AUS \$2.19). Diesel in Dubbo was recently \$2.24. Go figure!

National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program

Across Australia, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission undertakes quarterly wastewater sampling at 55 waste treatment plants to measure drug use across Australia. Whilst the actual name of the localities is not identified, 55 locations across the Nation are party to their wastewater being analysed. 20 sites are in capital cities with a further 35 in regional localities. In NSW, the split is 3 cities and 6 regional locations. Coincidentally these 55 treatment plants cover 55% of the Australia population, which is about 14 million people. The Commission recently released its report for the quarter ending June 2023. The data obtained is simply amazing whilst the results are a concern in terms of the level of illegal drug use across the Nation. Such usage levels obviously raise the question, "where are these drugs coming from?" with the report underlining "the pervasive and ongoing threat posed by serious and organised crime groups through their exploitation of Australians to derive large illicit profits" from drug trafficking and production.

From the sampling, the Commission reported that for the quarterly period alcohol, nicotine, methylenedioxyamphetamine (also known as MDA and sass), oxycodone, fentanyl and cannabis consumption in regional locations sampled across the nation exceeded the consumption of such drugs in capital cities. The usage of ketamine across the nation is at an all-time high and whilst an anaesthetic, it is used illegally for its hallucinogenic effects. Between December 2022 and April 2023, the population weighted average regional consumption of MDMA, heroin, fentanyl and cannabis all fell. On the other side however, the average regional consumption of alcohol, nicotine, methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDA, oxycodone and ketamine, all increased. As you would expect, alcohol and nicotine have the highest level of consumption across all locations given that they are legal drugs. Cocaine consumption was much higher in the capital cities compared to regional parts of the country with population weighted heroin consumption in the capital cities being more than triple that in regional Australia. Oxycodone use in the regions was more than double that of city-based use. Methylamphetamine consumption was marginally higher in the capital cities than in regional Australia with NSW having the highest consumption on a state basis.

I found the report to be compelling. If you are interested, further information is available from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission website by accessing the publications tile at, <https://www.acic.gov.au>

November Council Meeting

Council's next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Monday, 27 November 2023, at 9.15am in the Council Chamber. A Public Forum is scheduled at each Council Meeting at 9.00 am. If you wish to address the Public Forum, please contact Council's Executive Assistant, Margo Anderson on 68308000 or by email at ea@bourke.nsw.gov.au, by 4.00pm, Friday 24 November 2023, so that your item can be placed on the agenda.

Quote: "Across Australia, the death rate from melanoma is dropping. The incidence not as much" Professor Georgina Long after receiving her award as NSW's 2024 Australian of the Year along with Professor Richard Scolyer.

30 November 2023

Abattoir

I took the opportunity to recently call my contact at the Thomas Foods International (TFI) Bourke Abattoir for my regular catch up to see how matters were progressing at the abattoir. Located some 18 kilometres north of the Bourke township on the Mitchell Highway, I was delighted to learn that for the Abattoir, it continues to be "full steam" ahead following the re-opening of the plant in September 2022. TFI have just employed another 60 staff with more staff likely to be employed before Christmas. The plant is currently slaughtering 2000 goats and 500 (light 16-24kg) sheep per day. My contact advised the TFI plant in South Australia is not currently slaughtering goats and hence the company expects to increase their Bourke plant slaughter numbers in coming weeks, with stock already booked in until the end of January, at this point.

This is a fantastic story for Bourke. The vision shown by the original developers, the financial assistance provided by the Federal Government, the significant work undertaken by many at Council and the subsequent work, knowledge and significant injection of funding by TFI, has resulted in a development that is already an important component of the Bourke community. In TFI the Bourke community has an operator that is a major exporter of meat products with access to markets in Asia, North America and Europe. TFI processes some 100,000 sheep and lambs, beef and goats every week at its various locations including plants at Bourke, Murray Bridge (SA) and Tamworth. I certainly look forward to further progression at the Bourke abattoir.

Drought Resilience

As I have said before, with every day that passes we are a day closer to ultimately descending back into drought conditions in the Bourke Shire. After three (3) good seasons and with a long hot summer being predicted, we are, unfortunately, no doubt getting closer to deteriorating climatic conditions. Recognising the cyclical nature of our weather patterns, the NSW Government recently announced the commitment of \$250 million in funding to establish the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund (DRRF). Designed to bolster the resilience of NSW farmers for future adverse weather events and climatic conditions, such as drought, eligible primary producers can apply through the DRRF for a low interest loan of up to \$250,000. If in receipt of a loan, it can be repaid over a period of 5 or 10 years. The loan can be used to fund a broad range of products, activities and services, including the purchase and transportation of fodder and water; livestock feeding equipment; veterinary and animal welfare professional services; genetic banking; fencing and containment pens; shade structures; planting of trees; farm income diversification projects; pest

and weed control; solar power conversion; soil conservation and earthworks; training and development; infrastructure repairs and maintenance ; and the purchase and installation of new on-farm infrastructure.

It is certainly an extensive list of potential projects with the fund being administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA). In addition to this fund, the Farm Innovation Fund has been rebadged and will now be known as the Drought Infrastructure Fund. This fund will provide eligible producers with loan funding of up to \$1 million with a 2.5% fixed interest rate and a 20-year repayment period. Further information about both the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund and the Drought Infrastructure Fund is available from the Rural Assistance Authority website: <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au>.

Cricket World Cup

I like watching cricket. Have done so for most of my life. Whether it be a T20, a one day international or a test match, I am a fan. I must admit however, that the odds of Australia beating India in the final of the One Day Cricket World Cup at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad India, were fairly long in my mind leading into the game. With a sea of Indian supporters dressed in blue expected at the world's largest cricket stadium for the game, the 132,000-capacity ground and the supporters didn't disappoint. As Billy Birmingham says in mimicking Bill Lawrie in the 12th Man parody, "It's all happening, the tension, the drama, the buzz, the atmosphere!" The final certainly had it all. What stood out for me was the strength of the leadership of Australia's captain, Pat Cummins. When he chose to field after winning the toss, I just thought to myself, "What are you doing?" It was in fact a stroke of genius. It wasn't until Travis Head took a super catch to dismiss the Indian Captain, Rohit Sharma, and shortly thereafter Virat Kohli playing a Pat Cummins ball onto his stumps, effectively silencing the very pro Indian and rather raucous crowd, that I started to think, "we can do this." And did it they did, winning in 43 overs, with 6 wickets in hand. I would love to say that I thought, "Never in doubt!"

I can't however say that, but I got to see one, if not the best World Cup wins, by any country of all time, with some fantastic batting by Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne during the Australian batting innings. The ironic thing with these two (2) players is that it was touch and go as to whether Head would continue on tour after fracturing his hand back in September whilst Labuschagne was originally overlooked in Australia's extended 18-member squad for the World Cup when the squad was picked in August this year. With subsequent injuries to Steve Smith and then Cameron Green, Labuschagne was called into the squad and ended up playing in all 19 of Australia's One Day Internationals since he was dropped from the side in August. Everything happens for a reason.

Network Outages

The recent Optus network outage, which affected some 10 million people across the nation, has not only cost the Optus CEO her job, but it also brought home to many people just how reliant we are on our home broadband or mobile phones. Waking up to no internet or no mobile phone left many people in somewhat of a spin. In a similar vein, now that we are moving towards an expected volatile summer period in terms of heatwaves and storms, we should be prepared for the prospect of network outages.

In terms of being prepared, Telstra have recently released information on “How to prepare and stay connected during a natural disaster.” This can be accessed by going into the Telstra website <https://www.telstra.com.au> and searching for “prepare for natural disaster”. Whilst we probably all think, “I don’t need that” however when the system crashes, it will good to be prepared.

Volunteer Charter

Volunteers are a major and important component of our community. I would suggest that there would be no Bourke Show, no Bourke Picnic Races and no Back O’ Bourke Stampede, as recently conducted, to name but a few events, if not for volunteers getting involved and “pitching in.” Following consultation with the volunteering sector across the State, the NSW Government has developed the NSW Volunteer Charter, an initiative of the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020-2030. The Charter sets out a standard code of conduct that any volunteer involving organisation can adopt to ensure that all involved are working to a common benchmark of good behaviour and quality practice. It provides a way to deliver best practice, support good communication and positive relationships.

The NSW Volunteer Charter is made up of 10 guiding principles, and is supported by a NSW Volunteer Charter Companion Document that provides guidance on how each can be implemented to support sector capacity building and improve the volunteering journey. The NSW Volunteer Charter is a free resource available to all volunteer involving organisations. It is a flexible tool that can be adapted to meet all organisations’ circumstances and can be used to complement existing Codes of Conduct.

If you’re running an organisation that involves volunteers, I would suggest you download a copy of the NSW Volunteer Charter by visiting, <https://www.nsw.gov.au> and then search for volunteer charter. Always good that all involved in pursuing an outcome are heading in the same direction of the pursuit.

Quote: “We urge the Australian side to respect the facts, stop rude and irresponsible accusations toward China, engage in endeavours that are conducive in boosting mutual trust, and build a positive atmosphere for developing better bilateral relations and military-to-military ties.” A Chinese Government spokesperson responding to claims about a sonar incident that recently injured Australian navy divers.

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding General Manager Activity for October 2023, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

21.5 LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 2780
Author: Jodi Hatch, Library Manager
Authoriser: Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development
Attachments: Nil

Current Situation

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

Item	November 2022	November 2023
Loans	623	700
New Members	9	9
Internet/Word Processing	29	48
Wireless Tickets	15	13
Number of Visitors	592	671
Scans	20	30
Information Requests	81	91
Technical Assistance / Printing	56	55
Faxes/ Laminating	8	0

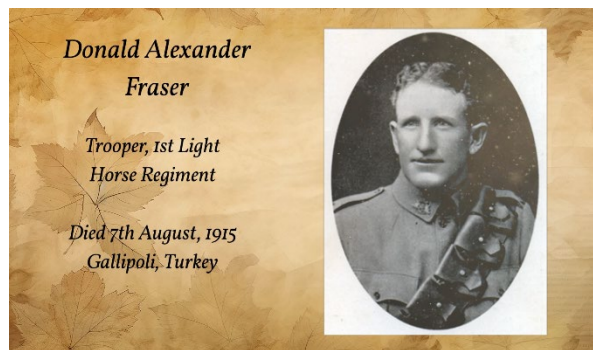
- Craft this month had the theme of Diwali – Festival of Lights. The children loved playing with the clay to make tea light holders and using the coloured sand to create mandala pictures.



- Bourke Library staff visited the Bourke High School this month to talk to the students about the Summer Reading Club and school holiday activities. Whilst there a number of promotional bags were handed out to the visitors touring the high school.
- At LEGO Club this month the children enjoyed a creative session with no theme. They were able to use their imagination to create anything they liked.



- The Library commemorated Remembrance Day this month, with a display of pictures and newspaper articles in the library. A new slideshow was also released on the Library’s social media accounts featuring those Bourke men who gave their lives in World War I.



Recommendation

That the report of the Library Manager regarding Library Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

21.6 TOURISM AND EVENTS ACTIVITY REPORT

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

Background

The Tourism and Events Report provides Council with a status report relating to the activities of the Tourism Team through visual data including graphs and statistics to allow for the measurement of the team’s progress and performance.

Current Situation

During November 2023, the Tourism and Events Team participated in the following activities:

Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre

Performance Indicator	October 2023	November 2023	Trend	% Change
Vend Turnover (ex GST)	\$62,229.05	\$11,883.30	(\$50,345.75)	-80.90 %
Visitor Numbers	1661	1047	-614	-36.97%
Email Enquiries	462	301	-161	-34.85%
Incoming Calls	370	174	-196	-52.97%
Website Enquiries	1,800	1,300	-500	-27.78%
Exhibition Tickets	463	179	-284	-61.34%
PV Jandra Tickets	567	Not operational		
PV Jandra Cruises	27	Not operational		
Café Turnover (ex GST)	\$26,150.00	Closed for extensions		
Café Event Catering	4	3	-1	-25.00%
Functions	1	10	9	900%
Mt Oxley Tickets	115	38	-77	-66.96%
Tour Groups	5	1	-4	-80.00%
Financial YTD Turnover (ex GST)	\$338,073.00	\$349,956.30	\$11,883.30	3.52%

Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre

BOBEC continued operations 7 days per week in November 2023 with normal hours Monday to Sunday 9:00am to 5:00pm.

November was another busy month for the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre Garden staff who have been watering, pruning and spraying burs. Other staff activities included maintenance work around the site, cleaning, repainting, oiling decks, updating procedure manuals, mulching gardens,

preparing merchandise for sale, and participating in preparations for the Christmas Markets and “Light Up the Night” Christmas Light Competition.

The pontoon stairs at the “Wellbeing Area” are under construction and nearing completion.

The information Centre has been quiet since the Café closure, visitors and locals continue to purchase merchandise.

Café and Functions

Café renovations have commenced and are progressing without incident. The Café continues to provide catering utilising the Function Centre kitchen.

There were 10 functions booked in November. These included a wedding, six (6) meetings, one (1) graduation and two (2) Christmas parties.

Coach Bookings

There was one (1) tour group for the month.

Crossley Engine

The Crossley engine was started every week day, until 30 November when the season concluded.

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	2559
Sep	5074	4275	4764	4489	4532	4246	4676	3601	3325	0	2203	2234
Oct	3967	2383	2486	2370	2475	2463	3574	2222	5246	409	1094	1661
Nov	930	789	671	610	1031	876	1014	1220	1989	866	710	1047
Dec	347	207	242	272	281	255	630	860	1194	897	586	
Total	27649	31044	32253	34750	33906	32537	39454	32984	19122	13647	19142	

Events

Back O’ Bourke “Light up the Night”

The Back O’ Bourke “Light up the Night” Christmas Competition is being held again this year. Stock up on your Christmas decorations and lights by purchasing them from our local businesses and be in the running to win the award as the best Christmas Light display in Bourke for 2023. Residents and business operators are encouraged to decorate their home or business premises and get into the festive season.

Entry is Free! Judging will commence Thursday, 14 December until Sunday, 17 December 2023 with the winners to be announced over 2WEB on Tuesday 19 December 2023 with business voucher to be won.

2023 categories include;

- Best Rural Lights Display
- Christmas Spirit Display
- Creative and Festive Display
- Best Nativity Display



next

prizes

Australia Day Celebrations and Awards Ceremony



Bourke Shire Council has once again received funding from the Australia Day Council to host the 2024 Australia Day Celebrations and Awards Ceremony.

In January, Council will host the event at Darling Park, corner of Mitchell and Sturt Street Bourke on the Friday morning of 26 January from 8am.

The Rotary Club of Bourke will provide those in attendance with a free BBQ Breakfast.

The official ceremony will commence at 9am. Bourke Shire Council will once again welcome an Australia Day Ambassador through the Australia Day Ambassador Program. The program is one of the longest-running and most successful national Australia Day Programs sending high achieving Australians to over 300 community celebrations nationwide

every Australia Day.

Ambassadors are past recipients of the Australian of the Year Awards, sportspeople, scientists, business people, actors and community workers who provide inspiration and pride to Australia Day events and activities.

Nominations for awards have been extended and now close on Thursday, 14 of December 2023.

Deckhand Training – Jandra Crew

On Wednesday, 29 and Thursday, 30 November 2023 six (6) staff and two (2) contractors completed the Elements of Shipboard Safety (ESS) Course in Bourke at the BOBEC function Centre and onboard the Jandra PV. Core units included:

- Apply basic survival skills in the event of vessel abandonment



- Follow procedures to minimise and fight fires on board a vessel
- Meet work health and safety requirements
- Survive at sea using survival craft.

All staff in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the training and believed it was a great opportunity to complete the training alongside the trainer onboard the Jandra and out at the Darling River.

Financial Implications

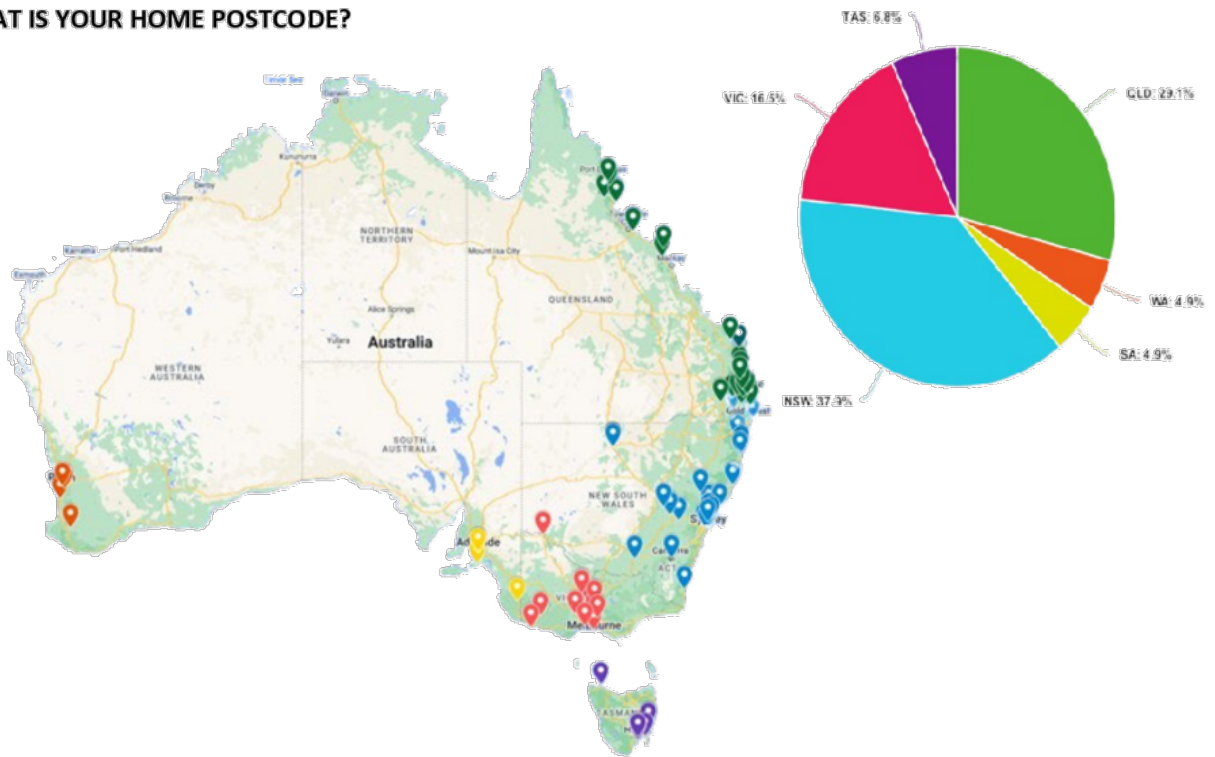
There are no financial implications.

Recommendation

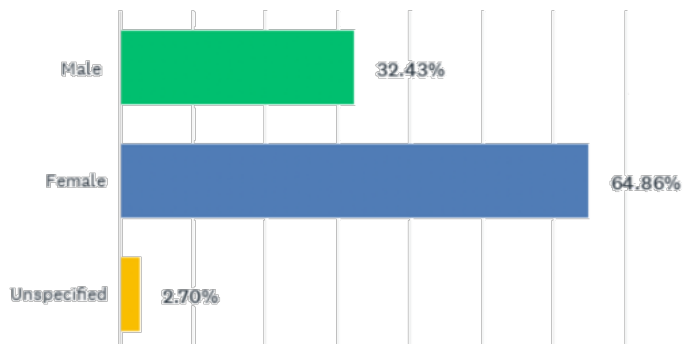
That the report of the Coordinator Tourism regarding Tourism and Events Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 18 December 2023, be noted.

NOVEMBER 2023

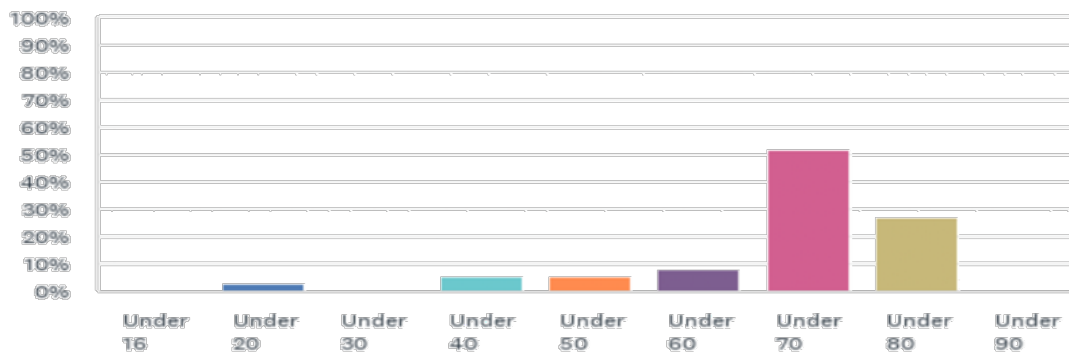
WHAT IS YOUR HOME POSTCODE?



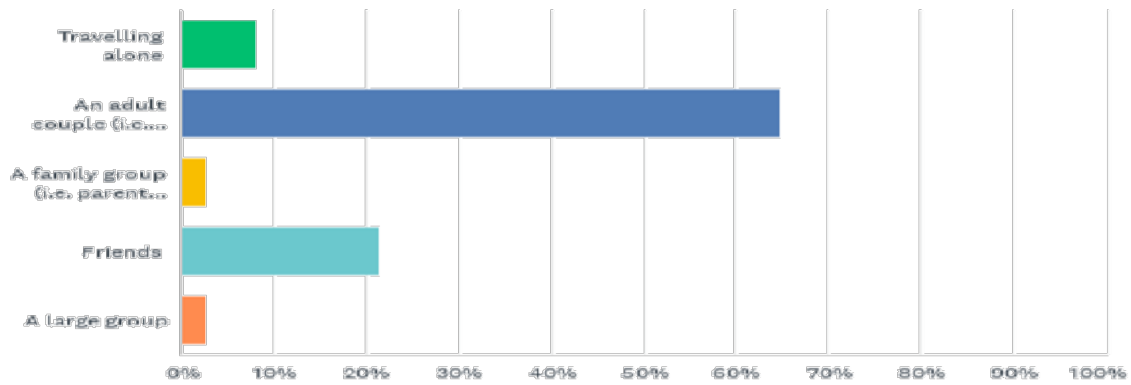
ARE YOU MALE OR FEMALE?



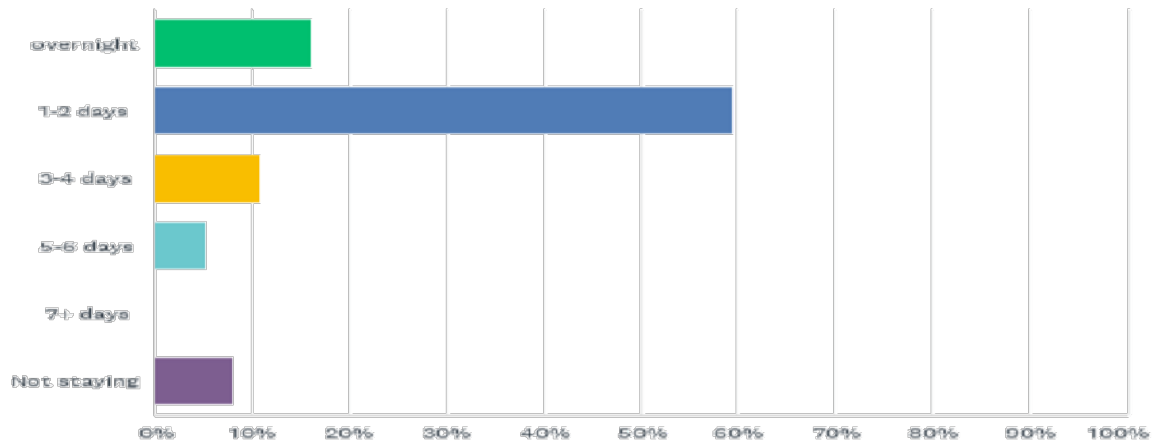
WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



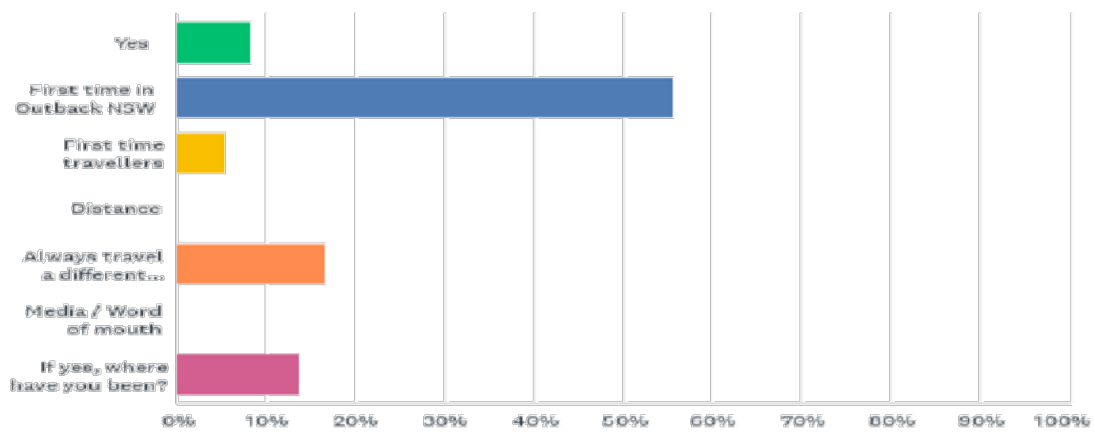
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PARTY?



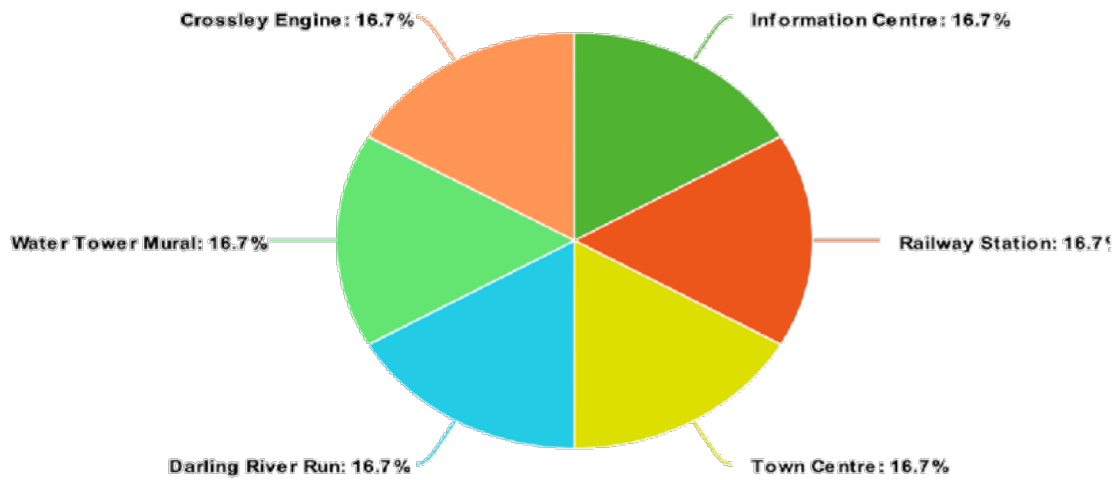
HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING FOR?



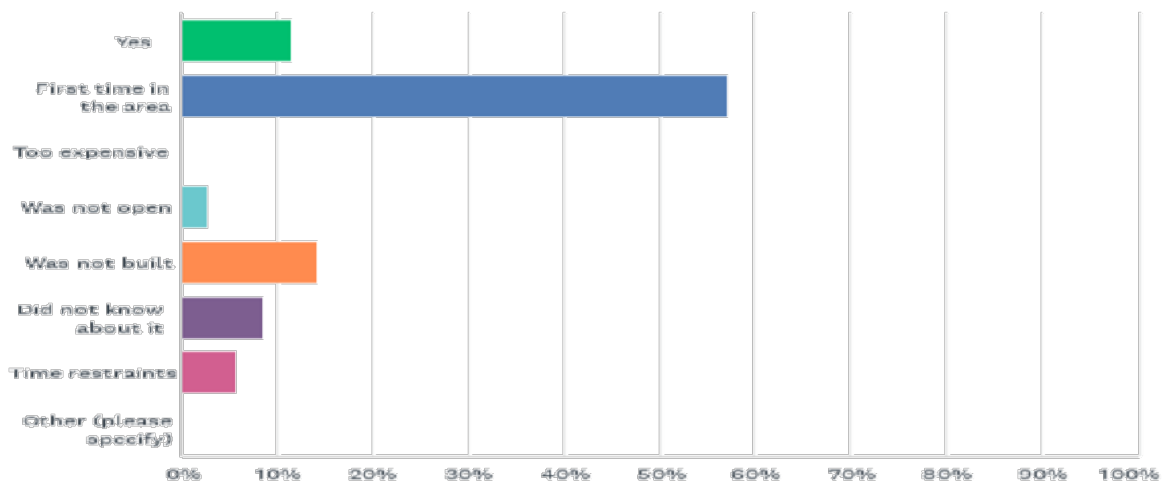
HAVE YOU BEEN TO BOURKE BEFORE?



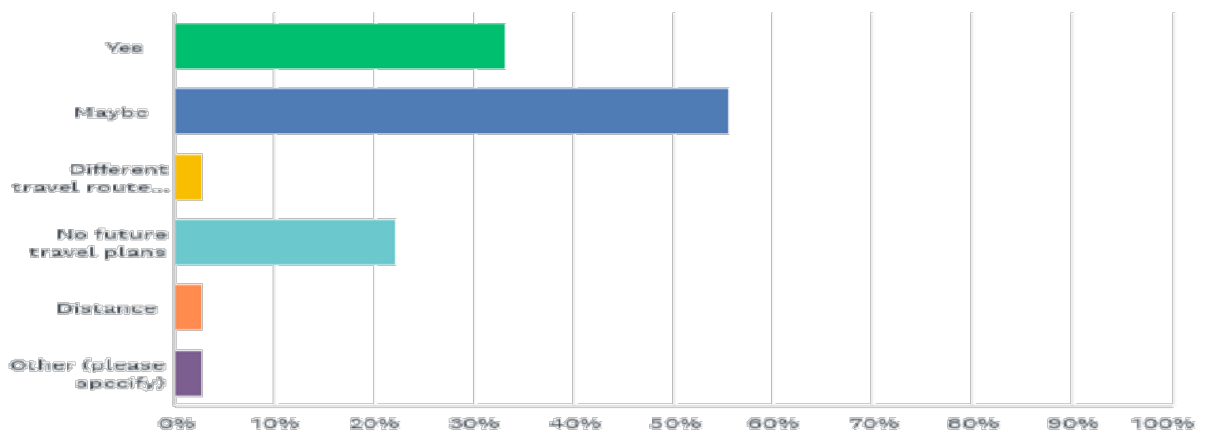
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH BACK O BOURKE CENTRE?

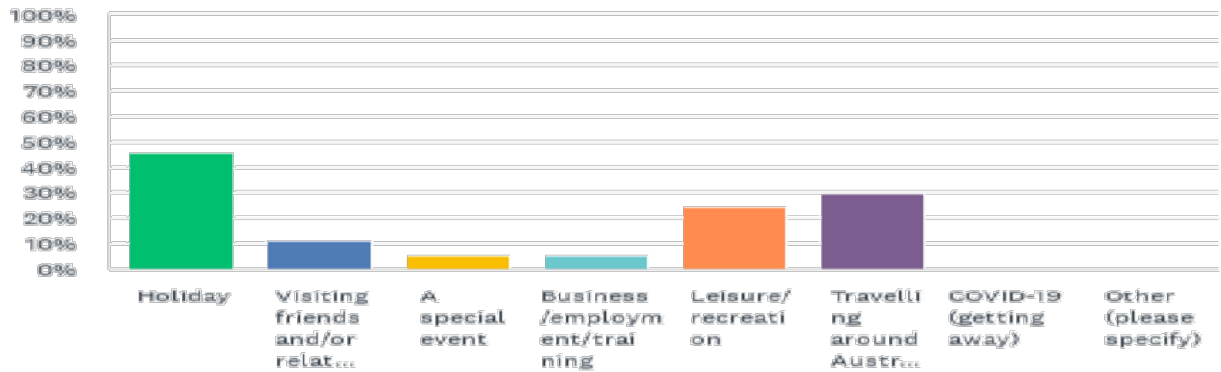


WILL YOU BE RETURNING TO BOURKE?

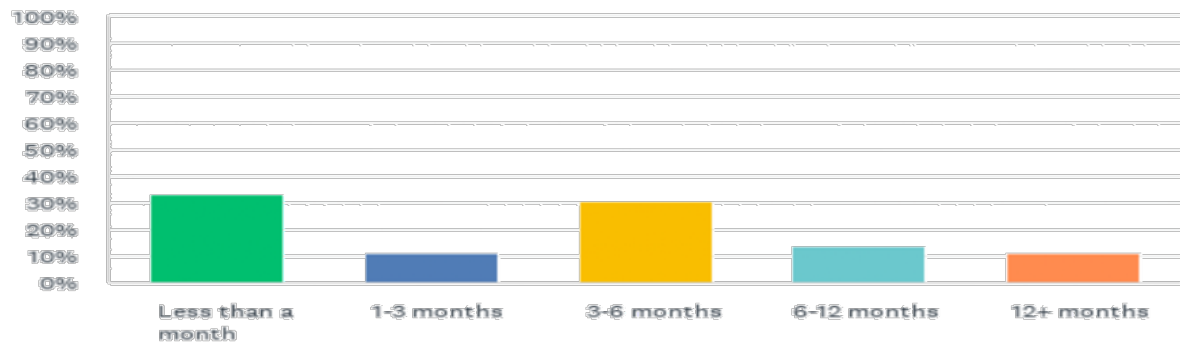


Only one answer for Other: "many other places to see. I'm doing a weather map tour. Had one month free so grabbed a rail pass and headed for the towns shown on the weather map each night."

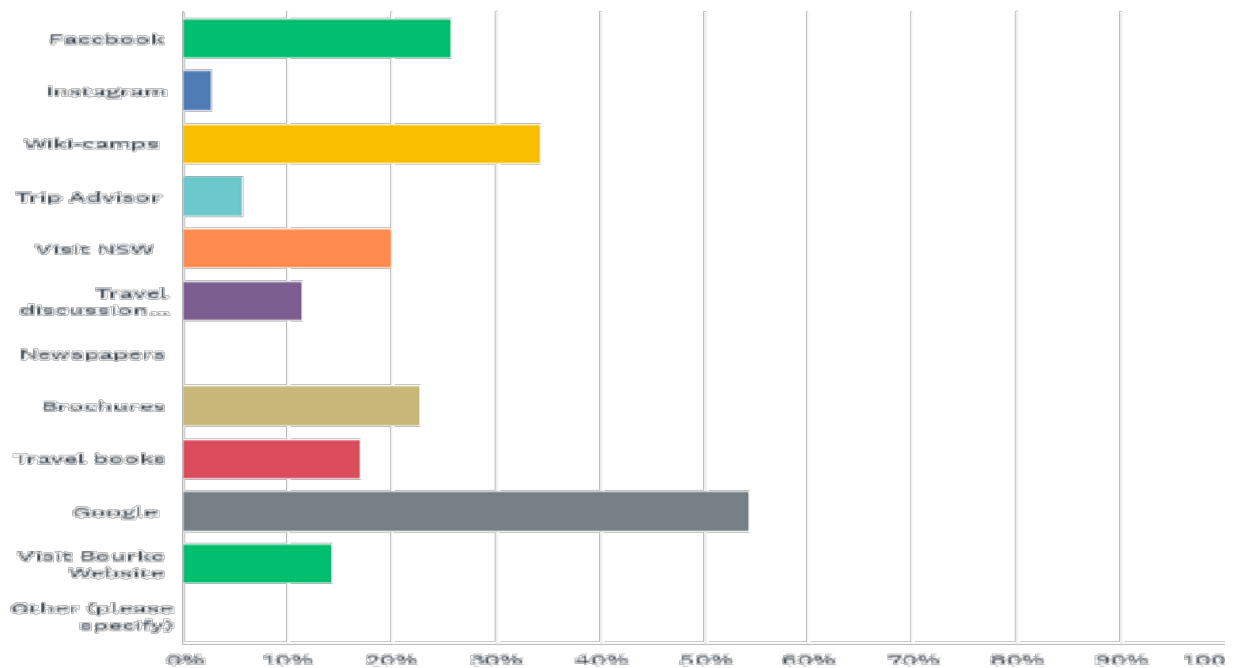
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP?



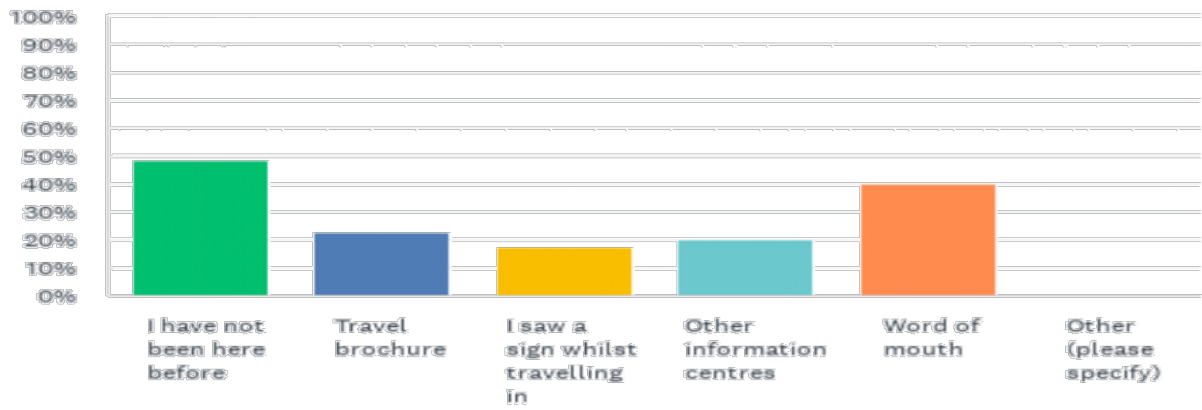
HOW LONG AGO DID YOU PLAN FOR THIS TRIP?



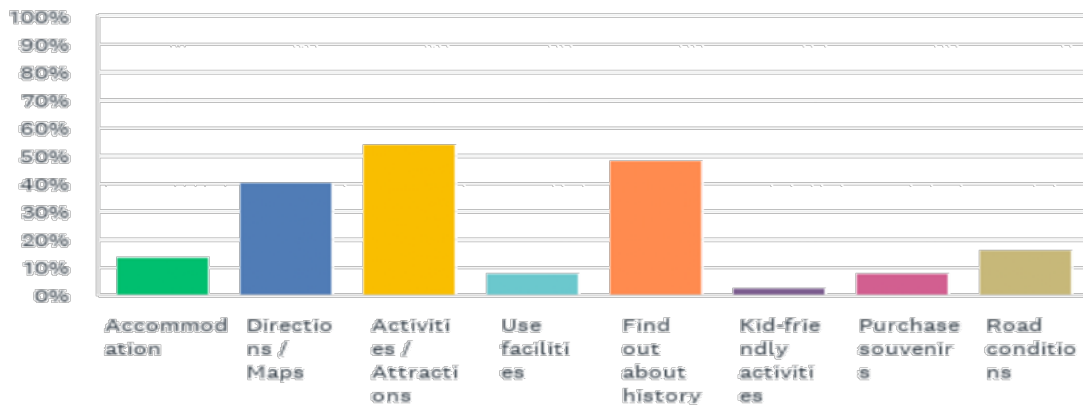
WHAT FORMS OF MEDIA DO YOU USE TO FIND INFORMATION?



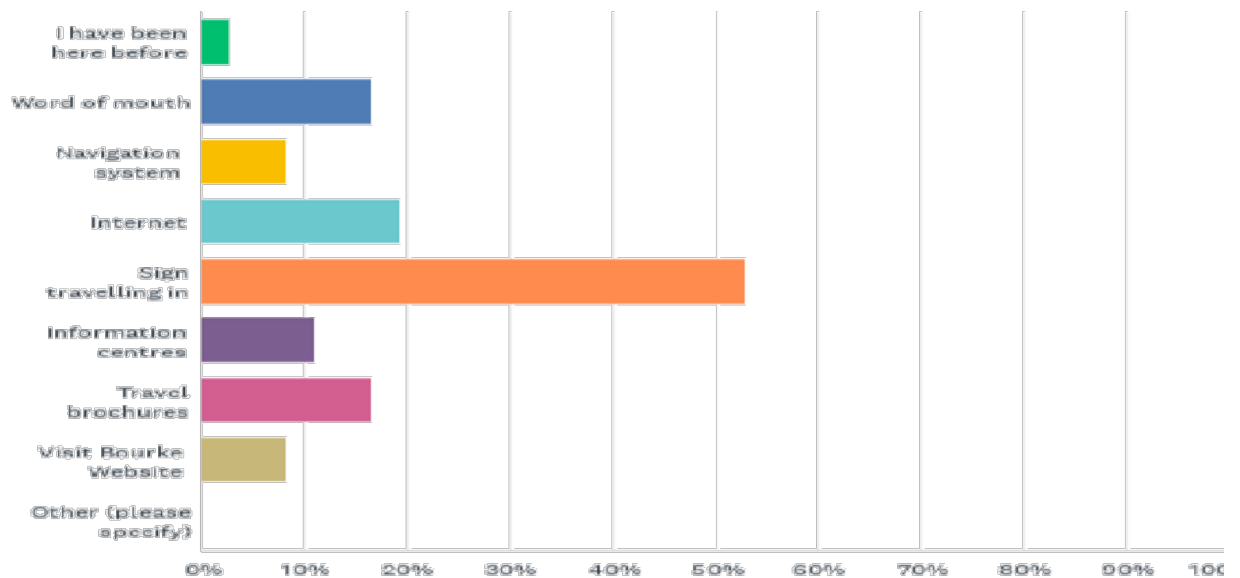
WHAT DETERMINES YOUR DECISION AS TO WHERE TO GO?



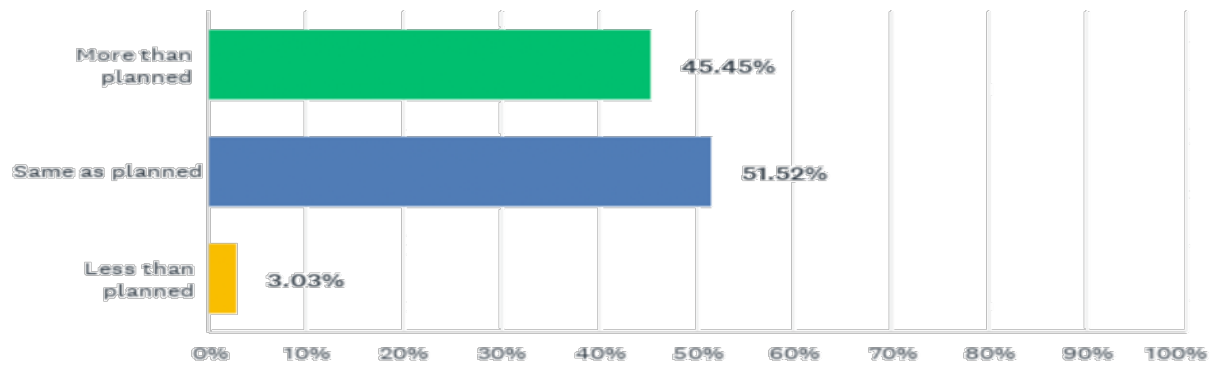
WHAT INFORMATION ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AT THE INFORMATION CENTRE?



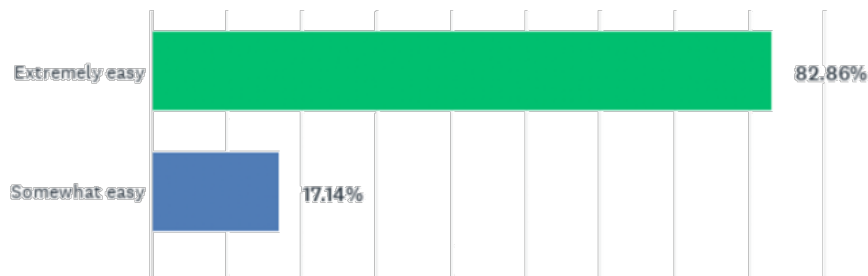
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE?



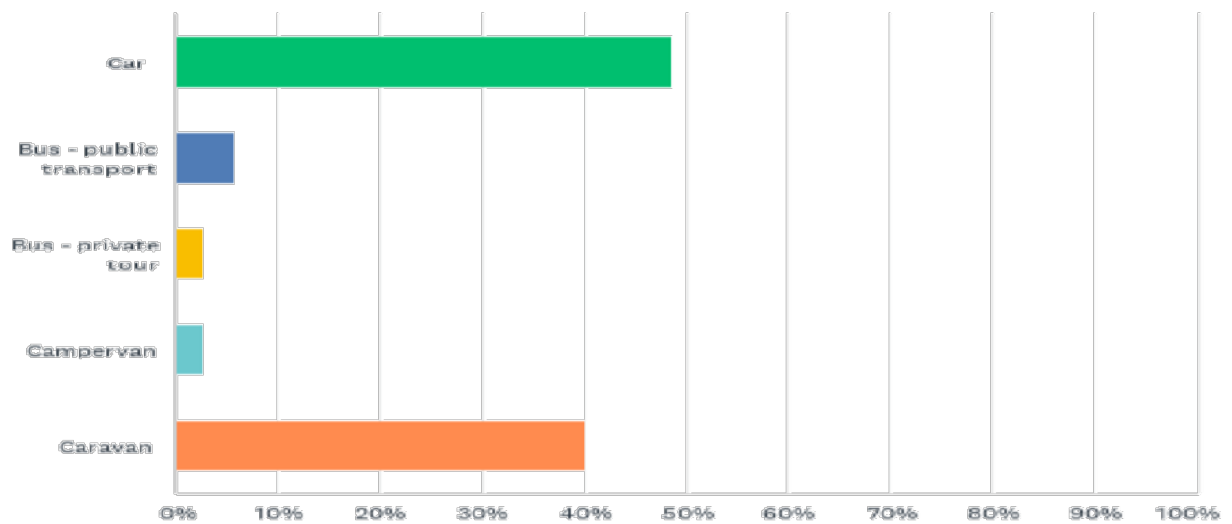
HOW DO YOU THINK THE INFORMATION THAT YOU GAINED FROM THE CENTRE MIGHT INFLUENCE HOW LONG YOU STAY AND THE ACTIVITIES YOU DO?



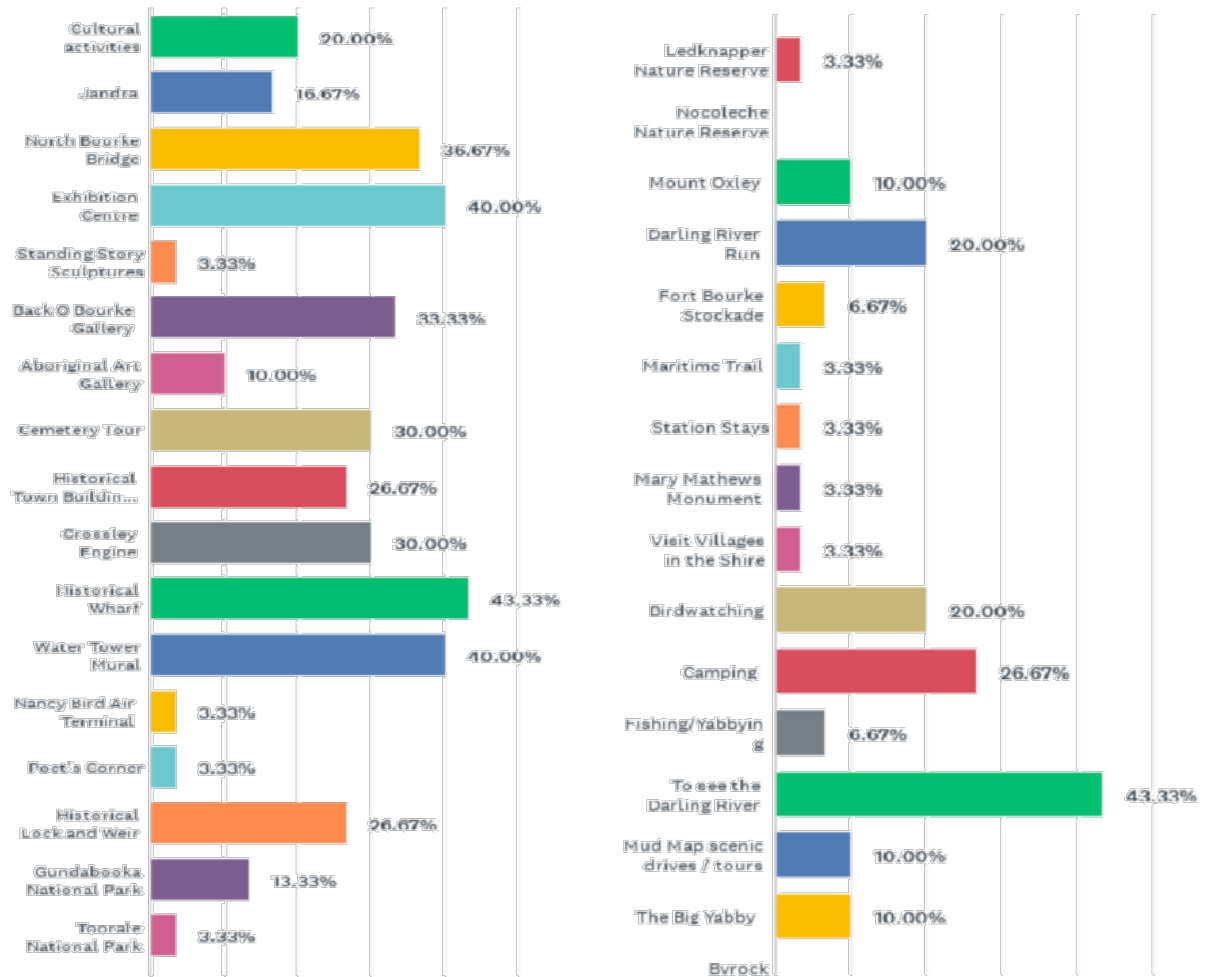
IN YOUR OPINION, HOW EASY WAS IT TO FIND OUR LOCATION?



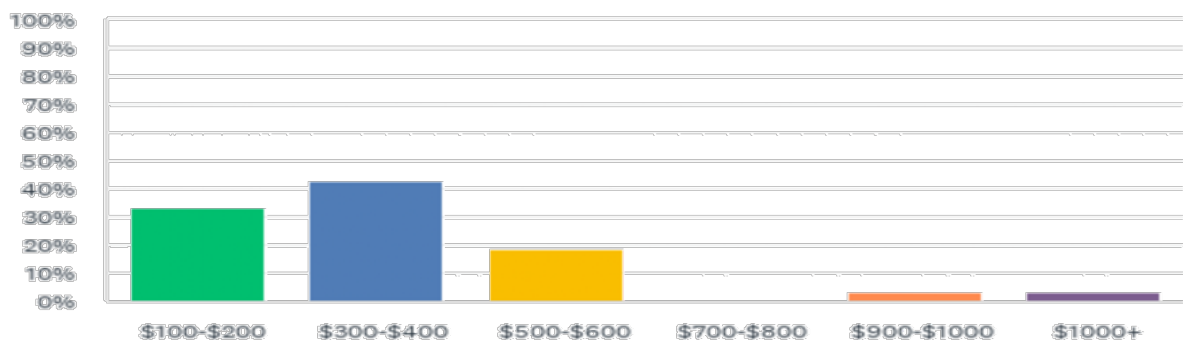
HOW DID YOU TRAVEL TO BOURKE?



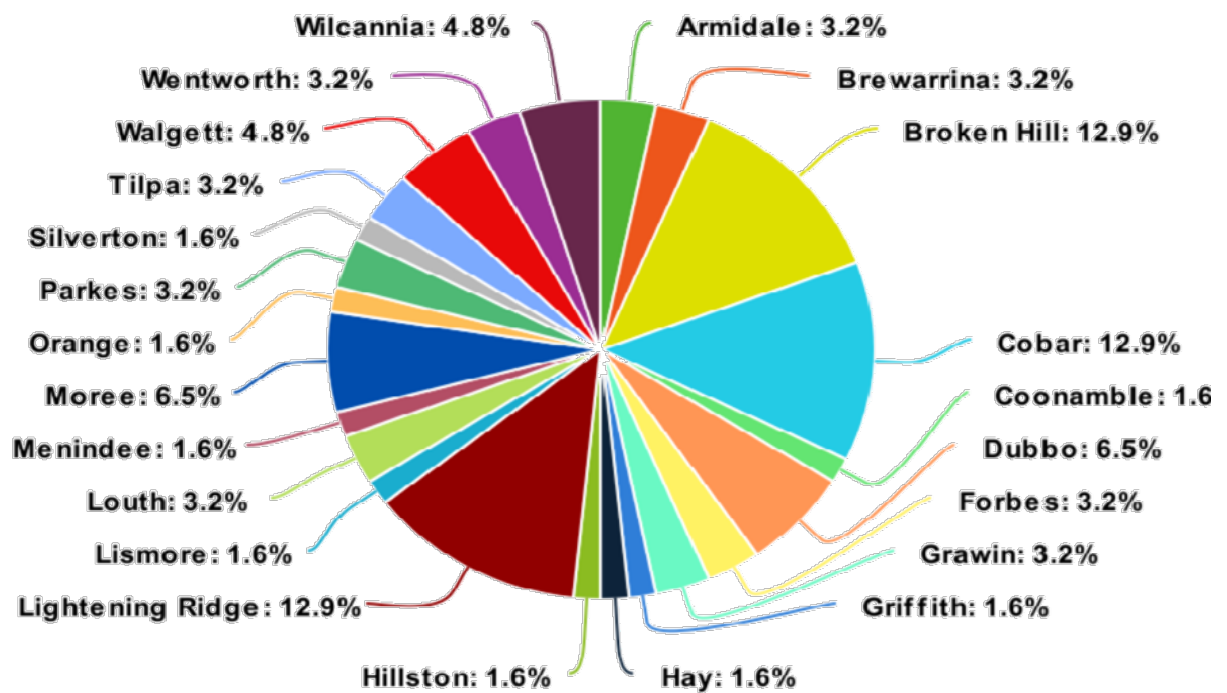
WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU DONE OR PLAN TO DO DURING YOUR STAY?



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



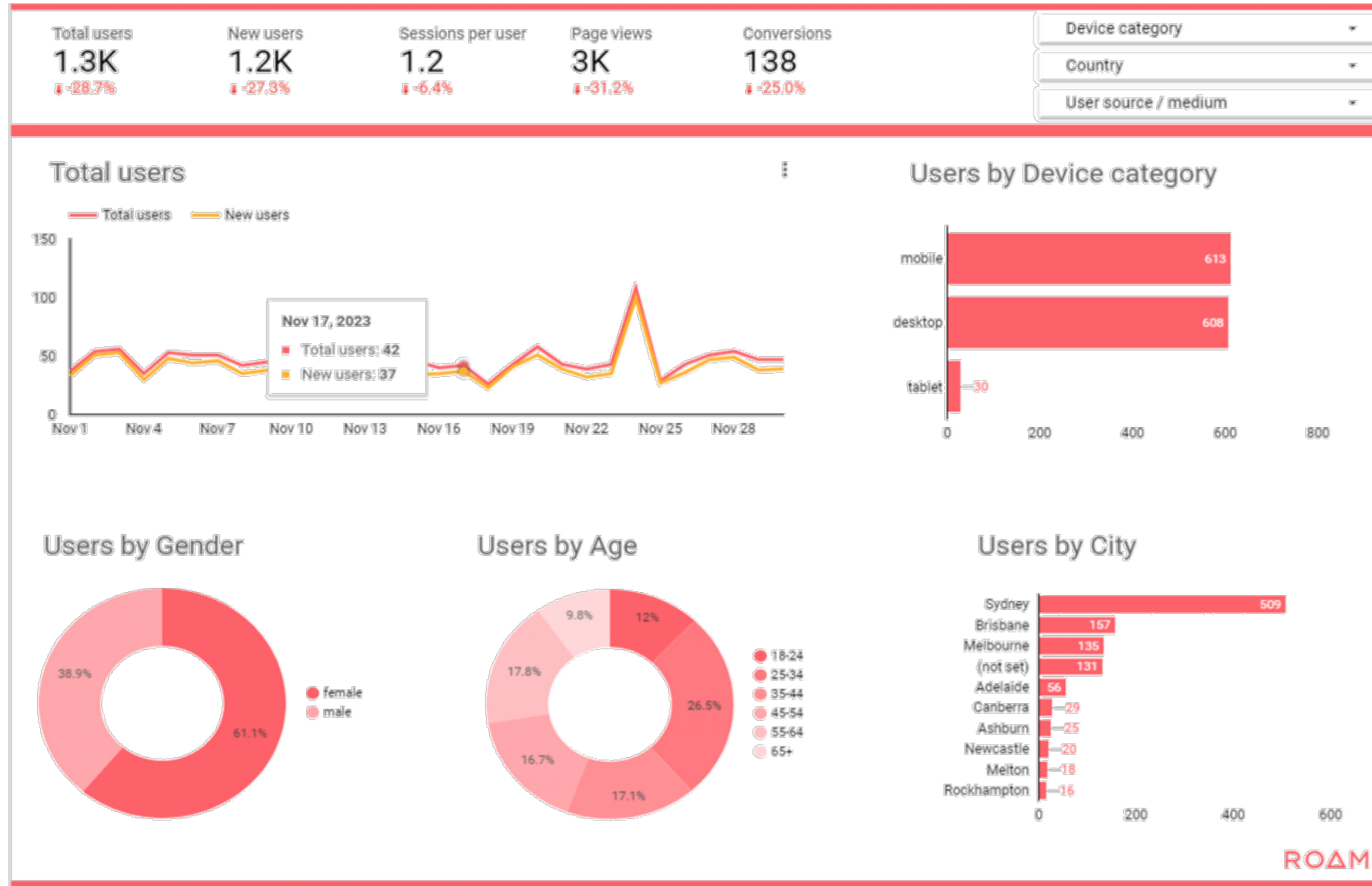
WHAT TOWNS HAVE YOU VISITED, OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO VISIT ON THIS TRIP?



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

- "Stayed at Kidman camp which is a lovely oasis. Bakery was great euro bread, pies and cakes"
- "Beautiful town. Friendly people"
- "Very cool"
- "Wonderful"
- "Shame the area has such " turn switch off" mentality to tourist season, perhaps a shoulder activities wind down would see more tourists still visit"
- "Mays bend is lacking signage"
- "Great town"
- "I did a fair bit of research as I had to make sure I could get accommodation at each place and the train worked. Not one site mentioned a defined tourist season. I knew it was going to be hot but shut. An operator in lighting ridge rang around the main accommodation to tell them a tour would be on if we got 3 more...we did. Maybe an off season contact."
- "This is an excellent facility. You need to explain what it is (I didn't realise) and suggest 1 hr to enjoy the stories. Promote it as a destination (esp for families)."
- "You do a wonderful job linking aboriginal culture to the district. #voteyes!"

BOBEC Website Statistics November 2023



22 CLOSED SESSION

Recommendation

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

22.1 * Tender for the Provision of Building Trades and Services**

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 * Wanaaring Road Works – Road Reserve**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (a) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

22.3 * Tender for Disposal and Supply of New Prime Mover (10/24)**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.4 * Tender for Disposal and Supply of New Grader (08/24)**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

22.5 * Tender for the Disposal and Supply of New Backhoe (09/24)**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (d)(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

