



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

## “From the General Manager’s Desk”

### **Premiers Visit**

It was a very busy day last Tuesday with a visit to Bourke by NSW Premier, the Hon Chris Minns MP. It was certainly the Premiers first visit to Bourke in his capacity as Premier. Weather wise Bourke certainly turned it on with a top temperature on the day of 39 degrees. Whilst I acknowledge that it has been hot everywhere, the difference with summer temperatures in Bourke is that the heat is sustained as opposed to Sydney where, after a very hot day, a southerly buster generally comes through late afternoon to shave 15-20 degrees off the day’s temperature to cool everything down. Mayor Barry took the opportunity to talk to the Premier, focusing his time with him on the issue of water security for Bourke and Councils associated push for the Government to increase the height of the Bourke Weir.

Also in Bourke last Tuesday was the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Western NSW. In town as part of Bourke being chosen as one of the nine (9) locations around the State for roundtable discussions regarding the NSW Governments review of the Regional Development Act and the Governments development of a new Regional NSW Investment Strategy the Minister was keen to hear of local needs and priorities to help guide Government investment in regional areas. Whilst Council obviously took the opportunity on the day to put forward its views on regional development opportunities for our community, members of the community are also able to give feedback on the future of regional development in NSW. If you would like to lodge a submission, you can provide feedback online by visiting [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au) or by accessing the Governments website at [www.nsw.gov.au/regional-development-roadmap](http://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-development-roadmap) and completing the online survey. Submissions close on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

On the issue of regional development, and whilst Sydney is a good place to visit, I struggle to understand how the average person can afford to live there and deal with the traffic. I have been an interested observer, from afar, of the traffic mayhem that has resulted following the opening of the Rozelle Interchange at the eastern end of Victoria Rd in Sydney. I am most familiar with this part of Sydney where, with the old road, it was a sweeping left turn at the end of Victoria Rd to go into the Sydney CBD or await a green light to turn right to go to Glebe. With the opening of this new interchange, traffic at this intersection basically came to a stop with reports of people sitting in traffic for 10 minutes and travelling just 90 metres. That’s a paltry average speed of 0.54 kilometres an hour! In most regional localities across the State, you can move from your house and be at work well within 10 minutes and that alone is a big benefit of living in the regions.

### **Australia Day**

Friday 26th January 2024 is the date for Australia Day 2024. All residents and visitors are invited to join Bourke Shire Council, the Rotary Club of Bourke and the Bourke community to help reflect, respect and celebrate during our breakfast and awards ceremony commencing at 8am. With the official ceremony and ambassadors address commencing at 9am in Darling Park Bourke - corner of Sturt and Mitchell

Street, Bourke, all community members and visitors to our town are invited to attend and be part of the morning's activities. At the conclusion of the ceremony those in attendance will be able to help themselves to a piece of the giant Australia Day lamington tower cake. Following the breakfast celebrations, all are invited to head to the Bourke War Memorial Olympic Pool Complex where its free entry for the day with free slushies also available to help shake the summer heat. During the afternoon there will also be plenty of pool activities and games for the entire family. So come along and join in a day of activity.

## **Waste Collection**

There will be no domestic waste collections from the kerbside in Bourke on Christmas Day, Monday 25 December 2023. Rather, for those residents who normally have their domestic waste bins collected on a Monday, it is requested that these residents place their bins at the kerbside on Saturday evening, 23 December 2023. This will then allow the collection to be undertaken on Sunday morning, 24 December 2023. The New Year's Day collection on Monday 1 January 2024, will be undertaken as per normal arrangements.

For those businesses who are customers of Councils Trade Waste Service, it is advised that there are no changes to the trade waste collection cycle over the Christmas/New Year period.

## **Road Work**

Councils Roads Manager, Paul Flanagan, was very upbeat recently when he advised me that Council Road Crews had completed gravel re-sheeting works on Councils Rural Local Road (RLR) 10 from Trilby Station to the Central Darling boundary in the southwest section of the Shire. This is a great job to have completed and my thanks go to team leader, Paul Gibson, and his competent team. With work on sealing the section of road from Louth to Trilby Station programmed to commence in the new year, the works completed to date will assist residents and tourists alike with access during periods of dry times inhibited with the road having turned to bulldust in a number of areas making it difficult for all vehicles to travel on.

Whilst on the topic of roads and travelling, I would encourage everyone to take care on the roads over the Christmas/New Year holiday period. Speed, fatigue and alcohol are the big issues that contribute to accidents. Slow down, be rested and ensure that you take the appropriate breaks. If you intend to have a couple of drinks, ensure that you have a "Plan B" in place.

## **Christmas Close Down**

Don't forget that over the Christmas/New Year period, Council will close its main Office and Library from 4.30pm today, Thursday, 21 December 2023 and re-open at their respective regular opening times on Monday, 8 January 2024. All other facilities (including the Swimming Pool, Waste Depot and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre) will also be closed on Christmas Day but re-open during the balance of the Christmas/New Year period. These facilities may however operate with changes to the hours and days of operation, as required. Council will continue to provide essential services to ensure the health and safety of the community, during this Christmas/New Year Period and during January, when many staff are on leave. A list of opening times for its various facilities is available on Councils website: <https://bourke.nsw.gov.au>. If you have need to contact Council due to an emergency during the closedown period, you can contact the Duty Officer on 0419 722 055.

## **Christmas Wishes**

I take this opportunity to join with Bourke Shire Mayor, Barry Hollman, his fellow Councillors and the staff of Bourke Shire Council in wishing everyone a joyous Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy 2024. This year seemed to have passed in a flash with the Darling River being at major flood level 12 months ago seeming to be in the very distant past.

**Quote: “Can I refill your eggnog for you? Get you something to eat? Drive you out to the middle of nowhere, leave you for dead?” — Clark Griswold, “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation”**