



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

Date: Monday, 28 October 2024
Time: 10.15am
Location: Bourke Shire Council
29 Mitchell Street Bourke NSW

BUSINESS PAPER

Ordinary Council Meeting

28 October 2024

Leonie Brown
General Manager

Time	Event	Representative	Organisation
9.00am	Community Open Forum for members of the public to address Council		



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.

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- 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 FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

The Activities of the Mayor from 19 August 2024 to 13 September 2024 were as follows:

Date	Meeting	Location
26/08/2024	Bourke Shire Council Meeting	Bourke Shire Council Chamber
26/08/2024	Attended dinner with Councillors and Staff	Back O' Bourke Function Centre
28/08/2024	Meeting with the Hon. Ryan Park, NSW Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for Illawarra and the South Coast	Bourke Health Service
29/08/2024	Annual meeting of General Manager's Performance Review Committee	Conference Room
05/09/2024	Meeting with Essential Energy	Via Audio Visual Link
06/09/2024	Attended the Police Remembrance Ceremony	Police Station

Recommendation

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities for the period ending 13 September 2024 as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024 be noted.

7.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - MAYORAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 11 TO 18 OCTOBER 2024

File Number: 1707
Author: Lachlan Ford, Mayor
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

The Activities of the Mayor from 11 to 18 October 2024 were as follows:

Date	Meeting	Location
11/10/2024	Border Regional Organisation of Councils (BROC) Meeting. Matters discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross boarder Law and Order – Moree bail changes. • Dog Fence. • Inland Rail. 	Via AVL
18/11/2024	Meeting with Rod Crowfoot – Managing Director, Macquarie Homestay Matters discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support from Bourke shire. • Upcoming fundraising events. • Usage by Bourke Shire residents. • Growth plan. 	Council Chamber

Recommendation

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities for the period 11 to 18 October 2024 as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024 be noted.

8 STARRING OF ITEMS

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - 26 August 2024

Extraordinary Council Meeting - 8 October 2024



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

26 August 2024

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	Nil	
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	Nil	
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**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF BOURKE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW
ON MONDAY, 26 AUGUST 2024 AT 9.15AM**

PRESENT: Cr Barry Hollman (Mayor), Cr Victor Bartley, Cr Sarah Barton, Cr Sally Davis, Cr Cec Dorrington, Cr Lachlan Ford (Deputy Mayor), Cr Sam Rice, Cr Nathan Ryan, Cr Robert Stutsel (via Audio Visual Link)

IN ATTENDANCE: Leonie Brown (General Manager), Paul Flanagan (Manager Roads Services), 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:

Lesley Barker	Louise Brown	Peter Bryant	Dyanna Bye
Louise Elwood	Trevor Elwood	Jack Good	Colleen Hines
Sharnie Rose Knight	Annika Orcher	Lyn Orcher	Margaret Pollard
Robyn Riches	George White		

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

Resolution 2024/184

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the apology received from Councillor Grace Ridge be accepted and leave of absence granted.

Carried

5 ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

A request to attend the meeting via Audio Visual Link was received from Cr Robert Stutsel who was unable to attend the meeting due to personal reasons.

Resolution 2024/185

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That Cr Robert Stutsel be permitted to attend the meeting via Audio-Visual link given his inability to attend in person due to personal reasons.

Carried

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sarah Barton declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12.3 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda: Business Arising Report - Notice of Motion – Proposed Motel. The reason for such interest is that Cr Barton and her husband own and operate an accommodation facility in Bourke, which the subject report relates to. In making this declaration, Cr Barton 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 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

Cr Sarah Barton declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda: General Manager’s Activity Report – “From the General Manager’s Desk” column of 18 July 2024 regarding the NSW Department of Regional Development. The reason for such interest was that Cr Barton is employed by the former NSW Department of Regional Development. In making this declaration, Cr Barton advised that she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

Cr Sarah Barton declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda: General Manager’s Activity Report – “From the General Manager’s Desk” column of 18 July 2024 regarding the Building Trades Panel. The reason for such interest is that Cr Barton’s husband owns and operates a business that submitted a tender on this matter. In making this declaration, Cr Barton advised that she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

Cr Sally Davis declared a significant pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12.3 of the Ordinary Council Meeting 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 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

Cr Nathan Ryan declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 12.3 of the Ordinary Council Meeting 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 should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 12.3 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda he would remain in the Chamber but would not contribute during Council's consideration of the matter.

Council's General Manager, Leonie Brown, declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 12.3 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda: Business Arising – Proposed Motel. The reason for such interest is that Mrs Brown and her husband own and operate a commercial accommodation facility in Bourke, which the subject report relates to. In making this declaration, Mrs Brown 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 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

Council's General Manager, Leonie Brown declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda: General Manager's Activity Report – "From the General Manager's Desk" column of 18 July 2024 regarding the Building Trades Panel. The reason for such interest is that a relative of Mrs Brown is one of the tenderers who submitted a tender in this matter. In making this declaration, Mrs Brown advised that she would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda.

Council's Manager of Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services, Dwayne Willoughby declared a pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda: General Manager's Activity Report – "From the General Manager's Desk" column of 18 July 2024 regarding the Building Trades Panel. The reason for such interest is that a relative of Mr Willoughby is one of the tenderers who submitted a tender in this matter. In making this declaration, Mr Willoughby advised that he would leave the Chamber and be out of sight should Council separately consider this matter as part of Item 21.4 of the Ordinary Council Meeting 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 2024/186

Moved: Cr Barry Hollman

That the information in the Mayoral Minute – Mayoral Activities as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, 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 reports were identified by Council to be starred for individual consideration.

Item No	Name of Report	Officer
13.1	Roads to Recovery Program Allocation	Manager Roads
15.1	Proposed Classification of Operational Land	General Manager
15.2	Delivery Program Report 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	General Manager
21.6	Tourism and Events Activity Report	Manager Economic Development

Resolution 2024/187

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the recommendations as detailed in the un-starred items as contained in the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on Monday, 26 August 2024 be adopted save and except for Items No 13.1, 15.1, 15.2 and 21.6 of the Agenda, with such items to be considered separately.

Carried

9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution 2024/188

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 July 2024 be taken as read, confirmed as correct minutes and signed by the Mayor and the General Manger.

Carried

10 RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 BUSINESS ARISING

12.1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

File Number: C12.6

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

Resolution 2024/189

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the General Manager regarding the Calendar of Events, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, 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 2024/190

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the General Manager regarding Information to Councillors, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, 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.

Resolution 2024/191

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the report of the General Manager regarding Business Arising, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, be noted.

Carried

13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

13.1 ROADS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM ALLOCATION

File Number: 2346

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Roads regarding the Roads to Recovery Program Allocation.

Resolution 2024/192

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That Council note the report detailing funding by the Australian Government for the Roads to Recovery program for the period 2024 to 2029 is \$10,559,185.

Carried

At this juncture Cr Stutsel lost connectivity via Audio Visual Link and was not visible for the remainder of the meeting, the time being 9.43am.

14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

14.1 DAVIDSON OVAL MASTERPLAN

File Number: 2976

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services regarding the Davidson Oval Masterplan.

Resolution 2024/193

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

- 1. That the draft Davidson Oval Masterplan as exhibited be adopted as the Davidson Oval Master Plan.**
- 2. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action to source relevant grant funding opportunities to progress the implementation of the key elements of the Master Plan.**
- 3. That come the time of a new Grandstand being constructed at Davidson Oval, the name of Keith Martin continue, with the name of a replacement grandstand facility being the Keith Martin Grandstand.**
- 4. That the family of the late Mr Keith Martin be advised of Councils resolution regarding the name of a new Grandstand at Davidson Oval into the future.**

Carried

15 GENERAL MANAGER

15.1 PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION OF OPERATIONAL LAND

File Number: 4116

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Proposed Classification of Operational Land.

Resolution 2024/194

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

1. That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, Council proceed to give 28 days' public notice during September 2024 of its proposed resolution to classify as Operational Land, Lots 3-4 DP1136910, Lots 15-16 DP 751848 and Lot 21 DP 751848, being the land which comprises the Bourke Golf Course/ Bourke District Children's Services Precinct.
2. That a further report be provided to Council in October 2024 following the advertising of the Land Classification proposal.

Carried

15.2 DELIVERY PROGRAM REPORT 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

File Number: 2609

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Delivery Program Report 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Resolution 2024/195

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That Council notes the activity progress against the actions contained in the 2023/2024 Delivery Program for the period ending 30 June 2024.

Carried

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

File Number: 20383

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee - Meeting Minutes.

Resolution 2024/196

Moved: Cr Victor Bartley

Seconded: Cr Cec Dorrington

- 1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee held on 15 August 2024, be adopted.**
- 2. That Council adopt the Internal Audit Charter.**

Carried

15.4 * LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 17 TO 19 NOVEMBER 2024**

File Number: 2887, 2194, 2942

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 17 to 19 November 2024.

Resolution 2024/197

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

- 1. That the Mayor and General Manager attend the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference to be held from 17 to 19 November 2024, at Tamworth.**
- 2. That the Mayor be Council's authorised voting delegate to the Conference.**
- 3. That following the determination of the September 2024 Council election for Bourke Shire Council, the General Manager be requested to advise elected Councillors of the 2024 conference, such that Councillors who wish to attend the 2024 LGNSW Annual Conference nominate to the General Manager prior to Tuesday, 15 October 2024.**

Carried

15.5 * ACCOUNTING FOR RURAL FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT**

File Number: 2168

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Accounting for Rural Firefighting Equipment.

Resolution 2024/198

Moved: Cr Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That having regard to the risks involved in receiving a qualified Audit Report for 2023/2024, Council re-affirm its previous position that it will not record RFS assets in Bourke Shire Council's Financial Statements based on the fact that Council does not control, manage, or govern Rural Fire Service assets.

Carried

16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

16.1 * BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - JULY 2024**

File Number: F1.1

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Bank Balances - July 2024.

Resolution 2024/199

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 31 July 2024 be noted.

Carried

16.2 *** INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT AS AT 31 JULY 2024

File Number: 2101

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Investment Portfolio as at 31 July 2024.

Resolution 2024/200

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

1. That the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 July 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, be received and noted.
2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.

Carried

16.3 *** ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 30 JUNE 2024

File Number: F1.4.6

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Annual Financial Statements - 30 June 2024.

Resolution 2024/201

Moved: Cr Victor Bartley

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

1. That Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 be referred for audit.
2. That the Mayor, a Councillor, General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to sign the Statement by Councillors and Management on the Annual Financial Statements.

Carried

17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

18 DELEGATES AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Nil

19 POLICIES

Nil

20 PRÉCIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

20.1 *** FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - BOURKE HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 12 FORMAL

File Number: 20004, 1920

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Financial Assistance - Bourke High School - Year 12 Formal.

Resolution 2024/202

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

That Council accede to the request of Bourke High School to waive the hire fees in support of the 2024 Year 12 Formal noting that as per Council's adopted 2024/2025 Fees and Charges document, the requirement for Government Departments to lodge a bond is waived.

Carried

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 2024/203

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the Manager Roads regarding Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, 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 2024/204

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

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, 26 August 2024, 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 2024/205

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the Manager Environmental Services regarding Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, 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 2024/206

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the General Manager regarding General Manager Activity for July 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, 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 2024/207

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the Library Manager regarding Library Activity for the month of July 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, be noted.

Carried

21.6 TOURISM AND EVENTS ACTIVITY REPORT

File Number: 3283

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

Resolution 2024/208

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That the report of the Coordinator Tourism regarding Tourism and Events Activity for July 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 26 August 2024, be noted.

Carried

22 CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution 2024/209

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

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

22.1 * Outstanding Rates and Charges**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - (b) 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 discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.

Carried

Council proceeded into closed session with the livestreaming of the meeting being paused at 10.11am.

22.1 * OUTSTANDING RATES AND CHARGES**

File Number: P2.5-R2.15-R2.22-P9.3

The Council had before it the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding the Outstanding Rates and Charges.

Resolution 2024/210

Moved: Cr Cec Dorrington

Seconded: Cr Victor Bartley

- 1. That Council notes the report on Outstanding Rates and Charges, Water Billing and Sundry Debtors owed to Council as at 30 June 2024.**
- 2. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council.**

Carried

Resolution 2024/211

Moved: Cr Victor Bartley

Seconded: Cr Lachlan Ford

That Council move out of Closed Council into Open Council.

Carried

Open council resumed at 10.20am.

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.

Acknowledgement from the Mayor, Councillors and General Manager

Prior to the closure of the meeting Mayor Hollman advised that he was not seeking re-election in the upcoming September 2024 Council elections. He thanked Councillors and staff for their support and ongoing efforts to achieve positive outcomes for the Bourke community during this term of Council. He reflected on his 20 years of being a Councillor and his 8 years as Mayor, noting both the highs and lows of the roles and that he leaves with "Council is in a good financial position".

On behalf of Councillors, Cr Davis and Cr Ford spoke, thanking and congratulating the Mayor for his leadership and guidance.

On behalf of staff, the General Manager, Leonie Brown, thanked the Mayor for his support and the good outcomes and achievements during his term as Mayor and Councillor.

The Meeting closed at 10.27am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 September 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON



MINUTES

Extraordinary Council Meeting

8 October 2024

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**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF BOURKE
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET BOURKE NSW
ON TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2024 AT 5.05 PM**

PRESENT: Cr Sarah Barton, Cr Patricia Bates-Canty, Cr Kylie Baty, Cr Sally Davis, Cr Lachlan Ford, Cr Francis Kerr, Cr Scott McAdam, Cr Maxime Nina, Cr Samuel Rice, Cr Robert Stutsel.

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

The General Manager in her capacity as Returning Officer, assumed the Chair for the meeting.

1 OPENING PRAYER

Cr Davis recited the prayer.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cr Bates-Canty provides the Acknowledgement of Country.

3 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

4 ATTENDANCE BY AUDIO VISUAL LINK BY COUNCILLORS

Nil

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr Sarah Barton declared a non-pecuniary and less than significant conflict of interest in item 6.8 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting Agenda: Composition of Council Committees and Confirmation of Appointment of Delegates to Other Organisations. The reason for such interest is that Cr Barton is one of two delegates that represents the Back O' Bourke Picnic Race Club on the JB Renshaw Sporting Complex User Group Advisory Committee. In making this declaration Cr Barton advised she would remain in the Chamber, participate in discussions and vote on the matter.

Cr Francis Kerr declared a non-pecuniary and less than significant conflict of interest in item 6.8 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting Agenda: Composition of Council Committees and Confirmation of Appointment of Delegates to Other Organisations. The reason for such interest is that Cr Kerr is one of two delegates that represents the Back O' Bourke Picnic Race Club on the JB Renshaw Sporting Complex User Group Advisory Committee. In making this declaration Cr Kerr advised he would remain in the Chamber, participate in discussions and vote on the matter.

6 GENERAL MANAGER

6.1 *** OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE BY COUNCILLORS

File Number: C11.5

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Oath or Affirmation of Office By Councillors.

Resolution 2024/212

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

That each Councillor proceed to take the Oath or make an Affirmation of office as required by the Local Government Act and that the General Manager record such action in the Meeting Minutes.

Carried

The Councillors proceeded to take an Oath or make an Affirmation of the office in front of their fellow Councillors, the General Manager and staff as follows:

Cr Sarah Barton made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Patricia Bates-Canty took the Oath of Office;
Cr Kylie Baty made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Sally Davis made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Lachlan Ford took the Oath of Office;
Cr Francis Kerr made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Scott McAdam made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Maxime Nina made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Samuel Rice made an Affirmation of Office;
Cr Robert Stutsel made an Affirmation of Office.

6.2 * ELECTION OF MAYOR**

File Number: C11.5

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Election of Mayor.

Resolution 2024/213

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

- 1. That should an election be required for the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor that Council determine the method of voting.**
- 2. That it be noted that the Mayoral Term for this period is from Tuesday 8 October 2024 to September 2026, with the actual date in September being subject to determination of a meeting date in this month to conduct the Mayoral Election.**
- 3. That on the finalisation of the count all ballot papers, if applicable, be destroyed .**

Carried

The Returning Officer proceeded to invite nominations for the election of the office of Mayor for the Mayoral term.

At the close of nominations, the Returning Officer advised that the following written nominations had been received:

1. Cr Lachlan Ford nominated by Cr Sally Davis and Cr Sam Rice.
2. Cr Maxime Nina nominated by Cr Scott McAdam and Cr Patricia Bates-Canty.

Cr Ford and Cr Nina formally accepted their nomination.

Given that an election was required, it was necessary for Council to determine the method of voting.

6.2 (a) * METHOD OF VOTING**

File Number: C11.5

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Election of Mayor.

Resolution 2024/214

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That the method of voting for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be by Open Voting (show of hands)

Carried

Following the determination by Council of the Method of Voting, the name of each candidate was written on separate pieces of paper which were placed in a barrel to determine the order of voting. The order in which the names were drawn was Cr Nina followed by Cr Ford.

Cr Maxime Nina was the first name written on the tally sheet with Cr Lachlan Ford written second on the tally sheet.

A vote by way of show of hands, was taken with the following votes recorded.

FOR CR MAXIME NINA	FOR CR LACHLAN FORD
Cr Patricia Bates-Canty Cr Scott McAdam Cr Maxime Nina	Cr Sarah Barton Cr Kylie Baty Cr Sally Davis Cr Lachlan Ford Cr Fancis Kerr Cr Samuel Rice Cr Robert Stutsel
Total Votes: 3	Total votes: 7

As a result of the show of hands, Cr Maxime Nina received three (3) votes and Cr Lachlan Ford received seven (7) votes.

Accordingly, the General Manager as Returning Officer declared Cr Lachlan Ford duly elected to the office of the Mayor of Bourke Shire Council for the Mayoral term.

At this juncture, the Mayor assumed Chairmanship of the meeting, the time being 5.31pm.

6.3 * ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

File Number: C11.6

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Election of Deputy Mayor.

Resolution 2024/215

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

- 1. That Council proceed to create the Office of Deputy Mayor, Bourke Shire Council and elect a Deputy Mayor.**
- 2. That the period for which the Deputy Mayor is to be elected is the Mayoral Term.**
- 3. That on the finalisation of the count all ballot papers, if applicable, be destroyed .**

Carried

The Mayor requested that the General Manager, as Returning Officer, proceed with the election of Deputy Mayor.

The Returning Officer invited nominations for the election of the office of Deputy Mayor for the Mayoral term. At the close of nominations, the Returning Officer advised that one written nomination had been received for the position of the Office of Deputy Mayor as follows:

Cr Sally Davis nominated by Cr Lachlan Ford and Cr Sam Rice.

Cr Davis formally accepted her nomination.

Accordingly, the General Manager as Returning Officer declared Cr Sally Davis duly elected to the office of Deputy Mayor of Bourke Shire Council for the Mayoral term.

6.4 * DELEGATIONS TO THE MAYOR**

File Number: 1216

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Delegations to the Mayor.

Resolution 2024/216

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

- 1. That Policy No 1.5.1 (v12) being Mayoral Delegations be adopted.**
- 2. That Council delegates to the Mayor, the delegations as detailed in attached Policy document numbered 1.5.1 (v12).**

Carried

6.5 * DELEGATIONS TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

File Number: 1216

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Delegations to the Deputy Mayor.

Resolution 2024/217

Moved: Cr Sam Rice

Seconded: Cr Robert Stutsel

- 1. That Policy No 1.5.2 (v12) being the Deputy Mayor Delegations be adopted.**
- 2. That Council delegates to the Deputy Mayor, the delegations as detailed in attached Policy document numbered 1.5.2 (v12).**

Carried

6.6 * DETERMINATION OF MEETING DATES**

File Number: 1700

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Determination of Meeting Dates.

Resolution 2024/218

Moved: Cr Scott McAdam

Seconded: Cr Sarah Barton

- 1. That Council determine the day and time of its Ordinary Council Meetings.**
- 2. That public notice be given in relation to the proposed meeting schedule in accordance with Clause 232 of the Local Government (General) Regulation.**

Carried

Resolution 2024/219

Moved: Cr Sarah Barton

Seconded: Cr Sally Davis

That Council's scheduled meeting day be generally the fourth Monday of each month, as set out in the report of the General Manager for the period October 2024 up to and including 28 September 2026 with meetings commencing at 10.15am with a Public Forum being held from 10.00am to 10.15am, as required, on the day of the Council meeting.

Carried

File Number: C12.1

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Approval to Hold a Countback Instead of a By-Election.

Resolution 2024/220

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Sam Rice

That Council proceed to determine its position in respect of the filling of a casual councillor vacancy that occurs within 18 months after the 14 September 2024, being the date of the last ordinary election of councillors.

Carried

Resolution 2024/221

Moved: Cr Robert Stutsel

Seconded: Cr Patricia Bates-Canty

That pursuant to Section 291A(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Bourke Shire Council declares that any casual vacancies occurring in the office of Councillor within 18 months after the last Ordinary election of Councillors for the Council on 14 September 2024 are to be filled by a countback of votes cast at that election for the office in accordance with Section 291A of the Act and directs the General Manager to notify the NSW Electoral Commission of the Council's decision within 7 days of the decision."

Carried

6.8 * COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

File Number: 20842

The Council had before it the report of the General Manager regarding the Composition of Council Committees and Confirmation of Appointment of Delegates to Other Organisations.

Resolution 2024/222

Moved: Cr Sally Davis

Seconded: Cr Patricia Bates-Canty

- 1. That Council concur with the deletion of the previously identified four (4) internal Committees, being the Roads and Plant Committee, Corporate Planning Committee, Town and Village Committee and the Tourism and Economic Development Committee.**
- 2. That Council review and amend the list of delegates/alternates to its Internal Committees, Local Government Organisations, Inter Government Liaison Committees, Community Liaison Groups and Regional Advisory Groups.**
- 3. That having regard to any required changes, the listing of representatives and delegates be adopted and the revised listing be circulated to Councillors.**
- 4. That the Delegates to outside organisations be notified to those organisations together with appropriate contact details.**

Carried

Resolution 2024/223

Moved: Cr Maxime Nina

Seconded: Cr Patricia Bates-Canty

- 1. That Council adopts representation on Internal Committees, Local Government Organisations, Inter Government Liaison representation, representation on Community Liaison Groups and representation on Regional Advisory Groups, as per included in the General Managers report, save and except for the following amendments and that such amendments be adopted:**
 - Councillor Nina as a non-voting member of Councils Audit Risk and Improvement Committee.**
 - Councillor Nina as the delegate and Councillor Barton as the alternate delegate on Outback Arts.**
 - Councillor Nina as the alternate delegate on the Joint Regional Planning Panel.**
 - Councillor Bates-Canty as the delegate and Councillor Baty as the alternate delegate on the Bourke Liquor Accord.**
 - Councillors Ford, Barton, Bates-Canty and Nina as Council's delegates on the Bourke Shire Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee.**
 - The Mayor as the delegate and the Manager of Roads being the alternate delegate on the Bourke Local Traffic Committee noting that membership of the Committee comprises a representative from Council, NSW Police, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and the local State Member of Parliament or their nominee.**
- 2. That the Barwon Darling Bushfire Management Committee be added to the list of Inter-Government Liaison Committees with the delegates being the Mayor and General Manager with Councillor Bates-Canty and the Manager Environmental Services being the**

alternate.

Carried

Cr Maxime Nina left the meeting at 5.50pm and returned at 5.51pm.

The Meeting closed at 5.52pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Bourke held on 28 October 2024.

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CHAIRPERSON

Internal Committee						
COMMITTEE	DELEGATE(S)	ALTERNATE	PURPOSE	MEETING PLACE	MEETING FREQUENCY	Other Comments
Audit, Risk and Improvement	<p>Mr Ray Smith (Independent Member – Chair)</p> <p>Mr Ron Gillard (Independent Member).</p> <p>Councillor Maxime Nina (Non-voting member).</p>		<p>Monitor, review and advise the Council on the standard of its risk management.</p> <p>Make assessments and recommendations about risk management and, measure and evaluate the effectiveness by reviewing Council’s activities.</p> <p>Endorse and monitor a cyclical strategic audit plan.</p>	Council Chambers (inc A-V link).	Quarterly	
General Manager’s Performance Review	<p>Mayor</p> <p>Deputy Mayor</p>		To annually review the General Managers Performance	Council Chambers	Annually	

Local Government Organisations						
COMMITTEE	DELEGATE(S)	ALTERNATE	PURPOSE	MEETING PLACE	MEETING FREQUENCY	COUNCIL STATUS
Far North West Joint Organisation of Councils (FNWJO)	Mayor General Manager	Deputy Mayor Manager Environmental Services	To look at regional based initiatives with positive outcomes for all Councils	Bourke	As scheduled	Member
JO GM's Advisory Committee	General Manager	Manager Environmental Services	To provide advice to the JO and to investigate regional collaboration	Bourke	As required	Member
Country Mayors Association of NSW Inc.	Mayor General Manager	Deputy Mayor Manager Environmental Services	To advocate for those people who choose to live work and play in rural and regional NSW	Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney/member council locality	2 Monthly	Member
Alliance of Western Councils	Mayor General Manager	Deputy Mayor Manager Environmental Services	To advocate, collaborate, network and support member councils (13) on common interests.	Dubbo	Quarterly	Member
Alliance of Western Councils – GM's Advisory Committee	General Manager	Manager Environmental Services	To provide advice to the Alliance	Narromine/Dubbo	Quarterly	
Alliance of Western Councils – Water and Sewer Board	Mayor General Manager	Deputy Mayor & Manager Works	Review the strategic direction and operation of the Water and Sewer Alliance	Rotation amongst member Councils	As required	Member

Alliance of Western Councils – Water and Sewer Technical Committee	Manager Works	Coordinator Water Service	To work on specific strategic water and sewer projects	Rotation amongst member Councils	As required	Member
Netwaste	Manager Environmental Services	Environmental Services Officer	To coordinate strategic waste disposal initiatives	Rotation amongst member Councils	Quarterly	Member
Outback Arts	Cr Nina	Cr Barton	Promotion of the Arts and Arts related Activities	Coonamble	Quarterly	Member
Kamilaroi Highway Promotional Committee	Cr Davis Manager Economic Development	Cr Ford Coordinator Tourism Events	To investigate, develop and institute promotion opportunities	Rotation amongst member Councils and by phone	As required	Member
Kidman Way Promotional Committee	Cr Davis Manager Economic Development	Cr Ford Coordinator Tourism Events	To promote and develop the tourist opportunities of towns serviced by the Kidman Way	Rotation amongst Member Councils	Annual Conference and Mid- year conference	Member
Western Division Councils of NSW	Mayor Deputy Mayor General Manager		To perform an advocacy role of all Councils located within the Western Division of NSW	Rotation amongst Members	As required	Member
Darling River Run	Manager Economic Development	Coordinator Tourism Events	To promote the Darling River Run as a Tourism Route	Various and by phone	As required	Member
Border Regional Organisation of	Mayor General Manger	Deputy Mayor Manager	A commitment to work together for the betterment of the	Rotation amongst Member Councils	Quarterly	Member

Councils		Environmental Services	border region local government areas across NSW and QLD Local Government areas			
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Inter Government Liaison						
COMMITTEE	DELEGATE(S)	ALTERNATE	PURPOSE	MEETING PLACE	MEETING FREQUENCY	COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT
Barwon Darling Rural Fire Zone Liaison Committee	Mayor General Manager	Cr Davis Manager Environmental Services	To Work with the RFS to ensure compliance with the service level agreement and preparedness for fires	Either Bourke or Brewarrina	Six Monthly	Attendee
Barwon Darling Bushfire Management Committee	Mayor General Manager	Cr Bates-Canty Manager Environmental Services	To assist the NSW Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee in the performance of its functions under the Rural Fires Act. Bring to the attention of relevant Fire Authorities matters the Bush Fire Management Committee considers relevant to the protection of land, life, property or the environment in that area from the impact of bush fires.	Either Bourke or Brewarrina	Six Monthly	Member
Local Emergency Management Committee	General Manager	Manager Works	To ensure adequate preparedness and planning for Emergency situations	Bourke	Quarterly	Provide Secretariat
Bourke Local Traffic Committee <i>*Local Member to appoint his representative</i>	Mayor	Manager Roads	To review local traffic flow issues, parking, speed zones, etc.	Bourke	As required	Provide Secretariat

Joint Regional Planning Committee	Mayor Deputy Mayor	Cr Nina	To review significant planning matters	Generally, by teleconference	As required	Attendee on issues impacting Bourke Shire
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Community Liaison Groups						
COMMITTEE	DELEGATE(S)	ALTERNATE	PURPOSE	MEETING PLACE	MEETING FREQUENCY	COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT
Bourke Liquor Accord	Cr Bates-Canty General Manager	Cr Baty	To review and develop policy in regard to the sales of Alcohol within the Shire	Bourke	As required	Provide Secretariat
Community Aboriginal Working Party	General Manager Manager Economic Development	Manager Environmental Services	Provide an advocacy role on behalf of the Bourke Aboriginal Community	Bourke	As required	Invitee
Bourke Business Development Group	Mayor General Manager Manager Economic Development	Manager Economic Development	To develop and implement strategies aimed at strengthening the business sector of Bourke and the growth of the town itself	Bourke	As required	Provide Secretariat
Bourke Shire Council Aboriginal Consultative Committee	Mayor Cr Barton Cr Bates-Canty Cr Nina		As per Charter	Council Chambers	As required	Provide Secretariat
Bourke Tourism Advisory Committee (Tac)	Mayor Cr Stutsel Cr Barton 3 x Tourism Industry 1 x NP&W EDM (Advisory)		The Tourism Advisory Committee is to provide a mechanism to ensure that significant issues affecting the tourism industry within the Bourke Shire Council are clearly identified and are raised in the appropriate forums		As required	Provide Secretariat

JB Renshaw Sporting Complex User Group Advisory Committee	Mayor Cr Stutsel Back O' Bourke Picnic Race Club (2) Bourke Gun Club (2) Bourke Pony Club (2) Bourke Show Committee (2)	Others on an as needs basis	Determine strategic priorities of the complex	JB Renshaw Sporting Complex	As required	Provide Secretariat
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Regional Advisory Groups						
COMMITTEE	DELEGATE(S)	ALTERNATE	PURPOSE	MEETING PLACE	MEETING FREQUENCY	OTHER COMMENTS
Murray Darling Association	Mayor	Cr Rice	To discuss water flow and allocation with the river system	Various	As required	
Macquarie Valley Advisory Committee	Weeds Officer	Manager Environmental Services	Regional Weeds Eradication Strategy	By Phone Sydney x 1 Dubbo x 1	As required	

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 provided 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
2024				
October	28	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
October	31	8.30am	Councillor Induction Training	BOBEC Function Centre
November	4	10.00am	Far North West Joint Organisation Meeting	Council Chamber
November	8	8.00am	Alliance of Western Councils Meeting	Dubbo Regional Council Chamber
November	14	2.00pm	NSW Joint Organisations Chairs Forum	NSW Parliamentary House
November	15	8.00am	Country Mayors Association of NSW Meeting	NSW Parliamentary House
November	17 -20	1.00pm	2024 Local Government NSW Conference	Tamworth Regional Exhibition and Convention Centre
November	21	8.30am	Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting	Council Chamber
November	25	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
December	10	2.00pm	Traffic Committee Meeting	Council Chamber
December	16	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
2025				
February	24	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
March	24	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
April	28	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
May	26	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
June	23	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber

July	28	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
August	25	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
September	22	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
October	27	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
November	24	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
December	15	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
2026				
February	23	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
March	23	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
April	27	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
May	25	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
June	22	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
July	27	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
August	24	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
September	28	10.15am	Council Meeting	Council Chamber

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding the Calendar of Events, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

12.2 INFORMATION TO COUNCILLORS

File Number: C12.1
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Each month a list of correspondence is sent out in the Business Paper to Councillors to ensure that they have not missed any information since the last Business Paper was produced.

Current Situation

Information that has been provided to Councillors for the period 19 August 2024 to 13 September 2024 follows:

Date	Information Sent	Author	Email
19/08/2024	Various items of interest regarding the Orana Region	Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana	✓
19/08/2024	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 19 August	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
19/08/2024	Jandra Captain	Leonie Brown	✓
21/08/2024	GM's Column for publication – 22 August 2024	Leonie Brown	✓
21/08/2024	Business Papers for the August Ordinary and Closed Session Council Meeting	Leonie Brown	✓
23/08/2024	New Bourke Bore and Pipeline Project Complete	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	✓
26/08/2024	Various items of interest regarding the Orana Region	RDA Orana	✓
26/08/2024	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 26 August	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
27/08/2024	The Weekly Newsletter, 27 August 2024	Local Government NSW	✓
28/08/2024	GM's Column for publication – 29 August 2024	Leonie Brown	✓
29/08/2024	Minutes of the August 2024 Council Meeting	Leonie Brown	✓
30/08/2024	Fluoridation of the Bourke Water Supply	Leonie Brown	✓
02/09/2024	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 2 September	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
04/09/2024	The Weekly Newsletter, 03 September 2024	Local Government NSW	✓
04/09/2024	GM's Column for publication – 5 September 2024	Leonie Brown	✓
10/09/2024	Coulton's Catch Up - Monday 9 September	Mark Coulton, MP	✓
10/09/2024	Various items of interest regarding the Orana Region	RDA Orana	✓
10/09/2024	Council Circular 24-17 Councillor conduct and meeting practices – a discussion paper	Office of Local Government (OLG)	✓

11/09/2024	GM’s Column for publication – 12 September 2024	Leonie Brown	✓
11/09/2024	The Weekly Newsletter, 10 September 2024	Local Government NSW	✓
11/09/2024	Various items of interest regarding Local Government	Inside Local Government	✓
12/09/2024	Opportunities to continue contributing to the Local Government Sector	Local Government NSW	✓
12/09/2024	Return of Electronic Equipment	Leonie Brown	✓
01/10/2024	Welcome and Mayoral Election Date	Leonie Brown	✓
02/10/2024	Back o’ Bourke Cafe	Leonie Brown	✓
03/10/2024	Business Papers for the Extraordinary October Council Meeting on Tuesday, 8 October 2024	Leonie Brown	✓
08/10/2024	Media Release – Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor Bourke Shire Council	Leonie Brown	✓
10/10/2024	Councillors Employment Details	Leonie Brown	✓
10/10/2024	Councillor Training	Leonie Brown	✓
10/10/2024	2024 LGNSW Annual Conference Tamworth.	Leonie Brown	✓
16/10/2024	New Category in the Bourke Show Pavilion 2025 – Councillor Scones	Leonie Brown	✓
16/10/2024	Council Circular 24-19 2024/25 “Hit the Ground Running” Webinars	Leonie Brown	✓
19/10/2024	Council Meeting Monday, 28 October 2024 Briefing Workshop	Leonie Brown	✓

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding Information to Councillors, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, 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

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 - Moleyarrh 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.
7. Meeting held with Minister Aitchison in Bourke Monday 8 January 2024 who requested previous reclassification report be forwarded to the Ministers office for information. Report forwarded.

2022/96 and 2023/60 April and March Meetings 2024/62 March Meeting 2024/83 April Meeting 2024/182 July Meeting	NORTH BOURKE STORMWATER DRAINAGE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	D6.1, D6.2, V 1.6
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
March 2024 (2024/62)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a workshop of Councillors be convened for the purpose of considering options to progress and ultimately address the stormwater drainage issue in North Bourke, with a view to a report being submitted to Council at its April 2024 meeting. 2. That the documents and consideration in this matter remain confidential to Council. 	
April 2024 (2024/83)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council confirm its previously resolved position to pursue the construction of a stormwater detention basin and required infrastructure on 2.21ha of land fronting Warrego St, North Bourke owned by Mr Robert and Mrs Sally Davis 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. 2. That Council continues to seek the formal agreement of Mr Robert and Mrs Sally Davis for the purchase by Council of a 2.21 ha portion of Lot 212 Deposited Plan 787811, as owned by them. 3. That it be noted that a new valuation in respect of the value of the 2.21ha of land has been sought. 4. That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and General Manager be requested to further meet with Mr and Mrs Davis in respect of the proposed land acquisition, following the receipt of the updated valuation for the proposed land. 5. That where agreement is reached for the acquisition of this 2.21ha of land, a further report be provided to Council which details the agreement between the parties for Councils resolution. 6. That in the event of no formal response being received or a response not agreeing to the sale of the land by 30 June 2024 from Mr and Mrs Davis, Council further consider its position in respect of the land matter at its July 2024 meeting. 7. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council. 	
July 2024 (2024/182)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That in accordance with Section 187 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Council commence the acquisition process to acquire 2.21 Hectares of the land described as Part Lot 212 DP 787811 for the purpose of Stormwater Detention in accordance with the terms of the <i>Land Acquisition (Just</i> 	

Terms Compensation Act) 1991.

2. That compensation be paid to the landowner as per the determination in the valuation report to be obtained by Council from an independent registered valuer.
3. That the General Manager be requested to take any necessary action in respect of this acquisition matter, including the engaging of a consultancy if required, to assist and advise on the acquisition process to ensure conformity with the requirements of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation Act) 1991*.
4. That upon acquisition, the land be classified as Operational Land.
5. That minerals are excluded from the acquisition.
6. That the land is not for resale purposes.
7. That a further report be provided to Council at the completion of the 6-month negotiation period if negotiations to acquire the land are unsuccessful.
8. That the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to execute any necessary documents under the Common Seal of 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 Council's 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.
 17. See report included in February 2024 Business Paper.
 18. Due to lack of quorum at the February 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council for this report, the matter was referred to the March Ordinary Meeting of Council. Report included in March 2024 Closed Council Business Paper.
 19. Workshop held Thursday, 4 April 2024 and, report submitted to April 2024 Council meeting. Letter provided to Mr and Mrs Davis.
 20. Revised valuation received. Further letter provided to Mr and Mrs Davis 17 May 2024.
 21. Further report on matter included in July 2024 Closed Council Meeting Agenda.
 22. Correspondence regarding resolution provided to Mr and Mrs Davis.
 23. Quotation received from NSW Public Works – Land Services to facilitate potential land acquisition process.
 24. Discussions held by GM with Mr R Davis re earth works undertaken on his land.
 25. Advice sought from consulting engineer, Stephen Hoynes, regarding earth works.

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.
 9. Funding application approved by LRCI – staff are reviewing suitable sites with a further report to be prepared and submitted to Council for consideration.
 10. Discussions held with planner 16 May 2024; concept plan being developed.
 11. Land Manager of proposed site contacted. Awaiting response regarding approval for rest area / parking bay.
 12. Land owner consent required for the proposed site is extensive. Further investigation will be required to determine if the site is feasible or another site will have to be identified.

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.
 16. No further update on application made by DPIE in regard to application for funding to complete

- the final business case.
17. Advice received from DPIE on 26 February 2024 that the submission was sitting with the Commonwealth for consideration as part of the National Water Grid funding program.
 18. Mayor and General Manager met with NSW Water Minister, the Hon Rose Jackson in Sydney on 9 May 2024. Raising of the Bourke Weir discussed.
 19. Mayor and General Manager took the opportunity to further discuss the issues of Water security for Bourke and to progress the Western Weirs final Business Case with NSW Water Minister, The Hon Rose Jackson at the MDA Conference in Tamworth on 10 July 2024.
 20. Mayor and General Manager took the opportunity to further discuss the issues of Water security for Bourke at the MDBA Meeting in Bourke on 30 July 2024.

2023/73 April Meeting	BOURKE FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PETER BROWN – MANAGER WORKS
FILE NO	W2.1

RESOLUTION

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

1. Representation made to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).
2. Legal advice received regarding impact of Flood study on developments in Bourke. Advice under consideration.
3. Meeting held with Lyall and Associates 6 March 2024 to identify the impact of the Flood Study on development in Bourke. Further report to be prepared and presented to Council to determine the required planning controls.
4. Further discussions held with Lyall and Associates regarding the impact of the Flood Study on a proposed development in Meadows Road, Bourke. NSW Public Works engaged to review Flood Study and provide advice in respect of Meadows Road DA and future development in Bourke in general.
5. Investigations by NSW Public Works proceeding.
6. Further information provided to NSW Public Works in regard to pump and culvert size.
7. Further information requested from Lyall and Associates Tuflow modelling.
8. Further investigation to be undertaken by PWA and Manly Hydraulics. Laboratory to rerun the model with potential modifications.
9. Report from PWD regarding Flood Study and specifically corner of Bloxham Street and Meadows Road received and being considered by staff.

2023/218 September meeting 2024/155 July meeting	NORTH BOURKE BRIDGE RESTORATION
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	4373

RESOLUTION

September 2023 (2023/218)

1. That Council endorse the series of desired outcomes to lead the restoration project, 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 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:
 - 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 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.

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.
9. That the General Manager be requested to update the community on the status of the bridge project.
10. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to the Council.

July 2024 (2024/155)

1. That the Proposal for the North Bourke Bridge Restoration, Stage 1 Works, be approved, subject to the following conditions:
 - a) A Demolition Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) being developed for the Proposal incorporating the mitigation measures outlined in Section 6 of the North Bourke Bridge Project REF and any other appropriate environmental management measures. The DEMP must be reviewed and approved by Bourke Shire Council prior to the commencement of work activity.
 - b) Council publishes the REF on the NSW Planning Portal or Council’s website as per Section 171 (4) of the EP&A Regulation (being where it is in the public’s interest) either before the activity commences or, where this is not practicable, as soon as practicable and no later than one month after the activity commences.
2. That the Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services be authorised to complete the Decision Statement as contained in the REF for Stage 1 Works.

July 2024(2024/157)

That Council concur with the General Manager utilising her existing delegation to determine the tender for the construction of the new Jockey’s Facility Building at Bourke Showground and the tender for the provision of demolition services in respect of the timber approaches at the North Bourke Bridge on the basis of this concurrence being applicable for the period prior to the commencement of the 2024 Local Government Elections Caretaker Provisions that commence on Friday 16 August 2024 and for the period from election day, being 14 September 2024, up to, the first meeting of the new Council.

July 2024 (2024/159)

1. That for the purpose of Council undertaking work in respect of restoring the North Bourke Bridge, Council seek appointment as the Crown Land Manager over Reserve 974 (Duplicate R1003375) being Lot 7300 DP 1173913, reserved for the purpose of "bridge".
2. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council.

ACTION TAKEN

1. Matter progressing.
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.
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.
4. Additional funding of \$200,000 received from Transport for NSW to complete Business Case. PWA continue to seek funding for additional deconstruction work.
5. Public Works and sub consultant engaged with necessary work underway and progressing.
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.

7. Community updated at Community meetings in Byrock, Bourke, Louth, Wanaaring, Enngonia and Fords Bridge.
8. Work by consultants/sub consultants on project continuing.
9. Council has received confirmation from the NSW Office of Local Government that its application for disaster funding (AGRN 1030/1034) in the amount of \$400,000 for the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the bridge has been successful. Total grant funding for this planning, design and deconstruction project totals \$800,000, being \$400,000 from TfNSW and \$400,000 from disaster funds.
10. Draft Review of Environmental Factors (REF) completed in respect of deconstruction of timber approaches/PWD preparing documentation for the inviting of tenders in July 2024 for the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the bridge. Other design works proceeding.
11. Reports on REF in respect of deconstruction of timber approaches, determination of deconstruction tenders and a Crown Land Management Proposal included in July 2024 Council Meeting Agenda.
12. REF for deconstruction of Bridge uploaded to the NSW Planning Portal.
13. Tenders for deconstruction of Bridge approaches closed on Friday 9 August 2024 with two (2) tenders received. Assessment of tenders not finalised by commencement of Election Caretaker Mode, hence any awarding of contract will be delayed.
14. Effective 9 August 2024, Council has been appointed as the Crown Land Manager of Reserve 974 (Duplicate R1003375) being Lot 7300 DP 1173913. This is the Crown Land located on the western side of the Bridge.
15. Following gazettal on 20 September 2024, Council now has a licence (RN 671019) for the use of Lot 133 DP751867. This is for use of Crown Land located on the eastern side of the bridge.
16. Further reports including tenders for deconstruction of Bridge approaches are included in the open and closed Agenda of Council’s Meeting 28 October 2024.

2023/257 November Meeting 2024/13 February Meeting 2024/160 July Meeting	NAMING OF NORTH BOURKE OVAL
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	1355
RESOLUTION	
November 2023	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

February 2024

1. That Council proceed to seek community feedback on the proposal to renaming the cricket ground at North Bourke to “The Neville Simpson Memorial Sports Ground” as per the Guidelines of the geographical Names Board.
2. That a further report be submitted to Council in respect of the outcome of such consultation, for a Council resolution in respect of submitting the naming proposal to the Geographical Names Board or otherwise.

May 2024

That Council proceed to submit the proposal to rename the cricket ground at North Bourke “The Neville Simpson Memorial Sports Ground” to the Geographical Names Board.

July 2024

1. That Council note the advice of the Geographical Names Board regarding the naming proposal for the North Bourke Oval.
2. That Council proceed with the Geographical Names Board approved and modified name of Neville Simpson Sportsground.
3. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action to progress this naming proposal.

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.
3. Report included in February 2024 Business Paper. Council resolves to undertake community consultation on naming proposal prior to final decision being made to lodge application to the Geographical Names Board.
4. Letter written to Mr Les Bunyan providing an update of progress.
5. An advertisement is to be placed in the Western Herald edition of 21 March 2024 and 4 April 2024, on Councils Facebook Page, at the North Bourke Hotel and North Bourke Store. Letter being written to local cricket clubs and Bourke Cricket association re proposal.
6. Advertising undertaken in the Western Herald, Facebook, Public notices placed in the North Bourke Hotel and North Bourke Store, with letter provided to the Cricket Association for distribution to Cricket Clubs. Submissions close midday Wednesday, 17 April 2024.
7. Report to be submitted to May 2024 meeting re matter.
8. Naming proposal submitted to the Geographical Named Committee. Matter to go to Board meeting in July 2024, for further advice to Council thereafter.
9. A report on the matter is included in the July 2024 Council Meeting Agenda.
10. GNB advised of Councils July 2024 resolution. GNB to advertise name of Neville Simpson Sportsground in August 2024 prior to further consideration by Board.
11. Advertising by GNB complete. Matter to be further considered by GNB at its November 2024 meeting.

2023/289 December Meeting	MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	R6.1
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions held with consultant from the Stable Group in regard to commissioning a report, referred to RDA. 2. Discussions held with RDA, Executive Officer with a view to progressing the report and the seeking of funding from Government to support the project. 3. Meeting held with RDA, Executive Officer to review submissions received to undertake project on behalf of Bourke Shire Council and Warren Shire Council. 4. The community led water knowledge project has been brought to the attention of the Commonwealth to seek funding to complete the project. 5. RDA held further meeting with Liam O’Callaghan, Office of Minister Tara Moriarty to discuss pilot project and seek funding to complete. 6. Mayor and General Manager discussed funding opportunities with Minister Tara Moriarty on Thursday, 8 August 2024. Funding may be available through the \$300m Sustainable Communities Program. 	

2023/289 December Meeting	WESTERN WEIRS PROGRAM UPDATE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN - GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	3504
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waiting advice regarding outcome of funding application EOI. 2. Advice received from DPIE on 26 February 2024 that the submission was sitting with the Commonwealth for consideration of National Water Grid funding. 3. Mayor and General Manager took the opportunity to further discuss the issues of Water security for Bourke and to progress the Western Weirs final Business Case with NSW Water Minister, The Hon Rose Jackson at the MDA Conference in Tamworth on 10 July 2024. 	

4. Mayor and General Manager took the opportunity to further discuss the issues of Water security for Bourke at the MDBA Meeting in Bourke on 30 July 2024.

2023/302 December Meeting 2024/161 July Meeting	WANAARING ROAD – ROAD RESERVE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PAUL FLANAGAN – ROADS MANAGER
FILE NO	3187, 3217
RESOLUTION	
December 2023 (2023/302)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action regarding the proposed compulsory acquisition of some 16.9ha (subject to final survey) of the Western Land Lease over Lot 1895 DP763763 for road purposes. 2. That a Deed of Agreement be executed between Council and B & L Gillard such that the arrangements and obligations of both parties regarding the provision of 3.38km of fencing materials and grading of the table drain by Council and the agreement to the land excising issue, the erection of the stock proof fencing and the clearing of land, all by B & L Gillard, are articulated. 3. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council. 4. That the documents and considerations in respect of this matter remain confidential to Council. 	
July 2024 (2024/161)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council acquire under the Compulsory Acquisition process with agreement, as per the requirements of the Land Acquisition Act, proposed Lot 102 DP 1305811 being part of Lot 1895 DP 763763 from the Western Land Lease holder, for public road, under the authority of the Roads Act 1993. 2. That Council acquire under the compulsory acquisition process with agreement, as per the requirements of the Land Acquisition Act, proposed Lot 102 DP 1305811 being part of Lot 1895 DP 763763, from Crown Lands for public road, under the authority of the Roads Act 1993. 3. That Council pay compensation only if required to Crown Lands, as compensation has been agreed with the Western Land Lease holder, who has exclusive possession of the land for grazing purposes. 4. That the land is not for resale. 5. That minerals be excluded from the acquisition. 6. That an application be made to the Minister for Local Government and the NSW Governor for approval to the compulsory acquisition of the land. 7. That the land be dedicated as Public Road upon Acquisition and Sec.10 of the Roads Act 1993. 8. That the Mayor and General Manager be authorised to sign any documentation to complete the compulsory acquisition of the land. 9. That any necessary documents be executed under the Common Seal of Council. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marsden’s Lawyers requested to draft agreement. Provision of fencing material and commencement of compulsory acquisition process to commence once agreement signed by both parties. 2. Agreement finalised and provided to landowners. 	

3. Further consultation with landowners to be held.
4. Landowners are reconsidering the conditions of the Agreement.
5. Landowners have advised that they concur with the Agreement. Awaiting formal signing of document.
6. The landowners have signed the Deed of Agreement and the fencing materials that are to be delivered to them, have been ordered.
7. NSW Public Works have been engaged to facilitate the Compulsory Land Acquisition process with a report on the acquisition included in July 2024 Council Meeting Agenda.
8. Fencing materials have been delivered.
9. Landowners have been advised of the acquisition process utilising Public Works, who have subsequently contacted the Landowners.
10. Opening meeting held with Mrs Gillard and documentation provided to her and to Crown Lands. Matter proceeding.

2024/37 March Meeting	MAYORAL MINUTE - FISH PASSAGE - RECONNECTING THE NORTHERN BASIN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	A3.8, W2.1, W3.1, W3.3
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council correspond with the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, NSW Minister for Water, expressing its significant opposition to the proposed Louth Weir Fishway and Weir Project that has progressed to a point where construction is imminent, albeit with a level of consultation that is viewed as being most inadequate. 1. That copies of such correspondence be provided to the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water and the State Member for Barwon, Mr Roy Butler MP. 2. That Council take the necessary action to assist the NSW Water Group promote a consultation meeting in respect of the Louth Weir with Louth District residents during either April or May 2024 with a view to maximising representation at the meeting by those who are impacted by the project. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter sent to Minister Rose Jackson MLC on 28 March 2024. 2. Copies sent to Minister Tanya Plibersek and Member for Barwon, Roy Butler, MP. 3. Discussions with Minister Jackson being pursued. 4. Meeting at Louth of residents and NSW Water held on 7 May 2024. 5. Mayor and General Manager met with NSW Water Minister, the Hon Rose Jackson in Sydney on 9 May 2024. Councils concerns regarding proposed changes to the Louth Weir, as a result of proposed fishway, along with proposed removal of weirs 19A and 20A, were discussed. 6. General Manager attended meeting at Louth with residents and MDBA to raise concerns about the Louth Fishway and Wier Project. 7. Mayor and General Manager raised concerns at the proposed Louth Fishway and Weir Project with MDBA on 30 July 2024. 8. DCCEEW to provide a revised model for the Louth Weir at the end of August or early September 2024. No further communication received. 	

2024/68 April Meeting	NOTICE OF MOTION – PROPOSED MOTEL
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	LEONIE BROWN – GENERAL MANAGER
FILE NO	1718
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council proceed to take the necessary action to develop a scope of works leading to the inviting of quotations from suitably qualified consultants to prepare a Business Case report and accompanying required report(s) in respect of the proposed building of a Motel at the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre site. 2. That following the receipt of quotations, a report on the matter be provided to Council, inclusive of the availability of funding to progress the required studies 3. That Council investigate grant funding opportunities to meet the cost of the required studies. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of scope of works document and investigations into potential sources for grant funding for Business Case underway. Draft document discussed with General Manager on her return from leave. 2. Quotation document essentially complete with public quotes to be invited in August / September 2024. 3. Quotation documentation complete and tenders invited. 4. Tenders closed on 14 October 2024 report on tenders to be presented to Council at the November 2024 meeting. 	

2024/123 June Meeting	ADVENTURE PARK TENDERS
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER PLANNING, REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
FILE NO	20569
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That as per Clause 178(3)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council proceed to enter into negotiations with yet to be identified persons who have a known success in bringing like adventure park projects to fruition and/or relevant contractors on Councils Building Trades and Services Panel with a view to Council entering into a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender. 2. That as per Clause 178(4)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the reason for Council declining to invite fresh tender submissions or applications for the works is that Council has previously invited tenders for the works which resulted in the receipt of no tenders being received, leading Council to consider that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by again inviting tenders. 3. That as per Clause 178(4)(b) of the Regulation, the reason for Council determining to enter into negotiations with persons who have a known success in bringing like adventure park projects to fruition and/or relevant contractors on Councils Building Trades and Services Panel is that Council previously invited tenders for the project which resulted in no tenders being received and it is anticipated that negotiations with such persons provides the best prospect for the project being bought to fruition. 4. That the General Manager be requested to report to Council the outcome of negotiations prior to any contract being entered into. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<p>Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services met with representatives from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and advised of tender outcome. Awaiting</p>	

response regarding future direction.

2024/193 August Meeting	DAVIDSON OVAL MASTERPLAN
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DWAYNE WILLOUGHBY – MANAGER PLANNING, REGULATORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
FILE NO	2976
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the draft Davidson Oval Masterplan as exhibited be adopted as the Davidson Oval Master Plan. 2. That the General Manager be requested to take the necessary action to source relevant grant funding opportunities to progress the implementation of the key elements of the Master Plan. 3. That come the time of a new Grandstand being constructed at Davidson Oval, the name of Keith Martin continue, with the name of a replacement grandstand facility being the Keith Martin Grandstand. 4. That the family of the late Mr Keith Martin be advised of Councils resolution regarding the name of a new Grandstand at Davidson Oval into the future. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant Funding Application for \$12,233,421 submitted to Federal Government under the Growing Regions funding program for replacement of grandstand. 2. Family of Keith Martin advised of Councils resolution. 	

2024/201 August Meeting	ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 30 JUNE 2024
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ANG PASANG RAI, MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
FILE NO	F1.4.6
RESOLUTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council’s Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 be referred for audit. 2. That the Mayor, a Councillor, General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer be authorised to sign the Statement by Councillors and Management on the Annual Financial Statements. 	
ACTION TAKEN	
Financial Statements audited with report to be presented to November 2024 Council Meeting.	

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding Business Arising, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

13 ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

13.1 *** REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL - 77 OXLEY STREET, BOURKE

File Number: 3299
Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Council has received a request from the owner of 77 Oxley St, Bourke for the removal of a large Queensland fig tree (*ficus hillii*) in the road reserve adjacent to the front boundary of their Oxley Street property. Given the size of the tree (>2 metres) and that it is in the Road Reserve, the tree is a street tree and is the responsibility of Council, as per its Street Tree Policy.

77 Oxley St is located on the northwest corner of the Oxley/Wilson street intersection. An aerial photo of the property follows which also shows the location of the subject tree.



Council's current policy in relation to the removal of all street trees is that a report be provided to a meeting of Council. Following Council's determination of such removal, a notice of intention to remove the trees will be placed in local media and on Council's website with a 21-day exhibition period being applicable. A notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" shall also be provided to adjacent landowners providing them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed removal. In the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, removal of the respective tree shall proceed. In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report shall be submitted to Council for determination.

Current Situation

By letter received 1 August 2024, the owner of 77 Oxley St has requested that the tree be removed. The letter states that the tree; *"has caused sewer problems as tree roots breaking pipes and blocking up all the time. Also large branches falling down into yard and lifting driveway up, growing over power lines."*

Whilst Council staff inspected the tree, with the damage to infrastructure being evident, given the recent visit to Bourke by a tree removal contractor to undertake other work for Council, the opportunity was taken for an arborist to inspect the subject tree. The resulting report, as prepared by A1 Tree Services, advises as follows:

Tree located at 77 Oxley Street (corner of Oxley & Wilson) is a Ficus Hillii. This particular tree is imposing a risk over the resident's building due to codominant stems from the base of the tree, posing structural weakness and the threat of mechanical failure. This species of tree is very invasive and damaging in regard to gutters, roads and underground services when the species is in the wrong location such as where this tree has been planted.

Ficus Hillii's are more suggested for parkland and rural settings and would not be suggested to be planted any closer than 100m away from structures.

It is recommended this tree be removed due to the future ongoing threat it poses in the position it is located.

It will be recommended that the street tree at 77 Oxley St, Bourke be approved for removal with a notice of intention to remove the tree being placed in the Western Herald and on Council's website with a 21-day exhibition period being applicable. In addition, a notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" shall also be provided to adjacent landowners providing them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed removal.

In the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, removal of the respective tree would proceed. In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report shall be submitted to Council for determination.

Financial Implications

Sufficient funds remain in Council's Tree Removal and Maintenance budget for the 2024/2025 financial period to undertake the recommended tree removal and replace the tree with an appropriate species.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council undertake a 21-day exhibition period in the Western Herald newspaper and on Councils website notifying of its intention to undertake the removal of the Queensland Fig Tree as located adjacent to the front boundary of 77 Oxley St, Bourke.**
- 2. That a notice of “Proposed Street Tree Removal” be also provided to adjacent landowners to provide them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed tree removal.**
- 3. That in the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, Council proceed to remove such tree to address structural weakness and the threat of mechanical failure by the tree, as reported by a qualified arborist.**
- 4. That In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report be submitted to Council for determination.**
- 5. That following removal, Council staff replace the Queensland Fig Tree with a suitable tree species.**
- 6. That the owner of 77 Oxley St, Bourke be advised accordingly.**

13.2 * REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL - 4 TARCOON STREET, BOURKE**

File Number: 3299
Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Council staff have identified a large Queensland fig tree (*ficus hillii*) located in the road reserve adjacent to the Tarcoon St boundary of the Bourke Christian Church property at 4 Tarcoon St, Bourke as being a potentially dangerous tree. There are four (4) Queensland fig trees in the road reserve at this location with the subject tree being the closest tree to Anson St.

Given the size of the tree (>2 metres) and that it is located in the Road Reserve, the tree is a street tree and is the responsibility of Council, as per its Street Tree Policy.

4 Tarcoon St is located on the southeast corner of the Tarcoon/Anson Street intersection. An aerial photo of the property follows which also shows the location of the subject trees, with Tarcoon St being the vertical road in the photo with Anson St being the horizontal street in the photo.



A street view picture of the subject tree follows:



Council's current policy in relation to the removal of all street trees is that a report be provided to a meeting of Council. Following Council's determination of such removal, a notice of intention to remove the trees will be placed in local media and on Council's website with a 21-day exhibition period being applicable. A notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" shall also be provided to adjacent landowners providing them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed removal. In the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, removal of the respective tree shall proceed. In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report shall be submitted to Council for determination.

Current Situation

In identifying the subject tree as potentially dangerous, given the recent visit to Bourke by a tree removal contractor to undertake other work for Council, the opportunity was taken for an arborist to inspect the subject tree. The resulting report, as prepared by A1 Tree Services, advises as follows:

This Ficus Hillii tree is located on Tarcoon Street, opposite Waters Park. This tree has sustained significant damage and has previously experienced large branch failures. The structural instability of the tree is likely due to major damage to the cambium layer, which may have been caused by burning at some point, leading to internal rot and branch failures.

My suggestion is for the removal of this tree given the extent of the damage and the high traffic area surrounding this tree.

Discussions have been held with Mr Ian Cole representing the Bourke Christian Church regarding the proposed tree removal. It will be recommended that the street tree located closest to Anson Street on the western boundary of 4 Tarcoon St, Bourke be approved for removal with a notice of intention to remove the tree being placed in the Western Herald and on Councils website with a 21-day exhibition period being applicable. In addition, a notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" be provided to adjacent landowners providing them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed removal.

In the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, removal of the respective tree would proceed. In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report shall be submitted to Council for determination.

Financial Implications

Sufficient funds remain in Council's Tree Removal and Maintenance budget for the 2024/2025 financial period to undertake the recommended tree removal and replace the tree with an appropriate species.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council undertake a 21-day exhibition period in the Western Herald newspaper and on Councils website notifying of its intention to undertake the removal of the Queensland Fig Tree located closest to Anson Street on the western boundary of 4 Tarcoon St, Bourke.**
- 2. That a notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" be provided to adjacent landowners to provide them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed tree removal.**
- 3. That in the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, Council proceed to remove such tree to address structural weakness, as reported by a qualified arborist.**
- 4. That In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report be submitted to Council for determination.**
- 5. That following removal, Council staff replace the Queensland Fig Tree with a suitable tree species.**

13.3 * REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL - 161 ANSON STREET, BOURKE**

File Number: 3299
Author: Peter Brown, Manager Works
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Council staff have identified a large Queensland fig tree (*ficus hillii*) in the road reserve adjacent to the front boundary of property at 161 Anson St, Bourke as being a potentially dangerous tree. Given the size of the tree (>2 metres) and that it is in the Road Reserve, the tree is a street tree and is the responsibility of Council, as per its Street Tree Policy.

161 Anson St, Bourke is located on the northwest corner of the Anson/Denman Street intersection. An aerial photo of the property follows. For information, Denman St is the vertical road in the photo with Anson St being the horizontal street in the photo. The location of the subject tree is on the boundary fronting Anson Street. The trees fronting Denman St are to remain in-situ.



A street view picture of the subject tree follows:



Council's current policy in relation to the removal of all street trees is that a report be provided to a meeting of Council. Following Council's determination of such removal, a notice of intention to remove the trees will be placed in local media and on Council's website with a 21-day exhibition period being applicable. A notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" shall also be provided to adjacent landowners providing them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed removal. In the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, removal of the respective tree shall proceed. In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report shall be submitted to Council for determination.

Current Situation

In identifying the subject tree as dangerous, given the recent visit to Bourke by a tree removal contractor to undertake other work for Council, the opportunity was taken for an arborist to inspect the subject tree. The resulting report, as prepared by A1 Tree Services, advises as follows:

A large Ficus Hillii located on the footpath of 161 Anson Street is in decline, particularly on the norther side near the dwelling. This condition poses a risk of future branch failures.

This decline may be caused by potential poisoning or damage to the tree's root system due to soil compaction and lime leaching from the footpath and road.

My suggestion is for the removal of this tree due to declining health and the associated long term safety concerns.

It will be recommended that the street tree at 161 Anson St, Bourke be approved for removal with a notice of intention to remove the tree being placed in the Western Herald and on Councils website with a 21-day exhibition period being applicable. In addition, a notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" shall be provided to adjacent landowners providing landowners an opportunity to comment on the proposed removal.

In the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, removal of the respective tree would proceed. In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report shall be submitted to Council for determination.

Financial Implications

Sufficient funds remain in Council's Tree Removal and Maintenance budget for the 2024/2025 financial period to undertake the recommended tree removal and replace the tree with an appropriate species.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council undertake a 21-day exhibition period in the Western Herald newspaper and on Councils website notifying of its intention to undertake the removal of the Queensland Fig Tree as located adjacent to the front boundary of 161 Anson St, Bourke.**
- 2. That a notice of "Proposed Street Tree Removal" be provided to adjacent landowners to provide them with an opportunity to comment on the proposed tree removal.**
- 3. That in the event of no objections being received following the exhibition period, Council proceed to remove such tree to address future branch, as reported by a qualified arborist.**
- 4. That In the event of an objection(s) being received, a further report be submitted to Council for determination.**
- 5. That following removal, Council staff replace the Queensland Fig Tree with a suitable tree species.**

13.4 BOURKE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

File Number: C6.6
Author: Paul Flanagan, Manager Roads
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: 1. Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes 10 September 2024

Background

The Local Traffic Committee (LTC) is primarily a technical review committee, which is required to advise Council on matters referred to it by Council. These matters must be related to prescribed traffic control devices and traffic control facilities for which Council has delegated authority by Transport for NSW (TfNSW).

The Local Traffic Committee has no decision-making powers. The Council must refer all traffic related matters to the Local Traffic Committee prior to exercising its delegated functions. Matters related to State Roads or functions that have not been delegated to Council must be referred directly to TfNSW or relevant organisation. The Committee provides recommendations to Council. Should Council wish to act contrary to the advice of the Committee or if that advice is not supported unanimously by the Committee members, then the Police or TfNSW have an opportunity to appeal to the Regional Traffic Committee.

Formal voting membership on the Committee comprises the following:

- one representative of Council as nominated by Council;
- one representative of the NSW Police from the Bourke Local Area Command (LAC)
- one representative from Transport for NSW; and
- one representative from the State Members of Parliament (MP) for the electorates of Barwon

The Bourke Local Traffic Committee generally meets four (4) times per year.

Current Situation

The Local Traffic Committee met on Tuesday, 10 September 2024. The Minutes of this meeting are attached for Council's adoption.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Bourke Shire Council Traffic Committee held on 10 September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024 be adopted.



**MINUTES OF BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL, 29 MITCHELL STREET, BOURKE NSW
ON TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 2.00PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Lachlan Ford (Deputy Mayor), Barwon Electorate Nominee
Paul Flanagan, Manager of Roads (MR) – Chair
Kayla Cohen, Transport for NSW (TfNSW)
Snr Con Daniel Vituseck, NSW Police (Wanaaring)

IN ATTENDANCE

Leonie Brown, General Manager
John Saju, Assistant Engineer RMCC
Tristan Gale, Administrative Support Officer (Record)

APOLOGIES

Chris Morrall, Engineering Technical Officer (ETO)
Melanie Milgate, Manager of Economic Development (MED)

1. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Bourke Shire Council Traffic Committee held on Tuesday, 11 June 2024, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Lachlan Ford

Seconded: Kayla Cohen

CARRIED

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Item	Responsible Officer	Status Update
40 Zone in CBD	MR	TfNSW has received sufficient information to process the request for the new speed zoning.
60km/h speed signs on Wanaaring Road	TfNSW	TfNSW advised that the signage proposal is progressing through TfNSW processes.
40 km/h speed limit Sid Coleman Drive	MR	TfNSW advised that the proposal is progressing through TfNSW processes.
Pedestrian traffic on the Gateway Bridge at North Bourke	MR TfNSW	Police have reported seeing pedestrians on the bridge and suggest the erecting of “No Pedestrians” signage at the site. This would enable Police to enforce the ruling. It was noted that until the old North Bourke Bridge is accessible to the public there

		is no other option for pedestrians other than to walk on the bridge. The issue will be raised internally at TfNSW. May require a pedestrian count. Identified as a potential risk.
Bourke Pedestrian Crossings	TfNSW	Correspondence has been received proposing the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Sturt Street at its intersection with Mitchell Street. TfNSW advised it doesn't support a crossing at this location noting that this area will be included in the 40km/h zoning area. The correspondent has been so advised.
Mitchell Highway and Polygonum Swamp Road Intersection	TfNSW MR	Complaints have been received from people needing to make the turn onto Polygonum Swamp Road that they are being tailgated when they slow down before turning. Police suggested extending the 50km/h zone to the intersection. The road is wide enough to accommodate a right turn lane. However, this would be contrary to the original approval. No accidents have been reported at the intersection. TfNSW will raise internally.
Intersection of Tarcoon and Mitchell Streets	TfNSW	The power pole at the Tarcoon/Mitchell intersection has been hit three times by north bound road trains turning left (west) into Mitchell Street. It was suggested that removing the island in Mitchell Street might alleviate the issue. The pedestrian refuge was installed in 2013 by TfNSW. The pole cannot be moved further back. TfNSW will investigate.
Fiesta	MED MR	BSC has received funding to conduct a Fiesta. TfNSW requested that information be emailed to Kayla Cohen. A Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) will need to be developed and provided to TfNSW.

3. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Give way signs and lines

There have been a number of motor vehicle collisions within Bourke as a result of poorly marked give way lines etc. Two collisions have involved Police, one off duty and one on duty. Is it possible to have someone inspect the intersections controlled by Give Way signs and have them repainted or signed. – SC Vituseck will provide specific instances.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Police advised parking signs need to be upgraded, many illegible due to fading. BSC to follow up.
2. No stopping signs at Bowling Club faded near unreadable. Disability line marking and signage for Pharmacy and Post Office faded. BSC to follow up.
3. Police advised that the Road Closure signs at Wanaaring to the west of town are faded, on the Bourke side. Sign is in need of maintenance. BSC to follow up.

MINUTES OF THE 2024/25 COMMUNITY TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING 28/10/2024

4. Proposed electronic road advice signs for Wanaaring Road and Mitchell Highway were discussed. Awaiting further information.
 5. 10 October is the cutoff for Active Transport funding applications. The unformed path from Wanaaring School to the Wanaaring Store is seen as a candidate for a footpath as raised by Daniel. BSC to follow up.
- 5. NEXT MEETING**
The next Traffic Committee Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:36pm.

14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Nil

15 GENERAL MANAGER

15.1 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN WRITTEN RETURNS

File Number: C11.7, S2.29
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Clause 4.21 of Councils Code of Conduct provides, in respect of disclosure of interests in written returns, as follows:

A councillor or designated person must make and lodge with the general manager a return in the form set out in schedule 2 to this code, disclosing the councillor's or designated person's interests as specified in schedule 1 to this code within 3 months after:

(a) becoming a councillor or designated person, and

(b) 30 June of each year, and

(c) the councillor or designated person becoming aware of an interest they are required to disclose under schedule 1 that has not been previously disclosed in a return lodged under paragraph (a) or (b).

Clause 4.25 of the Code provides that, *returns that are required to be lodged with the general manager under clause 4.21(a) and (b) must be tabled at the first meeting of the council after the last day the return is required to be lodged.*

Current Situation

Having regard to Clauses 4.21(b) and 4.25 of Councils Code of Conduct, those Councillors who comprised the Council as elected in December 2021 and designated persons were required to disclose their interests in written returns to the General Manager by 30 September 2024, being 3 months after 30 June 2024, with such returns to then be tabled at the first meeting after this date.

Accordingly, the returns will be tabled at the October 2024 Council meeting, noting that all required Councillors and designated persons have completed their written interest returns.

In addition to these returns, it is advised that as per the Code, all Councillors are also required to lodge a return with the General Manager within three months of becoming a Councillor. As the election of 14 September 2024 was declared on 1 October 2024, the returns are due to the General Manager by 1 January 2025. The returns will then be tabled at the first Council meeting after this date, which will be Councils February 2025 meeting.

It is further advised that in accordance with Clause 4.27 of the Code, Council must make all returns of interests publicly available in accordance with the requirements of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 and any guidelines issued by the NSW Information Commissioner. This is in respect of returns provided by Councillors and designated persons, being the General Manager and the Managers who report to the General Manager.

The Information Commissioner has issued Information Access Guideline 1 in relation to the publication of information contained in returns of interests. Guideline 1 states that councillors' and designated persons' returns of interests must be made publicly available free of charge on councils' websites, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information contained in them or to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs on the council.

It is open to councils to redact information from returns of interests (eg a person's signature and residential address) when publishing returns on their websites where there is an overriding public interest against the disclosure that information. Such action will be taken in respect of the various Bourke Council related returns prior to publishing on Council's website.

Financial Implications

There are no Financial Implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

- 1. That the tabling of the Disclosure of Interest Returns at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 October 2024, as detailed in the report of the General Manager, be noted.**
- 2. That as per Councils Code of Conduct, all Councillors are required to lodge a Disclosure of Interest Return with the General Manager within three months of becoming a Councillor, noting that as the election was declared on 1 October 2024, the required returns are due to the General Manager by 1 January 2025, with the Returns then tabled at the first Council meeting after this date, being Councils February 2025 meeting.**
- 3. That as per Information Access Guideline 1, as issued by the NSW Information Commissioner, Council proceed to publish the tabled Disclosure of Interest Returns of Councillors and Designated Persons on the Council website, on the basis of addresses and signatures on each Return being redacted prior to publication.**

15.2 AUSTRALIA DAY

File Number: C2.3-C2.31
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

For many years consideration of the recipients for the annual Australia Day Awards has been undertaken by Councillors at a workshop held at the conclusion of a Council meeting. This report proposes for the schedule for the process for the nominations and determination of award recipients for Australia Day 2025.

Current Situation

With Council not scheduled to meet in January 2025, it is proposed that the award nomination process for the 2025 Australia Day Awards be held during November/December 2024 with a workshop of Councillors then being held at the completion of the December 2024 Council meeting to progress the matter. Such timing would result in the nomination process being advertised prior to local organisations and schools going into recess for the Christmas/New Year break.

As per the categories adopted by Council for the 2024 Australia Day Award, it is proposed that the same categories be awarded in 2025 as follows:-

- Citizen of the Year
- Junior Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Village Service Award
- Emergency Services Volunteer of the year
- Community Event of the Year.

Financial Implications

Funding is provided in Councils Operational Plan for its Australia Day Awards and activities.

Recommendation

1. That the award categories for the 2025 Australia Day Awards be maintained as follows:

- **Citizen of the Year**
- **Junior Citizen of the Year**
- **Sportsperson of the Year**
- **Junior Sportsperson of the Year**
- **Village Service Award**
- **Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year**
- **Community Event of the Year.**

2. That nominations in respect of the 2025 Australia Day Awards open on Wednesday 6 November 2024 and close at 4.30pm on Friday 6 December 2024.

3. That Council delegate to the General Manager the role of finalising the determination of the Bourke Shire Council Australia Day Award Recipients, having regard to deliberations to be undertaken as part of a Workshop of Councillors to be convened following the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on Monday, 16 December 2024.

15.3 * CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR CLOSURE**

File Number: A3.10.1
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

As a long-established practice in common with other Council's, Government Departments and Professional Practices, Bourke Shire Council has in previous years closed its main Office and Library over the Christmas/New Year's holiday period. All other facilities (including Swimming Pool, Waste Depot and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre) are also closed on Christmas Day and re-open during the balance of the Christmas/New Year period but may operate with changes made to the hours and days of operation, as required.

Council continues to provide essential services to ensure the health and safety of the community, noting that Councils Road Crews are generally on leave during this Christmas/New Year Period and during January.

Over the 2023/2024 Christmas and New Year Period, the main Office and Library closed from 4.30pm Thursday, 21 December 2023 and reopened at 8.00am on Monday, 8 January 2024, a period of 17 days. The Council closure over this period also included the Annual Union Picnic Holiday on Friday, 22 December 2023 in the holiday period.

Current Situation

The 17-day main Office and Library closure during the 2023/2024 Christmas and New Year Period appears to have had no ill effect on customer service over the period with no complaints received from community members or stakeholders. Additionally, staff appreciated the extra time off work to enable them to have a longer break.

January is traditionally a quiet period with many community members taking the opportunity of school holidays and leave to travel away to visit family or seek respite from the severe heat often experienced over the period.

In this regard, it will be recommended that the main Office and Library close this upcoming Christmas/New Year period from 4.30pm on Friday, 20 December 2024 and reopen at 8.00am, or the regular opening time, on Monday, 6 January 2025, a period of 16 days noting that during this proposed period, many people in the community are themselves still on leave.

It is advised that the Council closure over this proposed period will not include the Annual Union Picnic Holiday as union member staff elected to take the day on Friday, 16 August 2024.

Staff will be required to take appropriate leave during this period and Council will continue to provide appropriate on-call officers to respond to urgent maintenance work or emergency situations.

Financial Implications

Organisational leave liabilities must be managed at sustainable levels for minimum impact on funds in reserve required for other organisation requirements. Staff will be required to take their accrued leave during this period.

Recommendation

- 1. That Councils Shire Office and Library close at 4.30pm on Friday, 20 December 2024 and re-open at their respective regular opening times on Monday, 6 January 2025.**
- 2. That Councils other facilities including the Memorial Swimming Pool, Waste Depot and Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre close for Christmas Day on Wednesday, 25 December 2024, and that dates and times of operation for these facilities during the remaining days of Christmas/New Year period be determined by the General Manager, having regard to demand and operational requirements.**
- 3. That it be noted that Council will maintain a skeleton crew to provide appropriate on-call staff to respond to urgent maintenance work or emergency situations during the holiday period.**
- 4. That the community be advised of Councils Christmas/New Year holiday arrangements.**

15.4 * 2024 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONGRESS**

File Number: 2194, 3197, 20550
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Locally controlled, or Council roads account for 75% of the total road length in Australia, or 660,597 kilometres. Such roads could circle the earth 16.5 times. The National Transport Commission estimates 36% of all kilometres travelled in Australia are on local roads.

The Australian Local Government Association is the main driver of advocacy for road funding and has, over time, successfully secured Roads to Recovery Funding, additional funding through the Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and increased funding for Federal Disaster Mitigation.

In respect of this advocacy role and the securing of Roads to Recovery Funding, Council will receive funding of \$10,559,185 under the Roads to Recovery program for the period 2024 to 2029, which is a 46.67% increase on the 2019-2024 allocation.

The Annual National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress presents Councils with the opportunity to network and discuss boosting national productivity, improve safety on our local roads and build more sustainable infrastructure. Given that it is national conference, the locality of the Conference is shared between the States and Territories on a rotating basis.

Bourke Shire Council has traditionally attended the Annual Congress each year, with the Mayor, General Manager, or their nominees, attending. In this regard the General Manager's nominee will again be Councils Roads Manager. It will be recommended that Council determine if additional Councillors attend the Conference.

Current Situation

The 2024 National Local Roads and Transport Congress will be held at Margaret River HEART (Hospitality, Education, Arts, Recreation, and Tourism) a community hub located in the heart of Margaret River, Western Australia on 2,3 and 4 December 2024.

Financial Implications

Attendance at the Congress would be met from existing budgetary allocations and will involve registration, travel and accommodation.

Recommendation

- 1. That the Mayor and General Manager, or their nominees, attend the 2024 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress to be held in Margaret River, WA on 2,3 and 4 December 2024.**

- 2. That Council proceed to determine any additional Councillor attendance at the 2024 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress.**

15.5 * PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION OF OPERATIONAL LAND**

File Number: 4116
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: 1. Plan of WLL 9618

Background

Council at its meeting held on 22 July 2024 gave consideration to the acquisition of Western Lands Lease 9618, as part of the NSW Governments policy that enables Western Lands leaseholders to purchase eligible Western Lands leases by converting the leasehold land into freehold title.

In this regard Council resolved:

- 1. That Council accept the offer of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands, to convert Western Land Lease 9618, comprising lots 3-4 DP1136910, lots 15-16 DP 751848 & lot 21 DP 751848 with a combined area of 82.1948ha, to freehold title at a purchase price of \$206,000.*
- 2. That the General Manager be authorised to complete the necessary Purchase Price Acceptance Form and finalise the transfer of title.*
- 3. That funding in respect of this proposed purchase be sourced from Councils Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Fund.*
- 4. That it be proposed that the subject land, being Lots 3-4 DP1136910, Lots 15-16 DP 751848 & Lot 21 DP 751848 with a combined area of 82.1948ha be classified as Operational Land as per Section 31(2) of the Local Government Act and that the General Manager be requested to report to the August 2024 meeting in respect of such proposed classification.*
- 5. That the necessary documentation be executed under the Common Seal of Council.*
- 6. That the documents and considerations remain confidential to Council.*

Western Lands Lease No 9618, is better known as the land which generally comprises the Bourke Golf Course/ Bourke District Children's Services Precinct, having an area of 82.1948ha.

Council must take relevant action to classify the land as per the Local Government Act. In this regard, land can be classified as either Operational Land or Community Land.

For information, the main effect of classification is to restrict the alienation and use of the land. Operational Land has no special restrictions other than those that may apply to any piece of land.

Community land is different. Classification as community land reflects the importance of the land to the community because of its use or special features.

Generally, it is land intended for public access and use, or where other restrictions applying to the land create some obligation to maintain public access (such as a trust deed, or dedication under section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979). This gives rise to the restrictions in the Act, intended to preserve the qualities of the land.

Community land cannot be sold; cannot be leased, licenced or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years; and must have a plan of management prepared for it.

The most common way in which to initially classify land is by resolution of Council. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993, any public land that is acquired by or vested in Council after 1 July 1993 may be classified by resolution of Council. Land must be classified by Council before its acquisition or within three (3) months after it acquires land (s.31(2)). If not classified, the land is automatically classified as community (s.31(2A)).

The acquisition of the land by Council was finalised on 1 October 2024.

Current Situation

To bring the classification resolution to fruition, Council at its 26 August 2024 meeting resolved:

- 1. That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, Council proceed to give 28 days' public notice during September 2024 of its proposed resolution to classify as Operational Land, Lots 3-4 DP1136910, Lots 15-16 DP 751848 and Lot 21 DP 751848, being the land which comprises the Bourke Golf Course/ Bourke District Children's Services Precinct.*
- 2. That a further report be provided to Council in October 2024 following the advertising of the Land Classification proposal.*

In response to Council's resolution as above, Council provided public notification by advertising the proposal in the Western Herald editions of 5, 12 and 19 September 2024, with advice in the advertisement that submissions would be received up until 12.00 pm on Friday 4 October 2024.

At the conclusion of the public notification period, it is advised that no submissions were received. It will be recommended that Council proceed to classify lots 3-4 DP1136910, lots 15-16 DP 751848 & lot 21 DP 751848 as Operational Land.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

That in accordance with the provisions of section 31 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and following notification of the proposed resolution in accordance with section 34 of the Act, Council classify Lots 3-4 DP1136910, Lots 15-16 DP 751848 & Lot 21 DP 751848 as Operational Land.

Attachment: Plan of Western Lands Lease 9618



15.6 * PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND - CHARLES STREET, LOUTH**

File Number: 20705, 20840
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: 1. Plan of Road Dedication

Background

Council is proposing to consolidate a parcel of land on the Darling River side of the Bloxham Street/Charles Street intersection in Louth which Council would seek to be used as transportable accommodation facilities for its road work crews.

In undertaking due diligence for this consolidation, Council has identified that a parcel of land that was understood to be road has not been vested in Council, but instead remains in the ownership of Margaret Mary Mitchell and Eileen McGann as Executrices of the Estate of Walter Gordon Mitchell (Road Parcel).

The parcel of land in question is that land marked as Charles Street on DP1275 registered in 1884 and shown in green in the diagram below:



In accordance with the Search Report of Info Track dated 22 February 2022, there was no evidence of a formal resumption or dedication of that part of Charles Street on or prior to the registration of DP1275, or in any subsequent plans of subdivision.

As DP1275 was registered prior to 1907, section 16 of the Roads Act 1993 (Roads Act) governs the process for Council to have the land dedicated as road.

Section 16 relevantly states as follows:

- (1) This section applies to land that is set aside for the purposes of a road left in a subdivision of land effected before 1 January 1907 (the date of commencement of the Local Government Act 1906) or in a plan of subdivision that was registered by the Registrar-General before 1 January 1920 (the date of commencement of the Local Government Act 1919).*
- (2) The council of the local government area within which such land is situated may, by notice published in the Gazette, dedicate the land as a public road.*
- (3) On the publication of the notice in the Gazette—*
 - (a) the land described in the declaration becomes free of all trusts, restrictions, dedications, reservations, obligations and interests, and*
 - (b) the land is dedicated as a public road.*
- (4) No compensation is payable to any person with respect to any loss or damage arising from the operation of this section.*
- (5) Land may not be dedicated as a public road under this section if the Land and Environment Court has made a declaration under section 17 to the effect that the land may not be so dedicated or if an application for such a declaration is pending before that Court.*

The Road Parcel was relevantly set aside for the purpose of a road in 1884.

Having regard to the above, Council is required to take the following steps to arrange for the Road Parcel to be dedicated as public road:

1. prepare a Plan of Road Dedication (to confirm the boundaries of the Road Parcel);
2. prepare a Notice of Proposed Dedication; and
3. publish a notice in the NSW Government Gazette dedicating the Road Parcel as public road.

Once the above processes are successfully completed, Council can then formally proceed to close the Road Parcel in the normal manner.

Current Situation

Given that title particulars of the Road Parcel remain in Volume 2772 Folio 229 and does not have its own distinct lot and deposited plan reference, it was necessary to arrange for a proposed Plan of Road Dedication (Dedication Plan) to be prepared by a registered Surveyor in order to create a unique folio identifier for the Road Parcel. This Plan has been prepared and subsequently lodged and registered at NSW Land Registry Services (LRS). A copy of the Plan of Road Dedication is attached.

The Dedication Plan does not dedicate the Road Parcel as public road but is able to be used to subsequently define the parcel itself (similar to a proposed Plan of Acquisition). With the plan now registered, the title particulars for the Road Parcel can then be used on any documents related to the dedication (such as the Notice of Proposed Dedication).

To progress this matter, it is necessary for Council to take into account the obligation to serve a Notice of Proposed Dedication (Dedication Notice) pursuant to section 17 of the Roads Act, which provides that:

(1) Before dedicating land as a public road under section 16, the council must cause as least 28 days' notice of its intention to do so, to be served on the owner of the land.

(2) During that period of 28 days, the owner of the land may, in accordance with rules of court, apply to the Land and Environment Court for a declaration that the land should not be dedicated as a public road."

(3) The Land and Environment Court may make such decision as it thinks fit with respect to the application.

In line with the Search Report of InfoTrack, the owners of the Road Parcel are Margaret Mary Mitchell and Eileen McGann as Executrices of the Estate of Walter Gordon Mitchell. Given the time that has passed, since the registering of the land in 1884, Ms Mitchell and Ms McGann would also now be deceased.

Whilst the Roads Act does not provide guidance in relation to the situation where the owner of the Road Parcel is deceased, Council's legal advice is that it should proceed to publish for a period of 28 days a Dedication Notice, notifying the general public of Council's proposed dedication (attaching a copy of the Dedication Plan) by:

- (1) publishing the Dedication Notice in a newspaper circulated in the Bourke area, as well as a state based paper;
- (2) affixing the Dedication Notice on the Road Parcel itself; and
- (3) serving the Dedication Notice on the adjoining owners.

The Dedication Notice would take the following form:

Bourke Shire Council (Council) hereby gives Notice that after the expiry of twenty eight (28) days from the date of this Notice, it intends pursuant to section 16 of the Roads Act 1993 (NSW) to dedicate the following land as a public road by publishing a notice to that effect in the New South Wales Government Gazette:

Lot 1 in Deposited Plan of Acquisition 1281795 being part of the land within certificate of title Volume 2772 Folio 229

All of the land in 1/1281795 situated at Louth in the state of New South Wales and shown on the attached plan.

According to searches obtained by Council, the land intended to be dedicated as public road was set aside for the purposes of a road left in a subdivision of land effected before 1 January 1907 or in a plan of subdivision that was registered by the Registrar-General before 1 January 1920.

Pursuant to section 17(2) of the Roads Act 1993 (NSW), the owner of the land may, in accordance with the rules of court, apply to the Land and Environment Court for a declaration that the land should not be dedicated as public road. Such application must be made within twenty eight (28) days of the date of this Notice.

Any queries with respect to this Notice should be directed to Councils General Manager, Leonie Brown, 29 Mitchell St, Bourke, phone 6830 8000.

Following the end of the period of twenty eight (28) days, Council may formalise the dedication of the Road Parcel as public road by publishing a Notice in the NSW Government Gazette (Final Notice).

Upon publication of this Final Notice in the Gazette, the Road Parcel is dedicated as a public road and Council becomes the owner of the Road Parcel (as roads authority) and the rights of the previous owners are extinguished.

Following the gazettal of the Final Notice, the formal dedication of the Road Parcel as public road will be affected and LRS will be notified accordingly.

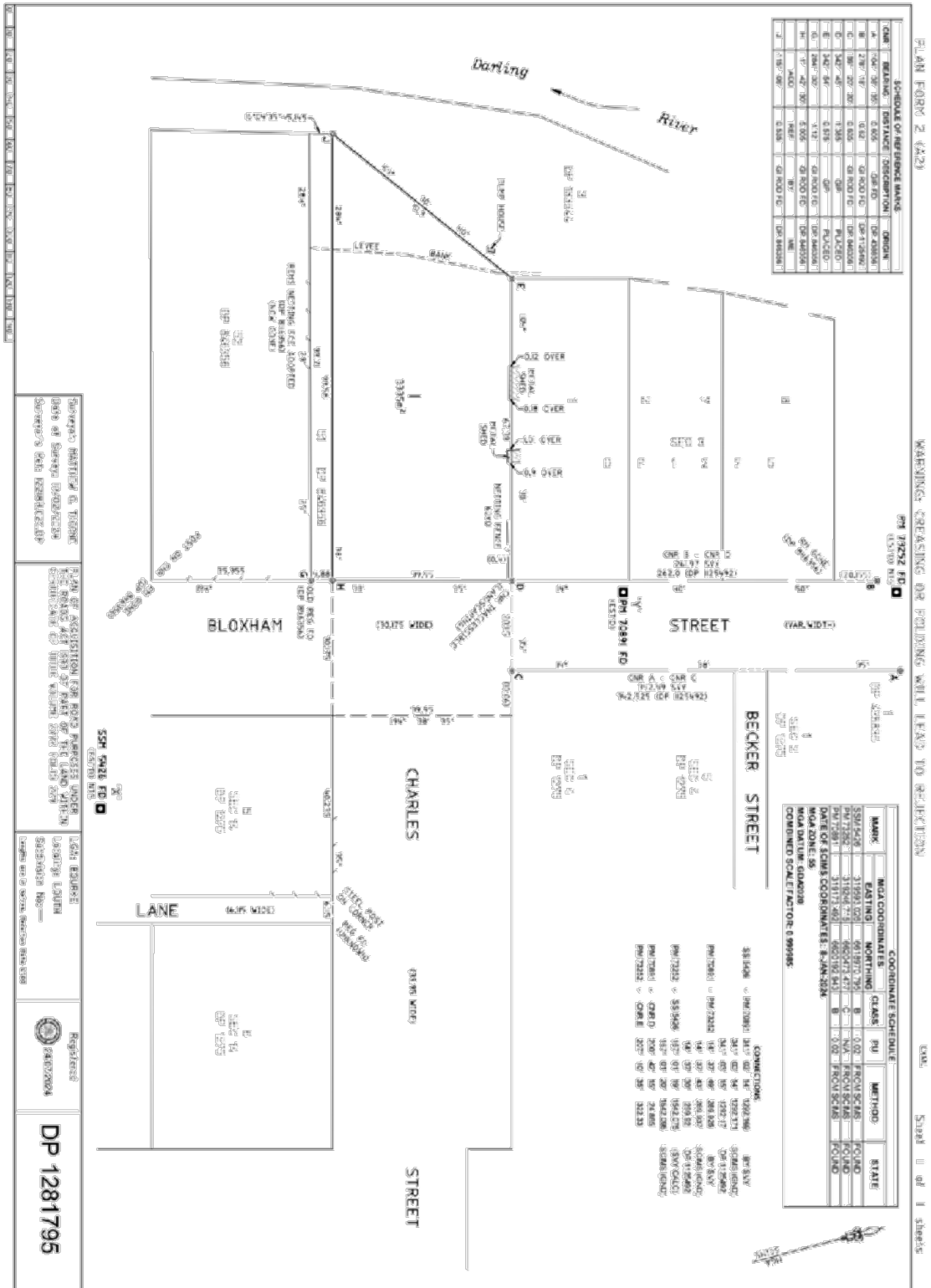
Council would then formally proceed with closing the Road Parcel in the normal manner.

Financial Implications

Funding is available in Councils 2024/2025 Operational Plan to undertake the required processes to ultimately procure the land.

Recommendation

- a) That Council approve the placement of a Dedication Notice on the Land being part of the land within certificate of title Volume 2772 Folio 229, notifying, the general public of Council's proposed dedication of the Land and attaching a copy of Deposited Plan 1281795 for a period of 28 days.
- b) That Council publish the Dedication Notice in a newspaper circulated in the Bourke area, as well as a state-based paper notifying, the general public of Council's proposed dedication of the Land.
- c) That Council serve a Dedication Notice on the adjoining owners to the land within certificate of title Volume 2772 Folio 229 notifying the adjoining owners of Council's proposed dedication of the Land.
- d) That following the period of twenty eight (28) days, Council publish a notice in the NSW Government Gazette dedicating the land as public road pursuant to section 16 of the Roads Act 1993.
- e) That pursuant to section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council delegate authority to the General Manager to sign any necessary notice and dedication documentation as required associated with the dedication.



15.7 * DECONSTRUCTION OF TIMBER APPROACHES TO NORTH BOURKE BRIDGE**

File Number: 1379, 4373
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

As part of Councils Closed Meeting Agenda for Monday 28 October 2024, a report in respect of tenders received for the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge is provided for consideration and determination by Council. Whilst it is recommended that the documents and considerations in respect of the tender are confidential to Council, the rationale behind the tender isn't confidential. Accordingly, this report provides significant background to the proposed deconstruction/demolition of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge.

The restoration of the North Bourke Bridge has long been a strategic goal of Bourke Shire Council. Council's current Community Strategic Plan, as adopted in June 2022, provides at Section 3.0, Economic Prosperity - Sub Section 3.2, "Our community values its history and heritage and seeks to develop the tourism industry." This Section of the Plan includes an action "to improve access to the North Bourke Bridge."

A goal to restore the bridge to improve access potentially dates to 1997 when the one-lane and speed-limited bridge was mothballed and the new 'Gateway Bridge' over the Darling River at North Bourke was constructed and opened by the then Roads and Traffic Authority. Around this time, ownership of the significant, historical, technical, social and aesthetically pleasing North Bourke Bridge was offered to and accepted by Council as its asset.

Given the level of decay to the timber approaches to the bridge, public access to the northern approaches to the bridge were barricaded off in 2015 and then in 2016, the southern approaches were barricaded such that access to the bridge has been fully barricaded for the past eight (8) years.

During this eight (8) year period, Council on various occasions has given consideration as to how it can achieve restoration of the bridge, noting that the bridge, including the timber approaches, are listed as local heritage items in Schedule 5 of the Bourke Local Environmental Plan. During this period, Council lodged various funding applications. It wasn't until late 2022 when Council was successful with an application when it received \$200,000 in grant funding from Transport for NSW under the 2022/2023 "Get NSW Active" program for the preparation of a comprehensive project specification in respect of a shared walkway across the North Bourke Bridge. Following the seeking of additional funding from TfNSW, this funding allocation was increased to \$400,000.00.

In response to the availability of grant funding, and as a result of various discussions with industry professionals, in early 2023 it became evident that the complexities of restoring the North Bourke Bridge were significant.

To progress the potential restoration in a structured manner, the assistance and experience of NSW Public Works was sought. The ultimate aim in engaging with Public Works was the development of the necessary documentation that would result in indicative restoration costs being identified that would allow Council to seek grant funding to engage a contractor(s) to restore the bridge with a high level of costing confidence and further, ensure the project was “shovel ready” to proceed once a tender for the required restoration works was awarded.

An initial brief with NSW Public Works was developed and with their assistance a preliminary brief for the engagement of Focus Bridge Engineering (Mr Mark Tilley) as a sub-contractor to NSW Public Works was agreed to. NSW Public Works sourced the services of Focus Bridge Engineering (FBE) following discussions with their fellow NSW State Government Agency, Transport for NSW, who noted FBE’s extensive experience in all stages of the design and delivery of bridge infrastructure projects with a “focus on difficult, complex, and existing bridge structures.” This and subsequent engagements of NSW Public Works was undertaken in accordance with section 55 (3)(a) of the *NSW Local Government Act* which provides for councils to enter into contracts with the Crown (of which NSW Public Works is part of) without the calling of tenders.

As part of the preliminary brief with Public Works, officers from Public Works and Focus Bridge Engineering travelled to Bourke in April 2023 to both inspect the bridge and meet with Council staff with a view to developing a wider brief of works to achieve Councils vision for the restoration of the Bridge. As a result of such discussions, a series of desired outcomes to lead the Bridge restoration project were developed:

- 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 were 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.*

In reporting these project objectives to Council, it was also advised to Council that as a result of the levels of continuous flood waters in the Darling River during 2022 and early 2023, the deterioration of the timber approaches of the bridge had been exacerbated, with

the officers from NSW Public Works and Focus Bridge Engineering raising concerns as to the stability of the approaches.

The following aerial photograph shows the inundated flood affected North Bourke Bridge during 2023.



With these deterioration concerns in mind, NSW Public Works and Focus Bridge Engineering were requested to return to Bourke and undertake a further thorough inspection of the bridge and approaches and further discuss how Council best attempts to progress the project.

This visit took place on 29 and 30 August 2023 and following such inspection, NSW Public Works, in conjunction with Focus Bridge Engineering, raised considerable concern at the structural integrity of the timber approaches advising that that the approaches should be removed as soon as possible.

NSW Public Works formally reported this advice as follows:

The western (North Bourke end) approach spans, as viewed from below:

All spans are dilapidated and heavily deteriorated, with no structural integrity remaining in each of these 10 spans.

Various holes are visible in the deck sheeting, with other deck planks likely to give way if walked upon.

Most of the longitudinal main supporting timber beams have split, are deflecting and have deteriorated.

Various handrailing sections have fallen, leaving openings at various locations, the condition of the remaining handrailing is very unsafe.

The vertical timber piles comprising the timber piers have major termite deterioration, especially at ground level, with likely very little remaining connection into the ground. Most of the timber piles in the piers have split, in part due to the wetting and drying process during flood events.

We do not recommend deck access to any of these spans. Pedestrian access over these spans is very unsafe.

We estimate that 90% or more of the timber materials are unsalvageable.

The eastern (Bourke end) approach spans:

The above notes similarly apply. All spans are heavily deteriorated, with no structural integrity remaining in the each of the 4 spans.

Note that in the second timber span from the wrought iron spans, that two longitudinal beams (the outer and adjacent inner beams) have completely failed and are likely at some stage to fall to the ground, other beams have also split.

Some of the timber piers appear to have been pushed over by flooding and are leaning transversely. Some handrailing sections have also fallen off.

Safety notes

Due to its current condition and inevitable further deterioration, the bridge currently poses major safety hazards to the public.

Signage and barricading will be erected soon by Council, to alert the public to the hazards of either walking or driving vehicles beneath the bridge spans.

Public access to the bridge deck has been closed off for some time.

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.

Having regard to this advice, discussions with the representatives from Public Works and Focus Bridge Engineering turned to addressing the need to deconstruct the timber approaches, sooner rather than later.

In this regard, and prior to the receipt of the “early as practicable” demolition advice, whilst always part of the overall plan, removal of the approaches had up until that point being proposed to be undertaken as part of the Project Delivery Phase when all the necessary design and documentation works had been completed, grant funding obtained, and a contractor engaged to undertake the removal and replacement of new approaches to the bridge.

Council at its September 2023 meeting, noted the advice of NSW Public Works regarding the deteriorated condition of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge with Council further resolving, in part, *to endorse the engagement of NSW Public Works and Focus Bridge Design (as a sub-contractor), with a view to:*

- 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.*

A picture of a potentially restored North Bourke Bridge with replacement concrete approaches follows:



Focus Bridge Engineering, in consultation with a bridge deconstruction contractor, estimated that the cost to deconstruct the timber approaches on both sides of the bridge would be some \$300,000. A contingency of 33.33% (\$100,000) was suggested pending the determination of a fixed price by a contractor to be sourced by public tender, bringing this component of the project to \$400,000.00.

Current Situation

The development of documentation leading to a recommendation regarding the engagement of a contractor to undertake the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the bridge has proceeded.

In addition to preparing the necessary tender documentation, as per Division 5.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), NSW Public Works, on behalf of Council, undertook the necessary environmental assessment of the deconstruction proposal by developing a comprehensive Review of Environmental Factors (REF) document to assess any potential significant environmental impacts expected as part of the deconstruction proposal.

The REF provides an introduction to the proposal; reviews the strategic planning framework of the proposal; addresses relevant legislation; discusses the proposal and undertakes an assessment of the existing environment in the vicinity of the old North Bourke Bridge, including the likely potential impacts associated with the demolition and operational phases of the proposal and any associated mitigation measures. Where considered necessary, feasible mitigation measures are identified for implementation as part of the environmental management of the proposal.

Environmental matters addressed relate to:

1. Land Use
2. Geology, Soils and Water
3. Traffic and Access
4. Air Quality
5. Noise and Vibration
6. Waste Management
7. Biodiversity
8. Aboriginal Heritage
9. Historic Heritage
10. Bushfire
11. Visual Amenity
12. Utilities and Infrastructure
13. Public Health and Safety

Council formally considered the REF at its meeting held on 22 July 2024, resolving as follows:

1. *That the Proposal for the North Bourke Bridge Restoration, Stage 1 Works, be approved, subject to the following conditions:*
 - a) *A Demolition Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) being developed for the Proposal incorporating the mitigation measures outlined in Section 6 of the North Bourke Bridge Project REF and any other appropriate environmental management measures. The DEMP must be reviewed and approved by Bourke Shire Council prior to the commencement of work activity.*
 - b) *Council publishes the REF on the NSW Planning Portal or Council's website as per Section 171 (4) of the EP&A Regulation (being where it is in the public's interest) either before the activity commences or, where this is not practicable, as soon as practicable and no later than one month after the activity commences.*
2. *That the Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services be authorised to complete the Decision Statement as contained in the REF for Stage 1 Works.*

3. *That the Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services be further authorised to review and approve the Demolition Environmental Management Plan prior to the commencement of work activity.*

A copy of the REF is available for viewing on the NSW Planning Portal at the following link:
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/part-5/north-bourke-bridge-restoration>

On Friday 19 July 2024, NSW Public Works invited tenders on its “buy.nsw.gov.au” website from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to undertake the deconstruction of the East and West timber approach spans to the wrought iron bridge structure of the North Bourke Bridge.

Council also advertised the tender in the Bourke Western Herald newspaper editions of 25 July and 1 August 2024.

Tenders closed on 9 August 2024, with two (2) tender submissions received.

A report in respect of these tenders is included in Councils Closed Meeting Agenda for Monday 28 October 2024.

It is further advised that works in respect of 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; is proceeding satisfactorily with this component of the project expected to be completed by years end 2024.

Financial Implications

Council received funding of \$400,000 under the Local Government Recovery Grant – NSW Severe Weather and Flood Grant - AGRN 1034 – 14 September 2022 onwards for the demolition of the North Bourke Bridge approaches. The grant program provides that “any funds which are not expended by 30 June 2025 must be returned.

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding the proposed deconstruction of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge be noted.

15.8 * STATE OF OUR SHIRE REPORT**

File Number: 20853
Author: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: 1. State of Our Shire Report 2024

Background

Section 428(2) of the *Local Government Act* provides that Council's "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."

In respect of this matter, the Office of Local Government has issued a Post Election Guide which provides that "at the second meeting after the elections, the State of our City (in the case of Bourke, the State of Our Shire) Report must be presented to and endorsed by the council."

In considering a report on the Council elections at its 22 July 2024 meeting of Council, Bourke Shire Council resolved, in part, "that it be noted that a State Of Our Shire Report will be provided to the second meeting of the incoming Bourke Shire Council, with such second meeting expected to be held in October 2024."

Current Situation

A copy of the State of Our Shire report detailing the achievements of the Bourke Shire Council as elected for the term December 2021 till 13 September 2024 is attached.

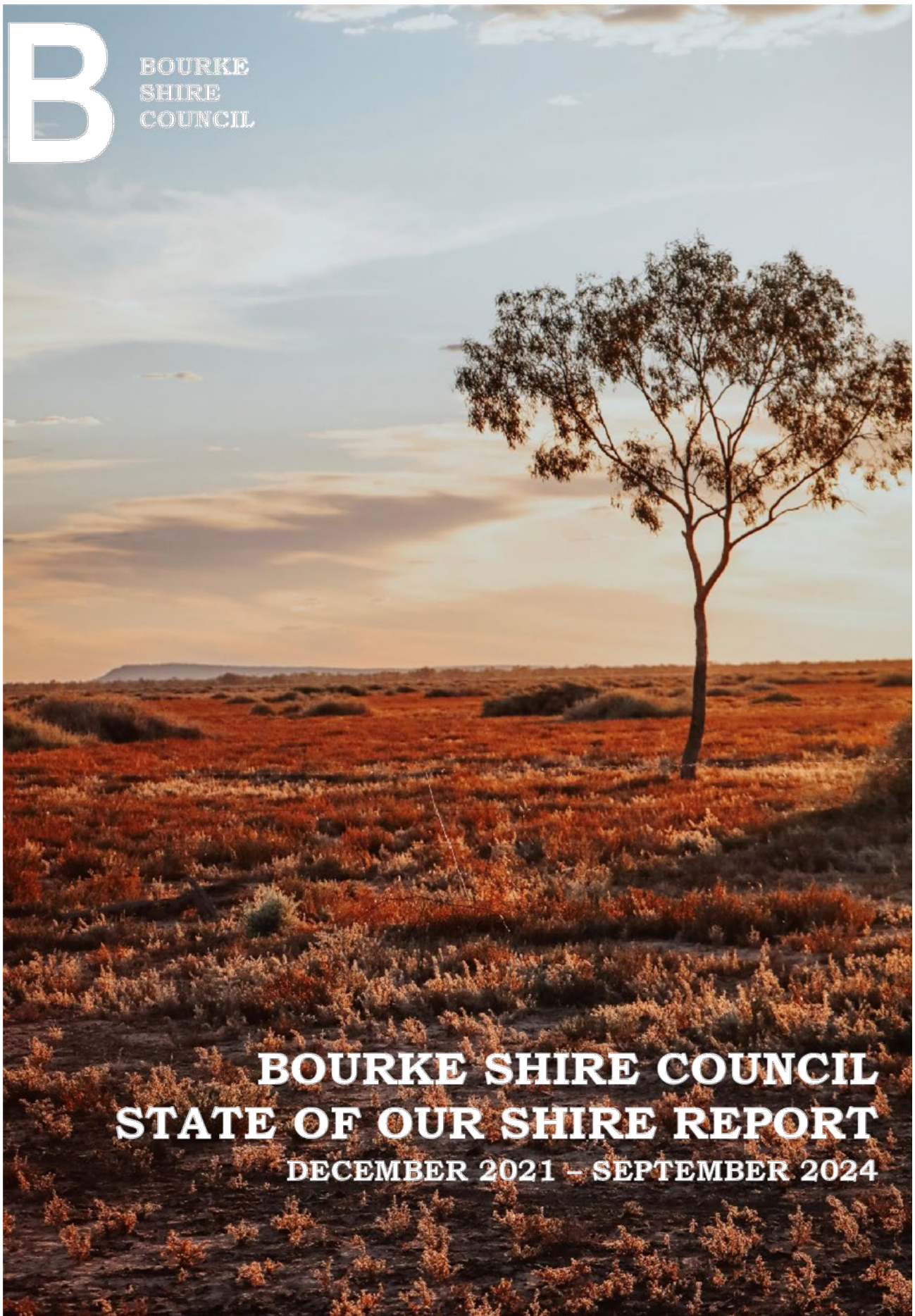
The report is considered self-explanatory with a considerable number of achievements documented. It will be recommended that the Report be endorsed and be included as part of Councils 2023/2024 Annual Report, which is currently being prepared.

Financial Implications

Funding has been provided in Councils 2023/2024 Operational Plan for the preparation of the required Reports.

Recommendation

That the Bourke Shire Council State of Our Shire report detailing the achievements of the Bourke Shire Council as elected for the term December 2021 till 13 September 2024 be endorsed.



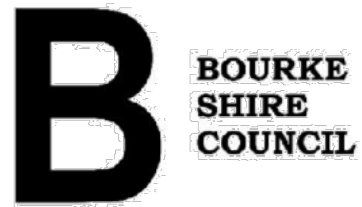




ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, Bourke Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of Bourke and country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to our Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



OUR COMMUNITY VISION

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

INTRODUCTION

The election of Councillors for Bourke Shire Council on 4 December 2021 was initially set down for 12 September 2020. As a result of the COVID Pandemic, the NSW Minister for Local Government initially postponed the elections planned for September 2020 until 4 September 2021. With a further COVID outbreak in 2021, the elections were again postponed till 4 December 2021.

Rather than a 48-month, 4-year term, the term of the December 2021 elected Council was reduced to 2 years and 9 months, or close to just 70% of the normal 4-year term.

The 'State Of Our Shire Report' (previously referred to as Council's End of Term Report) is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. It would normally present Council's achievements over four years in the year an ordinary election is held.

Given however the reduced term of the Council elected in December 2021, this report highlights the progress in implementing the Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022–2032, as adopted by Council in June 2022, for the period December 2021 – September 2024.

During its shortened term, Council has focused on delivering the Objectives and Strategies set out in the Target Areas of the Community Strategic Plan as follows:

1.0 Environmental sustainability.

2.0 Liveable and vibrant community.

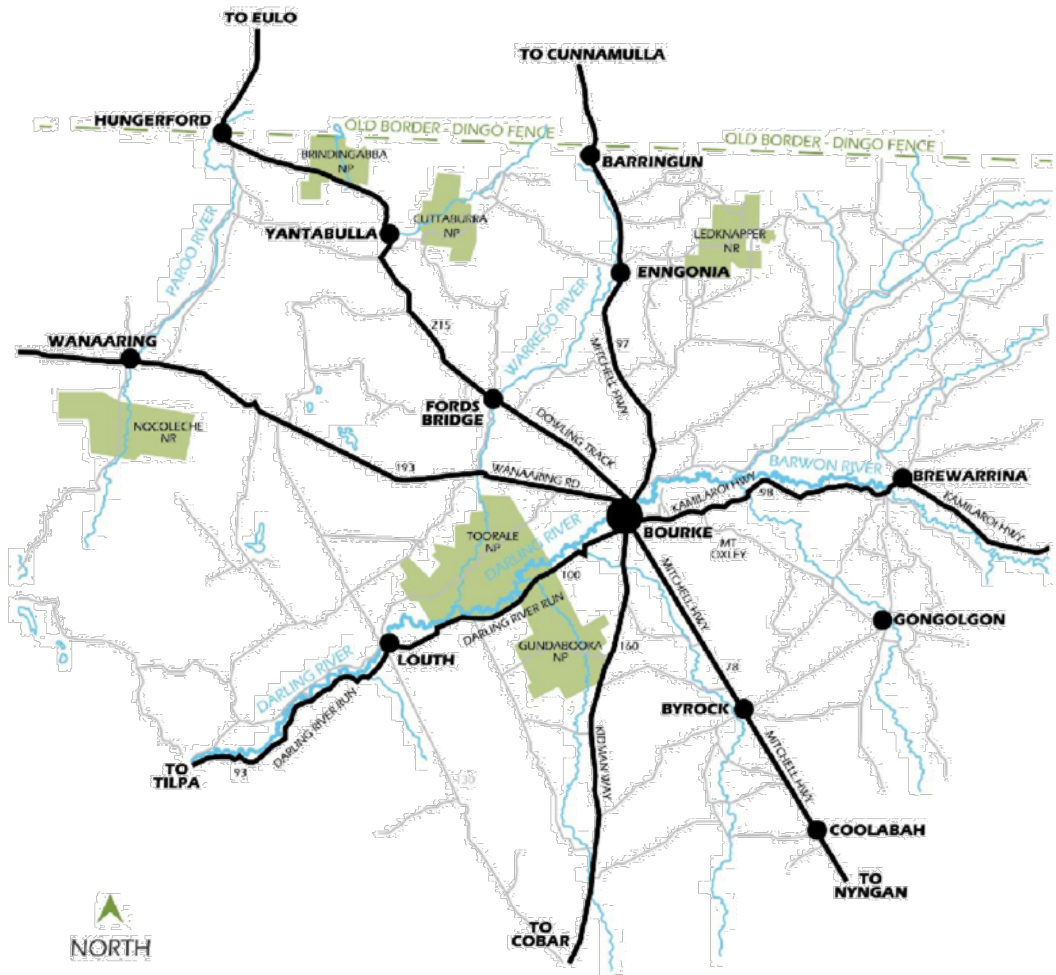
3.0 Economic prosperity.

4.0 Governance and organisational performance.

5.0 Infrastructure.

BOURKE SHIRE

OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

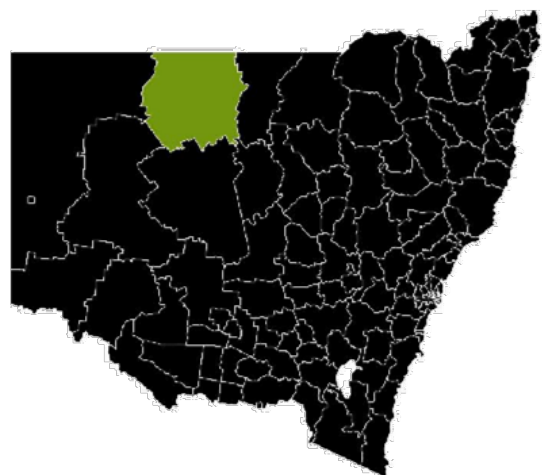


OUR LOCATION IN NSW.

Located in the far North West of NSW, Bourke Shire has an area of 43,116 km².

OUR TOWNS & VILLAGES.

Barrington, Bourke, Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth, North Bourke, Wanaaring and Yantabulla.





POPULATION.

Total Population – 2340.

Median Age – 37 years.

- 22.2% of our residents are 0–14 years old.
- 11.4% are 15–24 years old.
- 51.4% are 25–64 years old.
- 15.0% are more than 65 years old.

4.5% of our residents were born overseas.

OUR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE.

708 people or 30% of our population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People.

**OUR DWELLINGS.**

Our Shire comprises 1095 dwellings with the average occupancy being 0.8 persons per household.

OUR EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT.

35.5% of our residents have completed year 12 schooling.

37.5% of our population are currently attending some form of educational facility ranging from pre-school through to TAFE and University.

56% of our population aged 15 year's and over are participating in our labour force, with 18% of participants engaged in the Agriculture sector followed by 15% engaged in the Public Administration and Safety and the Education and Training sectors.

OUR ECONOMY.

Our Shire has a gross regional product of \$198.862M (Est 2023).

(All statistics herewith generally sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census.)

OUR ATTRACTIONS.

Back O' Bourke Easter Festival.
Back O' Bourke Information & Exhibition Centre.
Back O' Bourke Gallery – Jenny Greentree Art.
Bourke Aboriginal Art Gallery.
Bourke Historic Cemetery and Fred Hollows Grave.
Bourke Lock & Weir & the Fishing Reserve.
Crossley Engine.
Darling River Run.
Dunlop, Lower Lila, Rose Isle, Rossmore and Trilby Station Stays.
Fort Bourke Stockade.
Historic Wharf.
Jandra Paddleboat.
Maritime Trail.
May's Bend.
Mount Oxley.
National Parks Cuttaburra, Gundabooka, Ledknapper, Nocolche and Toorale
Percy Hobson Mural.
The Shire's Villages.



OUR ELECTED COUNCIL

The elected Council of Bourke Shire comprises 10 elected members (Councillors), two of which hold the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The role of the elected Council is to set the strategic direction for the Council, ensure financial sustainability, review the performance of the Council and to provide effective civic leadership to the community.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Councillors are elected by residents and ratepayers. The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are elected by Councillors for a two-year period. Throughout the December 2021 – September 2024 term, Council's Mayor was Councillor Barry Hollman with the Deputy Mayor being Councillor Lachlan Ford.

The role of Councillors is defined in the *Local Government Act 1993* and includes:

- Being an active and contributing member of the governing body.
- Making considered and well-informed decisions as a member of the governing body.
- Participating in the development of the integrated planning and reporting framework.
- Representing the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community.
- Facilitating communication between the local community and the governing body.
- Upholding and representing accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body.
- Making all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor.

COUNCILLORS AND DECISION MAKING

The elected Council makes decisions at Council meetings. Ordinary Council meetings are held once a month, generally on the fourth Monday. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public can address the Council on any issue on the agenda for the meeting. To improve accessibility for the public, Council live-streams all Council meetings.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS –
DECEMBER 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2024**



L-R, Back Row: Clr Bob Stutsell, Clr Sam Rice,
Clr Nathan Ryan.



Front Row: Clr Sarah Barton, Clr Grace Ridge, Clr Lachlan
Ford, Clr Barry Hollman, Clr Victor Bartley and
Clr Cec Dorrington.

Inset: Cr Sally Davis.

OUR ORGANISATION

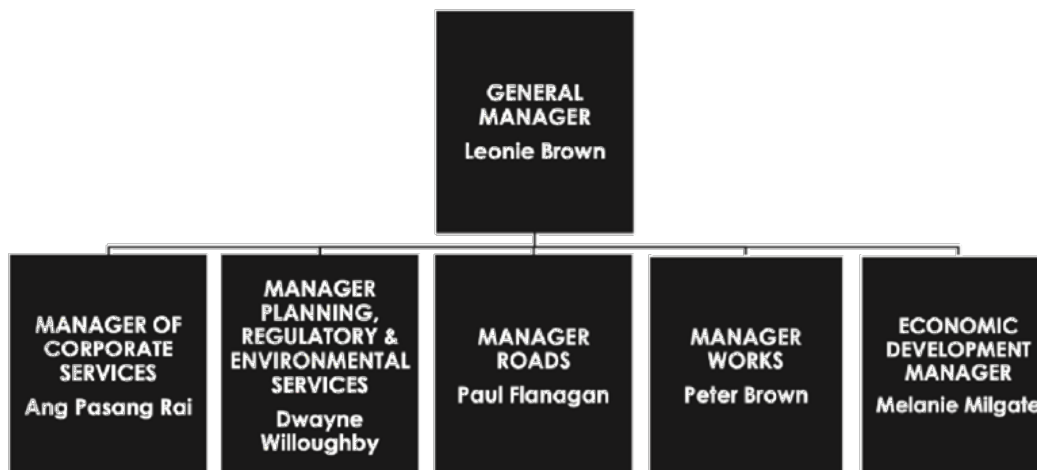
OUR MISSION.

To provide leadership and initiative in maintaining and improving services and opportunities that meet the needs of the communities in the Shire, through proactive Councillor representation, responsible asset management and efficient, effective service delivery by staff.

OUR MOTTO.

Building a strong united community, proud of our past and committed to our future.

Council is made up of 5 Departments:



OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

All councils in NSW are required to conduct their business based on an Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

The framework allows NSW councils to draw various plans together, understand how they interact and get the maximum leverage from their efforts by planning holistically and sustainably for the future.

The framework ensures long-term planning for the future, with the community having a say in what happens in the area.

The framework requires Council to take a long-term approach to decision making. The diagram below shows the framework hierarchy:



THE BOURKE SHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Bourke Shire Community Strategic Plan is the highest-level plan that identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and the broad strategies for achieving these. While Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the plan on behalf of the residents of Bourke, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Other partners such as State and Federal Governments and community groups have a role in delivering the long-term community outcomes of this plan.

The Bourke Community Strategic Plan 2022–2032 has a long-term outlook covering 10 years. It is reviewed every four years by the newly elected Council and addresses environmental, liveability, economic, community leadership and infrastructure matters in an integrated manner.

DELIVERY PROGRAM. OPERATIONAL PLAN AND THE RESOURCING STRATEGY

The Delivery Program is where the community's goals in the Community Strategic Plan are systematically translated into actions that the Council seeks to deliver. The Delivery Program is the elected Council's statement of commitment to the community. Priorities and activities are set to the objectives and strategies in the Community Strategic Plan, and appropriate methods to measure the success of the Delivery Program are identified.

The Operational Plan (Budget) sits under the Delivery Program. It provides the annual operating budget to be applied during the year to achieve its strategic goals.

To carry out the activities in the Delivery Program, the Resourcing Strategy sets out how time, money, assets and people will be allocated. Council has prepared three resourcing strategies to support the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan. These strategies consist of the Long-Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plan and Workforce Plan.



PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN.

1.0 Environmental Sustainability.

Our environmental strategies aim to protect our natural environment and built assets for future generations. Significant environmental challenges include:

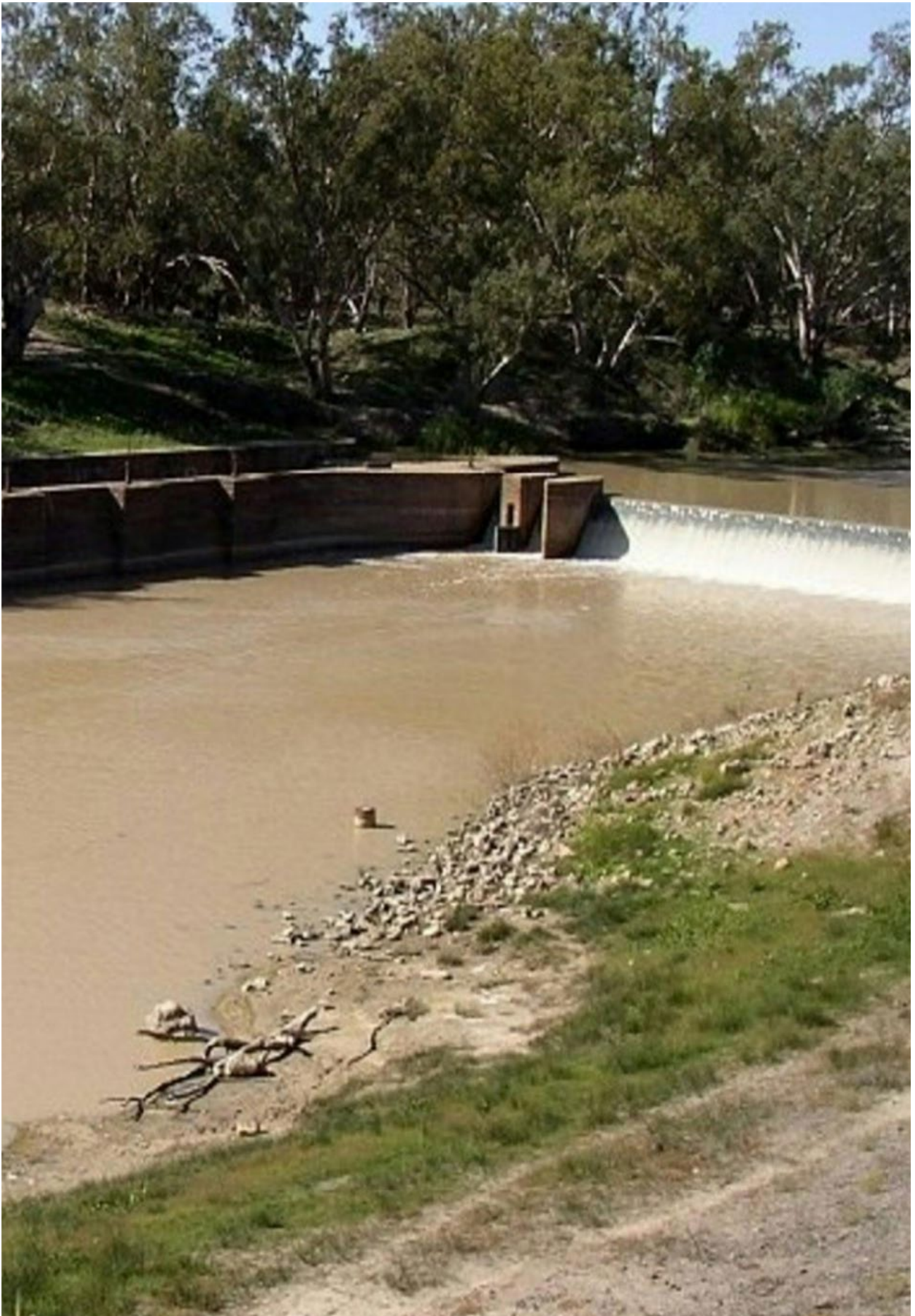
- A declining population.
- Long term water security for Bourke and its Villages.

Our Objectives.

- 1.1 Managing the built environment sustainably.
- 1.2 Securing sustainable water and wastewater for all.
- 1.3 Ensuring our heritage and culture are respected.

Our Achievements.

- Water conservation promotional activities undertaken.
- Relevant and up to date Local Environmental Plan maintained.
- A monthly heritage advisory service available to the community.
- Grant funding obtained to remove fire destroyed houses from four (4) residential allotments.
- Collaboration with the Rural Fire Services to clean up overgrown blocks and public land.
- Construction of a replacement Charles Street Water Reservoir completed.
- Infrastructure works to "drought proof" Bourke, including the installation of powerlines to the two (2) bores at Stoney Rise and Belvedere, and telemetry installation at the bore sites, completed.
- Fluoridation of the Bourke/North Bourke filtered water supply, following construction of the new Bourke Water Treatment Plant, recommenced.
- Environmental Returns for the operation of the Bourke Wastewater Facility submitted to the NSW Environmental Protection Authority annually.
- New Bourke Cemetery maintained to a high standard in recognition of its heritage importance.
- Considerable time and effort expended to pursue Councils goal to increase the height of the Bourke Weir to increase the capacity of the Bourke Weir Pool. This included numerous ministerial meetings, correspondence and submissions. Despite the Governments Western Weirs Strategy, the Better Baaka Program and Reconnecting the Northern Basin Program, no outcome has yet been achieved.



2.0 Liveable and vibrant community.

Implementing medium to long term liveable and vibrant community strategies seek to ensure our community has a sustainable population, while maintaining our community values. In addition, strategies aim to ensure that we maintain minimum service levels and that everybody is made welcome in our community.

Significant community challenges and issues include:

- Declining population makes it difficult to staff existing businesses and provide opportunities to establish other businesses.
- Maintaining appropriate levels of service in a declining population.
- Maintaining a working population Supporting our aging population.

Our Objectives.

2.1 Our community values its safe, healthy lifestyle and is caring toward each other.

2.2 Enjoy a vibrant Bourke and Village community.

Our Achievements.

- Annual Village meetings held in Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth and Wanaaring.
- Regular liaison undertaken with both Western NSW Local Health District and Ochre Health.
- Lease of Medical Centre to Optometrist continued with lease to a General Practitioner initiated.
- Meeting of councillors and local NSW Police Commander, or representative, generally held following monthly Council meeting.
- Representations made to Government on law-and-order issues as required, including comprehensive submission made to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into "Community safety in regional and rural communities."
- Contracts exchanged for sale of land by Council to the Bourke Aboriginal Community Health Service in Mitchell Street, Bourke for the construction of a new Primary Health Care Facility.
- Meetings held with Bourke Arts Council regarding Ceramic Centre.
- Successful NAIDOC Week events held.
- Collaboration with PCYC, Maranguka Community Hub and other agencies, to develop and deliver comprehensive activity calendars during school holidays periods.
- Annual Seniors Week Activities and 'Welcome Baby to Bourke Community' events held.

- Council representation on the Bourke and District Children's Service Committee maintained - advocating for both increased childcare positions to increase workforce opportunities in the community and the Yanmali Early Childhood model.
- Participation in the Early Childhood Working Group and 8-18 Years Working Group meetings.
- Upgrade of carpark, including the installation of shade sails; renewal of program (learn to swim) pool; and construction of new pool entry and kiosk; all at the Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool, completed.
- Construction of new pavilion at the Renshaw Showground facility, including the upgrading of the bar area, completed.
- Sprinkler system upgrades at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, Darling Park, Wharf area, Medical Centre and Jones Park, all completed.
- Renewal of the synthetic tennis courts at Bourke, completed.
- Upgrading of Enngonia Village hall, completed.
- Installation of solar lighting along the walking track from the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre to the old North Bourke Bridge, completed.



3.0 Economic prosperity.

The economic viability of businesses and residents within our Shire is vital to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our community. The decline in population means turnover in local businesses has declined with many seeking other opportunities.

The last five years has been a difficult time for Shire residents as the community continues to recover from drought and the COVID-19 Pandemic limiting opportunities for the community and reducing the number of visitors to the region.

There are however new business opportunities emerging with the sale and future reopening of the Bourke abattoir, an improved season for agriculture and increased tourist visitation.

Our Objectives.

3.1 Our community welcomes new residents and businesses.

3.2 Our community values in history and heritage and seeks to develop the tourism industry.

Our Achievements.

- Bourke Small Stock Abattoir re-opened following the sale to Thomas Foods International. Construction of a \$60m Rendering Plant and Plate Freezer Room proceeding which will permit expanded operations including a second shift.
- ANZAC Icon in Central Park, installed.
- Roll-out of the Bourke and Village Signage Strategy with the erection of 3D entry signage at Bourke, Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Louth and Wanaaring, completed.
- Roll-out of the Maritime Trail QR code signage, completed.
- 49,860 people visited the Back O' Bourke Information Centre for the period 1 January 2022 till 31 July 2024.
- Upgrades to the animation displays at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre for the Bean and Lawson stories, completed.
- Upgrading of the Café facility at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre near completion.
- Installation of pontoons on the Darling River adjacent to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and at the Wal Mitchell Precinct, near completion.
- Development of Business Case for the construction of a fifth building at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre focusing on Cultural Tourism, proceeding.
- Disability access enhancements, including the installation of solar lighting, at the Back O' Bourke Function Centre, completed.
- The walking track behind the Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre for the Standing Stories display, completed.

- Signage for the "Windows to the Past" walking tour, featuring historical photos, completed.
- The Back O' Bourke Easter Festival, Christmas Markets, "Light Up the Night" Christmas Light Competition and Australia Day events, successfully held annually.
- The Back O' Bourke Stampede - Peter Simmonds Memorial Pro Rodeo successfully held in October 2023 at the Renshaw Showground Facility.
- Updating of the Bourke Tourism Booklet and surrounds (The Black Book) completed and ready for release for the 2025/2026 tourist season.
- Cross Border Memorandum of Understanding signed with Paroo Shire Council (based in Cunnamulla) and Bullo Shire (based in Thargomindah) as part of Councils membership of the Border Region Organisation of Councils.
- Engagement with Drive Tourism Marketing Committees for Kamilaroi Highway, Kidman Way Highway, and Darling River Run, continued.
- Actively participated in NSW Destination Outback and Country meetings.
- Farm stays at Dunlop Station, Lower Lila Retreat, Mt Oxley Rossmore Station, Rose Isle Station and Trilby Station, successfully promoted.
- Hotels Touring Route project initiated by Council and now being progressed by the Far North West Joint Organisation.
- Tenders for a suitably qualified consultant to prepare a Business Case report in respect of the proposed building of a Motel at the Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre site, invited.



4.0 Governance and organisational performance.

Long term strategies are needed to ensure effective community leadership.

Significant challenges and issues include:

- Youth engagement.
- Social and economic disadvantage.
- Impact of isolation and distance.
- Maintaining Council's financial position with smaller local populations. and increasing government needs.
- Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

Our Objectives.

4.1 Advocating the benefits of living and working in the Bourke Shire Council area.

4.2 Seeking continuous improvement in the business of Council.

Our Achievements.

- Cyclical maintenance and the upgrading of Council owned residential properties, undertaken and completed as part of Council's Asset Management Planning processes.
- Installation of new perimeter fencing at the Medical Centre, completed.
- Beautification of Mitchell Street, including works adjacent to the front of the Council Chambers, completed.
- "Work in Bourke" video, which promotes the benefits of working in Bourke, launched.
- Annual "Welcome to Bourke" new residents event successfully held.
- Upgrading of Councils Document Management System, and the transfer of all documents to the new system, completed.
- 7,116 book loans processed by the Bourke Library.
- Preparation of masterplan to lead potential improvements at Council's Anson Street Depot, completed.
- Installation of electronic gates at Anson Street Depot completed.
- Councils Light and Heavy Plant Replacement Program continued.
- Membership maintained, and meetings attended, of Local Government NSW, Country Mayors Association, Alliance of Western Councils and Murray Darling Association.
- The average workers compensation rate over the term of Council was 2.63% which compared to a Statecover (an insurance mutual of NSW Councils) average of 4.30%.
- No Code of Conduct complaints lodged in respect of either Council, councillors or staff during the term of Council.
- Management of budgeted commitments over the term of the Council was satisfactory and generally within budgeted

predictions. Quarterly financial reviews undertaken by Council allowed for appropriate variations to be made to the budget, as required.

- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee, with independent Chair and two (2) independent members established.
- NSW Auditor General issued Unqualified Annual Audit Reports in respect of Councils Annual Financial Statements.
- Councils strong financial position maintained with:
 - an average Operating performance ratio of 10.70% over the term of Council achieved. This ratio measures Councils achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue with the benchmark figure being >0.00%.
 - an average Unrestricted Current Ratio of 4.33 over the term of Council achieved. The purpose of this ratio is to assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council. The benchmark figure is >1.50x.
 - an average Debt Service Ratio of 7.86% over the term of Council achieved. This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest and principal payments. The benchmark figure is >2.0x.



5.0 Infrastructure.

Ensuring that the level of local infrastructure satisfies the needs of the community, now and into the future.

Significant challenges and issues include:

- Sustainable levels of depreciation.
- Facilities that can be shared across the community.
- Maintaining excellent levels of service.
- Adequate village amenities.

Our Objectives.

5.1 Ensuring adequate transport linkages.

5.2 Managing the infrastructure needs of the Villages.

5.3 Ensuring adequate levels of community amenities.

Our Achievements.

- Operation of "Wilba the Empowerbus"- an on-demand transportation service for Bourke – successfully established by TfNSW.
- The NSW Government funded, and Far North West Joint Organisation managed, air-service on the Dubbo/Bourke/Dubbo route continued.
- Resealing of the runway at Bourke Airport, completed.
- Replacement of the Jandra Creek and Compodore Creek bridges, completed.
- Sealing of the Coronga Peak Road at Byrock, completed.
- Extensive road widening works by Council on the Mitchell Highway, both north and south of Bourke, on behalf of Transport for NSW, completed.
- Various streets in Bourke resealed.
- Parkdale, River, Weir and Polygonum Swamp local roads reconstructed and sealed.
- Sections of the Bullamunta, Toorale and Weelong roads sealed.
- \$4,175,139 expended on general maintenance and flood recovery works (which includes grading, clearing of table drains, vegetation maintenance, grid maintenance, sign maintenance, gravel and bitumen patching, re-formation, and minor bridge maintenance) on the Shires Regional Roads being MR 404 Dowling Track (Bourke–Hungerford); MR 405 Bourke–Milparinka Road; MR 407 Louth–Cobar; and MR 68S Bourke–Wilcannia Road.
- 20.1 km of the Shire's Regional Roads resealed with a further 5 km of regional roads reconstructed and sealed, including sealing of Wanaaring Road (MR405) such that only 15kms remains to be sealed.
- Additional 3 kms of seal completed on MR68 South (Louth Road), completed.

- Gravel re-sheeting on the Janbeth and West Culgoa Roads, completed.
- Reformation and gravel re-sheeting of Avondale Road, completed.
- Additional 5 kms of seal completed on RLR 10 Toorale Road (towards Trilby from Louth), completed.
- Active Transport Plan adopted.
- Council's allocation under the Roads to Recovery program for the period 2024 to 2029 to be \$10.56M, which is an increase of \$3.36M or 46.67% on the 2019-2024 allocation.
- A series of desired outcomes to lead the North Bourke Bridge restoration project adopted by Council with the preparation of 'Shovel Ready' plans (pending receipt of grant funding) and preparation of Business Case well underway.
- Tenders invited for deconstruction of timber approaches of the North Bourke Bridge which have been deemed unsafe by Bridge Engineer.
- Beautification works completed at the Wharf and Men's Shed area and in Mitchell Street.
- Radar Speed Display System installed on the Mitchell Highway at Enngonia to slow traffic adjacent to the Public School.



GRANT FUNDING ACHIEVED

Throughout the 2021 – September 2024 period, Council has been the recipient of some \$52M in Grant Funding from Federal and State Government sources.

A summary of this funding follows:

GRANT	TOTAL FUNDING
General Funding Programs	
COVID Support	\$90,000
Crown Reserve - Louth Tennis Club	\$82,780
Active Fest Event	\$20,189
Noxious Weeds	\$46,000
Community Stimulus Drought Fund	\$369,327
Local Roads Community Infrastructure	\$2,682,670
National Australia Day Grant	\$50,767
NSW Small Business Month	\$2,500
COVID Community Response	\$20,000
Aboriginal Affairs	
API NSW Planning Portal	\$80,000
Youth Week	\$6,626
Holiday Program	\$44,000
Heritage Grant	\$34,000
Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program	\$974,215
Library Per Capita Grant	\$135,732
Business Development - CBD	\$1,054,034
Bourke Levy Management Study	\$86,083
Charles Street Reservoir	\$1,655,263
Safe and Secure Water - IWCM Grant	\$254,500
Drought Scheme - DWS 048	\$1,421,930
Restart NSW – Water Treatment Plant	\$507,077
PCYC Kitchen upgrade	\$4,750
Stronger Country Communities	\$1,667,708
Infrastructure Program for COVID-19 Impacted Communities	\$2,060,374
Japanese Encephalitis Response Plan Funding	\$6,500
Goanna Academy Youth Program	\$50,000
Bourke NINJA Park	\$184,433
Remote Airstrip Upgrade	\$507,712
CTA Target Market	\$10,000
BOBEC Disability Access	\$97,613
BOBEC Kitchen	\$509,463
Office of Local Government - Flood Recovery	\$1,000,000

Restart Funding - Sewer Ponds	\$5,137
Bourke Fiesta	\$108,000
Bourke Wharf Remediation	\$646,272
Jandra Jetty Remediation	\$175,320
North Bourke Bridge - Shared Path	\$400,000
Pedestrian Access and Cycleway Plan	\$75,000
Sub Total	\$17,125,975
Road Funding Programs	
Roads to Recovery	\$3,599,709
Fixing Country Bridges	\$1,483,836
Fixing Local Roads	\$8,429,722
Fixing Country Roads	\$3,959,029
TARP Program - SOS Bourke	\$6,000
Regional Road Block Grant	\$5,953,000
Regional Roads 3 x 3	\$432,000
Regional Road Repair Program	\$400,000
Regional Road Funding - One off MR405	\$5,000,000
Regional and Local Roads Repair Program	\$6,274,750
Sub Total Roads	\$35,538,046
TOTAL GRANT FUNDING	\$52,664,021





Online:

www.bourke.nsw.gov.au

Email:

bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au

In person:

Bourke Shire Council Chambers
29 Mitchell St, Bourke NSW 2840
Business Hours, Monday – Friday
8.00am – 4.30pm

In writing:

General Manager
Bourke Shire Council
PO Box 21, Bourke NSW 2840

Telephone:

02 6830 8000

After Hours: 0419 722 055



16 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

16.1 * BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 August 2024

Balances as per Bank Statement	\$4,019,248.33
Plus: Deposit not shown	\$9,220.44
Less: Unpresented Cheques	-\$5,676.62
Balance as per Cash Book	\$4,022,792.15

Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 31 August 2024

Fund or Account	Current Balance	Overdraft Statutory Limit
General	\$36,819,465.06	\$200,000.00
Water	\$4,689,496.54	
Sewer	\$2,900,676.98	
Trust	\$124,013.46	
	\$44,533,652.04	

Reconciliation as at 31 August 2024

Balance as per cash book	\$4,022,792.15
Investments	\$40,510,859.89
Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger	\$44,533,652.04

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

Statement of Bank Balances as at 31 August 2024

	Balance	Transaction	Balance
	30 July 2024		31 August 2024
General Fund	\$36,879,526.82	-\$60,061.76	\$36,819,465.06
Water Fund	\$4,659,226.07	\$30,270.47	\$4,689,496.54
Sewer Fund	\$2,818,431.19	\$82,245.79	\$2,900,676.98
Trust Fund	\$109,969.11	\$14,044.35	\$124,013.46
Investments	-\$41,910,970.71	\$1,400,110.82	-\$40,510,859.89
Totals	\$2,556,182.48	\$1,466,609.67	\$4,022,792.15

Balance of all Funds as at 31 August 2024

Balance as at 30 July 2024	\$2,556,182.48
Add Receipts for	
(a) Rates	\$824,919.58
(b) Other Cash	\$2,410,692.39
Deduct payments for	
(a) Payments	\$971,212.32
(b) New Investment	\$797,789.98
Balance as at 31 August 2024	\$4,022,792.15

Recommendation

That the Certificate of Reconciliation of the Cash Book for all funds of the Council and the Statement of Bank Balances as at 31 August 2024 be noted.

16.2 * BANK RECONCILIATION AND STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES - 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 September 2024

Balances as per Bank Statement	\$3,145,733.17
Plus: Deposit not shown	\$786.00
Less: Unpresented Cheques	-\$6,292.21
Balance as per Cash Book	\$3,140,226.96

Reconciled Ledger Accounts as at 30 September 2024

Fund or Account	Current Balance	Overdraft Statutory Limit
General	\$35,866,987.91	\$200,000.00
Water	\$4,722,695.85	
Sewer	\$2,941,405.33	
Trust	\$124,029.46	
	\$43,655,118.55	

Reconciliation as at 30 September 2024

Balance as per cash book	\$3,140,226.96
Investments	\$40,514,891.59
Total, equalling Reconciled Ledger	\$43,655,118.55

** 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 September 2024

	Balance	Transaction	Balance
	31 August 2024		30 September 2024
General Fund	\$36,819,465.06	-\$952,477.15	\$35,866,987.91
Water Fund	\$4,689,496.54	\$33,199.31	\$4,722,695.85
Sewer Fund	\$2,900,676.98	\$40,728.35	\$2,941,405.33
Trust Fund	\$124,013.46	\$16.00	\$124,029.46
Investments	-\$40,510,859.89	-\$4,031.70	-\$40,514,891.59
Totals	\$4,022,792.15	-\$882,565.19	\$3,140,226.96

Balance of all Funds as at 30 September 2024

Balance as at 31 August 2024	\$4,022,792.15
Add Receipts for	
(a) Rates	\$378,295.84
(b) Other Cash	\$3,873,809.32
Deduct payments for	
(a) Payments	\$4,598,969.84
(b) New Investment	\$535,700.51
Balance as at 30 September 2024	\$3,140,226.96

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 September 2024 be noted.

16.3 * INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

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

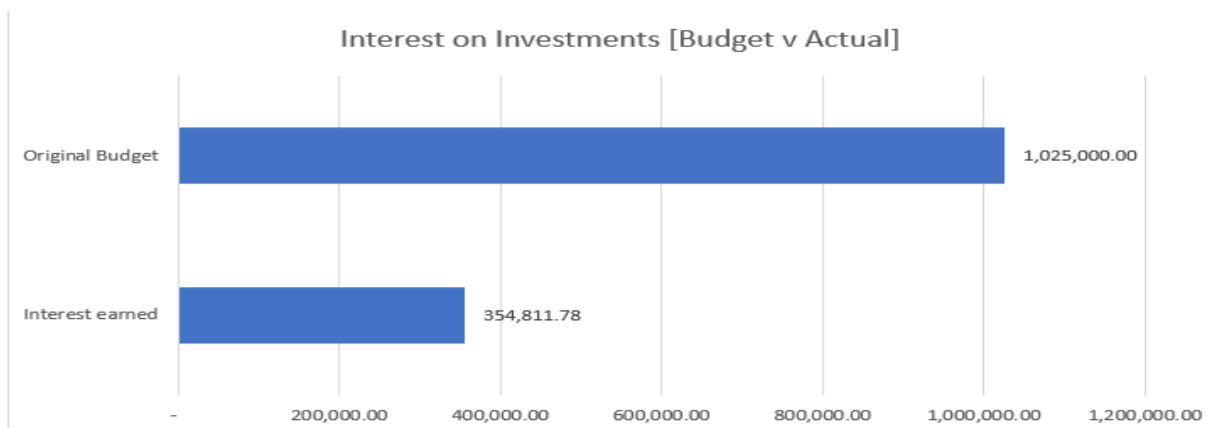
The management, of Council’s investments is delegated by the General Manager to the Manager Corporate Services.

Financial Implications/Consideration

The 2024/2025 Budget estimated the total investment revenue as \$1,025,500. 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 31 August 2024 was \$40,510,859.89.

Investment income earned as of 31 August 2024 was \$354,811.78.



Interest earned on investments will surpass the original budget due to a conservative approach taken when setting the budget and the ability for Council to maintain a higher than anticipated investment portfolio. The variation will be monitored and reported accordingly during Council’s quarterly budget review.

Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Procedure

Policy 1.8.10 (v8) – Investment Policy adopted 22 July 2024.

Ministerial Investment Order – 12 January 2011.

Strategic Implications – Implications for Long Term Plans/Targets

Funds are invested in accordance with identified cash flow requirements.

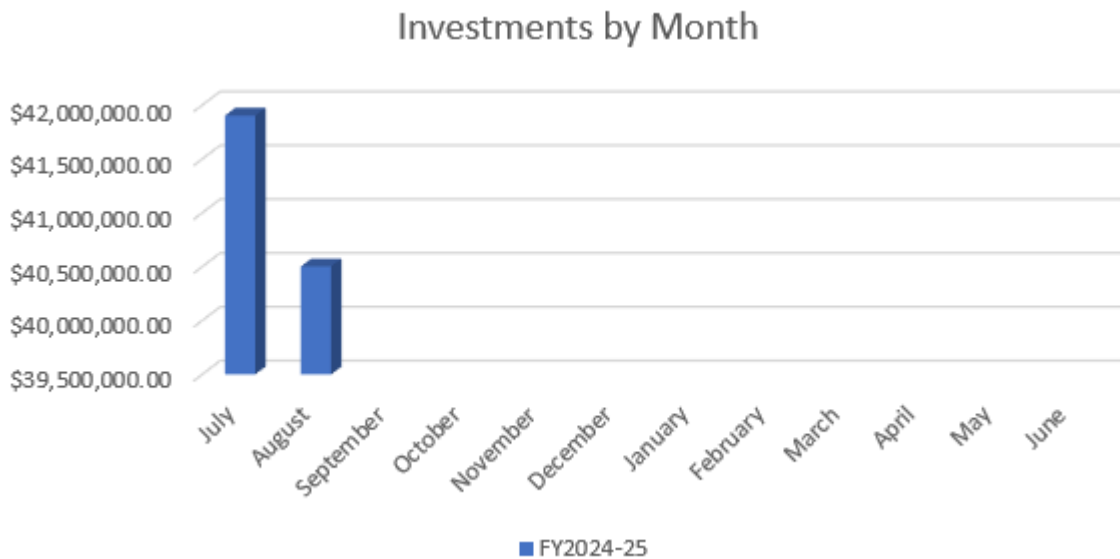
Investment Portfolio as at 31 August 2024

Institution	Invst#	MaturityDate	Amount	Rate	Days	S&P Rating
National Australia Bank	122	26/09/2024	\$1,000,000.00	5.00%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	123	1/10/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.00%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	125	22/10/2024	\$3,000,000.00	5.05%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	126	24/10/2024	\$1,000,000.00	5.00%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	128	8/10/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.15%	99	A-1+
National Australia Bank	129	29/10/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	130	28/11/2024	\$3,000,000.00	5.25%	150	A-1+
National Australia Bank	131	6/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	132	20/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	133	27/12/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.25%	151	A-1+
Commonwealth Bank	134	27/09/2024	\$2,000,000.00	4.62%	60	A-1+
National Australia Bank	135	12/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.15%	105	A-1+
National Australia Bank	136	2/12/2024	\$3,000,000.00	5.05%	123	A-1+
National Australia Bank	137	9/12/2024	\$1,000,000.00	5.05%	125	A-1+
National Australia Bank	138	16/12/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.06%	132	A-1+
National Australia Bank	139	19/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	4.95%	92	A-1+
National Australia Bank	140	28/01/2025	\$3,000,000.00	5.00%	152	A-1+
National Australia Bank	141	3/02/2025	\$2,500,000.00	5.00%	157	A-1+
National Australia Bank		At Call	\$3,010,859.89	Flex		A-1+
Total Investments			\$40,510,859.89			

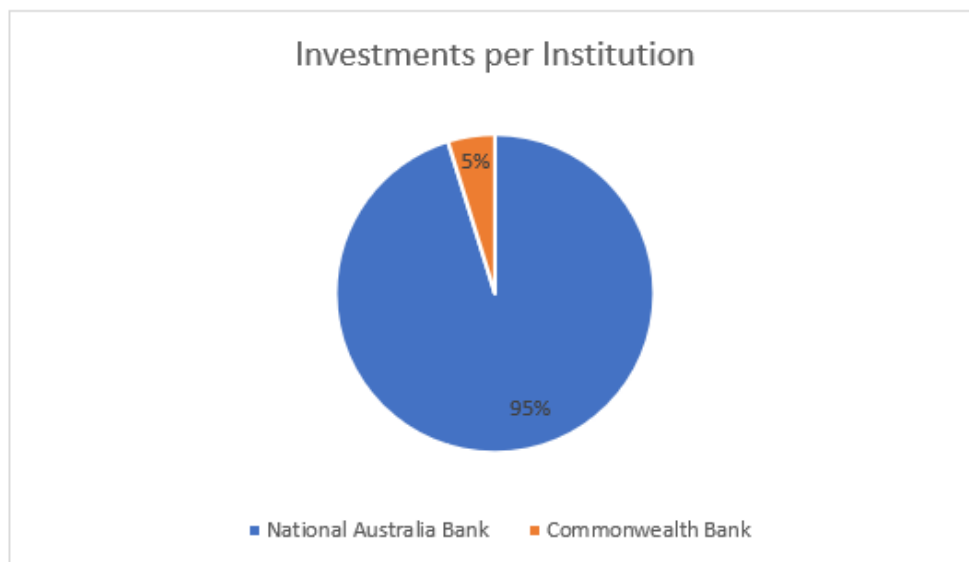
Term Deposits

Discussions/Comments

Compared to July 2024, there has been decrease of \$1,400,110.82 in Council’s Investment portfolio as at 31 August 2024.



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 number 1.8.10 (V8).

 Ang Pasang Rai
 Responsible Accounting Officer

Recommendation

- 1. That the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

16.4 * INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

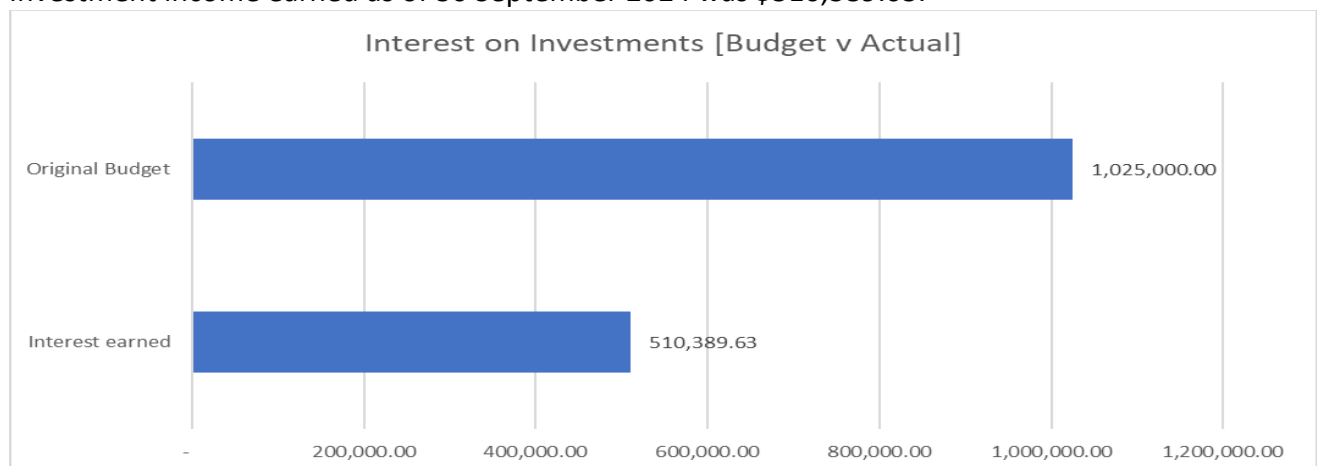
The management, of Council’s investments is delegated by the General Manager to the Manager Corporate Services.

Financial Implications/Consideration

The 2024/2025 Budget estimated the total investment revenue as \$1,025,500. 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 September 2024 was \$40,514,891.59.

Investment income earned as of 30 September 2024 was \$510,389.63.



Interest earned on investments will surpass the original budget due to a conservative approach taken when setting the budget and the ability for Council to maintain a higher than anticipated investment portfolio. The variation will be monitored and reported accordingly during Council’s quarterly budget review.

Policy Provisions – Council Policy and Procedure

Policy 1.8.10(v8) – Investment Policy adopted 22 July 2024.

Ministerial Investment Order – 12 January 2011.

Strategic Implications – Implications for Long Term Plans/Targets

Funds are invested in accordance with identified cash flow requirements.

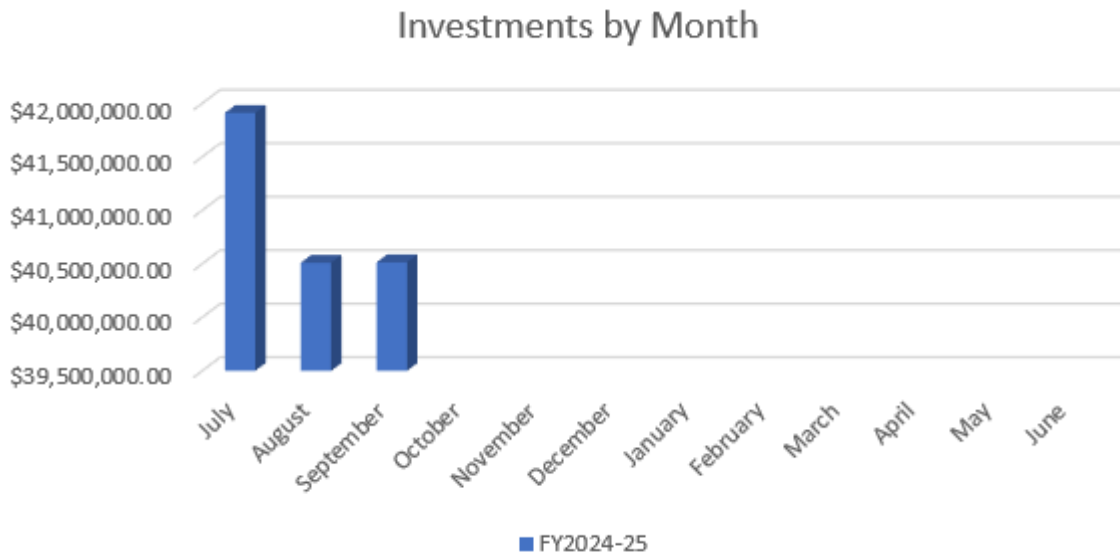
Investment Portfolio as at 30 September 2024

Institution	Invst#	MaturityDate	Amount	Rate	Days	S&P Rating
National Australia Bank	123	1/10/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.00%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	125	22/10/2024	\$3,000,000.00	5.05%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	126	24/10/2024	\$1,000,000.00	5.00%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	128	8/10/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.15%	99	A-1+
National Australia Bank	129	29/10/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	130	28/11/2024	\$3,000,000.00	5.25%	150	A-1+
National Australia Bank	131	6/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	132	20/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.20%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	133	27/12/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.25%	151	A-1+
National Australia Bank	135	12/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.15%	105	A-1+
National Australia Bank	136	2/12/2024	\$3,000,000.00	5.05%	123	A-1+
National Australia Bank	137	9/12/2024	\$1,000,000.00	5.05%	125	A-1+
National Australia Bank	138	16/12/2024	\$2,000,000.00	5.06%	132	A-1+
National Australia Bank	139	19/11/2024	\$2,000,000.00	4.95%	92	A-1+
National Australia Bank	140	28/01/2025	\$3,000,000.00	5.00%	152	A-1+
National Australia Bank	141	3/02/2025	\$2,500,000.00	5.00%	157	A-1+
National Australia Bank	142	24/01/2025	\$1,000,000.00	5.00%	120	A-1+
National Australia Bank	143	27/02/2025	\$2,000,000.00	5.00%	150	A-1+
National Australia Bank		At Call	\$3,014,891.59	Flex		A-1+
Total Investments			\$40,514,891.59			

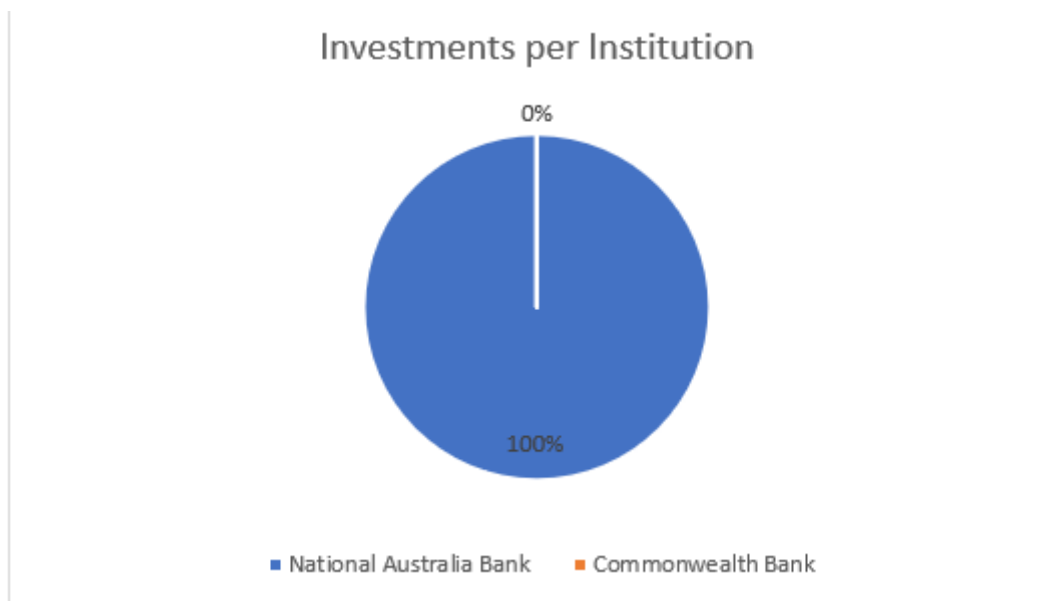
Term Deposits

Discussions/Comments

Compared to August 2024, there has been increase of \$4,031.70 in Council’s Investment portfolio as at 30 September 2024.



The investment portfolio is invested in term deposits with the National Australia 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 number 1.8.10(V8).

 Ang Pasang Rai
 Responsible Accounting Officer

Recommendation

- 1. That the report of the Manager Corporate Services regarding Council's Investment Portfolio as at 30 September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted, and the report adopted.**

16.5 CODE OF CONDUCT - ANNUAL SUMMARY

File Number: 2573
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments: Nil

Background

Part 11.1 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct, as issued by the NSW Office of Local Government and as adopted by Council, requires the Complaints Coordinator (Manager Corporate Services) to report to Council within three months of the end of September each year on complaint statistics under Council's Code of Conduct as follows:

- a) the total number of code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the general manager under the code of conduct in the year to September (the reporting period);*
- b) the number of code of conduct complaints referred to a conduct reviewer during the reporting period;*
- c) the number of code of conduct complaints finalised by a conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage during the reporting period and the outcome of those complaints;*
- d) the number of code of conduct complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer during the reporting period;*
- e) without identifying particular matters, the outcome of investigations completed under these procedures during the reporting period;*
- f) the number of matters reviewed by the Office during the reporting period and, without identifying particular matters, the outcome of the reviews, and*
- g) the total cost of dealing with code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the general manager during the reporting period, including staff costs.*

In addition, the Procedures (Part 11.2) require Council "to provide the Office with a report containing the statistics referred to in clause 11.1 within 3 months of the end of September of each year".

Current Situation

It is advised that no Code of Conduct complaints were received during the reporting period from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. In addition, no costs were incurred. Accordingly, the statistics for items a) to g), inclusive, as above is NIL.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

- 1. That it be noted that no Code of Conduct Complaints were made about Councillors and the General Manager, or costs incurred, during the reporting period of 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.**
- 2. That the Office of Local Government be advised accordingly as per Part 11.2 of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct.**

16.6 AGENCY INFORMATION GUIDE AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY REVIEW**File Number:** P4.1**Author:** Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services**Authoriser:** Leonie Brown, General Manager**Attachments:**

1. 1.4.11 (v8) Agency Information Guide - Draft
2. 1.4.10 (v5) Access to Information Policy - Draft

Background

This report provides a brief on the review of Council's Access Information Guide in accordance with section 21 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* and seeks the approval of Council to adopt the revised Agency Information Guide. Also included is the Access to Information Policy with this Policy detailing how the information can be accessed.

Current Situation

Council is required under section 21 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* to annually review and adopt an 'Agency Information Guide' as part of its mandatory open access information. The Guide must contain information on Council's structure and functions; the way Council's functions affect the public; how the public may participate in Council's policy development; the kind of documents Council holds and how members of the public may access Council documents. The Information Guide must be available on Council's website.

Council staff have reviewed the Agency Information Guide and Access to Information Policy.

A copy of the amended Agency Information Guide and Access to Information Policy is included for Council's information and approval.

Financial Implications

Funding is available in Councils 2024/2025 Operational Plan to undertake actions in respect of implementing the Access to Information Policy.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Agency Information Guide 2024 and Access to Information Policy for integration into operational controls in accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.



Agency Information Guide

Prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*

Policy No: 1.4.11(v8)

Date Adopted: 28/10/2024

Resolution No: 2024/xxx

Supersedes: 1.4.11(v7)

Proposed Review Date: 27/10/2025

Responsible Officer: Manager Corporate Services

Verified by General Manager.....Verified by Mayor.....

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1. Structure and Functions of Council

1.1 Introduction

The role of the Council is to:

- direct and control the affairs of the Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, (the LG Act);
- provide effective civic leadership to the local community;
- ensure as far as possible the financial sustainability of the Council;
- ensure as far as possible that the Council acts in accordance with the principles set out in the LGA and the plans, programs, strategies and policies of the Council;
- develop and endorse the community strategic plan, delivery program and other strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the Council;
- determine and adopt a rating and revenue policy and operational plans that support the optimal allocation of the Council's resources to implement the strategic plans (including the community strategic plan) of the Council and for the benefit of the local area;
- keep under review the performance of the Council, including service delivery,
- make decisions necessary for the proper exercise of the Council's regulatory functions;
- determine the process for appointment of the General Manager by the Council and to monitor the General Manager's performance;
- determine the senior staff positions within the organisation structure of the Council;
- to consult regularly with community organisations and other key stakeholders and keep them informed of the Council's decisions and activities; and
- be responsible for ensuring that the Council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately.

The Mayor is the leader of the Council and a leader in the local community. He/she has a role to enhance community cohesion and is the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body.

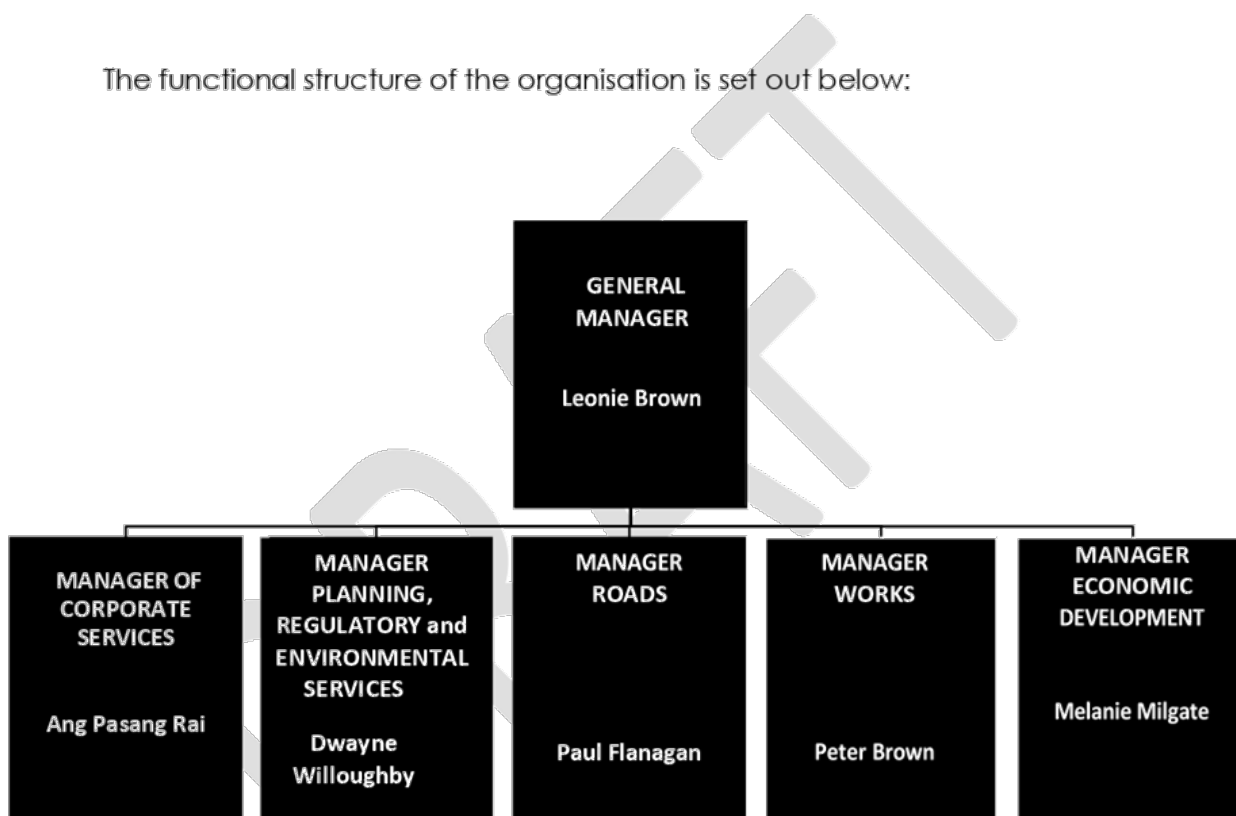
The Mayor presides at meetings of the Council, carries out the civic and ceremonial functions of the office, exercises, in of necessity, the decision-making functions of the governing body, between its meetings and performs any other functions that the Council determines. The Mayor also ensures the timely development and adoption of strategic plans, programs and policies of Council, promotes partnerships and provides strategic direction to the General Manager.

The Principal Officer of the Council is the General Manager. The General Manager is responsible for the efficient operation of the Council's organisation and for ensuring the implementation of Council decisions. The General

Manager is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the Council, the exercise of any functions delegated by the Council, the appointment, direction and where necessary, the dismissal of staff; as well as the implementation of Council's Workforce Management Strategy, exercise functions delegated by Council and provide advice to the Mayor and Councillors regarding Council's Strategic Plans, Programs, Strategies and Policies.

1.2 Organisational Structure

The functional structure of the organisation is set out below:



1.3 Council Functions

Council has functions conferred or imposed on it by the Local Government Act 1993. These functions are outlined below:

- Service Functions

Council provides services and facilities to the public. These include Community health, recreation, education and information services.

- Regulatory Functions

Council regulates developments and buildings to ensure they meet certain requirements affecting community amenity and safety. This includes issuing development and construction or demolition approvals, orders and building certificates.

- Ancillary Functions

Council undertakes various ancillary functions. These include the resumption of Land and Powers of entry & inspection.

- Revenue Functions

Councils Revenue functions include revenue sourced from rates and other charges paid by the public. These funds help fund the services and facilities the Council provides for the community. These functions include levying rates, charges and fees as well as borrowings and investments.

- Administrative Functions

Council's administrative functions include employing staff, developing management plans and financial and performance reporting (eg Annual Report).

- Enforcement Functions

Enforcement functions include matters such as the pursuit of the non-payment of rates and charges, environmental planning or companion animal offences, The Council may issue penalty notices or initiate legal proceedings.

As well as the Local Government Act 1993, Council has powers under a number of other Acts including, but not limited to:

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
Commons Management Act 1989
Community Land Development Act 1989
Companion Animals Act 1998
Contaminated Land Management Act 1997
Conveyancing Act 1919
Crown Lands Act 1989
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Fire Brigades Act 1989
Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957
Food Act 2003
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
Heritage Act 1977
Impounding Act 1993
Library Act 1939
Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
Public Health Act 2010
Recreation Vehicles Act 1983
Roads Act 1993
Rural Fires Act 1997
State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989
State Emergency Service Act 1989
Strata Schemes Development Act 2015
Strata Schemes Management Act 2015
Swimming Pools Act 1992
Unclaimed Money Act 1995

In order to undertake its functions, Council has identified the following Principal Activities and Functions:

Principal Activities	Functions
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Management Accounting Services • Financial Accounting Services • Human Resource Services • Information Technology Services • Administrative Services • Technical Support Services • Rates and General Revenue • Customer Services • Commercial Activity • Risk Management • Asset Services • Strategic Activities • Community and Social Consultation • RTA Agency • Depot Services • Works Services • Fleet Management
Economic Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Development • Tourism and Area Promotion • Special Projects • Economic Development • Community Development • Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, PV Jandra, Crossley Engine • Saleyards and Markets • Industrial Development
Public Order and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Protection • Animal Control • Emergency Services • Other Public Order and Safety • Abandoned Buildings
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and Health Services • Environmental Support Services • Land use Services • Other Health • Noxious Plants
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged and Disabled Services • Education • Youth Services • Other Community Services
Housing and Community Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Town Planning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Approval and Control • Domestic and Trade Waste Management Services • Street Cleaning • Urban Stormwater Drainage • Cemeteries • Community and Village Amenities • Environmental Protection
Water Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourke and Villages Water Supply
Sewerage Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewerage Services
Recreation and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Services • Community Centres • Public Halls • Sporting Grounds and Facilities • Other Cultural Services
Public Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourke Olympic Swimming Pool
Recreational Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Gardens and Reserves
Mining, Manufacturing and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and Building • Quarries and Gravel Pits
Transportation and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Network • Town and Village Streets and Lanes • Aerodromes • Footpaths and Cycle ways • Traffic Management • Street Lighting • Kerbing and Guttering • Street Trees

2. How Council functions affect members of the public

As a service organisation, the majority of the activities of Bourke Shire Council have an impact on the public. The following is an outline of how the broad functions of Council affect the public.

Service functions affect the public as Council provides services and facilities to the public. These include provision of human services such as libraries, halls and community centres, recreation facilities, infrastructure and the removal of garbage.

Regulatory functions place restrictions on developments and buildings to ensure that they meet certain requirements affecting the amenity of the community and not endanger the lives and safety of any person. Members of the public must be aware of, and comply with, such regulations.

Ancillary functions affect only some members of the public. These functions include, for example, the resumption of land or the power for Council to enter onto a person's land. In these circumstances, only the owner of the property would be affected.

Revenue functions affect the public directly in that revenue from rates and other charges paid by the public is used to fund services and facilities provided to the community.

Administrative functions do not necessarily affect the public directly but have an indirect impact on the community through the efficiency and effectiveness of the service provided.

Enforcement functions only affect those members of the public who are in breach of certain legislation. This includes matters such as the non-payment of rates and charges and unregistered dogs.

Community planning and development functions affect areas such as cultural development, social planning and community profile and involves:

- Advocating and planning for the needs of our community. This includes initiating partnerships; participating on regional, State or Commonwealth working parties; and preparation and implementation of the Community Plan.
- Providing support to community and sporting organisations through provision of grants, training and information.
- Facilitating opportunities for people to participate in the life of the community through the conduct of a range of community events such as NAIDOC Week, Youth Week, Seniors Week, as well as promoting events of others.

3. Council policy development & functions – public participation

There are two (2) broad ways in which the public may participate in policy development and, indeed, the general activities of the Council. These are:

3.1 Representation

Councils in New South Wales are generally elected every four (4) years. The next general elections are scheduled to be held in September 2024. All residents of the area who are on the electoral roll are eligible to vote. Property owners who live outside of the area and rate paying lessees can also vote, but must register their intention to vote on the non-residential roll. Voting is compulsory.

Residents are able to raise issues with, and make representations to, the elected Councillors. The Councillors, if they agree with the issue or representation, may pursue the matter on the resident's behalf thus allowing members of the public to influence the development of policy. Councillors only have a decision-making role when they formally meet as a Council.

3.2 Personal Participation

Members of the public are able to attend Council meetings, with Bourke Shire Council meeting on the 4th Monday of each month. The exception to this is the December meeting, which is determined each year to coincide with Christmas, with no meeting being held in January.

Members of the public are able to make submissions for Council's consideration in relation to the development of its Community Strategic Plan, Operational Plan and Delivery Program as well as on proposals relating to development, subdivision and building applications. In addition, members of the public can present to a Public Forum session held prior to the monthly Council meeting.

4. Documents held by Council

Council holds government information (hard copy and electronic form) that relate to a number of different issues concerning the Bourke shire Council area. These documents are grouped into three categories:

1. Electronic documents
2. Physical files
3. Policy documents

4.1 Files – both “physical” and electronic

Council's files are not available on the website however information from these files may be made available either by informal release or via an access application, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of

the information. This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the GIPA Act).

Members of the public who require an informal release or an access application can do so by contacting Council.

4.2 Policy documents

Council's policies are maintained in a policy register – required documents are available on the website.

5. How to access Council information

There are four (4) ways in which Council information is made available to the public under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act):

5.1 Open access information

This information is mandatorily available in accordance with the GIPA Act. The public is entitled to inspect these documents either on Council's website (www.bourke.nsw.gov.au) (unless there is an unreasonable additional cost to Council to publish these documents on the website) or at the offices of the Council during ordinary office hours or at any other place as determined by the Council. Any current and previous government information of this type may be inspected by the public free of charge. Copies can be supplied for reasonable copying charges, subject to copyright. The list of government information held by Council is set out below:

5.2 Information about Council

- Council's adopted Code of Conduct
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Annual Report
- Annual Financial Reports
- Auditor's Report
- Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan
- EEO Management Plan
- Policy concerning the Payment of Expenses Incurred by, and the Provision of Facilities to Councillors
- Annual Reports of Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council
- Any Codes referred to in the LGA
- Returns of the Interests of Councillors, Designated Persons and Delegates
- Agendas and Business Papers for any meeting of Council or any Committee of Council
- Minutes of any meeting of Council or any Committee of Council
- Departmental Representative Reports presented at a meeting of Council

- Land Register
- Register of Investments
- Register of Delegations
- Register of Graffiti removal works
- Register of current Declarations of Disclosures of Political donations
- Register of Voting on Planning Matters

5.3 Plans and Policies

- Local Policies adopted by Council concerning approvals and orders
- Plans of Management for Community Land
- Environmental Planning Instruments, Development Control Plans and Contribution Plans

5.4 Information about Development Applications

Development Applications and the following associated documents received in relation to a proposed development:

- Home Warranty Insurance documents
- Construction Certificates
- Occupation Certificates
- Structural Certification Documents
- Town Planner Reports
- Submissions received on Development Applications
- Heritage Consultant Reports
- Tree Inspections Consultant Reports
- Acoustic Consultant Reports
- Land Contamination Consultant Reports
- Records of decisions on Development Applications including decisions on appeals
- Records describing general nature of documents that Council decides to exclude from public view including internal specifications and configurations, and commercially sensitive information.

5.5 Approvals, Orders and Other Documents

- Applications for approvals under part 7 of the LG Act
- Applications for approvals under any other Act and any associated documents received
- Records of approvals granted or refused, any variation from Council Policies with reasons for the variation, and decisions made on appeals concerning approvals
- Orders given under Part 2 of Chapter 7 of the Local Government Act, and any reasons given under section 136 of the LG Act
- Orders given under the Authority of any other Act
- Records of Building Certificates under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Plans of land proposed to be compulsorily acquired by Council
- Compulsory Acquisition Notices

- Leases and Licenses for use of Public Land classified as Community Land
- Performance improvement orders issued under Section 6 of Chapter 13 of the LG Act

In addition to the above the following government information known as "open access information" is also publicly available:

- Council's current agency information guide,
- Information about the Council contained in any document tabled in Parliament by or on behalf of the Council, other than any document tabled by order of either House of Parliament,
- Council's policies
- Council's disclosure log or access applications
- Council's register of government contracts
- Council's record of the open access information (if any) that it does not make publicly available on the basis of an overriding public interest against disclosure,
- such other government information as may be prescribed by the regulations as open access information.

5.6 Proactive release

Council is encouraged to make as much information of public interest as possible publicly available free of charge or at minimal cost, such as frequently requested information or information of special public interest. The information to be proactively released is decided at Council's discretion. It is published in an appropriate manner and either free of charge or available at a reasonable cost.

Council makes the following information of public interest available on its website:

- Council events information
- Council news updates
- Fees and Charges
- Government submissions
- Community Information Directories, Publications and Services
- Infrastructure Program Updates
- Major Projects Updates

5.7 Informal Release

Council is authorised to release information in response to an informal request, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information, such as if another person's personal information is included in the information. A written application is required to request information informally.

5.8 Formal Release

You are also able to request access to Council information, including information not available as open access, proactive release or informal

release, by lodging a Formal Access to Information Request.

You will need to lodge a formal application if:-

- You are requesting another person's personal information (e.g. complainant's details)
- You are requesting information relating to an insurance claim
- Your request will involve retrieval of a large number of documents or files (five files or more)
- You are requesting information relating to companion animals

For an application to be considered valid, it must:-

- Be in writing
- Have the \$30 application fee paid upon lodgement
- Include a postal address within Australia
- Contain enough details to allow the required information to be identified.

The \$30 application fee will cover the first hour of processing. Subsequent time spent processing the application will incur a charge of \$30 per hour. You will be informed of the estimated total cost of your application within five days of the application being received.

6. How members of the public may access and amend Council Government Information concerning their personal affairs

As mentioned previously, Council has a vast range of documents that can be accessed in varying ways. Most documents require an appointment to be accessed, in order to allow files to be retrieved from Council's off-site storage facility. Appointments can be made to view documents at Council's Administration Office, 29 Mitchell Street, Bourke, between the hours of 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays); Telephone: 02 6830 8000.

If a fee for photocopies of documents provided under the GIPA Act is payable, it will be listed in Council's adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges and GST is included.

6.1 Public Officer and Right to Information Officer

Amongst other duties, the Public Officer may deal with requests from the public concerning the Council's affairs and has the responsibility of assisting people to gain access to public documents of the Council. If you have any difficulty in obtaining access to Council documents, you may wish to refer your enquiry to the Public Officer who is responsible for determining applications for access to documents.

If you believe that a Council record is incorrect, and you would like to have this amended it is necessary for you to make written application to the Public

Officer in the first instance.

Enquiries should be addressed as follows:

General Manager
 Bourke Shire Council
 PO Box 21
 Bourke NSW 2840
[Email: bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au)

7. Further information

If you require any other advice or assistance about access to information you may contact the Information and Privacy Commission using the following details:-

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner NSW
 Industrial Relations Commission Building
 Level 3, 47 Bridge Street
 Sydney NSW 2000
 Phone: 1800 472 679
 Fax: (02) 8114 3756
 Email: ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au
 Website: <https://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/information-access>

Data NSW
 Email: datansw@finance.nsw.gov.au
 Website: data.nsw.gov.au

OpenGov NSW
 Email: opengov@records.nsw.gov.au
 Website: opengov.nsw.gov.au

8. Amendments

Version	Date Approved	Description of Changes
1.4.10 (v6)	27/09/2021	Minor revisions.
1.4.10 (v7)	23/10/2023	Minor revisions.
1.4.10 (v8)	28/10/2024	Proposed Review Date

SECTION No.1
PART No. 4.10



Access to Information Policy

Policy No: 1.4.10 (v5)

Date Adopted: 28/10/2024

Minute No: 2024/xxx

Supersedes: 1.4.10 (v4)

Proposed Review Date: 27/10/2025

Responsible Officer: Manager Corporate Services

Verified by General Manager..... Verified by Mayor.....

1. Intent

The intent of this policy is to outline the Bourke Shire Council's guiding principles for handling requests for information access by the general public.

1.1 The objectives of this policy are to:-

- define and manage proactive, informal and formal information requests from the public under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (the GIPA Act)
- provide the public with a straightforward and fully transparent process to access information held by Council at minimal cost and/or delay
- provide access to information wherever possible via Council's website and Customer Service Centre
- define information which may be restricted from public access
- ensure customers are promptly advised of the information they are entitled to access and with clearly documented reasons if access to information is refused
- advise customers of their rights of review if access to information is refused.

2. Scope

The policy applies to all government and personal information held by the Council in the various forms, comprising all councillors, employees, consultants and contractors providing a service to Council.

3. Framework

This Policy, once adopted, will provide Council and Council staff with a process for handling requests for information access by the general public.

4. Provisions

4.1 Accessing Information

Any member of the public has the legal right to request access to the information the Council maintains by submitting an application to the Council. The Council also makes a lot of information available to the public upon request and publishes a wide range of information on its website.

The Council will provide copies of requested information in digital form wherever possible. Where copies cannot be made available in digital form, information may be available for viewing in the Council building's conference room.

The Council is required to issue Access Directions for all records older than 30 years under Part 6 of the *State Records Act 1998*. Access guidelines are created for record classes rather than specific records. Records that are subject to an access direction and available to the public must be made available upon request. Under the GIPA Act, access to records that have been closed under the *State Records Act 1998* is still possible. If access is denied in accordance with the GIPA Act, the review rights detailed below take effect.

4.2 Open Access Information and Proactive Disclosure

The GIPA Act requires the Council to make its "open access information" accessible to the general public. Information that is "open access information" is listed in Schedule 1 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009* and Part 3 of the GIPA Act.

The Council's 'open access information' is made available to members of the public via Council's website.

The proactive sharing of information upholds the public's right to information and shows that the Council is actively looking for ways to be open and accountable. In accordance with the GIPA Act, the Council aims to identify material to disclose in advance and encourages staff to periodically determine whether the information produced and gathered in their respective business areas would be useful to publish in advance.

4.3 Informal Access to Information

If a member of the public seeks access to information that is not posted on the Council's website, they will be advised on how to submit an informal information access request via email, or on a printable form.

The Council will grant access to information unless there is a compelling public interest to withhold it.

An informal information access request is free of charge, but a scanning or photocopying fee might be charged in accordance with the Council's Revenue Policy: Fees and Charges. Requests for information access will be handled as quickly as possible, usually within 10 working days.

4.4 Formal Access to Information

When the Council denies access to information in response to an informal information access request, the individual requesting access to the information will be informed of their right to file a formal access application under section 41 of the GIPA Act.

In accordance with Section 41 of the GIPA Act, a formal access application may be required to be submitted if:

- the information sought is of a sensitive nature, as defined by the Council's Sensitive and Security Classified Information Schema;
- the processes necessary to locate the information sought are highly complex;
- a substantial amount of information is sought; granting access would necessitate a thorough search;
- the information sought involves the personal or business information of third parties, the release of which requires their consent.

Applications for access under Section 41 (formal applications) must be submitted in writing and include a \$30 fee. Processing fees could also be charged based on the kind and volume of information requested. The GIPA Act controls the levying of processing fees.

An access application will get a written acknowledgement of receipt within five business days.

The processing of access applications will normally takes 20 working days. However, if a third party consultation or requirement to retrieve records is necessary, the decision period may be extended up to 15 working days. The statutory decision period could be prolonged in response to a request for an advance deposit.

The decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing. Any decision to deny access will be supported by justifications. If there are fees involved, access to the information won't be granted until the fee has been paid.

4.5 Review Rights for Section 41 (formal) Applications

Part 5 of the GIPA Act outlines a number of review rights. There are a variety of options available to the applicant if access to information is denied following a request made under section 41 of the GIPA Act, including asking for a review of the Council's decision:

- via an internal review by the Council;
- by the Information and Privacy Commission (IPC);
- by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

Applications for internal review must be submitted within 20 working days of the applicant receiving notice of the decision in writing and include a \$40.00 fee.

A senior official who was not involved in the initial decision-making process will carry out an internal review. Within 15 working days, the outcome of an internal review will be announced. If consultation is required, this may be extended by up to 10 working days.

As an alternative, an applicant may submit a request for review directly to the Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT). To request this review, applicants must do so within 40 working days of receiving the initial decision. If the applicant has already received a review decision from the IPC, they have 20 working days from the date of the decision to submit an application to NCAT.

4.6 How Councillors are to request access to information

Councillors' general rights and obligations with regard to getting access to council information that is legitimately required for them to perform the duties of their civic office are covered explicitly in Part 8 of the Council's Code of Conduct.

Council members and their staff should use their official email addresses or letterhead to send any written requests for information to the Office of the General Manager or the relevant Executive Manager in order to carry out the duties of their civic office.

When other departments receive similar requests, they should immediately forward them to the Office of the General Manager or the appropriate Manager.

Council members and their staff should be certain when requesting information that:

- their requests clearly and concisely describe the information they seek
- the size and scope of requests for information are within reasonable limits.

The General Manager or appropriate Manager is required to exercise reasonable judgment when responding to a Councillor's request for information. If a request is denied, justification must be given in writing since a Councillor could need the information to carry out their public duties. Every information provided to one councillor while they are carrying out their civic responsibilities ought to be made available to every other councillor who wants it.

According to the Council's Code of Conduct, "Councillors and administrators who have a private interest in only council information have the same rights of access as any member of the public." When requesting information, council members and their staff should be clear about whether it is related to their job responsibilities or just a personal interest.

4.7 Copyright

A significant portion of the Council's information that is accessible to the public is protected by copyright and is the intellectual property of third parties. As an illustration, consider the plans and reports provided with development applications. According to the GIPA Act and other pertinent laws, such as the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the public has access to this information. This information is protected by copyright laws, thus users are urged to get the owner's permission before using any of the information in any way.

5. Accountabilities

The General Manager will delegate responsibilities to staff to determine applications under the GIPA Act, which is reflected in the Council's 'Delegations Register from the General Manager to staff'.

The Council's employees, council members, and contractors are accountable for respecting the policy's guiding concepts and procedures as necessary for their daily jobs.

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The following Council officers are responsible for the implementation and adherence of this Policy:

- General Manager
- Manager Corporate Services and Executive Services.

5.2 Support and Advice

The following Council officers are available to provide support and advice on this Policy:

- Manager Corporate Services and Executive Services.

6 Definitions

Term	Explanation
Government Information	Refers to information contained in a record held by a government agency i.e. Bourke Shire Council.
Record	Means any document, data or information created, compiled, recorded or stored in written form by electronic process, film or recordings, or in any other manner or by any other means that is evidence of or captures business activities and transactions.
Access Application (Approved Form)	Council has an approved form to be used for the purpose of formal request for information that is does not come under the categories of open access information. The approved form is to be accompanied by the required application fee.

7 Linkages

7.1 Applicable Legislation

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:-

- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act Regulations 2018*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *State Records Act 1998*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Other subordinate legislation mentioned in the GIPA Act 2009*
- *Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)*

7.2 Related Policies and Procedures

Please refer to the following policies/procedures:

- *Council's Code of Conduct*
- *Council's Code of Meeting Practice*

8 Review

This Policy will be reviewed every year or as required in the event of legislative changes. Any amendment to the Policy must be by way of a Council Resolution or the approval of the General Manager.

9. Policy Amendments

Version	Date Approved	Description of Changes
1.4.10 (v3)	24/08/2020	New policy format.
1.4.10(v4)	23/10/2023	Minor revisions/ revised Policy format.
1.4.10(v5)	28/10/2024	Proposed Review Date.

16.7 * FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS 2024/2025**

File Number: F1.4.6 (2264)
Author: Ang Pasang Rai, Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser: Leonie Brown, General Manager
Attachments:

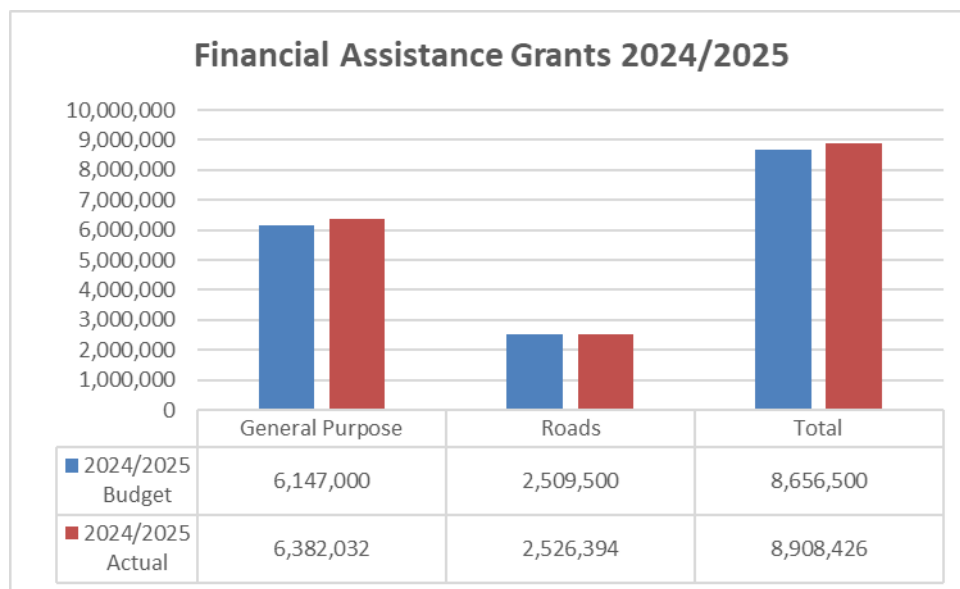
1. Financial Assistance Grants Program - Council Letter
2. Financial Assistance Grants Program 2024-2025 Recommendations
3. Financial Assistance Grants Program - Schedule of 2024-25 NSW Payments

Background

Council is in receipt of correspondence from the NSW Local Government Grants Commission, attached herewith, which: details the methodology as to how the Commission calculates the annual Financial Assistance Grants (FAG’s); details the components of the Grant; and provides a schedule of the actual 2024/2025 estimated FAG entitlements, as payable to all NSW Councils.

Council budgeted \$8,656,500 as its FAGs component for the 2024/2025 year. The Grants Commission has now advised that the final entitlement for Bourke shire Council is \$8,908,426 which is \$251,926 more than Council’s original budget estimate.

The breakup of the funding follows:



Current Situation

The 2024/2025 adjusted payment consist of both General and Local Roads components of the 2024/2025 entitlement, less an advanced payment made to Council in June 2024.

The adjustment is determined from the CPI and population adjustments.

As part of the Australian Government May 2024 budget, the Federal Government announced that it would bring forward 85% of the payment of the 2024/2025 Local Government Financial Assistance Grants. Therefore, Council received an advance payment of \$7,573,777 in June 2024.

The total estimated payment of FAGs to be received in 2024/2025 will be \$8,908,426. The remaining payment of \$1,372,508 will be paid in four equal payments of \$343,127 in August and November 2024 and, February and May 2025.

It is proposed that the additional funds be again allocated to Council's Asset Renewal Reserve, as it has done in previous years. The availability of funds in this reserve has enabled Council to submit grant applications in cases where a project requires matching funding or a contribution in order to increase its chances of success.

Financial Implications

The "Operating results" of the Council will be favourable, and the Asset Renewal Reserve for 2024/2025 will be increased by \$251,926.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council notes the report detailing the Financial Assistance Grants recommended allocation for 2024/2025.**
- 2. That the additional funds received, estimated to be \$251,926, be transferred to Council's Asset Renewal Reserve.**



NSW Local Government Grants Commission
 5 O’Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
 Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541

OUR REFERENCE: A908329
 CONTACT: Helen Pearce
 (02) 4428 4131
 helen.pearce@olg.nsw.gov.au

Ms Leonie Brown
 General Manager
 Bourke Shire Council

By email: lbrown@bourke.nsw.gov.au
 cc: bourkeshire@bourke.nsw.gov.au

23 August 2024

Dear Ms Brown

In accordance with the NSW Local Government Grants Commission’s (Commission) policy of providing information to councils about the way the financial assistance grants (FA Grants) are calculated, please find attached a summary of Council’s 2024-25 estimated FA Grants entitlement (**Appendix A**).

2024-25 ESTIMATED ENTITLEMENTS

The national FA Grants total estimated entitlement for 2024-25 is \$3.27 billion and is made up of \$2.27 billion for the general purpose component (GPC) and \$1 billion for the local roads component (LRC). The national estimated entitlement for 2024-25 increased by \$161 million to account for final adjustments to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and population shares for the year.

The Commonwealth Treasury’s estimate of the CPI for 2024-25 was adjusted up in July 2024. When compared to the 2023-24 final adjusted amount, the total national estimated FA Grants for 2024-25 increased by almost 5%. Accordingly, the State’s FA Grants allocation for 2024-25 is slightly higher than last year, however the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic and other external factors are difficult to predict.

The national GPC was distributed across the states and territories on a population basis. NSW received 31.29% or \$710,159,793 in the GPC, which represents a 4.6% increase on last year’s final figure. The LRC is based on a historical formula. NSW’s share of the total national road funding is a fixed 29% share, or \$292.2 million, which represents a 4.96% increase. The total estimated entitlement for 2024-25 FA Grants NSW is just over \$1 billion.

T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
 E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
 W <http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au>
 (follow the “Commissions & Tribunals” links)



EXTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING THE GPC POOL OF FUNDS IN NSW

The Commonwealth decided to pause indexation for three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17 due to budget constraints. In 2021, the impact of the global economic downturn was closely followed by the Covid-19 pandemic. NSW also experienced devastating natural disasters, including bushfires and floods. During recent years, the Commission has been faced with these challenges, including a substantially reduced CPI in 2021. The CPI is trending upwards to 4.6% in 2024-25. But further fluctuations cannot be ruled out.

Change of Annual Grant Entitlements	CPI % Change GPC	# of LGAs on 0% or <0%
2012-13 Final and 2013-14 Estimated	3.4	22
2013-14 Final and 2014-15 Estimated no CPI	-0.2	72
2014-15 Final and 2015-16 Estimated no CPI	-0.2	75
2015-16 Final and 2016-17 Estimated no CPI	0.1	56
2016-17 Final and 2017-18 Estimated	3.6	10
2017-18 Final and 2018-19 Estimated	3.6	12
2018-19 Final and 2019-20 Estimated	4.0	10
2019-20 Final and 2020-21 Estimated GED	0.9	33
2020-21 Final and 2021-22 Estimated Covid	1.7	29
2021-22 Final and 2022-23 Estimated Covid	3.3	9
2022-23 Final and 2023-24 Estimated Covid	4.0	*18
2023-24 Final and 2024-25 Estimated	4.6	9

KEY
<i>Three years of paused CPI (only change applied was national movements in jurisdictional population shares)</i>
<i>Transition entered: # of LGAs on 0% or less had the -5% floor been retained</i>
<i>*8 metropolitan councils moved to the negative floor following an unprecedented population decline as applying the per capita minimum produced a lower result than the negative floor. In 2024-25 metropolitan growth resumed</i>

Following the pandemic, population data flowed through particularly the 2023-24 grant calculations showing unprecedented population decline in some metropolitan areas. This resulted in eight metropolitan councils moving off the per capita minimum grant and instead, benefiting from the 0% floor, as councils cannot breach below 0% floor until the negative floor is resumed. This further demonstrates the need to expedite the pathway out of transition. This year, the same metropolitan councils resumed population growth and returned to the per capita minimum grant.

Council's 2024-25 FA Grants estimated entitlement, compared to the 2023-24 final entitlement is as follows:

Bourke Shire Council				
Year	General Purpose	Local Roads	Total	Change
2023-24 final	\$5,913,338	\$2,412,373	\$8,325,711	
2024-25 est.	\$6,382,032	\$2,526,394	\$8,908,426	7.0%

To assist councils with budgets and bank reconciliations, a breakdown of the 2024-25 quarterly instalments is attached (**Appendix A**). The NSW Schedule of Payments is also attached (**Appendix B**).

IMPACT OF THE ADVANCE PAYMENTS

The Commonwealth Government decided to make an early payment of approximately 100% of the 2023-24 estimated FA Grant entitlement to help manage the cumulative impacts of the floods and the pandemic. The remainder of the funding (final adjustments for CPI and population shares from 2022-23) was paid to councils in 2023-24. As the funding was paid early, it was based on the prior year's FA Grant recommendations. Two metropolitan councils received LRC overpayments (refer to 2023-24 letter of advice). Adjustments were made to balance the payments, slightly underpaying other councils' LRCs in 2023-24.

That adjustment has been reversed in 2024-25 to ensure the over and under payments reconcile with actual recommended entitlements over the two-year period.

However, the Commission is concerned about the unpredictability the practice of advance payments creates. Councils' long-term and annual budgeting forecasts are subject to changes, and annual financial statement results can often be skewed. The latest development of overpayments is also beginning to impede the Commission's ability to make annual recommendations.

CHALLENGES IN FAIRLY DISTRIBUTING THE GPC FUNDS

As councils will be aware, the Commission is required to adhere to the National Principles which mandate a per capita grant based on population growth/decline. This inhibits the full application of the Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation Principle, to distribute the grants on the basis of greatest relative need. It is also the policy of the NSW Government to explore opportunities to direct grants to communities with the greatest relative need. The Commission has had regard to these policies in allocating the grants. The map contained in the 2024-25 Factsheet (**Appendix F**) identifies the rate of population change in NSW from 2001 to 2023.

Appendix E lists the revised expenditure categories, disadvantage factors and data sources used in calculating the expenditure allowance and the relative disadvantage allowance.

RESUMING THE ANNUAL NEGATIVE FLOOR ON THE GPC IN 2025-26

The Commission has been investigating ways to direct funds to councils with greatest relative need. Information about the methodology review and subsequent transition has been provided to councils, including about the recommendations for model refinements. The Commission will commence the pathway out of transition, resuming the negative floor in 2025-26. Further information about the transition and general information about the FA Grants can be found on the Commission's webpage:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/commissions-and-tribunals/#lggc>.

SPECIAL SUBMISSIONS 2024-25

Special submissions from councils are invited for consideration by the Commission. The purpose of a submission is to give councils the opportunity to present information on the financial impact of inherent expenditure disadvantages beyond councils' control that are not generally recognised in the current methodology. Please refer to the expenditure functions and Council's disadvantage factors listed in **Appendix A** and the proposed Isolation Allowance disadvantage factors in **Appendix D**. This process allows the Commission to adequately consider all legitimate factors that affect councils' capacity to deliver services.

Appendix C, titled **Guidelines for Special Submissions**, contains guidance for preparing submissions – please read the guidelines carefully.

Submissions should be e-mailed to the Commission at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au by **30 November 2024**.

ISOLATION ALLOWANCE REVIEW

The Commission is in the final stages of the Isolation Allowance review. The allowance needs modernising to keep pace with the current and future needs of the sector. To achieve this, the Commission has reviewed a broader range of cost drivers to funding needs for remote communities and those with greater distances between major regional centres and capital cities. The Commission has attached a list of proposed measures and is consulting with councils on its proposal prior to implementing any changes.

A MESSAGE OF CAUTION

There is no guarantee that a council will receive an increased FA Grant each year. There are many of changing and sometimes unpredictable variables, including a council's changing measure of relative disadvantage compared to the state average measure and the size of the total FA Grant pool.

The Commission has been advising councils of the need to return the GPC to a negative floor. This will result in some councils receiving less in the 2025-26 than they did in 2024-25. Given the impacts of unpredicted events since commencing the transition, including natural disasters and the pandemic, the Commission delayed resuming the negative floor to help temporarily stabilise the FA Grants. Councils have been consulted and have now been given seven years to prepare. It is no longer sustainable to protect those councils with greatest relative advantage. The pathway out of transition is essential to distribute the GPC more fairly, allowing greater application of the HFE, consistent with the National Principles and NSW policy.

I would ask that this letter please be tabled at the next Council meeting.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact me on (02) 4428 4131.

Yours sincerely



Helen Pearce
Executive Officer

APPENDIX A
LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Bourke (S) Council
Appendix A

General Purpose Component

Expenditure Allowance

Expenditure Functions	State ave cost per capita
Recreation and cultural	\$251.32
Admin and governance	\$290.83
Education and community	\$67.72
Roads, bridges, footpaths and aerodromes	\$242.77
Public order, safety, health and other	\$215.28
Housing amenity	\$79.92

Recreation and cultural			
Pop <SS = relative disadvantage Pop >SS = 0 ATSI <SS = 0 ATSI >SS = relative disadvantage			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std (SS)	Weighted DF%
Population	2,365	65,166	49.5%
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	30.3%	3.4%	29.8%

Admin and governance			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	2,365	65,166	180.5%

Education and community			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	2,365	65,166	169.4%

Roads, bridges, footpaths and aerodromes			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	2,365	65,166	385.6%
Road Length	1,883	1,163	21.8%

Public order, safety, health and other			
RTD <SS = 0 RTD >SS = relative disadvantage Env <SS = 0 Env >SS = relative disadvantage			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA measure	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	2,365	65,166	120.3%
Rainfall, topography and drainage index	165%	161%	1.3%
Environment (Ha of environmental lands)	301,839	57,330	6.3%

Housing amenity			
Disadvantage Measure	LGA Std	State Std	Weighted DF%
Population	2,365	65,166	26.8%

Isolation Allowance

Outside the Greater Statistical Area	Yes
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APPENDIX A

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION 2023-24 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Pensioner Rebate Allowance

PR <SS = relative disadvantage (+ allowance)	
PR >SS = relative advantage (- allowance)	
LGA % Pensioner Rebates (PR) Res Props:	10.5%
State Standard (SS) % PR	14.1%

Revenue Allowance

Revenue Allowance	
CV <SS = relative disadvantage (+ allowance)	
CV >SS = relative advantage (- allowance)	
No. of Urban Properties:	1,349
Standard Value Per Property:	\$483,497
Council Value (CV):	\$18,895

No. of Non-urban Properties:	380
Standard Value Per Property:	\$887,956
Council Value (CV):	\$594,495

Relative Disadvantage Allowance

Unsealed roads; Isolation; Population Decline	\$258,301
Special Submission/other adjustments	-\$11,190
Total General Purpose Grant	\$6,382,032

Local Roads Component

Population:	2,365
Local Road Length (km):	1,883
Length of Bridges on Local Roads (m):	746

Road/Population Allowance:	\$2,447,441
Bridge Length Allowance:	\$78,953
Local Roads Total:	\$2,526,394

Total Grant	\$8,908,426
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Quarterly Instalments Payable in 2024-25 for 2024-25 FA Grants

	August 2024	
GPC	\$245,448.00	
LRC	\$97,679.00	\$343,127.00
	November 2024	
GPC	\$245,448.00	
LRC	\$97,679.00	\$343,127.00
	February 2025	
GPC	\$245,448.00	
LRC	\$97,679.00	\$343,127.00
	May 2025	
GPC	\$245,448.00	
LRC	\$97,679.00	\$343,127.00
	TOTAL	
GPC	\$981,792.00	
LRC	\$390,716.00	\$1,372,508.00

2024-25 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS QUARTERLY INSTALMENT PAYMENT SCHEDULE																	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
		1st Instalment			2nd Instalment			3rd Instalment			4th Instalment						Total Payments
	GPC	27,783,740		GPC	27,783,740		GPC	27,783,740		GPC	27,783,742		GPC	27,783,742		GPC	111,134,962
	LRC	11,298,415		LRC	11,298,415		LRC	11,298,415		LRC	11,298,416		LRC	11,298,416		LRC	45,193,661
	TOTAL	39,082,155		TOTAL	39,082,155		TOTAL	39,082,155		TOTAL	39,082,158		TOTAL	39,082,158		TOTAL	156,328,623
		Population	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	1st Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	2nd Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	3rd Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	4th Instalment	Recommended General Purpose Entitlement	Recommended Local Roads Entitlement	Total Payments
1	Albury (C)	57,517	232,962.00	75,503.00	308,465.00	232,962.00	75,503.00	308,465.00	232,962.00	75,503.00	308,465.00	232,962.00	75,503.00	308,465.00	232,962.00	75,503.00	1,233,860.00
2	Armidale Regional	29,944	226,503.00	117,457.00	226,503.00	226,503.00	117,457.00	226,503.00	226,503.00	117,457.00	226,503.00	226,503.00	117,457.00	226,503.00	226,503.00	117,457.00	1,375,840.00
0	Bathurst (S)	4,279	163,602.00	74,737.00	238,339.00	163,602.00	74,737.00	238,339.00	163,602.00	74,737.00	238,339.00	163,602.00	74,737.00	238,339.00	163,602.00	74,737.00	953,356.00
2	Bathurst Regional	2,202	164,899.00	67,209.00	232,098.00	164,899.00	67,209.00	232,098.00	164,899.00	67,209.00	232,098.00	164,899.00	67,209.00	232,098.00	164,899.00	67,209.00	928,392.00
3	Bayside	192,987	182,798.00	59,180.00	241,978.00	182,798.00	59,180.00	241,978.00	182,798.00	59,180.00	241,978.00	182,798.00	59,180.00	241,978.00	182,798.00	59,180.00	967,912.00
2	Bega Valley (S)	38,279	264,826.00	105,341.00	370,167.00	264,826.00	105,341.00	370,167.00	264,826.00	105,341.00	370,167.00	264,826.00	105,341.00	370,167.00	264,826.00	105,341.00	1,480,968.00
3	Bellingen (S)	23,665	159,889.00	49,749.00	209,635.00	159,889.00	49,749.00	209,635.00	159,889.00	49,749.00	209,635.00	159,889.00	49,749.00	209,635.00	159,889.00	49,749.00	834,510.00
0	Berrigan (S)	8,843	185,754.00	68,874.00	254,628.00	185,754.00	68,874.00	254,628.00	185,754.00	68,874.00	254,628.00	185,754.00	68,874.00	254,628.00	185,754.00	68,874.00	1,018,528.00
7	Blacktown (C)	428,202	585,657.00	188,998.00	774,655.00	585,657.00	188,998.00	774,655.00	585,657.00	188,998.00	774,655.00	585,657.00	188,998.00	774,655.00	585,657.00	188,998.00	3,086,620.00
8	Bland (S)	5,464	248,989.00	152,953.00	401,942.00	248,989.00	152,953.00	401,942.00	248,989.00	152,953.00	401,942.00	248,989.00	152,953.00	401,942.00	248,989.00	152,953.00	1,607,768.00
9	Blayney (S)	3,844	102,610.00	43,912.00	146,522.00	102,610.00	43,912.00	146,522.00	102,610.00	43,912.00	146,522.00	102,610.00	43,912.00	146,522.00	102,610.00	43,912.00	586,088.00
0	Blue Mountains (C)	78,440	346,957.00	66,914.00	413,871.00	346,957.00	66,914.00	413,871.00	346,957.00	66,914.00	413,871.00	346,957.00	66,914.00	413,871.00	346,957.00	66,914.00	1,655,485.00
1	Bogan (S)	2,420	162,070.00	73,454.00	235,524.00	162,070.00	73,454.00	235,524.00	162,070.00	73,454.00	235,524.00	162,070.00	73,454.00	235,524.00	162,070.00	73,454.00	942,297.00
1	Bourke (S)	23,665	245,448.00	97,679.00	343,127.00	245,448.00	97,679.00	343,127.00	245,448.00	97,679.00	343,127.00	245,448.00	97,679.00	343,127.00	245,448.00	97,679.00	1,372,360.00
3	Brewarrina (S)	1,411	190,889.00	66,345.00	257,234.00	190,889.00	66,345.00	257,234.00	190,889.00	66,345.00	257,234.00	190,889.00	66,345.00	257,234.00	190,889.00	66,345.00	1,028,137.00
4	Broken Hill (C)	17,824	252,958.00	26,906.00	279,864.00	252,958.00	26,906.00	279,864.00	252,958.00	26,906.00	279,864.00	252,958.00	26,906.00	279,864.00	252,958.00	26,906.00	1,119,456.00
0	Burwood	13,966	45,233.00	13,966.00	59,199.00	45,233.00	13,966.00	59,199.00	45,233.00	13,966.00	59,199.00	45,233.00	13,966.00	59,199.00	45,233.00	13,966.00	236,796.00
0	Byron (S)	37,126	109,634.00	62,265.00	171,899.00	109,634.00	62,265.00	171,899.00	109,634.00	62,265.00	171,899.00	109,634.00	62,265.00	171,899.00	109,634.00	62,265.00	687,596.00
0	Cabrera	10,880	159,772.00	104,565.00	264,337.00	159,772.00	104,565.00	264,337.00	159,772.00	104,565.00	264,337.00	159,772.00	104,565.00	264,337.00	159,772.00	104,565.00	1,057,348.00
0	Camden	3,948,111	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	898,288.00
0	Campanham (C)	3,948,111	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	224,592.00	134,570.00	90,022.00	898,288.00
0	Camden East (C)	30,785	91,390.00	30,785.00	122,175.00	91,390.00	30,785.00	122,175.00	91,390.00	30,785.00	122,175.00	91,390.00	30,785.00	122,175.00	91,390.00	30,785.00	488,700.00
0	Canterbury-Bankstown	379,829	379,534.00	129,886.00	509,420.00	379,534.00	129,886.00	509,420.00	379,534.00	129,886.00	509,420.00	379,534.00	129,886.00	509,420.00	379,534.00	129,886.00	2,037,880.00
0	Cantrilwell (S)	27,65	210,767.00	119,152.00	329,919.00	210,767.00	119,152.00	329,919.00	210,767.00	119,152.00	329,919.00	210,767.00	119,152.00	329,919.00	210,767.00	119,152.00	1,319,676.00
0	Central Coast	36,134	994,020.00	221,243.00	1,215,263.00	994,020.00	221,243.00	1,215,263.00	994,020.00	221,243.00	1,215,263.00	994,020.00	221,243.00	1,215,263.00	994,020.00	221,243.00	4,861,052.00
0	Central Darling (S)	9,721	242,084.00	81,021.00	323,105.00	242,084.00	81,021.00	323,105.00	242,084.00	81,021.00	323,105.00	242,084.00	81,021.00	323,105.00	242,084.00	81,021.00	1,292,420.00
0	Cessnock (C)	87,591	258,601.00	94,595.00	353,196.00	258,601.00	94,595.00	353,196.00	258,601.00	94,595.00	353,196.00	258,601.00	94,595.00	353,196.00	258,601.00	94,595.00	1,412,784.00
0	Clarence Valley	380,724	172,505.00	63,229.00	335,734.00	172,505.00	63,229.00	335,734.00	172,505.00	63,229.00	335,734.00	172,505.00	63,229.00	335,734.00	172,505.00	63,229.00	890,020.00
0	Collin (S)	49,718	225,407.00	87,250.00	312,657.00	225,407.00	87,250.00	312,657.00	225,407.00	87,250.00	312,657.00	225,407.00	87,250.00	312,657.00	225,407.00	87,250.00	1,250,628.00
0	Coffs Harbour (C)	89,489	246,868.00	115,100.00	361,968.00	246,868.00	115,100.00	361,968.00	246,868.00	115,100.00	361,968.00	246,868.00	115,100.00	361,968.00	246,868.00	115,100.00	1,447,872.00
0	Coakman (S)	65,555	136,290.00	65,555.00	201,845.00	136,290.00	65,555.00	201,845.00	136,290.00	65,555.00	201,845.00	136,290.00	65,555.00	201,845.00	136,290.00	65,555.00	807,380.00
0	Coonamble (S)	3,861	155,838.00	63,179.00	219,017.00	155,838.00	63,179.00	219,017.00	155,838.00	63,179.00	219,017.00	155,838.00	63,179.00	219,017.00	155,838.00	63,179.00	956,068.00
0	Coonambulla-Gundagai Regional	13,424	199,657.00	79,522.00	279,179.00	199,657.00	79,522.00	279,179.00	199,657.00	79,522.00	279,179.00	199,657.00	79,522.00	279,179.00	199,657.00	79,522.00	1,116,716.00
0	Cowra (S)	73,819	177,496.00	73,819.00	251,315.00	177,496.00	73,819.00	251,315.00	177,496.00	73,819.00	251,315.00	177,496.00	73,819.00	251,315.00	177,496.00	73,819.00	1,005,260.00
0	Cumberland	24,132	279,365.00	99,323.00	378,688.00	279,365.00	99,323.00	378,688.00	279,365.00	99,323.00	378,688.00	279,365.00	99,323.00	378,688.00	279,365.00	99,323.00	1,474,752.00
0	Dubbo Regional	56,556	378,469.00	174,469.00	552,938.00	378,469.00	174,469.00	552,938.00	378,469.00	174,469.00	552,938.00	378,469.00	174,469.00	552,938.00	378,469.00	174,469.00	2,212,532.00
0	Dungog (S)	9,767	96,316.00	46,910.00	143,226.00	96,316.00	46,910.00	143,226.00	96,316.00	46,910.00	143,226.00	96,316.00	46,910.00	143,226.00	96,316.00	46,910.00	572,904.00
0	Edward River	8,430	212,579.00	76,916.00	289,495.00	212,579.00	76,916.00	289,495.00	212,579.00	76,916.00	289,495.00	212,579.00	76,916.00	289,495.00	212,579.00	76,916.00	1,157,864.00
0	Eurobodalla (S)	4,891	265,946.00	85,963.00	351,909.00	265,946.00	85,963.00	351,909.00	265,946.00	85,963.00	351,909.00	265,946.00	85,963.00	351,909.00	265,946.00	85,963.00	1,407,838.00
0	Fairfield (C)	20,972	323,821.00	84,332.00	408,153.00	323,821.00	84,332.00	408,153.00	323,821.00	84,332.00	408,153.00	323,821.00	84,332.00	408,153.00	323,821.00	84,332.00	1,632,812.00
0	Federation	12,939	235,756.00	113,908.00	349,664.00	235,756.00	113,908.00	349,664.00	235,756.00	113,908.00	349,664.00	235,756.00	113,908.00	349,664.00	235,756.00	113,908.00	1,398,656.00
0	Forbes (S)	9,300	193,859.00	96,183.00	290,042.00</												

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
2	Lachlan (S)	311,070.00	171,845.00	482,915.00	311,070.00	171,845.00	482,915.00	311,070.00	171,845.00	482,915.00	311,070.00	171,845.00	482,915.00	311,070.00	171,845.00	482,915.00	311,070.00
3	Lake Macquarie (C)	2,192,249.00	1,442,000.00	772,190.00	2,192,249.00	1,442,000.00	772,190.00	2,192,249.00	1,442,000.00	772,190.00	2,192,249.00	1,442,000.00	772,190.00	2,192,249.00	1,442,000.00	772,190.00	2,192,249.00
4	Lane Cove (M)	44,899.00	14,413.00	59,112.00	44,899.00	14,413.00	59,112.00	44,899.00	14,413.00	59,112.00	44,899.00	14,413.00	59,112.00	44,899.00	14,413.00	59,112.00	44,899.00
5	Lidcombe (S)	189,255.00	53,055.00	242,310.00	189,255.00	53,055.00	242,310.00	189,255.00	53,055.00	242,310.00	189,255.00	53,055.00	242,310.00	189,255.00	53,055.00	242,310.00	189,255.00
6	Lismore (C)	43,907.00	14,413.00	58,320.00	43,907.00	14,413.00	58,320.00	43,907.00	14,413.00	58,320.00	43,907.00	14,413.00	58,320.00	43,907.00	14,413.00	58,320.00	43,907.00
7	Lithgow (C)	20,724.00	6,941.00	27,665.00	20,724.00	6,941.00	27,665.00	20,724.00	6,941.00	27,665.00	20,724.00	6,941.00	27,665.00	20,724.00	6,941.00	27,665.00	20,724.00
8	Liverpool (C)	248,872.00	82,957.00	331,829.00	248,872.00	82,957.00	331,829.00	248,872.00	82,957.00	331,829.00	248,872.00	82,957.00	331,829.00	248,872.00	82,957.00	331,829.00	248,872.00
9	Liverpool Plains (S)	7,667.00	2,555.00	10,222.00	7,667.00	2,555.00	10,222.00	7,667.00	2,555.00	10,222.00	7,667.00	2,555.00	10,222.00	7,667.00	2,555.00	10,222.00	7,667.00
10	Lockhart (S)	3,390.00	1,130.00	4,520.00	3,390.00	1,130.00	4,520.00	3,390.00	1,130.00	4,520.00	3,390.00	1,130.00	4,520.00	3,390.00	1,130.00	4,520.00	3,390.00
11	Lord Howe Island (Bd)	445.00	148.33.00	593.33.00	445.00	148.33.00	593.33.00	445.00	148.33.00	593.33.00	445.00	148.33.00	593.33.00	445.00	148.33.00	593.33.00	445.00
12	Maitland (S)	73,329.00	24,443.00	97,772.00	73,329.00	24,443.00	97,772.00	73,329.00	24,443.00	97,772.00	73,329.00	24,443.00	97,772.00	73,329.00	24,443.00	97,772.00	73,329.00
13	Mid Coast	97,929.00	32,643.00	130,572.00	97,929.00	32,643.00	130,572.00	97,929.00	32,643.00	130,572.00	97,929.00	32,643.00	130,572.00	97,929.00	32,643.00	130,572.00	97,929.00
14	Mid Western Regional	25,921.00	8,640.00	34,561.00	25,921.00	8,640.00	34,561.00	25,921.00	8,640.00	34,561.00	25,921.00	8,640.00	34,561.00	25,921.00	8,640.00	34,561.00	25,921.00
15	Monaro Plains (S)	128,773.00	42,924.00	171,697.00	128,773.00	42,924.00	171,697.00	128,773.00	42,924.00	171,697.00	128,773.00	42,924.00	171,697.00	128,773.00	42,924.00	171,697.00	128,773.00
16	Mosman (M)	2,987.71.00	995.24.00	3,982.95.00	2,987.71.00	995.24.00	3,982.95.00	2,987.71.00	995.24.00	3,982.95.00	2,987.71.00	995.24.00	3,982.95.00	2,987.71.00	995.24.00	3,982.95.00	2,987.71.00
17	Murray River	13,320.00	4,440.00	17,760.00	13,320.00	4,440.00	17,760.00	13,320.00	4,440.00	17,760.00	13,320.00	4,440.00	17,760.00	13,320.00	4,440.00	17,760.00	13,320.00
18	Murrumbidgee	3,607.00	1,202.00	4,809.00	3,607.00	1,202.00	4,809.00	3,607.00	1,202.00	4,809.00	3,607.00	1,202.00	4,809.00	3,607.00	1,202.00	4,809.00	3,607.00
19	Murrumbidgee (S)	16,778.00	5,590.00	22,368.00	16,778.00	5,590.00	22,368.00	16,778.00	5,590.00	22,368.00	16,778.00	5,590.00	22,368.00	16,778.00	5,590.00	22,368.00	16,778.00
20	Nambucca Valley	20,774.00	6,925.00	27,699.00	20,774.00	6,925.00	27,699.00	20,774.00	6,925.00	27,699.00	20,774.00	6,925.00	27,699.00	20,774.00	6,925.00	27,699.00	20,774.00
21	Narrabri (S)	119,022.00	39,674.00	158,696.00	119,022.00	39,674.00	158,696.00	119,022.00	39,674.00	158,696.00	119,022.00	39,674.00	158,696.00	119,022.00	39,674.00	158,696.00	119,022.00
22	Narrandera (S)	5,892.00	1,964.00	7,856.00	5,892.00	1,964.00	7,856.00	5,892.00	1,964.00	7,856.00	5,892.00	1,964.00	7,856.00	5,892.00	1,964.00	7,856.00	5,892.00
23	Narramine (S)	6,443.00	2,148.00	8,591.00	6,443.00	2,148.00	8,591.00	6,443.00	2,148.00	8,591.00	6,443.00	2,148.00	8,591.00	6,443.00	2,148.00	8,591.00	6,443.00
24	Newcastle (C)	174,234.00	58,078.00	232,312.00	174,234.00	58,078.00	232,312.00	174,234.00	58,078.00	232,312.00	174,234.00	58,078.00	232,312.00	174,234.00	58,078.00	232,312.00	174,234.00
25	North Sydney	23,360.00	7,787.00	31,147.00	23,360.00	7,787.00	31,147.00	23,360.00	7,787.00	31,147.00	23,360.00	7,787.00	31,147.00	23,360.00	7,787.00	31,147.00	23,360.00
26	Northern Beaches	267,921.00	89,307.00	357,228.00	267,921.00	89,307.00	357,228.00	267,921.00	89,307.00	357,228.00	267,921.00	89,307.00	357,228.00	267,921.00	89,307.00	357,228.00	267,921.00
27	Orange	443,244.00	147,748.00	590,992.00	443,244.00	147,748.00	590,992.00	443,244.00	147,748.00	590,992.00	443,244.00	147,748.00	590,992.00	443,244.00	147,748.00	590,992.00	443,244.00
28	Orange (C)	60,896.00	20,299.00	81,195.00	60,896.00	20,299.00	81,195.00	60,896.00	20,299.00	81,195.00	60,896.00	20,299.00	81,195.00	60,896.00	20,299.00	81,195.00	60,896.00
29	Parkes (S)	142,256.00	47,385.00	189,641.00	142,256.00	47,385.00	189,641.00	142,256.00	47,385.00	189,641.00	142,256.00	47,385.00	189,641.00	142,256.00	47,385.00	189,641.00	142,256.00
30	Parramatta (C)	269,145.00	89,716.00	358,861.00	269,145.00	89,716.00	358,861.00	269,145.00	89,716.00	358,861.00	269,145.00	89,716.00	358,861.00	269,145.00	89,716.00	358,861.00	269,145.00
31	Parramatta (S)	208,483.00	69,490.00	277,973.00	208,483.00	69,490.00	277,973.00	208,483.00	69,490.00	277,973.00	208,483.00	69,490.00	277,973.00	208,483.00	69,490.00	277,973.00	208,483.00
32	Port Macquarie-Hastings	49,590.00	16,530.00	66,120.00	49,590.00	16,530.00	66,120.00	49,590.00	16,530.00	66,120.00	49,590.00	16,530.00	66,120.00	49,590.00	16,530.00	66,120.00	49,590.00
33	Port Stephens	27,748.00	9,249.00	37,000.00	27,748.00	9,249.00	37,000.00	27,748.00	9,249.00	37,000.00	27,748.00	9,249.00	37,000.00	27,748.00	9,249.00	37,000.00	27,748.00
34	Queensland-Palmerston Regional	63,309.00	21,103.00	84,412.00	63,309.00	21,103.00	84,412.00	63,309.00	21,103.00	84,412.00	63,309.00	21,103.00	84,412.00	63,309.00	21,103.00	84,412.00	63,309.00
35	Randwick (C)	163,840.00	54,613.00	218,453.00	163,840.00	54,613.00	218,453.00	163,840.00	54,613.00	218,453.00	163,840.00	54,613.00	218,453.00	163,840.00	54,613.00	218,453.00	163,840.00
36	Richmond Valley	23,705.00	7,901.00	31,606.00	23,705.00	7,901.00	31,606.00	23,705.00	7,901.00	31,606.00	23,705.00	7,901.00	31,606.00	23,705.00	7,901.00	31,606.00	23,705.00
37	Ryde (C)	135,716.00	45,239.00	180,955.00	135,716.00	45,239.00	180,955.00	135,716.00	45,239.00	180,955.00	135,716.00	45,239.00	180,955.00	135,716.00	45,239.00	180,955.00	135,716.00
38	Shellharbour (C)	79,738.00	26,576.00	106,314.00	79,738.00	26,576.00	106,314.00	79,738.00	26,576.00	106,314.00	79,738.00	26,576.00	106,314.00	79,738.00	26,576.00	106,314.00	79,738.00
39	Shellharbour (S)	109,895.00	36,142.00	146,037.00	109,895.00	36,142.00	146,037.00	109,895.00	36,142.00	146,037.00	109,895.00	36,142.00	146,037.00	109,895.00	36,142.00	146,037.00	109,895.00
40	Silverton (VC)	35.00	11.67.00	46.67.00	35.00	11.67.00	46.67.00	35.00	11.67.00	46.67.00	35.00	11.67.00	46.67.00	35.00	11.67.00	46.67.00	35.00
41	Singamon	233.32.00	77.77.00	311.09.00	233.32.00	77.77.00	311.09.00	233.32.00	77.77.00	311.09.00	233.32.00	77.77.00	311.09.00	233.32.00	77.77.00	311.09.00	233.32.00
42	Smoky Mountains Regional	223.92.00	74.64.00	298.56.00	223.92.00	74.64.00	298.56.00	223.92.00	74.64.00	298.56.00	223.92.00	74.64.00	298.56.00	223.92.00	74.64.00	298.56.00	223.92.00
43	Smoky Valleys	148.93.00	49.64.00	198.57.00	148.93.00	49.64.00	198.57.00	148.93.00	49.64.00	198.57.00	148.93.00	49.64.00	198.57.00	148.93.00	49.64.00	198.57.00	148.93.00
44	Strathfield (M)	48,824.00	16,275.00	65,099.00	48,824.00	16,275.00	65,099.00	48,824.00	16,275.00	65,099.00	48,824.00	16,275.00	65,099.00	48,824.00	16,275.00	65,099.00	48,824.00
45	Sutherland (S)	235,029.00	78,343.00	313,372.00	235,029.00	78,343.00	313,372.00	235,029.00	78,343.00	313,372.00	235,029.00	78,343.00	313,372.00	235,029.00	78,343.00	313,372.00	235,029.00
46	Sydney (C)	233,090.00	77,693.00	310,783.00	233,090.00	77,693.00	310,783.00	233,090.00	77,693.00	310,783.00	233,090.00	77,693.00	310,783.00	233,090.00	77,693.00	310,783.00	233,090.00
47	Tamworth Regional	652.80.00	217.60.00	870.40.00	652.80.00	217.60.00	870.40.00	652.80.00	217.60.00								

16.8 * RATES WRITE OFF ASSESSMENT 01653-07500000-000**

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

Background

Councils must set rates based on the value of each parcel of land in their Local Government Area. The value of the land is determined by the State Government's Land and Property Management Authority and Council then, through its Revenue Policy, raises rates on all properties that are rateable.

The Revenue Policy describes the categories of parcels of land and rate in the dollar that will be raised against those properties. Council is required to raise rates on all rateable properties by 31 July each year.

There are a number of parcels of land in the Shire that are non-rateable as provided for in Part 6, Section 555 (1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* which states that "*land owned by the Crown, not being land held under a lease for private purposes,*" is exempt from all rates.

Current Situation

Rates Assessment 01653-07500000-000 is a Stock Watering Place, SWP223, known as the Enngonia Bore. The subject parcel of land was leased from NSW Local Land Services by a neighbouring property owner. Whilst ever this parcel of Crown land is leased for private purposes, the land is rateable. The lease for SWP223 expired on 30 September 2023 and has not been renewed.

Accordingly, the lease has been extinguished and the land has reverted back to the Crown and is no longer non-rateable under Part 6, Section 555 (1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as previously mentioned.

Given that the land has reverted to NSW Local Land Services a Council resolution is required to categorise the land as non-rateable and to write-off the rates previously raised for the period 2024/2025 of \$1,179.25 and interest accrued to 28 October of \$4.96, being a total of \$1,184.42.

Financial Implications

The rates levied and interest accrued to be written off for the 2024/2025 period amount to \$1,184.42.

Recommendation

- 1. That Councils Rates Assessment No. 01653-07500000-000 be categorised as non-rateable land effective 1 July 2024.**

- 2. That Council write off rates in the amount of \$1,179.25 and interest in the amount of \$4.96, being a total of \$1,184.42 in respect of Rates Assessment No. 01653-07500000-000.**

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 - AUGUST 2024

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

Background

The following information outlines works undertaken during August 2024.

ENGINEERING SERVICES - Road Works – Works Undertaken		
Michael Willoughby – Roads Supervisor		
NORTH TEAM – Denis Tiffen, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
MR-405 Bourke-Milparinka Road	Construct and Seal	N
SOUTH TEAM - John Reed, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-10 Toorale Road Trilby	Construct and Seal	Y
MR-68 Bourke- Wilcannia Road	Re-Sheeting	Y
TRANSPORT TEAM - Simon Wielinga, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-10 Toorale Road Trilby	Carting Gravel	N
MR-68 Bourke- Wilcannia Road	Carting Gravel	Y
BITUMEN TEAM – Phillip Harvey, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
Bourke Township	Pothole Patching	N
Regional Roads	Pothole Patching	N
State Highways	Pothole Patching	N
SH 7 South of Bourke	Control vegetation	N
MR 421 Kidman Way	Control vegetation	N
CONTRACTORS		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-13 Lansdown Road	Repair Damage (grade) (Sandford)	Y
MR-68 Bourke- Wilcannia Road	Re-Sheeting (Sandford)	Y
RLR-49 West Culgoa Road	Maintenance Grade (Rollers Aus)	Y
RLR-4 Bundy Road	Maintenance Grade (Rollers Aus)	N
State Highways	Bitumen Patches (Ausroad)	N
Bourke Town Lanes	Pavement Rehabilitation (SPA)	N
WORKSHOP – Works Undertaken		
Colin Kiley, Team Leader, Tradesman Plant Mechanic		

Plant no	Plant Type	Work Completed
103	Fuel Trailer	Removed and replaced wheel bearings and seals.
108	Toro Mower	Blade seized on deck - found blockage under the deck. Removed and cleaned.
122	2021 Mazda CX-5	Completed 30,000km service.
124	2024 Ford Ranger	Diagnosed steering problem and found body controller needed a software upgrade - installed and deleted old software.
132	John Deere 770g	Completed 8000hr service.
134	2019 John Deere 770g	Completed 6000hr service. Adjusted circle shims and bushes. Repaired differential and dismantled, replaced shims, bearings and O-rings reassessed.
136	Toro Grounds Master 360	Removed and replaced fan belt and deck wheels.
146	2022 Ford Pk Ranger	Repaired spotlights. Completed 100,000km service.
147	2020 Hino Truck Tipper	Completed 70,000km service. Rego check and repairs, removed and replaced drag link.
155	2021 Isuzu 155	Tyre blow out damaging coolant over flow bottle and mud flap. Replaced bottle and flap. Installed new hydraulic lifting crane. Replaced toolbox.
172	Isuzu 1500 FXY	Removed batteries. Charged and tested, found faulty and replaced with new ones.
177	Ford Ranger	Completed 50,000km service.
188	John Deere 670g	Diagnosed faulty diff lock. Found faulty transmission pump. Transported grader to Roma for repairs.
219	2022 Isuzu FVD 165-300 Auto MLWB DC	Repaired grease lines.
242	Toro Groundsmaster 360	Removed and replaced fan belt and deck wheels.
245	2022 Isuzu Generator	Completed 3500 hr service. Removed and replaced coolant pump, coolant and fan belts.
257	2021 Hino FE 1426	Completed 35,000km/3000 hr service. Removed and replaced broom. Repaired rattle in window and latch on toolbox.
265	Isuzu NQR 450	Diagnosed air vacuum leak. Found faulty t-piece. Replaced t-piece.
271	2022 Ford Ranger	Completed 110,000km service.
278	22 Isuzu 75 155	Installed lifting crane.
421	Toyota Prado	Completed 35,000km service. Installed side rails and steps.
425	2023 Caterpillar 966 M	Completed 1250 hr service.
426	2023 Bomag BBW21D5	Completed 500 hr service.
427	2023 Bomag BBW28RH	Completed 500 hr service.
505	Kenworth Primemover	Repaired hydraulic oil leaks. Removed and replaced hydraulic fittings.
520	Moore's Trailer	Diagnosed air leak. Found leaking hoses and valve. Replaced hoses, clamps and air valve. Repaired wiring and replaced lights as needed.
556	2023 Toyota Prado	Completed 50,000km service.

701	2023 Ford Ranger	Completed 15,000km service.
751	2024 Ford Ranger	Repaired hydraulic leak. Tightened hose on cylinder.

Small Plant	Completed service and repairs. Small plant removed and replaced.
Jandra	Checked over engines and replaced air cleaners.
Crossley Engine	Adjusted fuel pump and injectors.
Yard Work	Cleaned RMS shed.
Registrations	Completed registration for the public. Completed registration for BSC fleet.
Staff Training	
Colin Kiley passed auto electrical course. Denzel Jackson is studying auto electrical course.	

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Roads regarding Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity - August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.2 ENGINEERING SERVICES - ROAD WORKS AND WORKSHOP ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Background

The following information outlines works undertaken during September 2024.

ENGINEERING SERVICES - Road Works – Works Undertaken		
Michael Willoughby – Roads Supervisor		
NORTH TEAM – Denis Tiffen, Team Leader		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
MR-405	Formation	Y
MR-405	Re-Sheeting	N
SOUTH TEAM - John Reed, Team Leader		
Location	1 Work Carried Out	Completed
MR-405 Bourke-Milparinka Road	2 Construct and Seal	N
TRANSPORT TEAM - Simon Wielinga, Team Leader		
Location	3 Work Carried Out	Completed
RLR-10 Toorale Road Trilby	4 Gravel Carting	N
BITUMEN TEAM – Phillip Harvey, Team Leader		
Location	5 Work Carried Out	Completed
Bourke Township	6 Pothole Patching	N
Regional Roads	7 Pothole Patching	N
State Highways	8 Pothole Patching	N
SH 7 South of Bourke	9 Control vegetation	N
MR 421 Kidman Way	10 Control vegetation	N
CONTRACTORS		
Location	Work Carried Out	Completed
MR 68 Wilcannia Road	Gravel Resheet (Sandford)	Y
RLR-31 Wiree Road	Maintenance Grade (Rollers Aus)	Y
RLR-4 Bundy Road	Maintenance Grade (Rollers Aus)	Y
RLR-30 Eureka Plains Road	Maintenance Grade (Rollers Aus)	N
MR-404 Milparinka Road	Maintenance Grade (Lewis AG)	N
RLR-12 Multagoona Road	Maintenance Grade (Lewis AG)	Y
RLR-27 Burrawantie Road	Maintenance Grade (Lewis AG)	N
State Highways	Pothole Patching (AusRoad)	N
Bourke Town Streets	Pothole Patching (AusRoad)	N

WORKSHOP – Works Undertaken		
Colin Kiley, Team Leader, Tradesman Plant Mechanic		
Plant no	Plant Type	Work Completed
40	Isuzu NHNQR	Completed registration and repairs.
49	Hino Tipper	Completed registration and repairs. Completed full service and replaced batteries.
91	1996 Jakab Industries	Removed and replaced 4 tyres.
92	2014 Western Star 4800fs	Repaired wiring on stop, tail and blinker lights.
98	Box Trailer	Removed and replaced 3 tyres.
103	Fuel Trailer	Completed registration.
116	Safety Trailer	Repaired lights and carried out registration.
123	2021 Mitsubishi Pajero	Completed 70,000km service.
136	Toro Groundsmaster 360	Completed full service.
144	Franna AT 14	Crane loaded onto float due to clutch failure and brought to town. Cranes clutch and wire cable found to be damaged and due for 10 year certification. Organised repairs.
145	Ford Ranger	Completed 85,000km service.
155	2021 Isuzu 155	Completed registration and repairs.
175	2023 Ford Ranger	Completed 30,000km service.
180	Car Trailer	Repaired wiring and lights. Repaired bracket and replaced jockey wheel.
181	Mitsubishi Triton	Completed 95,000km service. Completed registration and repairs.
185	2022 Isuzu	Repaired toolbox door. Completed registration and repairs.
188	John Deere 670g	Completed 3500hr service.
219	2022 Isuzu FVD 165-300 Auto MLWB DC	Adjusted brakes. Completed registration and repairs.
226	2020 Bogie Water Cart	Removed and replaced faulty 100mm air operated water valves. Repaired water leaks. Repaired mud flap brackets and replaced mud flaps.
227	2020 Bogie Water Cart	Removed and replaced faulty 100mm air operated water valves. Repaired water leaks. Repaired mud flap brackets and replaced mud flaps.
238	2016 Moore tri axle tanker	Repaired wiring and replaced lights as needed. Removed and replaced brakes shoes, drum, wheel bearing, torque rod and rocker box bushes.
239	2016 Moore tri axle tanker	Repaired wiring and replaced lights as needed. Removed and replaced brakes shoes, drum, wheel bearing, torque rod and rocker box bushes.
242	Toro Groundsmaster 360	Completed full service.
257	2021 Hino FE 1426	Repaired water leaks on sweeper brooms. Removed and replaced middle broom.
278	22 Isuzu 75 155	Completed 70,000km service. Completed registration and repairs.
310	2014 Caterpillar 432F	Replaced LH Door glass, evacuated gas and re-gas A/C.

320	Safety Trailer	Completed registration.
370	Wing Slasher	Removed and replaced 2 tyres and blades. Removed and replaced damaged hydraulic hoses.
505	Kenworth Primemover	Completed registration and repairs.
701	2023 Ford Ranger	Removed suspension and replaced with heavier suspension.
782	2024 John Deere 770g	Taken delivery. Induction undertaken.

Rego's	Completed registrations. Completed registrations on our fleet.
Staff Training	
Workshop team completed RMS induction training.	

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Roads regarding Engineering Services - Road Works and Workshop Activity - September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.3 ENGINEERING SERVICES - PARKS AND GARDENS, TOWN SERVICES, WATER AND WASTE WATER ACTIVITY REPORT - AUGUST 2024

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 August 2024.

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.
Louth	General graffiti removal carried out on Council facilities.
	Mowing and maintenance completed.
	Public toilets cleaned and maintained.
	Facilities and footpaths cleaned.
Small Plant	Maintenance and service carried out on all ground plant.
Works Requests	Actioned and ongoing.
Town Streets	General maintenance carried out.
	Mowed and cleaned footpaths.
Wharf	General maintenance conducted.
	Public toilets cleaned and maintained.
	Facilities cleaned.
Council Office	General maintenance conducted.
Renshaw Complex	General maintenance conducted.
	Toilets and facilities cleaned.
	Mowed and cleaned facilities.
Coolican Oval	Grounds and facilities cleaned and maintained.
	Line marking of soccer oval.
Davidson Oval	General maintenance conducted.
	Toilets and facilities cleaned.
	Line marking of football oval.
	Line marking for athletics carnival.
Central Park	Regular mowing and maintenance completed.
	Removed graffiti.
Villages	Mowed grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained.

Airport	General maintenance conducted.
Darling Park	General maintenance conducted.
Boat Ramp	General maintenance conducted.
Fishing Reserve	Inspection and general maintenance conducted.
North Bourke Truck Stop	General maintenance conducted.
Staff Training	Nil.

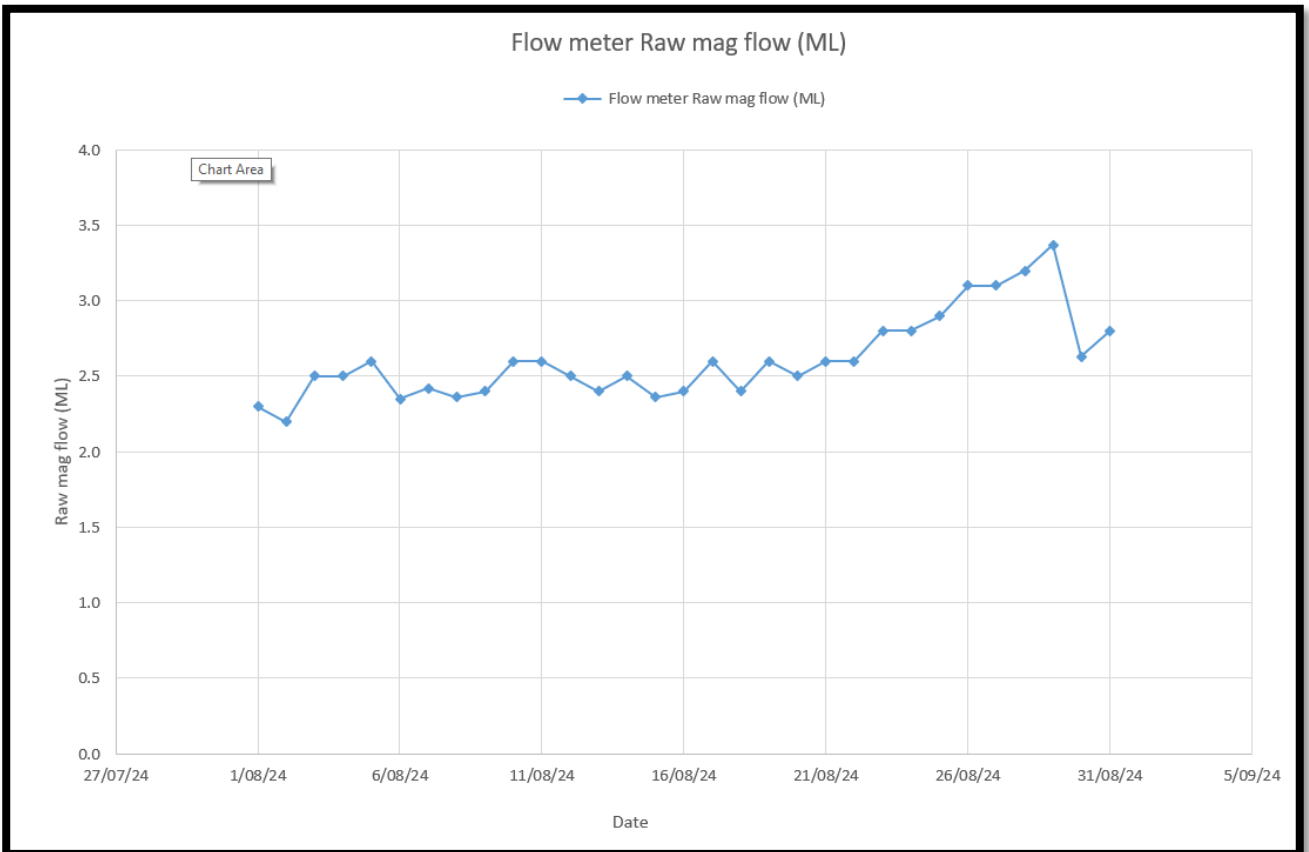
TOWN SERVICES – Troy Hayman, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Daily.
Cemetery	Sand delivered to the cemetery. Grave prepared.
Rest Areas	Weekly cleaning and water pressure clean of new toilets - 65km Cobar Road.
General Works	Mowed Vision Way.
	Removed sand from North Bourke for new fence.
	Sundry Debtor – crane.
	Patched hole at the western end of the levee bank
	Removed rubbish dumped over the levee bank behind Renshaw Sporting Complex.
	Sundry Debtor – aggregate.
	Slashed Monomeeth Street, lanes, Adelaide Street.
	Removed weeds from Courthouse footpath and applied poison.
	Mowing of town blocks and footpaths ongoing.
	Applied sand to footpaths weekly.
	Replaced “Keep Left” sign, Mitchell Street blister.
	Road closure on Tarcoon Street while tree removed in front of High School.
	Mulch applied to traffic island in Tarcoon Street.
	Erected and removed fence panels at the skate park before and after Contractor attending work on shade sails.
	Removed tree at Renshaw Sporting Complex
	Removed rubbish from streets.
	Ordered replacement signs located at St Ignatius Primary School.
Attended Plant Carers Day at the High School.	
Pruned trees behind Betta Electrical.	
Delivered mulch to the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre.	
Removed tree branches in Short Street following storm.	
Erected new street signs at North Bourke subdivision.	
Commenced slashing of airport dirt strip and fence lines.	
Staff Training	Attended Leadership Essentials training 16 September 2024.

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.

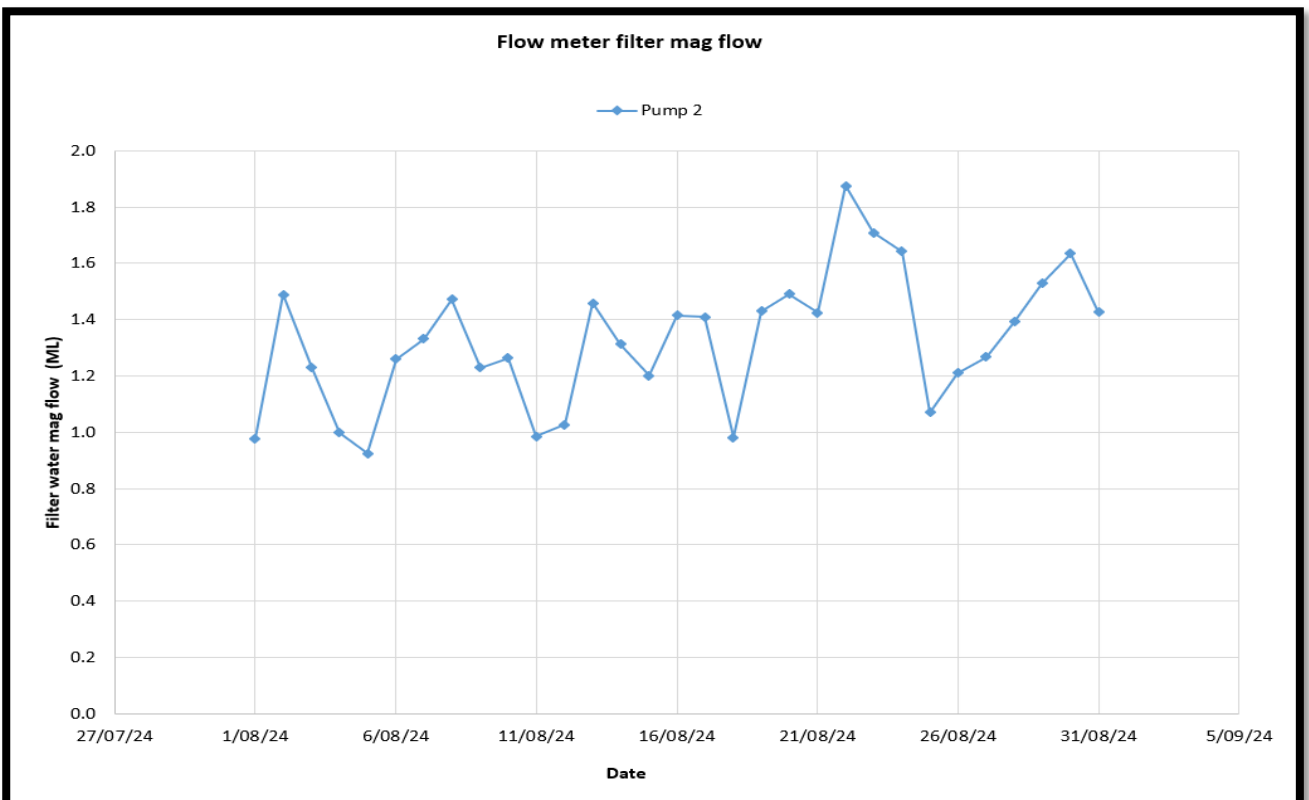
WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
Emergency Bore Water Supply	Additional bore capacity and powerline works ongoing.
	Tested pump.
Bulk Meter Reads	Monthly water meter reads from all Councils water sources.
Reservoir Inspections	Weekly reservoir inspections carried out on WTP, Charles Street and North Bourke reservoirs.
Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre (BOBEC) Extension	Connected hot water system.
	Dug line for power and installed pump out pit.
	Repaired leaking 50mm poly line.
	Installed signs for raw water taps.
Parks and Gardens	Repaired leaking tap at Percy Hobson Park.
	Turned on hot water at Renshaw Sporting Complex and replaced thermostat in the Men’s toilet for use of Variety Bash participants.
	Repaired back wash pipes on the irrigation pump at Renshaw Sporting Complex.
	Repaired leaking 50mm raw water irrigation line at Railway Park and North Bourke Oval.
	Adjusted irrigation controller at Oxley Street gardens.
Pool	Checked chemical dosing pump.
	Repaired chlorine pump 50m pool.
	Learn To Swim Pool - Ph adjusted and repaired pump.
Road Works	Repaired damage to raw and filtered water pipes in Oxley Street following damage caused by contractors.
Wanaaring	Inspected pump station and storage tanks.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Read water meter.
Enngonia	Chlorine added to reservoir.
	Inspected pump site and reservoirs.
	Read water meter.
Fords Bridge	Inspected for water leaks.
	Inspection of pump station and storage tanks.
	Read water meter.
Louth	Inspection of pump station and storage tanks.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Read water meter.
	Installed portable power outlets at the bush camp.
Byrock	Inspection of pump station and storage tanks.
	Read water meter.
Alice Edwards Village	Flushed fire hydrants.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Repaired leaking sample tap.
	Inspected sewer network.
	Sewer choke at Cottage 19.
Clara Hart Village	Read water meter.
	Flushed fire hydrants.
	Inspected for water leaks.

WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
	Inspected sewer network.
4 Wortumertie Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
78B Mertin Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
1 Culgoa Street North Bourke	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
23 Richard Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
32 Oxley Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
High Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
94 Darling Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
107 Mitchell Street	Repaired internal filtered water leak.
40 Tudor Street	Dug 50mm filtered water main and repaired main.
95 Oxley Street	Dug 100mm filtered water main and repaired main.
151 Meadows Road	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
Sale yards	Repaired leaking 50mm raw water service.
36 Wortumertie Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
94 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
96 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
8 Gorrell Avenue	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
5 Denman Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
94 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
27 Anson Street	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired main.
11 Macquarie Street North Bourke	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired main.
17 Anson Street	Repaired leaking hydrant.
98 Hope Street	Repaired leaking hydrant.
86-96 Mitchell Street	Hydrant’s flow tested.
167 Anson Street	Sewer choke.
8 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
1 Culgoa Street	Sewer choke.
3 Culgoa Street	Sewer choke.
99 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
Dog Pound	Sewer choke.
92 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
Mertin Street	Sewer choke.
11 Coomah Street	Sewer choke.
Dog Pound	Sewer choke.
74 Mitchell Street	Replaced manhole cover.
Oxley Lane	Replaced manhole cover.
Staff Training	Nil.

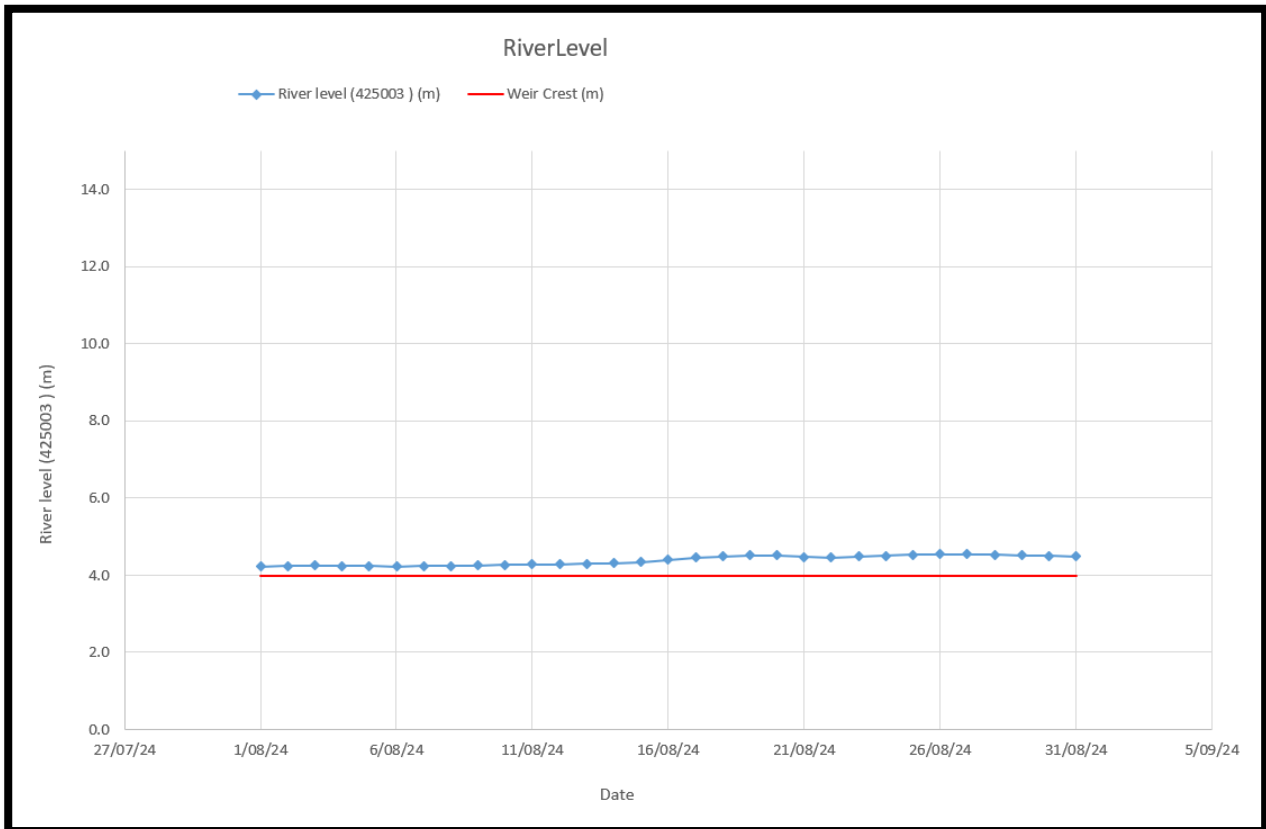
Raw Flow Meter



Water Treatment Plant Flow Meter



Current River Levels



Bourke and North Bourke Monthly Readings

Month	Bourke Raw water ML	Filter water magflow pump 2 ML	Raw Water North Bourke ML	Filter Water North Bourke ML
January 2024	141	48	20.363	2.761
February 2024	112	45	26.963	2.751
March 2024	126	49	23.252	2.565
April 2024	106	41	14.281	2.456
May 2024	67	41	8.765	2.645
June 2024	66	39	8.558	3.119
July 2024	69	42	6.213	2.542
August 2024	81	41	10.029	2.712

Abattoirs Monthly Readings

Month	Abattoir Raw Water consumption			Abattoir Filtered Water consumption		
	Total ML	Daily Average ML	Peak Day ML	Total ML	Daily Average ML	Peak Day ML
Jan-24	2.700	0.090	0.150	10.600	0.353	0.700
Feb-24	2.750	0.092	0.150	13.600	0.453	0.900
Mar-24	0.820	0.027	0.150	10.600	0.353	0.560
Apr-24	0.540	0.018	0.051	9.174	0.306	0.560
May-24	0.312	0.010	0.048	11.236	0.375	0.780
Jun-24	0.529	0.018	0.037	8.759	0.292	0.780
Jul-24	0.774	0.025	0.042	11.895	0.384	0.803
Aug-24	0.824	0.027	0.038	11.712	0.378	0.540

Council’s Water Access Licences – WAL’s

Work Approval	Extraction Site	Site Name	Start meter read 01/07/2024	Meter read Aug-24	usage Year to Date	Water Access Licence	Comment
85CA753414	ESID 121627	Water Plant TWS	17437.1	17586.93	149.83	ML 3200ML	
85CA753420	ESID 121630	North Bourke TWS	2188.437	2204.679	16.242	ML 300ML	
85CA753421	ESID 121630	North Bourke Abs	1.169	2.767	1.598	ML	
85CA753599		Wanaaring Station	57.873	59.479	1.606	ML 25ML	
85CA751207	24634	Engonia Village TWS	103.941	106.706	2.765	ML 150ML	
85CA753412	ESID 121626	(LWU Louth)	83.893	86.402	2.509	ML 25ML	
85CA751215	24639	Fords Bridge TWS	9.286	10.452	1.166	ML 2ML	
85CA751240	32585	Walken Bore No1	19.005	19.005	0	ML	
	148936	Walken Bore No2	128.765	128.765	0	ML	
	148937	Belvedere Bore	31.265	31.265	0	ML	
	209518	Stoney Rise Bore	41.535	41.535	0	ML	
	222419	Toll Bore			0	ML	No Meter Not Active
85WA753906		Gumbalie			0	ML	No Meter Required Road works Bore
90WA836011	208200	Rainbar or Tichaluka			0	ML	No Meter Required Road works Bore
90WA836179	211161	Rainbar or Tichaluka			0	ML	No Meter Required Road works Bore
85CA753031	ESID 12002	Golf Course			0	ML 320ML	No Meter Not Active
85CA752937	ESID 119950	Exhibition Centre			0	ML 29ML	No Meter Not Active
NA	NA	Byrock	6.656	7.145	0.489	ML	

Water Quality Data Summary

Process	Parameter	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Lower critical lim	Upper critical lim	No. of samples
Raw Water	pH	7.18	7.81	8.13			31
Raw Water	turbidity	64.00	168.81	344.00			31
Bourke High School	Free chlorine	1.30	1.35	1.40	0.2	4.0	2
Bourke High School	pH	7.49	7.52	7.55	6.5	8.5	2
Bourke High School	Turbidity	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.0	0.5	2
WTP	Free chlorine	2.50	2.59	2.67	0.2	4.0	2
WTP	pH	7.46	7.49	7.52	6.5	8.5	2
WTP	Turbidity	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.0	0.5	2
Bourke Primary School	Free chlorine	1.10	1.45	1.80	0.2	4.0	2
Bourke Primary School	pH	7.43	7.47	7.50	6.5	8.5	2
Bourke Primary School	Turbidity	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.0	0.5	2
Meadows Rd	Free chlorine	1.60	1.75	1.90	0.2	4.0	2
Meadows Rd	pH	7.50	7.53	7.56	6.5	8.5	2
Meadows Rd	Turbidity	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.0	0.5	2
Mitchell St	Free chlorine	1.75	1.83	1.90	0.2	4.0	2
Mitchell St	pH	7.42	7.42	7.42	6.5	8.5	2
Mitchell St	Turbidity	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.0	0.5	2
Alice Edwards Village	Free chlorine	1.20	1.25	1.30	0.2	4.0	2
Alice Edwards Village	pH	7.55	7.58	7.60	6.5	8.5	2
Alice Edwards Village	Turbidity	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.0	0.5	2
Kidman Camp	Free chlorine	1.30	1.55	1.80	0.2	4.0	2
Kidman Camp	pH	7.44	7.48	7.52	6.5	8.5	2
Kidman Camp	Turbidity	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.0	0.5	2

Health Guidelines

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

Treatment Plant EPA Licence Compliance

Record of Effluent Analysis

Pollutant	Unit Of Measure	Licence 100 Percentile Concentration Limit	July 2024 Test	August 2024 Test
Oil & Grease	mg/L	10	2	<2
pH		6.5-8.5	8.78	7.48
Nitrogen (total)	mg/L	15	8	13
Phosphorus (total)	mg/L	10	3.74	5.05
Total suspended solids	mg/L	20	109	621
Biochemical oxygen demand	mg/L	15	26	14

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 August 2024 was 4.2mm.
- Hottest day in Bourke for August 2024 was 29.7 degrees.
- Coldest day in Bourke for August 2024 was 2.2 degrees.

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Works regarding Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services and Water and Wastewater Activity – August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.4 ENGINEERING SERVICES - PARKS AND GARDENS, TOWN SERVICES, WATER AND WASTE WATER ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

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 September 2024.

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 and footpaths cleaned.
Small Plant	Maintenance and service carried out on all ground plant.
Works Requests	Actioned and ongoing.
Town Streets	General maintenance carried out.
	Mowed and cleaned footpaths.
Wharf	General maintenance carried out.
	Public toilets cleaned and maintained.
	Facilities cleaned.
Council Office	General maintenance carried out.
Renshaw Complex	General maintenance carried out.
	Toilets and facilities cleaned.
Coolican Oval	Grounds and facilities cleaned and maintained.
	Line marking of soccer oval.
Davidson Oval	General maintenance carried out.
	Toilets and facilities cleaned in preparation for the football competition.
	Line marking of football oval.
Central Park	Regular mowing and maintenance completed.
	Removed graffiti.
Villages	Mowed grounds, facilities cleaned and maintained.
Airport	General maintenance carried out.

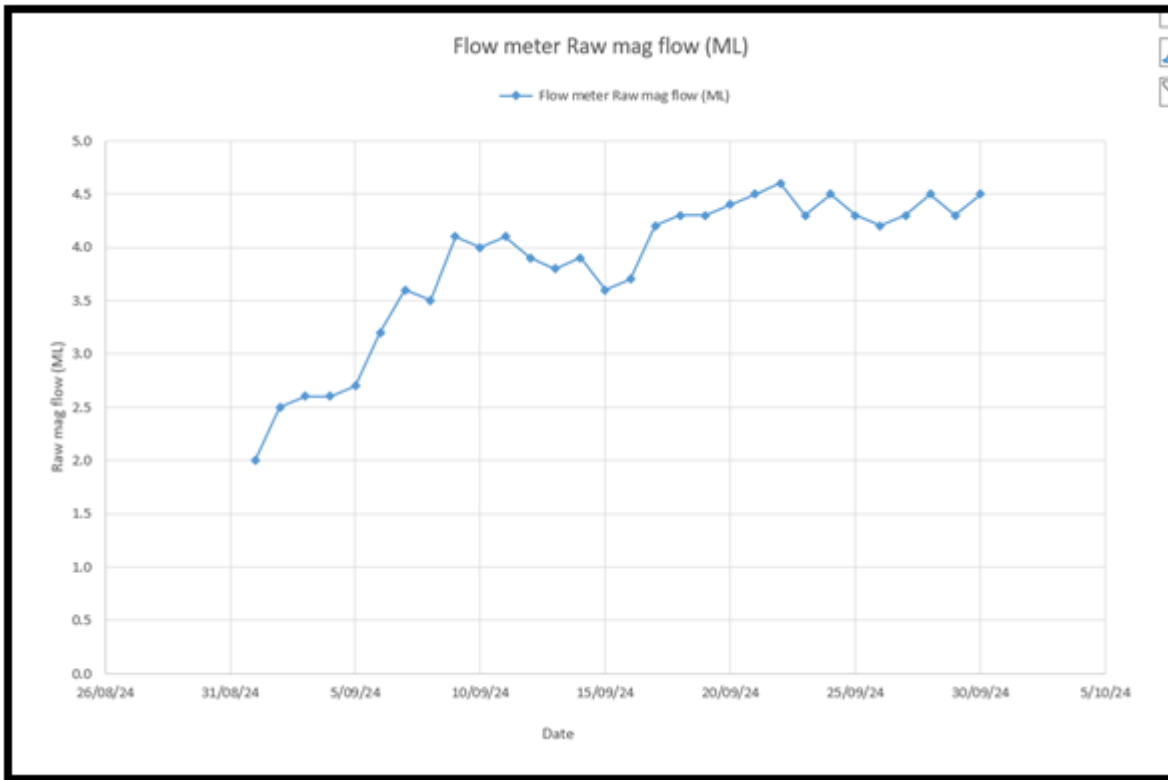
Darling Park	General maintenance carried out.
Boat Ramp	General maintenance carried out.
Fishing Reserve	Inspection and general maintenance carried out.
North Bourke Truck Stop	General maintenance carried out.
Staff Training	Nil.

TOWN SERVICES – Troy Hayman, Team Leader	
Location	Work Carried Out
Work Requests	Daily.
Cemetery	1 Grave prepared.
Rest Areas	Weekly cleaning and water pressure clean of new toilets - 65km Cobar Road. Mowed Sydney and Brewarrina Roads rest areas.
General Works	Spread Gravel along lanes.
	Poisoned at shire depot.
	Tree branches removed from Becker Street.
	Removed dead tree at old preschool block in Hope Street.
	Crusher dust and Bobcat delivered to the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre.
	Slashed at airport, town blocks.
	Placed concrete pipe at waste depot.
	Filled in grave.
	Watering trees weekly.
	Applied sand to footpaths weekly.
	Put new " Keep Left" sign on blister in Mitchell Street.
	Attended weekly meetings conducted at Shire Depot.
	Conducted airport inspections.
	Applied sand at Shire Depot for trench.
	Rubbish removed from along Short Street.
	Trees removed in lane way off Becker Street.
	Lanes poisoned.
	Applied sand to North Bourke Oval.
	Moved rock for Richard Street.
	Rubbish removed from lane ways.
	Cars and rubbish removed from Alice Edwards Village.
	Mowed along top of the levee.
	Trip hazard rectified along Library footpath edge.
	Driveway hole filled in along Darling Street.
	Poisoned around lights at Airport.
	Slashed along North Bourke Subdivision.
	Picked up trees from Back O' Bourke Exhibition centre.
	Fixed broken lid on bin in Oxley Street.
	Picked up new pump from North Bourke for town drainage.
	Filled in Grave.
Conducted inspections at Airport.	
Catholic school new signs erected – chevrons and parking signs.	
Staff Training	Leadership Essentials 16 September 2024.

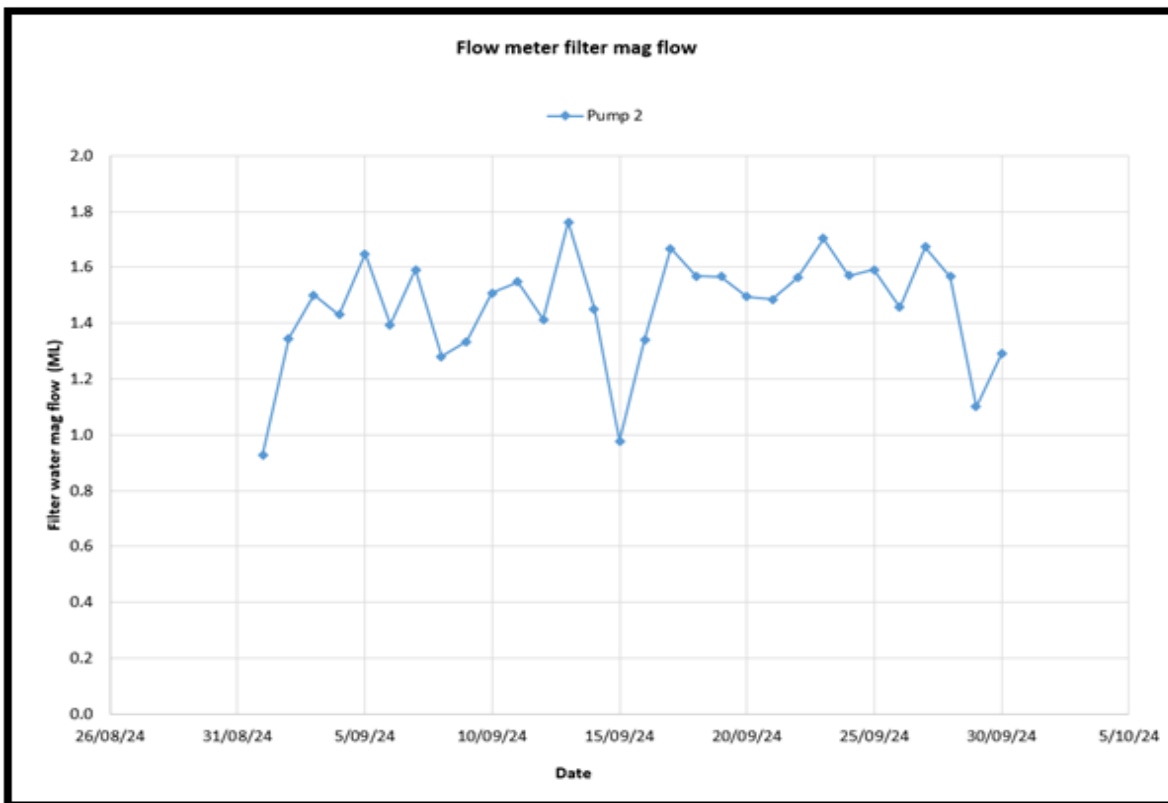
WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
WTP	Routine maintenance, monitoring and reporting.
	Started dosing fluoride on 2 September 2024.
	Stopped dosing fluoride on 22 September 2024
SPS	Routine maintenance, monitoring and reporting.
Alice Edwards Village	Routine 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.
	Tested pump.
Bulk Meter Reads	Monthly water meter reads from all Councils water sources.
Reservoir Inspections	Weekly reservoir inspections carried out on WTP, Charles Street and North Bourke reservoirs.
Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre (BOBEC) Extension	Repaired leaking 50mm raw water poly line.
	Repaired leaking 25mm filtered water poly line.
	Moved pipework at the Back O’ Bourke Café.
	Replaced filtered taps at the dump point. Connected downpipe at the Back O’ Bourke Café.
Parks and Gardens	Repaired leaking 50mm raw water irrigation line at North Bourke Oval.
	Repaired leaking filtered water tap and the wharf.
	Connected water to garden in Tarcoon Street.
	Repaired irrigation controller at Jones Park. Repaired leaking tap.
Pool	Serviced dosing pumps.
	Sewer choke in the canteen.
	Repaired 50m pool inlet valve.
North Bourke	Adjusted raw water pressure North Bourke pump site.
Wanaaring	Inspected pump station and storage tanks.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Read water meter.
Enngonia	Dosed chlorine in reservoir.
	Read water meter.
	Inspected pump station and storage tanks.
	Sprayed weeds compound.
	Repaired leaking tap at the Cemetery.
	Repaired leaking service 3 McCabe Street. Dug 100mm water main in Paroo Street.
Fords Bridge	Inspected for water leaks.
	Inspection of pump station and storage tanks.
	Read water meter.
Louth	Inspection of pump station and storage tanks.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Read water meter.
	Installed portable power outlets at the bush camp.
Byrock	Inspection of pump station and storage tanks.
	Read water meter.

WATER & WASTEWATER – Shane Hopley, Team Leader	
Water Supply Planned Maintenance	
	Replaced water main from pump site to overhead tank.
Alice Edwards village	Flushed fire hydrants.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Installed level transmitter in SPS.
	Repaired leaking sample tap.
	Inspected sewer network.
	Sewer choke Cottage 11.
Clara Hart Village	Read water meter.
	Flushed fire hydrants.
	Inspected for water leaks.
	Inspected sewer network.
	Dose chlorine in ground tank.
60 Mitchell Street	Checked hot water system.
Airport house	Checked sprinklers.
40 Mitchell Street	Dug 200mm filtered water main and repaired main.
17 Darling Street	Dug 50mm filtered water main and repaired main.
16 Meeks Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
5 Short Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
11 Mitchell Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
11 Mitchell Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
1 Warrego Street	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
74 Mitchell Steet	Repaired leaking 20mm filtered water service.
Renshaw Road	Dug 100mm raw water main and repaired main.
Cobar Street	Dug 225mm raw water main and repaired main.
8 Gorrell Avenue	Low raw water pressure blow out and clear.
33 Mertin Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
72 Hope Street	Repaired leaking 25mm raw water service.
80 Tudor Street	Raw water leak (Internal)
1 Cullie Street	Sewer choke.
12 Wortumertie Street	Sewer choke.
44 Hope Street	Sewer choke.
14 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
3 Culgoa Street	Sewer choke.
7 Culgoa Street	Sewer choke.
65 Darling Street	Sewer choke.
18 Short Street	Replaced 150mm sewer boundary.

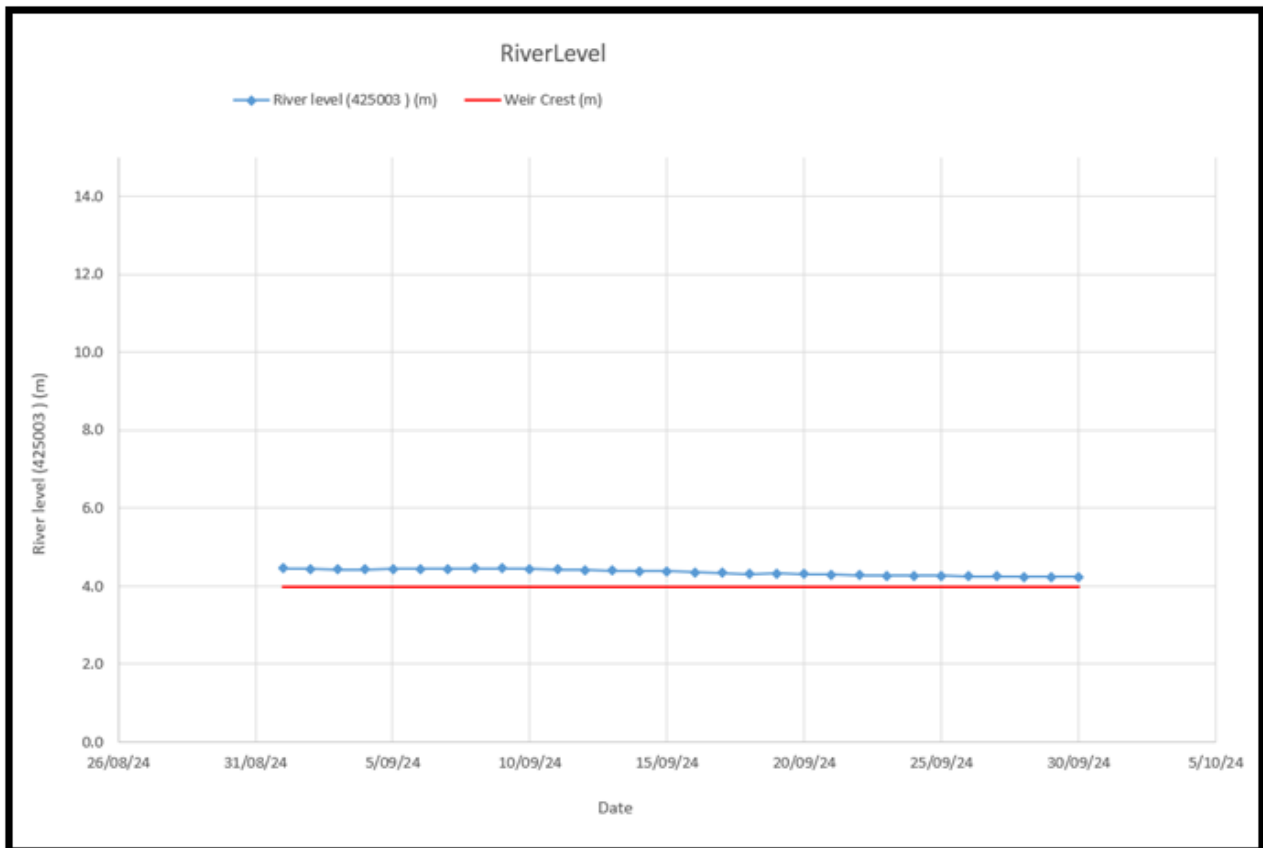
Raw Flow Meter



Water Treatment Plant Flow Meter



Current River Levels



Bourke and North Bourke Monthly Readings

Month	Bourke Raw water ML	Filter water magflow pump 2 MI	Raw Water North Bourke ML	Filter Water North Bourke ML
January 2024	141	48.1	20.363	2.761
February 2024	112	45.0	26.963	2.751
March 2024	126	49.4	23.252	2.565
April 2024	106	41.4	14.281	2.456
May 2024	67	41.2	8.765	2.645
June 2024	66	38.7	8.558	3.119
July 2024	69	42.5	6.213	2.542
August 2024	81	41.1	10.029	2.712
September 2024	115	43.8	25.931	1.527

Abattoirs Monthly Readings

Month	Abattoir Raw Water consumption			Abattoir Filtered Water consumption		
	Total ML	Daily Average ML	Peak Day ML	Total ML	Daily Average ML	Peak Day ML
Jan-24	2.700	0.090	0.150	10.600	0.353	0.700
Feb-24	2.750	0.092	0.150	13.600	0.453	0.900
Mar-24	0.820	0.027	0.150	10.600	0.353	0.560
Apr-24	0.540	0.018	0.051	9.174	0.306	0.560
May-24	0.312	0.010	0.048	11.236	0.375	0.780
Jun-24	0.529	0.018	0.037	8.759	0.292	0.780
Jul-24	0.774	0.025	0.042	11.895	0.384	0.803
Aug-24	0.824	0.027	0.038	11.712	0.378	0.540
Sep-24	0.621	0.021	0.043	8.051	0.268	0.530

Council's Water Access Licences – WAL's

Work Approval	Extraction Site	Site Name	Start meter read 01/07/2024	Meter read Oct-24	usage Year to Date	Water Access Licence	Comment
85CA753414	ESID 121627	Water Plant TWS	17437.1	17702.43	265.33	ML 3200ML	
85CA753420	ESID 121630	North Bourke TWS	2188.437	2230.61	42.173	ML 300ML	
85CA753421	ESID 121630	North Bourke Abs	1.169	3.388	2.219	ML	
85CA753599		Wanaaring Station	57.873	62.903	5.03	ML 25ML	
85CA751207	24634	Engonia Village TWS	103.941	111.381	7.44	ML 150ML	
85CA753412	ESID 121626	(LWU Louth)	83.893	93.42	9.527	ML 25ML	
85CA751215	24639	Fords Bridge TWS	9.286	10.684	1.398	ML 2ML	
85CA751240	32585	Walken Bore No1	19.005	19.005	0	ML	
	148936	Walken Bore No2	128.765	128.765	0	ML	
	148937	Belvedere Bore	31.265	31.265	0	ML	
	209518	Stoney Rise Bore	41.535	41.535	0	ML	
	222419	Toll Bore			0	ML	No Meter Not Active
85WA753906		Gumbalie			0	ML	No Meter Required Road works Bore
90WA836011	208200	Rainbar or Tichaluka			0	ML	No Meter Required Road works Bore
90WA836179	211161	Rainbar or Tichaluka			0	ML	No Meter Required Road works Bore
85CA753031	ESID 12002	Golf Course			0	ML 320ML	No Meter Not Active
85CA752937	ESID 119950	Exhibition Centre			0	ML 29ML	No Meter Not Active
NA	NA	Byrock	6.656	8.236	1.58	ML	

Water Quality Data Summary

Process	Parameter	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Lower critical lim	Upper critical lim	No. of samples
Raw Water	pH	7.61	7.77	8.06			30
Raw Water	turbidity	53.00	136.43	338.00			30
Bourke High School	Free chlorine	1.40	1.47	1.54	0.2	4.0	2
Bourke High School	pH	7.53	7.59	7.64	6.5	8.5	2
Bourke High School	Turbidity	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.0	0.5	2
WTP	Free chlorine	2.80	2.95	3.10	0.2	4.0	2
WTP	pH	7.44	7.48	7.51	6.5	8.5	2
WTP	Turbidity	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.0	0.5	2
Bourke Primary School	Free chlorine	1.50	1.80	2.10	0.2	4.0	2
Bourke Primary School	pH	7.55	7.62	7.68	6.5	8.5	2
Bourke Primary School	Turbidity	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.0	0.5	2
Meadows Rd	Free chlorine	1.54	1.82	2.10	0.2	4.0	2
Meadows Rd	pH	7.55	7.60	7.65	6.5	8.5	2
Meadows Rd	Turbidity	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.0	0.5	2
Mitchell St	Free chlorine	1.80	1.84	1.87	0.2	4.0	2
Mitchell St	pH	7.58	7.59	7.60	6.5	8.5	2
Mitchell St	Turbidity	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.0	0.5	2
Alice Edwards Village	Free chlorine	0.80	0.95	1.10	0.2	4.0	2
Alice Edwards Village	pH	7.54	7.62	7.70	6.5	8.5	2
Alice Edwards Village	Turbidity	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.0	0.5	2
Kidman Camp	Free chlorine	1.50	1.70	1.90	0.2	4.0	2
Kidman Camp	pH	7.58	7.59	7.59	6.5	8.5	2
Kidman Camp	Turbidity	0.14	0.14	0.14	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	August 2024 Test	September 2024 Test
Oil & Grease	mg/L	10	<2	<2
pH		6.5-8.5	7.48	8.74
Nitrogen (total)	mg/L	15	13	11.8
Phosphorus (total)	mg/L	10	5.05	4.92
Total suspended solids	mg/L	20	621	68
Biochemical oxygen demand	mg/L	15	14	30

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 September 2024 was 47.8mm.
- Hottest day in Bourke for September 2024 was 34.1 degrees.
- Coldest day in Bourke for September 2024 was 2.5 degrees.

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Works regarding Engineering Services - Parks and Gardens, Town Services and Water and Wastewater Activity – September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October, be noted.

21.5 PLANNING, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT - AUGUST 2024

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
Delegated Authority	DA 2023/0020	Lot 6, Section 44, DP 758144 1 Meek Street, Bourke	Construction of Shed
Delegated Authority	DA 2025/0001	Lot 12, Section 41, DP 758144 72-74 Mitchell Street, Bourke	Construction of 2 x Carports
Total value of Approved works for August 2024			= \$132,700
No. of Development Application & Complying Development Approvals for August 2024			= 2

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	6	0
Seized Animals	0	0
Handed in by member of the public	0	0
Surrendered Animals	5	0
Total	11	0
Euthanised	5	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	6	0
Total	11	0
Stock Rested in Stock Yards	37	

- 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.

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Environmental Services regarding Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity – August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.6 PLANNING, REGULATORY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

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
Delegated Authority	DA 2024/0010	Lot 2, Section 7, DP 758389 19 Belalie Street, Enngonia	School (ancillary & incidental signage)
Total value of Approved works for September 2024			= \$60,000
No. of Development Application & Complying Development Approvals for September 2024			= 2

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	6	0
Seized Animals	5	0
Handed in by member of the public	0	0
Surrendered Animals	11	0
Total		0
Euthanised	6	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	5	0
Total	11	0
Stock Rested in Stock Yards	40	

- 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 September 2024	
Adults	130
Children (2+)	376
Children (<2)	0
School Groups/Other	0
Total for Month	506

Recommendation

That the report of the Manager Environmental Services regarding Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services Activity – September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.7 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 months of August and September 2024, including meetings and discussions with external organisations, were as follows:

Day	Date	Meeting	Location
Tuesday	06/08/2024	Met with Brad Lennon – District Manager Far West Team, Rural Fire Service.	Conference Room.
Tuesday	06/08/2024	Attended, and chaired, Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting.	RFS Head Quarters.
Thursday	08/08/2024	Along with Mayor Hollman met with Minister Moriarty – Minister for Agriculture, Regional NSW, and Western New South Wales Along with Mayor Hollman attended the Joint Organisation (JO) Chairs Forum. Along with Mayor Hollman attended the farewell for Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) President, Linda Scott.	Parliament House Sydney. Parliament House Sydney. Palace Chinese Restaurant, Sydney.
Friday	09/08/2024	Along with Mayor Hollman attended Country Mayors meeting.	Parliament House, Sydney.
Monday	12/08/2024	Attended Varsity Club breakfast.	Wharf.
Wednesday	14//08/2024	Attended Maranguka Learning Circle meeting.	Bourke Bowling Club.
Thursday	15/08/2024	Attended Bourke Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) meeting.	Conference Room.
Thursday	15/08/2024	Attended Far North West Joint Organisation (FNWJO) ARIC meeting.	Conference Room.
Thursday	15/08/2024	Attended Cross Sector Leadership Government Implementation Group meeting.	Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre.
Friday	16/08/2024	Along with Mayor Hollman attended the Alliance of Western Councils meeting.	Dubbo, Cultural Centre.
Tuesday	20/08/2024	Discussion with Gerry Collins, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.	Phone discussion.
Wednesday	21/08/2024	Attended Louise Brown's funeral.	Full Gospel Church.
Thursday	22/08/2024	Attended Lesley Barker's funeral.	Christian Church.
Thursday	22/08/2024	Attended Ronny Gibb's 7's tournament.	Davidson Oval.
Thursday	22/08/2024	Spoke with Melanie Haskew – Senior Advisor to	Phone discussion.

		Minister Ryan Park, Minister for Health and Regional Health and Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast.	
Monday	26/08/2024	Attended Council Meeting.	Council Chambers.
Monday	26/08/2024	Attended dinner with Councillors and partners.	Back O Bourke Exhibition Centre.
Tuesday	27/08/2024	Attended Aboriginal Community Water and Sewer Program Meetings at Enngonia and Bourke.	Murrawarri Aboriginal Land Council Office. BSC Conference Room.
Wednesday	28/08/2024	Along with Mayor Hollman met with the Hon Ryan Park – Minister for Health and, Regional Health and Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast.	Bourke Health Service. Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service.
Thursday	29/08/2024	Attended General Manager’s Annual Review meeting with Mayor Hollman and Deputy Mayor Ford and facilitator, Christian Morris from Local Government Management Solutions.	Conference Room.
Thursday	29/08/2024	Attended dinner with Councils external Auditors	Port of Bourke Hotel.
Sunday	01/09/2024	Attended breakfast with attendees – Prostrate Cancer Rally.	Bourke Men’s Shed.
Tuesday	03/09/2024	Met with representatives from Royal Far West - Ride for Country Kids.	Conference Room.
Tuesday	03/09/2024	Discussion with Gerard Lawson.	Phone discussion.
Wednesday	04/09/2024	Discussion with Miranda Fry – Senior Electorate Officer – Office of Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon.	Phone discussion.
Friday	06/09/2024	Along with Mayor Hollman attended Police Remembrance Ceremony.	Police Station.
Tuesday	10/09/2024	Along with Cr Bartley attended Aboriginal Water Strategy Meeting.	Full Gospel Church.
Thursday	19/09/2024	Discussion with Justin Campbell – Regional Development Australia – Orana – (RDA).	Phone discussion.
Thursday	19/09/2024	Attended Bamara Presentation.	Bourke Bowling Club.
Saturday	21/09/2024	Attended Enngonia Races.	Enngonia.
Monday	23/09/2024	Met with Jamie Chaffey, National Party Candidate for the Federal Seat of Parkes.	Council Chambers.
Tuesday	24/09/2024	Met with Tim Clune – Latrobe University.	Conference Room.
Wednesday	25/09/2024	Discussion with Roy Butler MP, Member for Barwon.	Phone discussion.
Saturday	28/09/2024	Attended Wanaaring Gymkhana.	Wanaaring.

“From the General Manager’s Desk” columns, which appear in the Western Herald Newspaper during August and September 2024, are provided below.

1 August 2024

Clay Target Shooting

Bourke local, Kevin Hatch has long been a most accomplished clay pigeon shooter, so much so that he recently travelled to England to compete in the 15th World Championships of the International Clay Target Shooting Federation. From what I have read, it’s akin to competing in the Olympics. Kevin was selected as part of a five (5) member Australian Team competing in the “Super-Veteran” (over 65 years) category. To their credit the Australian Team came away with a Bronze Medal with England, followed by France, being both slightly ahead of the Australian Team following the competition.

Kevin has travelled all over Australia, and now the world, competing and winning many clay pigeon competitions over his long history of competitive clay pigeon shooting, which I understand stretches back to 1972. Kevin is a member of the Bourke and Cobar clay target clubs, and it is certainly great to see all of Kevin’s hard work pay off. I would imagine that attending the “Worlds” would have been a trip of a lifetime, made even better with his wife Jodi (Bourke Public Librarian), son James, and mother-in-law, Eunice Walker, travelling to England with Kevin. What a great achievement.

Murray Darling Association

During July, the Mayor and I attended the 80th National Conference of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) in Tamworth under the banner of “The future of Water Security.”. The Conference was a great opportunity for the Mayor and I, “to join the conversation, to inform future policy, and engage with the innovators, scientists, educators and leaders of our time”.

The Conference, chaired by the National President of the MDA, Mayor of Narromine Shire, Councillor Craig Davies, brought together key figures from a range of sectors to discuss the future of water security across the Basin. Speakers included the Hon Barnaby Joyce, Member for New England; NSW Minister for Water, the Hon Rose Jackson MLC; Federal Shadow Minister for Water and Emergency Management, Senator Perin Davey; CEO of the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Andrew McConville; Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Dr Simon Banks; Inspector General of Water Compliance, the Hon. Troy Grant and the Shadow Minister for Water, Ms Stephanie Cooke.

Delegates had the opportunity to engage in discussions with many of the speakers. Among questions discussed and addressed by delegates and speakers alike, was the ongoing implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, infrastructure development and financing, as well as the impacts of water buy-backs under the Plan.

In addition, guest speakers explored educational perspectives in the Basin, as well as exploring a possible solution for the Menindee Lakes, Public Safety Training and the challenges of facing exposure, risk and vulnerability in the Basin. Cotton Australia presented from the perspective of Australia’s cotton industry, as well as addressing floodplain harvesting, sustainability in the industry and the Basin Plan.

During its 2024 Annual General Meeting, MDA Members raised, and successfully carried 13 Motions addressing ongoing advocacy, representation, governance and progress reporting, clarification of water purchasing details, future water storage and usage in industry, as well as critical Murray-Darling Basin infrastructure and storage projects that support community, industry and the environment.

Delegates engaged in further discussions with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water when they provided a Government perspective on the implementation of the Basin Plan and First Nations Water, as well as the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Inspector-General of Water Compliance providing updates on governance, and the benefits water for the environment provides in support of water security.

All in all, it was a worthwhile conference to attend.

Visit by Minister

On Thursday 11 July 2024, the Minister for Regional Roads, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, visited Bourke intending to take a trip to Hungerford, Wanaaring and then onto Tibooburra. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, due to rain the preceding week, the various roads proposed to be travelled on were closed.

The Minister had previously visited Bourke back in January this year, intending to take the same route. However, due to inclement weather at that time, the Minister was unable to travel on Council unsealed roads and had to change her plans.

Attending along with the Minister and her husband David, were local member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP and Damian Pfeiffer, Acting Director - West from the NSW Department of Transport. Council representatives were Mayor Barry Hollman and Councillor Sally Davis. The Minister again heard the importance of providing the final funding to complete the sealing of the Wanaaring Road, from Bourke to Wanaaring. On this important matter, and all going to plan and the weather remains dry, Council has prepared a further 5.3 kilometres of the road for sealing to take place during this week. As recently advised by a recent traveller on the road, once this sealing takes place, there remains all but 20 kilometres remaining to be sealed. We again raised with the Minister funding to seal the "Cutline", being the road from Wanaaring to Tibooburra along with funding to undertake the restoration of the North Bourke Bridge.

The Mayor thanked the Minister for the funding provided to install the new traffic slowing devices at Enngonia, following a commitment by the Minister regarding the installation of the signage during her January visit to Bourke.

North Bourke Bridge

On the issue of the Bridge, tenders are currently in the marketplace seeking a contractor to undertake the de-construction of the timber approaches, which have been deemed to be unsafe. In addition, Council at its July 2024 meeting, approved a comprehensive Review of Environmental Factors (REF) document which has included such matters as a review as to whether any colonies of micro-bats exist on, or in the vicinity, of the bridge. As the name suggests, an REF reviews all the environmental matters that may be affected as a result of the de-construction proposal.

Councils bridge engineers recently “crawled” all over the wrought iron structure of the bridge as part of their inspection and planning and design processes. They reported in summary, that the bridge is in “shockingly good condition.” This was most pleasing, and relieving, to hear in respect of a bridge structure that dates back to 1883, when it was officially opened.

Whilst the current bridge project also includes preparing designs and documentation for the replacement approaches, funding for the construction of new approaches is not yet available. It may in fact be some years before such funding is available, however with plans and the necessary approvals in place, Council will be in a solid position to seek funding when a relevant grant funding opportunity comes available.

American Presidential Election

It’s certainly been a most turbulent month for American Politics in the lead up to the 2024 Presidential elections in November. First off, we had the incumbent President, Joe Biden stumbling over his words and losing his train of thought during an audience free debate against Donald Trump. Some political observers described Mr Bidens performance as a “disaster.” A few days later, it was the turn of the Presidential hopeful to be in the spotlight following an assassination attempt, with the assassin’s bullet grazing Mr Trumps right ear. This was followed by the announcement that Joe Biden would not be recontesting the November election. In making this announcement, President Biden became the first sitting president to stand down from a possible re-election since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

The flurry of activity to find and fund a replacement Democratic Party candidate has been at a frenetic pace with current vice president, Kamala Harris, looking likely to go head-to-head with Donald Trump for the race to the White House. Then there was a Congressional Hearing as to how the Secret Service failed to stop a 20-year-old gunman from firing on Donald Trump. The Hearing culminated with the head of the US Secret Service, Kimberly Cheatle, resigning her position after some 30 years in the job. On the day of her resignation, Mr Trump was reported to have said, “The Biden/Harris Administration did not properly protect me, I was forced to take a bullet for democracy. It was my great honour to do so!” If it wasn’t so serious, it would be easy to think of the whole election as a soap opera.

Quote: “There are no special qualifications to become a councillor other than a desire to serve your community.” – NSW Office of Local Government with nominations to run as a Councillor opening on 5 August 2024.

8 August 2024

North Bourke Bridge

As I mentioned last week, tenders are currently in the marketplace seeking a contractor to undertake the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the North Bourke Bridge. In response to this piece, I was asked during the week, “do we really need to lose the approaches?” My response was, “Unfortunately yes. The approaches have deteriorated significantly and pose a major safety hazard to the public.”

Reflecting on this level of decay to the timber approaches, I took the opportunity to check Councils records to ascertain that public access to the bridge has been barricaded off since 2015 (northern end) and then 2016 (southern end) with the bridge now fully barricaded. Interestingly, when we

started our discussions with NSW Public Works and their expert bridge engineers, our focus was very much restoration of the entire structure.

It wasn't until these expert bridge engineers, who have extensive experience in all stages of the design and delivery of bridge infrastructure projects, attended an initial on-site meeting at the bridge and they quickly raised their concerns as to the stability of the timber approaches. Such concerns made it clear that Council needed to change its focus to developing the necessary documentation leading to the engagement of a contractor to undertake the deconstruction of the timber approaches to the bridge, as an initial component of the project. It was this time last year that the bridge engineers returned to Bourke this time to undertake a comprehensive review and preparation of a comprehensive condition assessment report in respect of the approaches. The inspection was completed with the resulting report confirming the initial concern as to the structural integrity of the timber approaches with the report advising that the approaches should be removed as soon as possible. For instance, it was reported that the vertical timber piles comprising the timber piers had major termite deterioration, especially at ground level, with likely very little remaining connection into the ground.

Council resolved to remove the timber approaches at its meeting held in September 2023. What was clear to me since we initially met with our expert bridge engineers was their knowledge, experience and ability to progress this important project for Bourke. The hands-on principal of the bridge engineers has over 30 years' experience in bridges and structures and experience with state road and rail authorities, contractors and consultants along with all aspects of bridge asset management including inspections, assessments, feasibility, design, construction, demolition and cost estimates. The principal is an Engineers Australia accredited Heritage and Conservation Engineer who leads a team of engineers/project managers and technical officers with an impressive portfolio of bridge works. In major projects, such as the bridge, where Council does not have the in-house capability, it relies on consultants who are experts in their respective fields of endeavour.

In addition to resolving to deconstruct the timber approaches at its September 2023 meeting, Council also resolved a series of desired outcomes to lead the restoration project, 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 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."

As part of Council's pursuit of these desired outcomes, the preparation of the designs and documentation for the replacement approaches is well underway. However as mentioned in last week's column, funding for the construction of new approaches is not yet available. With plans and the necessary approvals in place, Council will be in a solid position to seek funding when a relevant grant funding opportunity comes available.

Olympic Games

I have found the Paris Olympic Games to be compelling viewing, whether it be live action or watching replays. After the COVID delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, where there were no spectators at any of the events, the enthusiasm of spectators from all over the world in Paris, has been fantastic. As I write this Column, it has been the performances of swimmers Mollie O'Callaghan and Ariarne Titmus, kayaker Jessica Fox and the 'never say die' attitude of the Matildas Soccer team, that have been highlights for me. Of course, I don't think I will ever forget Celine Dion signing "Hymne à l'amour" to close the Opening Ceremony at the Eiffel Tower. It was her first live performance since she was diagnosed with stiff-person syndrome in December 2022. After she announced her diagnosis, the singer postponed — and later cancelled — the remaining dates on her Courage World Tour for 2023 and 2024. What a performance.

Signage

Residents and visitors will have undoubtedly noticed some of the new signage installed across the Shire and specifically at Bourke, Wanaaring, Byrock and Fords Bridge. New history signage is now in place in Bourke providing visitors with a walk back into the past of the old buildings that once stood on our streets and also a story on the buildings that are still standing. In addition, the new block letter signs at Byrock, Wanaaring and Fords Bridge have been very well received. This work is the final part of a project funded by the NSW State Government under the Stronger Country Community Program.

Council Elections Nominations

If you're interested in contributing your skills and experience to enhance Bourke Shire by becoming a Councillor, you must nominate as a candidate for the election. To be nominated as a Bourke Shire candidate you must be enrolled to vote in the Bourke local government area by 6pm Monday, 5 August 2024, with the nomination period commencing on Monday, 5 August 2024 and ending at 12 noon on Wednesday, 14 August 2024.

Prospective candidates for the upcoming elections can complete their nomination forms on the NSW Electoral Commission's online nomination system which is available now. All the required information is available on the NSW Electoral Commission website:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/local-government-elections/2024-nsw-local-government-elections>

Once the election has been conducted and the Councillors declared, the date of the initial meeting of the new Council will be determined. Section 233A of the Local Government Act requires that a Councillor must take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office at or before the first meeting of the Council after the Councillor is elected. The wording is either that I will swear (Oath) or solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm (affirmation) "that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Bourke Shire Council Local Government Area and the Bourke Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment." I consider them to be strong words.

The Act also provides that where a Councillor fails to, without a reasonable excuse, take the oath of office or make an affirmation of office in accordance with the requirements of the Act, is not

entitled to attend a meeting as a Councillor until the Councillor has taken the oath or made the affirmation.

CBD Parking

I have once again received complaints from shop owners in the CBD area frustrated at the amount of private cars parking in the street. This parking by workers prevents shoppers from parking. Business owners and managers who operate in the CBD are requested to encourage their workers to park out of the street to allow locals and visitors a place to park and shop.

Quote: “You’ve got to accept the challenge at the end of the day. You can either run or fight. I chose to fight.” Olympic Gold Medallist, Mollie O’Callaghan reflecting on her win against team mate, Ariarne Titmus.

15 August 2024

Border Region Councils

The Mayor and I recently travelled to Walgett for the quarterly meeting of the Border Regional Organisation of Councils (BROC). The BROC is made up of Councils on the Queensland and New South Wales sides of the border. The member councils are Balonne, Bulloo, Goondiwindi, Paroo and Southern Downs Councils from Queensland and Bourke, Brewarrina, Gwydir, Inverell, Moree Plains, Tenterfield and Walgett Councils from NSW. The meetings are held quarterly with member Councils taking turns to host the meeting. The meetings provide a forum for member Councils to consider and discuss matters affecting the extensive region and undertaking projects involving member councils to promote regional cooperation.

At the latest meeting, the various council representatives received an update from NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development staff on the progress of the construction of the new Wild Dog Fence along the Queensland and South Australia border with NSW. 15 kms of the new fence has been completed on the NSW/SA border with a further 15 kms completed near Hungerford on the NSW/QLD Border. There is a further 400 kms of fence to be completed and DPI is working with agencies on legislative constraints including Biodiversity and cultural heritage matters. There are also topographical challenges with the installation of fencing on flood plains also to be taken into consideration. An interesting comment was also the impact of waterway barriers, the fence will need to allow fish passage, but stop the wild dogs! To say that the construction of the new fence has been considerably more difficult than originally anticipated, is certainly an understatement.

The NSW Government has for many years appointed a Cross Border Commissioner for the NSW/Queensland border. The Commissioner is an advocate for cross-border communities, businesses and organisations. When border communities need to comply with two sets of rules or policy, this can cause confusion, make day to day activities more difficult, and can restrict access to work opportunities, investment, and facilities. The Commissioner’s Office works closely with local, state and federal colleagues, in NSW and in other states and territories, to identify, analyse and resolve issues. The Commissioner certainly came to the fore during the COVID Pandemic working through the differing state rules as applicable at that difficult time. Anyway, Commission staff provided an update to the meeting on matters effecting law and order and biosecurity between NSW and Queensland. A new Cross Border Commissioner position has been identified in

Queensland. Whilst this position has yet to be filled, ultimately the two commissioners will work together to improve liveability of local communities who traverse across two different states, particularly those towns that are split by the border. Border Tourism has been a long-standing agenda item on the BROC meeting agenda. The finalisation of a Border Trail Loop was agreed to with the 'Cellar Door to Sunset Loop' taking in all Local Government Areas along the border and identifying attractions for visitation.

Tax Return Time

Now that the new financial year is well and truly upon us, time is ticking if you prepare and lodge your own tax return. As of late last month, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), had received over 3.5 million individual tax return lodgements for 2024. This number of lodgements is a 5% increase compared with the same time last year, and potentially reflects the current cost-of-living difficulties that many people are experiencing as they seek to obtain an early tax return. In terms of these 3.5 million returns, over 87,000 were push returns (which is essentially a pre-filled statement of tax activity for a taxpayer to approve), over 1.1 million returns were lodged by tax agents, and over 2.2 million 2023/2024 tax returns were lodged by self-preparers.

To assist those people who are self-preparers, the Bourke Public Library is part of the ATO's Tax Help program, which aids low-income earners in completing their tax returns. If you earn \$60,000 or less, you may be eligible for this free program. The program runs from July to October each year with the Tax Help volunteer able to assist you lodge your tax return online; create a myGov account; lodge an amendment to your tax return; claim a refund of franking credits; and tell the ATO if you don't need to lodge a tax return.

For more information, you can search for 'Tax Help' on the ATO website (<https://ato.gov.au>). At this website, you can check your eligibility for the program and find out what you will need to bring with you to your appointment. Phone the library on 6872 2751 if you would like to make an appointment.

Social Media

Social media casts a very wide net these days and I was reminded of this recently when Councils Manager Economic Development, Mel Milgate, provided me with some amazing statistical insights into Councils social media activities relating to our Visit Bourke Posts on Facebook and Instagram. In providing this data, it is advised that the term Post Impressions relates to the number of times that the post was on a screen; Post Reach is the number of people who saw any of the posts at least once, noting that Reach is different from Impressions, which may include multiple views of the posts by the same people; whilst Engagement is the number of times people engaged with the post through reactions, comments, shares and clicks. Here are the numbers:

Facebook/Instagram Post	Post Impressions	Post reach	Engagement
1. Bourke to Wanaaring Road – Wanaaring Village	74,255	69,211	3,381
2. The village of Enngonia / Oasis Hotel	48,840	48,571	1,566
3. The village of Fords Bridge, located on the Warrego River.	137,390	130,483	5,221
4. The village of Byrock was once a stopping	90,128	87,882	2,969

point for the Cobb & Co			
5. The Darling River is one of the most iconic rivers in Australia	36,559	35,690	1,189
6. Take the SELFIE Challenge Big Signs in 24 hours	19,748	19,717	2,692

From the above six (6) examples a Visit Bourke social media post appeared on some 400,000 screens. What great exposure. Used correctly, social media is a most cost-effective way of engaging with a large number of people, effectively across the world. Social media goes bad when users are exposed to on-line bullying and the like.

Union Picnic Day

The concept of a Union Picnic Day in NSW would appear to date back to 1884 when a significant number of people assembled at Parramatta Park for a picnic to celebrate the eight-hour day with unionists, their families and parliamentarians coming together. Today, the Local Government (State) Award contains a provision for a Union Picnic Day. It is advised that Bourke Shire Council staff will be holding their Union Picnic Day tomorrow, Friday, 16 August 2024. For information, the Council office, Anson St Depot and the Bourke Shire Library will be closed whilst the Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre will be open and operating as normal.

Children’s Book Week

Children’s Book Week will be celebrated by the Bourke Public Library during the week of 17 -23 August 2024 with this year's theme being ‘Reading Is Magic’. To celebrate, the library will have a variety of competitions for both younger children and teenagers. Details are available at the library and have been sent out to schools with a view to a high level of participation. At the conclusion of Book Week, there will be a party at the end of the week where the winners will receive their prizes. During Children’s Book Week there will also be craft and story time in the library. Celebrate the magic of reading by encouraging children to get involved in the Children’s Book Week activities at the library.

You can find the list of shortlisted books on the Children’s Book Council of Australia website at: <https://www.cbca.org.au/shortlist-2024>

Olympics

Come the publishing of this Column, the Olympics will have been ‘run and won’ with the Australian Team performing brilliantly across so many sports. I was particularly happy to wake up one morning last week to the news that Noemie Fox had won Gold in a kayaking event and then seeing vision of her mother, who is her coach, and her sister, Jess Fox, who had won two (2) Gold Medals in earlier kayaking events at this year's games, jumping into the water to congratulate and celebrate with her. The genuine jubilation was evident, as was the jubilation in the voice of their father who was commentating on the Race for the media.

Quote: “She didn’t just make the Olympics; she won the Olympics!” An Australian television commentator when Noemie Fox crossed the line to win a Gold Medal.

22 August 2024**Macquarie Home Stay**

I assume by now that the majority of Bourke Shire residents are aware of the affordable, low-cost but not low-quality, accommodation available at the Macquarie Home Stay facility in Dubbo for patients and their partner or escort pre, during and post medical treatment. Home Stay is a registered charity which is currently in the construction phase of developing a further 26 units to house patients attending the Western Cancer Centre in Dubbo due to the high level of demand for accommodation at the Facility since its opening in 2019.

Bourke Shire Council has been a long-term supporter of the facility through its assistance and contribution to the Tour de OROC cycling event which has raised over \$1m for Home Stay from across the region since the cycling event commenced in 2013. More recently, funds raised at the very successful 2024 Louth Races (as an aside, congratulations to Jim Strachan and his hard-working committee and volunteers on the delivery of another fantastic week of events at Louth) were being directed to Home Stay. A friend of mine was recently talking to the energetic and passionate President of the board of Macquarie Home Stay, Andrew Single, who in their discussions, was most appreciative of the Louth Turf Club and to so many people in the far west who have financially assisted the Facility. In discussions, Andrew advised that Home Stay had recently launched a new initiative to bring people together to support the work of Macquarie Home Stay by way of the Friends of the Home Stay.

By becoming a Friend as part of this initiative, you can choose the level of involvement you would like to pursue to progress the cause of Home Stay. For instance, you can be a community champion in your local town, helping to represent and promote Macquarie Home Stay in your community; you can help organise local fundraising events; you can volunteer at events where "people power" is needed to deliver the event; you can assist by attracting sponsors and donors or help organise a flagship fundraising event for Macquarie Home Stay or offer your professional services on a pro bono basis e.g. grant writing. Alternatively, you can share your story about when you stayed at Macquarie Homestay and encourage others to use the service.

The western area that the Macquarie Home Stay facility generally services comprise of the shire council areas of Gilgandra, Brewarrina, Cobar, Warren, Bogan, Coonamble, Warrumbungle, Walgett and Bourke and the Regional Council areas of Mid-West and Dubbo. All up a population of some 100,000 people. Based on Bourke's population of 2,340 (ABS 2021) you would expect that Bourke residents might account for 2-3% of Home Stay visitors. My advice is that the residency figure for Bourke Shire residents at Home Stay is closer to 8%. At this level of usage, which is about 187 people from Bourke using the facility each year, there is a fair chance that if you attend the facility, there will be other people from Bourke in residence. Perhaps this high figure explains the generosity of Bourke shire residents to Home Stay.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend Of Home Stay, I would encourage you to call the Home Stay Office in Dubbo by telephoning 6885 4663 and they will no doubt be happy to provide you with further information.

Council Elections

With 14 nominations, registered voters in the Bourke Shire will be going to the polls on 14 September 2024, to elect Councillors for the four (4) year period ending September 2028. This will

be the first contested election in the Shire since 2016 with the COVID delayed 2021 election being an uncontested election in Bourke given that there were 10 nominations for the 10 Councillor positions.

One name that won't be on this year's ballot paper is Council's current Mayor, Barry Hollman. Barry has advised that he is stepping down after some 20 years on Council and 8 years as Mayor, having been elected to the mayoral roll in 2016. It's easy to forget that at the time of becoming Mayor, Bourke Shire was well into devastating drought with the Bourke weir pool rapidly diminishing. Barry was at the forefront of Council obtaining State Government Funding for its new water treatment plant, drought proofing Bourke with the installation of additional bores and pumps and further convincing the then Berejiklian Government to come to Bourke in November 2019 for the purpose of a community cabinet. It was Barry that got the various Ministers to travel to Bourke via a coach to witness first-hand the impact of the drought on the landscape. This method of travel certainly opened the Ministers eyes.

Regardless of the Minister, Barry would always be mentioning the need for funding to finish the sealing of the Wanaaring Road!

With Barry, you certainly have a straight shooter, who, in true Bourke form, will tell you exactly what he is thinking, and he did this recently when addressing the Public Accounts Committee in regard to the current inquiry into Rural Fire Service assets, premises and funding at a meeting in Sydney.

Whilst Barry can speak for himself, I suspect his biggest regret has been the inability to gain agreement from Government in respect of raising the height of the Bourke Weir. It certainly hasn't been through lack of effort or desire with Government preparing and adopting the Western Weirs Strategy, the Better Baaka Program and more recently the Connecting the Northern Basin Program, all to no avail in respect of raising our weir and increasing the capacity of the Bourke weir pool. It's a very difficult course of change to navigate.

I will personally miss Barry as Mayor. You certainly knew where he stood on a position, and he would stick when things got tough. I suppose that dates to his footballing days where he played at representative level. I thank Barry for his considerable efforts and wish him all the best for his life post Council and trust that he clocks up plenty of kilometres travelling Australia in his caravan.

Rugby League Competitions

The NSW Government recently announced funding of \$500,000 to help deliver Community Rugby League and League Tag competitions in the Barwon Darling and Outback Rugby League competitions. In announcing the funding, NSW Premier, Chris Minns said: "We are incredibly proud to be making this practical investment that will go straight to helping players and clubs across the Far West of NSW." He continued, "Sport, especially in our regions, is a fantastic vehicle for bringing people together and providing people with an opportunity to get out and get active."

My understanding is that the areas that will benefit from the funding include Bourke, Brewarrina, Collarenebri, Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Wilcannia, Menindee and Broken Hill. The funds will be used to support the Far West clubs with the costs of registration, insurance, club transport, well-being events, referees and referee travel. It will also assist with the engagement of staff dedicated to junior and social competition support and capacity building as well as community development programs.

It is recognised that Rugby League competitions play a critical role in remote communities, providing young people with the opportunity to play competitive team sport with their peers while opening the door to future sporting opportunities. Importantly, this funding will provide targeted relief to many young people hoping to participate in Rugby League competitions at a time when cost of living is a significant concern. As our Local Member for Barwon stated in response to the announcement, "This funding will enable the Rugby League's rich history and legacy across Far West NSW to continue."

Final Meeting

The final meeting of the Council elected in December 2021 will be held at 9.15am next Monday, 26 August 2024 in the Council Chambers, Mitchell St, Bourke. Whilst Council meetings are livestreamed via a link on Councils website (www.bourke.nsw.gov.au), members of the public are more than welcome to attend.

The date of the initial meeting of the new Council to be elected on 14 September 2024, has yet to be determined. The Local Government Act requires that Council holds a mayoral election at a council meeting within three (3) weeks after the ordinary election. Councillors may also elect a Deputy Mayor.

Quote: "I have tried to think of the words to describe how I feel about this team. I am so proud, proud for them, proud of them, proud to be here with them." – Australian Olympic Team Chef de mission, Anna Meares, at her final press conference for the Paris Olympics.

29 August 2024

3G Network Shutdown

As part of my Column of 16 May 2024, I advised that Telstra had announced that was extending the date of its closure of its 3G network by two (2) months from 30 June 2024 until 31 August 2024. At the time, the decision followed customer feedback that more time was needed to make the relevant changes.

The telecommunication giant has now announced that both it and Optus will extend the closure of their 3G networks and conduct a public safety awareness campaign, so all Australians know what action they need to take ahead of the shutdown. This will mean all 3G users need to be ready to move to 4G and 5G networks from 28 October 2024. I was somewhat surprised at the announcement as I am certain Telstra has been communicating to customers about the need to prepare for the closure for more than four (4) years. This has included multiple letters, bill messages, SMS, public awareness campaigns, advertising and offering free phones to people who need it most.

It is most important that mobile phone users check that their devices are compatible with the 4G network, particularly to ensure they are still able to call emergency services. It is also important for users of connected devices like medical monitors, IoT sensors, EFTPOS and antennas to check whether they rely on the 3G network by contacting the manufacturer or supplier. If you are unsure if your device is impacted, it is suggested that you simply text the number '3' to the phone number 3498. I did it and within 5 seconds the Telstra checker responded confirming what type of phone I

had and stating, "Thanks for using our Telstra 3G checker. Good news-your device will work as normal after the 3G closure from 28 October 2024, so you don't have to do anything." My understanding is that if the message advises that your phone won't work after 28 October 2024, the Telstar Checker will tell you what action you need to take.

While there is obviously more time for people to make the transition, I would urge mobile phone users to not delay, but rather take the necessary action as soon as possible.

Roads to Recovery

Back in 2000, the state of the nation's local roads (roads that are the financial responsibility of councils) emerged as a high-profile national issue when Australia's rural areas acted together as the main proponent for greater road funding when the Australian Local Government Association organised its initial National Rural Roads Congress, held in Moree, in March 2000.

With basically every rural and regional Council across the Nation represented at the Moree Congress, a compelling case was made to the Australian Government regarding concerns that the construction and maintenance of local road infrastructure across the nation was near the end of its economic life. Roads certainly don't last forever and the necessary replacement of road infrastructure was beyond the capacity of local councils. In response, and to their credit, the Government of the day in 2001 enacted the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program through the Roads to Recovery Act 2000 (R2R Act) as an intervention to address local roads construction and maintenance issues. Whilst I don't have the figures from when R2R commenced in 2001, I am aware that the Commonwealth Government has provided \$6.2 billion in funding to local councils under R2R for the ten years between the 2013/2014 financial year to the 2023/2024 financial years. In the 2020 calendar year an additional \$138.9 million was provided to the 128 Local Government Areas eligible for the Drought Communities Programme Extension, of which Bourke was one. In November 2023 it was reported that R2R Funding for local councils would increase to \$1 Billion a year following a comprehensive nation-wide survey had found that the nations local road network is "In a dangerous state of repair."

At this week's Council meeting, Councils Roads Manager, Paul Flannagan, presented a report advising that Council was recently advised by the Australian Government that its allocation for the R2R program for the period 2024 to 2029 was some \$10.6M over the five (5) year life of the program. This funding figure is a 47% increase over the previous funding figure of near \$7.2M. In previous rounds of funding Council has undertaken projects including resealing town streets, resealing rural local roads, heavy patching Main Road 68 South (Louth), sealing part of Main Road 404 (Hungerford) and contributions towards bridge upgrades at Jandra Creek Bridge and Compadore Creek Bridge. Paul and staff are currently preparing a works program for the new round of funding with this work program expected to include reformation, resealing and gravel sheeting of rural local roads and resealing town streets.

Since the initial program of 2001, there has been differing iterations of the R2R program, however it is fair to say that the program has been a godsend for the nations rural and regional councils, and certainly for Bourke Shire Council. I take my hat off to those who took up the issue and were the drivers of the initial Roads Congress at Moree back in 2000, the undoubted catalyst to addressing the Nations failing local roads network.

Council Elections

The post COVID local government elections of December 2021, saw the ten Councillors of Bourke Shire Council elected in an uncontested election. That is, there were ten nominations for the ten positions. Fast forward to the 2024 elections to be held on 14 September 2024, and Bourke will have a contested election as a result of 14 nominations for the ten councillor positions. Across the state however, there are five council areas where voters will not need to go to the poles with uncontested elections at Berrigan, Cowra, Junee, and Warrumbungle Shires along with our adjoining neighbours at Cobar Shire Council. In the case of Berrigan, Cowra and Junee Councils, they have received fewer candidate nominations than the number of councillors required which results in a by-election having to be held to fill the vacancies at a later date. For instance, at Cowra Council, only eight nominations were received for the nine council slots up for election. In addition to these five Councils, there are nine councils where a total of 16 wards will be uncontested.

In respect of the election here at Bourke, pre poll voting opens on Monday, 9 September 2024 at 8:30am at the Council Chambers in Mitchell St, Bourke. Election day is Saturday 14 September 2024 from 8.00am to 6.00pm at the Bourke Public School Hall, 19 Green Street, Bourke. Voting is compulsory for all registered voters.

Sydney Metro

I was interested to see the jubilation that surrounded the recent opening of the \$21 Billion Sydney Metro rail line that provides an additional 15.5 kilometres of new rail line and five new stations for the Sydney travelling public. The Metro now extends from Tallawong (in Sydney's northwest past Rouse Hill and Kellyville) through to Sydenham. Commuters described the Metro as "transformational" and "life changing."

On a lesser scale of expenditure, though just as important to users, residents of Bourke Shire, and visitors, who travel to the west of Bourke along the Bourke – Wanaaring Road, have also experienced the jubilation of improved transport facilities with the major improvements made to this road over the past five years. Funding from successive State Governments has enabled Council to reconstruct and seal this dirt road, which was once near undrivable at times.

The Bourke – Wanaaring Road, was once a 190km bone jarring five (5) to six (6) hour journey for residents and tourists. These days, pending the completion of the current round of works, the road will be unsealed for all but 15 kilometres. The sealing of the Wanaaring Road has opened up areas of Far North-west NSW to a wider visitor base. In addition, and importantly, the sealing of this road has simply changed the life of many of our residents who live along or in the vicinity of this road, in a most positive way.

Council looks forward to the continuation of programs that provides funding that would allow for the final 15 kilometres of this roadway to be sealed. I trust readers see the synergies between the Metro project and our own Wanaaring Rd project.

Quote: "You would have noticed how we have scrambled in defence the past few weeks. We don't want that spoon. We're not taking things easy." Balmain Tigers Playmaker, Lachie Galvin, focussing on finishing just one place off the bottom of the NRL ladder.

5 September 2024

Spring has Sprung

Late August 2024 proved to be an unseasonably warm end to Winter. At 4.00pm on Sunday 25 August 2024, the Automatic Weather Station at the Bourke Airport recorded a top temperature of 29.5 degreesin winter. Bourke was not on its own in terms of warm weather that weekend. Down at Oodnadatta in South Australia, they recorded 38.5 degrees Celsius on Friday 23 August and then 39.4C on Saturday 24 August 2024. I understand these temperatures at Oodnadatta are some 16C above average with both days well above the state's previous winter temperature record. Andrew King, senior lecturer in climate science at The University of Melbourne has noted that Australia's winters are getting warmer with Australia's three warmest Augusts on record having all occurred since 2000.

Mr King is of the view that the outlook for spring points to continued above normal temperatures across the continent, "but as always we will likely see both warm and cold spells at times." I don't mind the warmer weather so it will be interesting to see how Spring and Summer pans out, weather wise. There is no doubting the countryside around Bourke currently looks magnificent with the winter crops around Nyngan, Trangie, Narromine and Dubbo looking superb. The stark yellow tops of the canola crops around Wellington are a sight to behold.

Aussie Bird Count

The Bourke Shire is home to some magnificent species of birds. On an annual basis, to coincide with Bird Week from 14-20 October 2024, the Aussie Bird Count is conducted. Back in 2024 for its 11th year, the Aussie Bird Count has proven to be a hugely popular activity undertaken by families, senior citizens, school children and the wider community each year, with around 100,000 people participating. It is an activity for all-ages that involves observing and counting the birds that live near you – whether that's in your garden or back yard, in one of the Shire's parks, along the riverbank or even the town centre. By telling BirdLife Australia about the birds you've seen within a 20-minute period, you will help BirdLife develop an understanding of local birds whilst getting to know the wildlife on our doorstep!

Data collected goes towards identifying good 'birding spots' for ecotourism; encouraging local interest in conservation and revegetation efforts and identifying trends in local bird populations year-on-year to indicate biodiversity management successes. Think of birds as a barometer for nature, as their health and wellbeing is one of nature's best indicators. Participants of the count report feeling closer to nature, along with an improved sense of well-being and lowered stress levels.

If you're interested in getting involved in the Count, it's a case of simply spending 20 minutes standing or sitting in one spot and noting down the birds that you see. You will need to count the number of each species you spot within the 20-minute period. For example, you might see 4 Australian Magpies, 2 Rainbow Lorikeets and a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

You can download the Aussie Bird Count app for free which is available for iPhones and Android smartphones through either Google Play or the Apple App Store. Once you have completed your count, you can submit it either through the Bird Count app or via the website: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

Davidson Oval

Council at its August 2024 meeting held last week determined that it adopt a Masterplan to lead the future development of Davidson Oval, Bourke. The preparation of the Masterplan involved consultation with oval users and more recently the exhibition of the draft plan. One of the key elements of the plan is the demolition of the existing canteen, grandstand and toilet block and replacement with a new clubhouse building that integrates change rooms, a canteen, public amenities and spectator seating. Obviously, any demolition of these facilities is dependent on government funding to construct the proposed replacement facilities.

In his report to Council on the Masterplan proposal, Councils Manager Planning, Regulatory and Environmental Services, Dwayne Willoughby, advised that during the exhibition period, he received a phone call from a representative of the family of the Late Keith Martin, with the existing Grandstand at Davidson Oval, named the Keith Martin Grandstand. With one of the key elements of the Davidson Oval Master Plan being the proposed demolition of the existing canteen, grandstand, and toilet block, the family were understandably curious as to Councils longer term plans in continuing to recognise Mr Martin when the existing Grandstand is ultimately demolished and replaced. The late Keith Martin is remembered as one of Bourke's best rugby league representatives and as an excellent rugby league referee. Given this, Council had no hesitation in resolving that come the time of a new Grandstand being constructed at Davidson Oval, the name of Mr Martin continues as the name of a replacement facility.

Rural Fire Service

The issue concerning the recording, or not, of the asset value of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) red fleet in a council's annual financial statements is an issue that has been the subject of much discussion within the NSW local government industry for an extended period. This follows directives from both the NSW Audit Office and the Office of Local Government (OLG) that councils need to bring firefighting equipment assets, "vested" in councils under the provisions of the Rural Fires Act, 1997 to account in their balance sheets and consequently bear the cost of depreciating such items.

Bourke Shire Council, along with numerous other NSW Councils, has taken the stance that councils should not recognise the rural firefighting equipment in their year-end financial statements. This position is as a result of the fact that Bourke Shire Council does not control red fleet assets. Under Australian Accounting Standards, "Control of an asset refers to the ability to direct the use of, and obtain substantially all of the remaining benefits from, the asset. Control includes the ability to prevent other entities from directing the use of and obtaining the benefits from an asset." Bourke Shire Council does not have any say in the acquisition, deployment, or disposal of these red fleet assets, nor does Council insure, repair or know where these assets are, at a specific time. The Government's determination is inconsistent with the treatment of comparable assets of other emergency service agencies such as Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the State Emergency Service (SES). It makes sense that the entity that purchased the RFS assets, controls the asset, uses the asset and sells the asset should be the same one that accounts for them.

For the past two (2) financial year's Council has not included the red fleet assets in preparing its financial statements. For the 2021/2022 period, the Auditor-General issued a qualified audit opinion to 43 NSW Council's as a result of their red fleet assets having not being brought to account. For Bourke Shire Council, and whilst its Auditors have noted the non - inclusion of the red

fleet assets in the Financial Statements, they have accepted that given the estimated value of these assets in the Bourke Shire are at a relatively low level of value and are not material to Councils Financial Statements, an unqualified audit opinion has been issued by the Auditors. This is certainly pleasing.

On Friday, 9 August 2024 the Mayor represented Council at a discussion with the Public Accounts Committee at Parliament House, Sydney, in response to issues raised by Council in its submission into the Committee's current inquiry regarding assets, premises and funding of the RFS. The Mayor left the Committee in no doubt as to his views that Council does not control RFS assets, and that Council is not recognising them as assets in its financial statements.

Given the Mayors strong stance and that Councils 2023/2024 Financial Statements are currently being prepared, it was considered important that Council again consider its approach to the issue. In respect of this matter, Council at its August meeting resolved "that having regard to the risks involved in receiving a qualified Audit Report for 2023/2024, Council re-affirm its previous position that it will not record RFS assets in Bourke Shire Council's Financial Statements based on the fact that Council does not control, manage, or govern Rural Fire Service assets."

Quote: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new." - Greek philosopher Socrates.

12 September 2024

Council Elections

Don't forget that the Council elections will be held this Saturday, 14 September 2024 with voting being compulsory for registered voters. There will be two (2) voting locations available to voters on Polling Day, these being in Bourke at the Bourke Public School Hall, Green St Bourke and at the Enngonia Public School. Both these polling locations will operate from 8.00am until 6.00pm on the day.

Come the time of the publication of this Column, Pre poll voting at the Shire office in Mitchell St, Bourke will have been underway since Monday, 9 September 2024. The Pre-poll is also operating on Thursday 12 September 2024 and Friday, 13 September 2024 at the Shire office from 8.30am to 4.00pm each day.

In the NSW council elections, the option of 'absentee voting' is not available to voters, like it is in State or Federal government elections. For instance, if you're travelling to Dubbo on Saturday with a dawn start, you can't attend a poll in Dubbo hoping to lodge a vote for the Bourke Council election. Rather, If you're going to be away on Saturday, or for that matter today and tomorrow as well, you must pre-poll vote in Bourke.

If you're an elector who has recently moved to Bourke, you can vote in the Bourke council election by completing a declaration vote to update your address. Electors should tell an election official that they need to update their enrolment so they can be directed to the appropriate table on the day. To be accepted to vote, you will need to produce to the Electoral Official a current NSW Drivers Licence or NSW Photo Identification Card showing your new address in the Bourke Shire.

If you are a carer of a resident who is blind or who has low vision, it is advised that telephone assisted voting for such residents is now available with applications for telephone assisted voting closing at 6pm on Friday, 13 September 2024 with telephone assisted voting closes at 1pm on Saturday, 14 September. The telephone number for this service is 1300 248 683.

Secure Your Home Day

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has reported an increase in the average trend in national break-ins for the first time in over a decade. 2% of Australian households experienced a break-in over the last 12 months, with an additional 2% of Australian households experiencing an attempted break-in with property stolen in two-thirds of break-ins. Common evidence of an attempted break-in includes a door or window being damaged or tampered with (45%) and/or someone being seen or heard trying to break-in (27%). There has also been an increase of break-ins associated with motor vehicle theft, where car keys are stolen from homes. Unfortunately, residents of Bourke have experienced their fair share of these types of crime in the community. National Secure Your Home Day being held on 28-29 September 2024, is a Neighbourhood Watch Australasia initiative, aimed at improving home security for all Australians. Your home is certainly a place where you and your loved ones should always feel secure. By dedicating one day per year to home security, householders can seek to reduce the risk of crime by conducting a 'home health check' by assessing how secure your property is and identify where security can be improved.

There are various simple ways that you can make your home more secure. These include installing locks on all entry points to your home (windows and doors); moving items that could be used to assist with access to windows, such as ladders or wheelie bins; locking gates or installing fences; installing motion sensor lighting and security cameras; locking security screens on windows and doors once installed and making sure that valuables cannot be easily seen from outside your home, such as computers, wallets, handbags, cash, jewellery or keys.

Another great way of securing your property is by getting to know your neighbours. Neighbours can help secure your property by keeping an eye on your home when you are out or away on holidays. Your neighbours are your closest source of help and assistance in the case of emergency. Studies show that crime is lower in neighbourhoods where residents know each other. If you don't know your neighbour, it is suggested that on National Secure Your Home Day you take the opportunity to introduce yourself to your neighbours if you haven't previously done so.

You can register to participate in National Secure Your Home Day, and in doing so receive tips on how to improve home security, useful resources, activities for kids, plus more! Simply go to: <https://secureyourhomeday.com.au/>

Author Visit

During May the Bourke Public Library hosted a visit from the internationally renowned bestselling Australian author Chris Hammer. To their credit staff at the Library organised for another amazing author to recently visit the library with Nicole Alexander attending. Nicole, who was born, raised and lives north-west of Moree, is the bestselling author of eleven historical fiction novels and her novels, poetry, travel, creative writing and genealogy articles have been published internationally. Her debut novel, 'The Bark Cutters' was shortlisted for an Australian Book Industry Award. Her most recently published novel, titled 'The Last Station' is centred around a dying riverboat trade along the Darling River.

A precis of this novel reads: “In nineteenth-century New South Wales, the name Dalhunny stood for prosperity and prestige. The family’s vast station was home to more than 80 people, and each year their premium wool was shipped down the bustling Darling River to be sold in South Australia. Yet, just decades later, Dalhunny Station is on the brink of ruin . . .

In the summer of 1909, eccentric Benjamin Dalhunny and his son Julian anxiously await the arrival of the *Lady Matilda*, the first paddle-steamer to navigate the river in more than two years. It will transport their very last wool clip to market. Twenty-year-old Julian wants more from life than the crumbling station, but as the eldest son his future has been set since birth.

Until the day his mother invites a streetwise young man from Sydney into their home . . . Ethan Harris’s arrival shines a light on a family at breaking point. But he also unwittingly offers Julian an escape, as the young men embark on a perilous journey down the Darling and west into untamed lands.” Sounds a most interesting, and a close to home, novel worth a read.

Mental Health

Our mental health continues to be such an important issue for all communities. Unfortunately, 9 people die by suicide in Australia every day. In addition, 1 in 5 Australians experience a mental illness each year and 50% of people living with mental illness do not seek professional help. What was once a rarely talked about illness, organisations such as the Black Dog Institute have done a sterling job in bringing the topic into the open, such that more people are opening up about their mental health.

Apart from providing a most comprehensive website with a raft of information on mental health, the Black Dog Institute (<https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au>) has deemed October as Mental Health Month and in doing so promotes what it calls its ‘One Foot Forward’ program. Under the program, people are encouraged to join with the Institute to “walk, run or roll in solidarity” to support all those Australians who experience a mental illness each year.

You can sign up for free (<https://www.onefootforward.org.au/register/one-foot-forward/join>), then share your page and raise funds to help Australians impacted by mental illness and then you walk, run or roll and log your kilometres achieved during October. By getting involved you not only get to enjoy the fresh air and get your blood moving, with exercise being so important for your mental health, but it’s also a fun community activity. It also helps raise awareness that help is out there if you need support for your mental health.

Final Football

I know a few “welded” on St George Dragons supporters who have been remarkably quiet in recent week’s following their teams shock loss to the near last place Parramatta Eels. The loss saw the prospects of the Dragons playing finals football in 2024 basically evaporate as they moved out of the top eight and now needing a miracle to sneak back into the top eight. Mind you, Roosters supporters have also gone quite following ACL injuries to a couple of their more prominent players. Luckily, it’s just a game!

Quote: "Since I became minister, I’ve made it very clear that vulnerable children do not belong in hotels, motels or caravan parks with shift workers instead of foster carers.” – NSW Families

and Communities Minister, Kate Washington, announcing changes to last-resort care emergency options.

19 September 2024

Councils Elections

Voting in the 2024 Council elections is now over, with the NSW Electoral Commission now undertaking the count for Bourke Shire along with a further 125 of the 128 councils in NSW. The Office of Local Government is not expecting the elections to be declared until 30 September 2024, at the earliest.”

Time will tell when the poll for Bourke is ultimately determined and declared. Once the election is declared however, it will be necessary to determine a date and time for the convening of an initial meeting of the newly elected Council to allow it to elect from one of its own, a Mayor for the two (2) year period ending September 2028. In this regard, the Local Government Act requires that Council must hold a mayoral election at a council meeting within three (3) weeks of the declaration of the ordinary election. Councillors may also elect a Deputy Mayor, as it has done in the past.

At this initial meeting of Council, another requirement of the Local Government Act will be included on the agenda; that being for each Councillor to take either an oath or affirmation of Office, “at or before the first meeting of the Council after the Councillor is elected.” In undertaking the oath or affirmation, Councillors either swear or solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Bourke and Bourke Shire Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

A Councillor who fails, without a reasonable excuse, to take the oath or affirmation of office, will not be entitled to attend Council meetings until they do so and will be taken to be absent without leave. As General Manager, I am required to ensure that a record is kept of the taking of the oath or affirmation. I do this by recording the taking of the oath or affirmation by each Councillor in the minutes of the initial Council meeting.

In addition to the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and the taking of the oath or affirmation, other matters to be considered at this initial meeting include the determination of meeting times and schedules; consideration as to holding a countback instead of a by-election in the case of a Councillor vacancy; the appointment of delegates to other organisations and delegations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Drug Driving

With the media recently reporting allegations of drug driving by a high profile NRL player in the week leading up to the Finals Series commencing, I was recently reminded as to just how prevalent drug driving is across the State following a recent focus by NSW Police.

With 32 people having lost their lives on the state’s roads in September last year and the high number of road fatalities across NSW during this year to date, Police launched what they called

Operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers) with a view to reducing fatalities across NSW. The Operation, which commenced at 12.01am on Thursday, 5 September 2024, and ended at 4.00am on Sunday, 8 September 2024, saw an increased police presence on NSW roads targeting drink driving, drug driving and fatigue - three of the largest contributors to the state's annual road toll.

The results are quite staggering with 6,653 traffic offences detected comprising 1,895 speeding offences, 261 mobile phone or distraction related offences and over 4,200 other driving offences. Where it gets very interesting is the statistics that during the operation, police conducted 120,093 Random Breath Tests and charged 211 drivers for PCA and DUI related offences. Of the 10,885 Random Drug Tests conducted, 470 drivers returned a positive result. So, for all the Random Breath Tests conducted under the Operation, the "charge rate" (my words) for every test was 0.0017569. For the Random Drug Tests, the Police undertook 109,208 fewer drug tests compared to RBT tests, with the "charge rate" for the drug tests being 0.0431786. In other words, for every 570 people who were randomly required to undertake a breath test during the operation, one test was positive. This compares to a positive test resulting from every 23.2 people who were required to undertake a roadside drug test.

Like so many people in the Far West who drive long distances, I find these numbers disturbing. You really must wonder the state of the driver of the vehicle coming in the opposite direction at some 110km/h. Interestingly, September is Rural Road Safety Month, a national community-based road safety initiative designed to highlight the additional risks when driving on rural and remote roads across Australia. Despite being less populated areas, deaths on rural and remote roads accounted for almost two thirds of the 2023 road toll.

Remember, if two (2) cars travelling at a speed of 110km/h were to collide head on, the impact force exerted on each car is equal and opposite in direction. Such a collision would be equivalent to hitting a solid wall at 220km/h. To the NSW Police, please keep up the good work.

North Bourke Oval

The perimeter of the North Bourke Oval, and pending approval of the NSW Geographical Names Board proposed to be renamed the Neville Simpson Sportsground, is now home to a white picket fence following the completion of required works. With funding provided by the Australian Government under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, the construction of the fence followed community consultation undertaken by Council where the fence around the Oval was identified as a priority.

With the Oval backing onto industrial activity, the installation of the visually pleasing fencing will ensure that the perimeter of the oval is clearly defined and ensure the oval is closed off to any unwanted vehicular traffic. It is anticipated that with the completion of the fence, use of the oval by the wider community will increase. There will be access gates that will not be locked, allowing access to all pedestrian users. The visual aspect of the fence around the oval is also expected to attract users to the facility. Also included in the project is a fenced area as a barrier between the oval's carpark and the general sitting area of the oval.

Now that the installation of the fence is complete, the Swagman sign that was previously located at Percy Hobson Park will have a face lift and then installed at North Bourke near the oval, such that visitors and locals can once again enjoy the Gateway sign!

Bourke Pool

The Bourke War Memorial Swimming Pool will re-open for the 2024/2025 swimming season on Saturday 28 September 2024. With the recent improvements to the main pool, learners pool and surrounds and with construction of the new canteen and entry now complete, Council's Pool Contractor, Scott Parnaby, is working hard to ensure that the complex is ready to cater for pool users come the end of the month. Following the inconvenience of construction works last swimming season, I know that Scott is looking forward to an uninterrupted and warm season. Don't forget that general admission charges at the Pool (2yrs and over) are still just \$3.00 per head whilst for aged pensioners, there is no entry charge.

For the aged, the pool is a perfect venue to undertake regular water walking sessions to improve general health and fitness. It is well documented that water walking is a low-impact, low-weight bearing exercise that minimizes the risk of injury or undue stress on the joints. It reduces the foot-striking forces that so often "jar" muscles, ligaments, tendons and bones, lessening the burden on the body.

Magpies

Swooping magpies are certainly out and about in Bourke. On a recent Saturday morning Parkrun event, a resident magpie was not impressed by the 27 participants in the run. Park runners were kept very busy looking out for and attempting to avoid the swooping magpie as they ran or walked along the levee at the Renshaw. I am advised that there are other swooping magpies around town, so keep an eye out for them.

Quote: "I cannot tell you what a relief it is to have finally completed my chemotherapy treatment." – Catherine, the Princess of Wales. Cancer certainly doesn't discriminate.

26 September 2024

Bourke High School

I was disappointed to recently learn that Murray Cronin, Executive Principal at Bourke High School, will be finishing his time at the School at the end of Term 3, following a period of three (3) years and three (3) terms in the role. I certainly don't envy the role of being a secondary school principal and I congratulate Murray on his considerable efforts whilst in the role at Bourke High. Whilst disappointed at his announcement, I was very pleased to learn that the Connected Communities Strategy, that has been in place at Bourke High since around 2013, has been extended for another 10 years by the NSW Department of Education.

For information, "the Connected Communities Strategy provides differentiated, holistic learning underpinned by local Aboriginal culture. By positioning schools as 'community hubs', the strategy supports the delivery of key services to students and families through government and non-government inter-agency collaboration, at various locations across NSW," including Bourke. The Strategy has been a success, thus its extension.

In Murray's advice of his departure, he was quick to acknowledge the contribution and support he received in the role, taking time to acknowledge the school's students, the Aboriginal Education

Consultative Group, the P & C and the “many people across NSW, Australia, and overseas” who had assisted the school. I wish Murray all the very best for his future endeavours.

Chris Keenan, who is currently the Deputy Principal at Peel High School at Tamworth will commence as the Executive Principal in Term 4.

Local Government Reform

An important component of maintaining the integrity of councils is the Code of Conduct for councillors, staff and contractors. At the present time, the Model Code of Conduct, as developed by the NSW Office of Local Government in 2020, is an extensive 61-page document with a further 51-page document titled Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils, also relevant.

The NSW Minister for Local Government, Ron Hoenig MP, recently released a discussion paper titled the “Councillor Conduct and Meeting Practices Framework.” In releasing the paper, the Minister stated that the existing system was “fundamentally broken” with thousands of trivial complaints generated with the current system being “...too open to weaponisation, with tit-for-tat complaints diverting critical council resources and ratepayer money from the things that matter most to communities.” The Minister further stated that, “The sheer volume of vexatious complaints being made is preventing the Office of Local Government from focussing its attention on getting crooks out of the local government sector.”

Whilst Code of Conduct complaints have not been an issue for Bourke Shire Council, with no complaints lodged against councillors, staff or contractors during the term of the previous Council, the same cannot be said for other Councils throughout the state. In the 2022/2023 financial year, in excess of 420 code of conduct complaints were lodged across the state. Of these complaints when investigated and finalised, only 40 were found to be in breach of the Code. In addition, the cost of dealing with these complaints came at a very high financial cost. I noted that one (1) metropolitan Council has expended near \$150,000 on code of conduct matters, with a regional council expending close to \$100,000 during the financial year.

The proposal for a new code by the Minister would see the current code of conduct reduced down to 2-3 pages, being based on the State Parliamentary code, outlining clear expectations of behaviour by council officials. The new system would see minor complaints about councillor misbehaviour dealt with by a councillor’s peers and leave serious matters relating to conflicts of interest to be examined by the Office of Local Government.

Some of the key reforms outlined in the discussion paper, some of which would require changes to the Local Government Act 1993, include:

- Establishing a local government privileges committee of experienced councillors with mayoral experience to assess complaints made against councillors for misbehaviour, consistent with practices in other tiers of government (where the conduct does not meet the threshold for police or referral to another investigative body or tribunal);
- Removing private investigators from the councillor conduct process, while strengthening the investigative capability of the Office of Local Government to investigate and prosecute legitimate complaints (such as issuing penalty infringement notices where conflict of interest declarations have not been made);

- Strengthening lobbying guidelines for local government;
- Giving mayors more power to expel councillors from meetings for acts of disorder and remove their entitlement to receive a fee in the month of their indiscretion.

The discussion paper is now open for community feedback and can be viewed at:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/misconduct-and-intervention/councillor-conduct-framework/> Submissions close on Friday, 15 November 2024.

Responsible Pet Ownership

During recent discussions with officers from Bourke Police, the issue of the number of dogs that were roaming in town was raised. Whilst staff are considering various 'on the ground' strategies with a view to improving the situation, a large factor in the issue is the need for responsible pet ownership (RPO) by the community.

This is certainly not a Bourke centric issue, with a recent NSW Office of Local Government survey of councils revealing that RPO Education being the most common priority of councils.

For many years, RPO Education has focused on three (3) easy steps for responsible pet ownership – microchipping, desexing and registering of pets. RPO Education is now being broadened such that it seeks to reduce dog attacks, reduce the number of animals in pounds and shelters, and reduce the number of unwanted stray and semi-owned cats. Council encourages dog owners and non-owners' to actively supervise children around dogs and be aware of signs that a dog might bite. Such activity will undoubtedly help to reduce the number and frequency of dog attacks. Reducing dog attacks will also reduce the number of seized, menacing or dangerous dogs in animal shelters.

The desexing of cats has health benefits and is the most effective way to reduce the number of homeless, stray and unwanted cats in the community. Desexing reduces the potential for problems associated with cats in the community and will reduce the number of cats in the Council Animal Shelter and with rehoming organisations.

Councils' animal shelter, and the numerous rehoming organisations that it works with in respect of stray animals, are struggling to cope with the number of surrendered and seized animals. The NSW Government 'Adopt not shop' campaign encourages potential pet owners to adopt a pet from a pound, shelter or rehoming organisation.

In NSW, if you are a dog owner, under the *Companion Animals Act 1988*, you have a responsibility to make sure your dog is under effective control when in a public place, while you are also liable if it attacks a person or even another animal. This matter is dealt with in section 13 of the Act, where it is outlined that a dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of a competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by or secured by the person.

Where this is not adhered to, a maximum fine of \$11,000 is in place if the dog has been declared a menacing or dangerous or restricted dog. In the case where the dog has not been declared a menacing or dangerous or restricted dog, the maximum penalty is a fine of \$1,100.

Under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, authorised officers, including council officers and police officers, have a broad range of powers to be able to properly deal with owners of attacking dogs.

This includes being permitted to enter part of a property that is not used solely for residential purposes and seize a dog.

Proposed Motel Development

Council is currently in the marketplace seeking tenders from suitably qualified consultants to prepare the necessary documentation which examines the feasibility of a motel development in Bourke. If feasible, the successful consultant would be required to prepare a Business Case Report which includes a cost benefit analysis in accordance with NSW Treasury Guidelines TPG23-08 "Guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis". Further information is available at: www.tenderlink.com/bourkeshire

Quote: "Even looking at the replays and the angles of the pass, that's a big call in that moment and you can't get that wrong." - Sydney Roosters Coach Trent Robinson calling out a forward pass call against his team in their semi-final loss to the Panthers.

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager regarding General Manager Activity for August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October, be noted.

21.8 LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT - AUGUST 2024

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

Current Situation

The following items for the August 2023 and August 2024 period are presented for information.

Item	August 2023	August 2024
Loans	645	611
New Members	17	13
Internet/Word Processing	65	40
Wireless Tickets	27	18
Number of Visitors	639	618
Scans	23	22
Information Requests	94	81
Technical Assistance / Printing	63	96
Faxes/ Laminating	1	7

- August was a busy month in the Library. Children’s Book Week was celebrated with craft, story time and competitions with many children participating in the events.





- Author, Lystra Rose visited the Library in August. Lystra is an award-winning author, and held 2 sessions at the library, teaching the visiting school groups about the process of writing. All those attending had a great time participating with positive feedback that indicated they learnt a lot.



Recommendation

That the report of the Library Manager regarding Library Activity for the month of August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.9 LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Current Situation

The following items for the September 2023 and September 2024 period are presented for information.

Item	September 2023	September 2024
Loans	591	633
New Members	4	6
Internet/Word Processing	52	61
Wireless Tickets	30	25
Number of Visitors	652	678
Scans	24	37
Information Requests	97	89
Technical Assistance / Printing	48	78
Faxes/ Laminating	0	5

- September was another exciting month in the Library with the highlight being a visit from top Australian author Nicole Alexander. Everyone in attendance very much enjoyed the conversational chat with Nicole, with many questions being asked.



Recommendation

That the report of the Library Manager regarding Library Activity for the month of September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

21.10 TOURISM AND EVENTS ACTIVITY REPORT - AUGUST 2024

File Number: 3283
Author: Ben Nott, Coordinator Tourism Operations
Authoriser: Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development
Attachments: 1. BOBEC Statistics - August 2024
 2. BOBEC Website Statistics - August 2024

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 August 2024, the Tourism and Events Team participated in the following activities:

Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre

Performance Indicator	July 2024	August 2024	Trend	% Change
Visitor Numbers	2402	3002	+600	24.97%
Email Enquiries	792	434	-358	(45.20%)
Incoming Calls	546	539	-7	(1.28%)
Website Enquiries	3696	3738	+42	1.14%
Exhibition Tickets	689	826	+137	19.88%
PV Jandra Tickets	131	568	+437	333.59%
PV Jandra Cruises	6	25	+19	316.67%
Café Turnover (ex GST)	Closed for extensions			
Café Event Catering	4	7	+3	75.00%
Functions	3	7	+4	133.59%
Mt Oxley Tickets	64	157	+93	145.31%
Tour Groups	3	3	0	0%

Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre (BOBEC)

BOBEC operated 7 days per week in August 2024 with hours from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre Garden staff were busy during August with mowing, pruning trees, spraying and maintenance continued around BOBEC, the Crossley engine and the Jandra.

The information Centre was generally busy in August.

Café and Functions

Café renovations are progressing and are close to completion.

Catering continues to be provided utilising the Function Centre kitchen. Staff catered for seven (7) functions booked at the centre during August.

There were seven (7) functions booked in August, four (4) being one day events and two (2) being two (2) day events and one (1) dinner event.

PV Jandra

The PV Jandra operated for eleven (11) days during August. Recruitment of a Captain to the Jandra is an ongoing key priority.

Tour Groups

There were three (3) tour groups and two (2) Variety Bashes booked during August.

Crossley Engine

The Crossley engine was open to the public 5 days per week in August. It is estimated approximately 450 people attended during August.

Staff Training

Nil.

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	325	326	302	348	386	782	1109	816	603	609	699
Feb	271	373	391	220	282	1043	386	630	725	557	764
Mar	1051	1342	1612	1245	1274	1021	412	1389	1100	1006	1185
Apr	3146	3849	3118	3114	4024	3166	0	2387	2323	1709	2117
May	3988	4602	4073	3983	4770	3693	0	2564	2016	1713	2379
Jun	4275	5437	5199	4754	5634	4490	993	2366	2227	1971	2487
Jul	6241	6002	5941	5982	7614	6834	2570	1068	2998	2520	2402
Aug	4793	5078	4951	5051	5548	4052	1898	255	2557	2559	3002
Sep	4764	4489	4532	4246	4676	3601	3325	0	2203	2234	
Oct	2486	2370	2475	2463	3574	2222	5246	409	1094	1661	
Nov	671	610	1031	876	1014	1220	1989	866	710	1047	
Dec	242	272	281	255	630	860	1194	897	586	1099	
Total	32,253	34,750	33,906	32,537	39,454	32,984	19,122	13,647	19,142	18,685	

Updates and Events

Local Government Collaboration

The Kidman Way Promotional Committee is working together with councils from Murrumbidgee, Carrathool, Cobar, Griffith, and Bourke to create an updated promotional booklet focused on boosting regional tourism.



Collaboration with the Kamilaroi Highway Committee, which includes the councils of Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett, Narrabri, Gunnedah, and Liverpool Plains, continues. The Committee is organising participation in caravan and camping exhibitions in Newcastle, Brisbane, and Sydney.

The Darling River Run Committee, comprising representatives from Bourke, Brewarrina, and Wentworth shires, meets every two months to discuss various tourism development projects, with Bourke Shire Council serving as the treasurer.

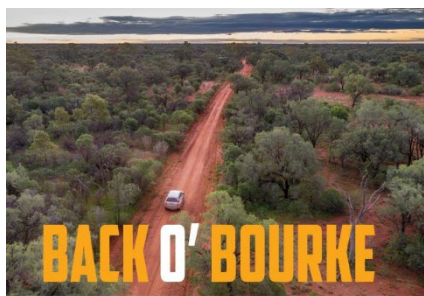
National Promotional Material

In late July, Amelia Mansell, a former resident of Bourke and the granddaughter of Russell Mansell, who built the PV Jandra, heard of the promotion of Bourke and the need to fill the River Boat Captain vacancy through national radio and television. She reached out to the Council's Economic Development Manager with a proposal to write a feature article for Caravan World magazine. The purpose of the article was to highlight the attractions of the Back O' Bourke, providing insights on caravan camping, ideal visiting times, and other noteworthy highlights.

After the successful publication of the Caravan World feature, Amelia contacted the Council once more. Following a last-minute cancellation of an article intended for the Camper Trailer of the Year

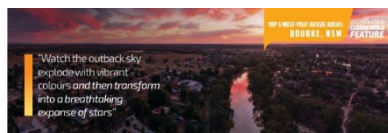
signature edition, and given the positive reception to the previous Bourke article, a similar feature for the Camper Trailer of the Year magazine, set to be published from August to October—an excellent chance to shine a light on the region - was agreed to.

Both articles celebrate Bourke and its top tourist attractions, including the Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre, Bourke's River history,



Henry Lawson once wrote 'If you know Bourke, you know Australia' and those words still ring true today. This is a land of sweeping red plains, stary nights and days spent exploring the rugged natural surrounds that is home to a rich and ancient history.

Being Bourke has been and will be. The... The... of the 22 Indigenous language groups of the Bourke area... BOURKE'S RIVER HISTORY... BUCKLE UP BOURKE INFORMATION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE...



GUNDABOOKA NATIONAL PARK... For a world-class park experience, head SW to north of Bourke along the Kambour Highway to Gundabooka. Stretching across almost 64,000 hectares, this park is home to some fantastic and well-kept walking trails... MOUNT OXLEY... Located about 40km north of Bourke, Mount Oxley is a beautiful mountain range...

WHERE TO STAY... We've got plenty of options for your next caravaning quest... KIDMAN'S CAMP... MITSCHERL CARAVAN PARK... PERCY HOBSON MURAL... THE BOURKE IS CALLING...

...and its top tourist attractions, including the Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre, Bourke's River history, the PV Jandra cruise, Toorale and Gundabooka National Parks. They also recommended accommodations such as the Mitchell Caravan Park for easy town access, Kidman's Camp for proximity to the Jandra, nearby bridges, walking trails, Mount Oxley, the Percy Hobson Mural, and various local farm stays.

These two articles were notably featured across social media platforms and the Caravan World website.

Financial Implications

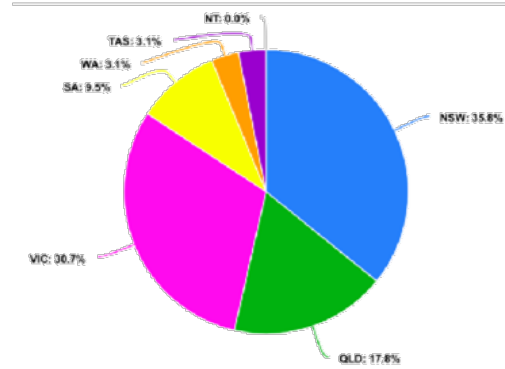
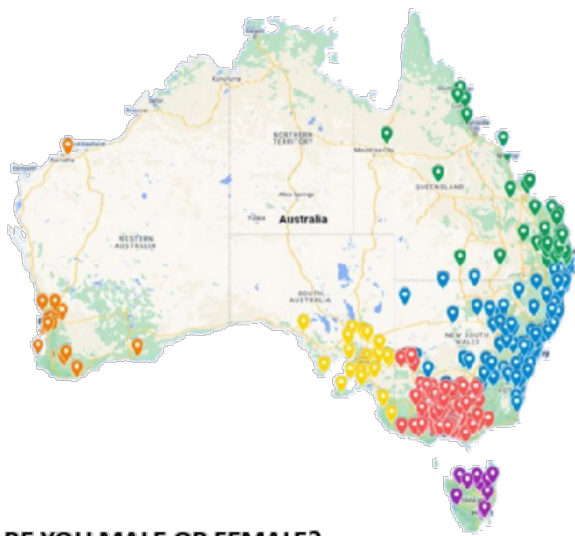
There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

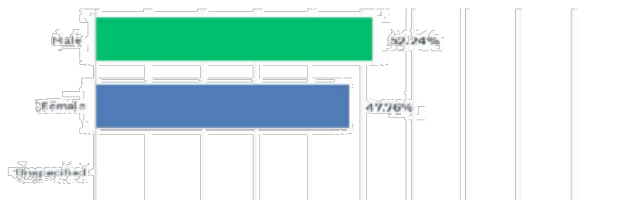
That the report of the Coordinator Tourism regarding Tourism and Events Activity for August 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

BOBEC Statistics – August 2024

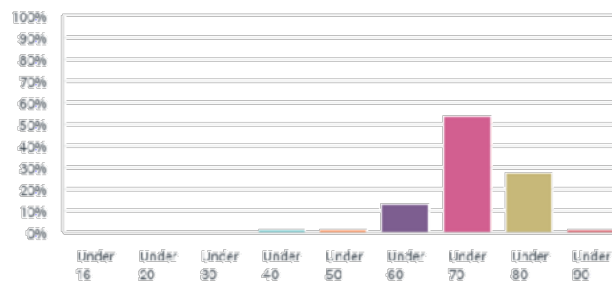
WHAT IS YOUR HOME POSTCODE?



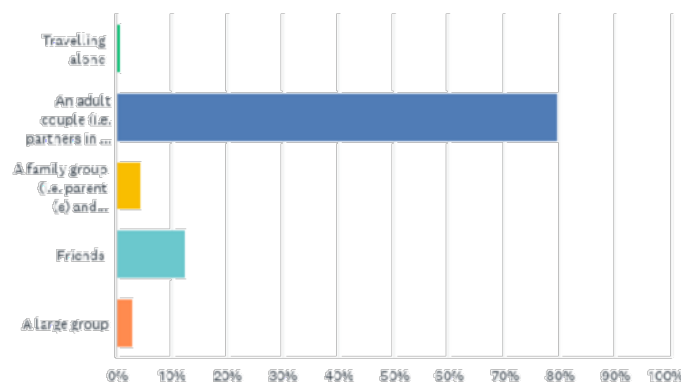
ARE YOU MALE OR FEMALE?



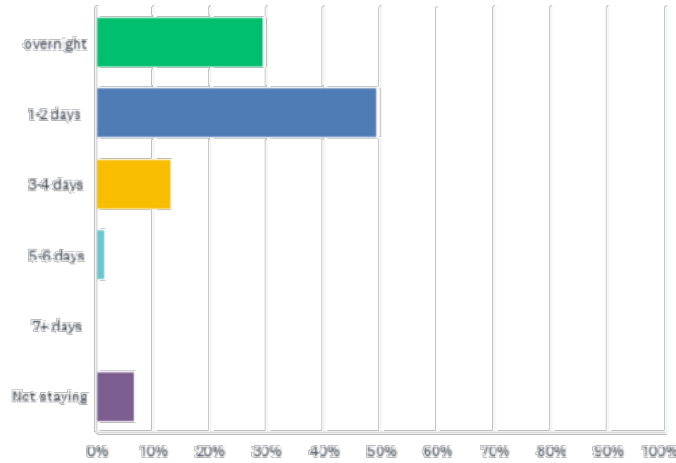
WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



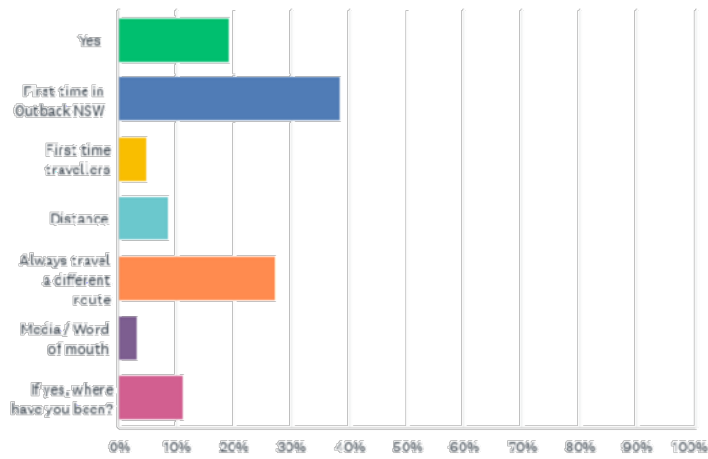
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PARTY?



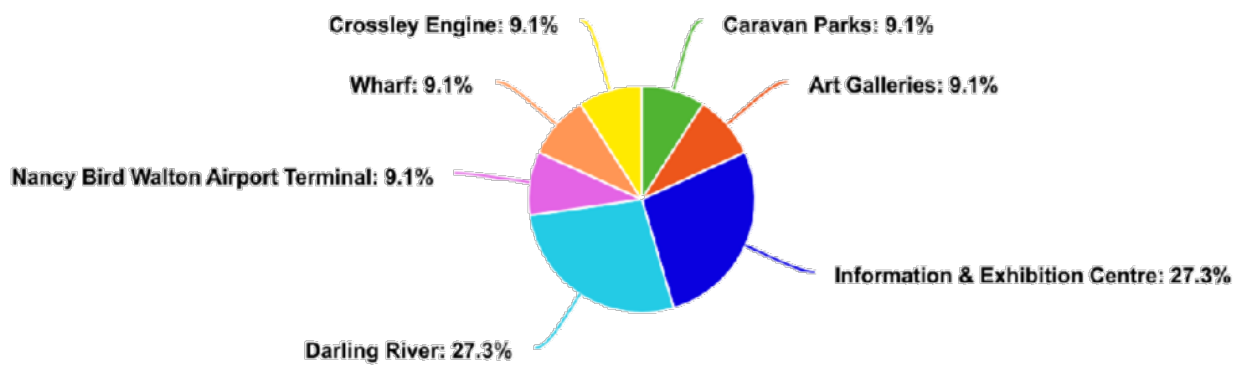
HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING FOR?



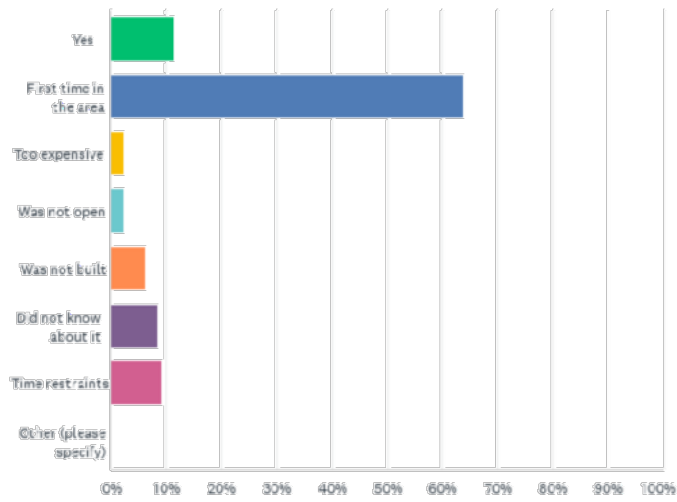
HAVE YOU BEEN TO BOURKE BEFORE?



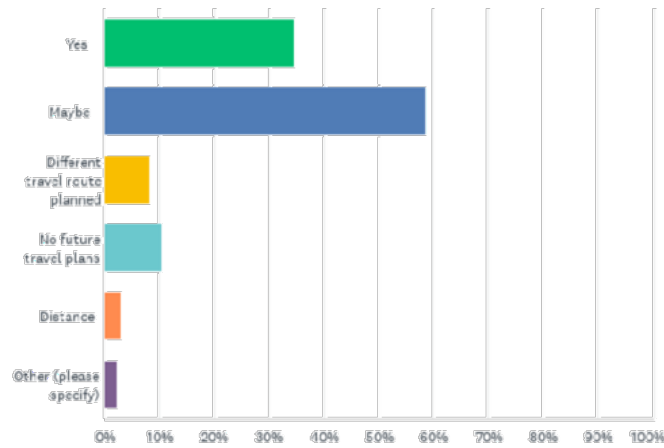
IF YES, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



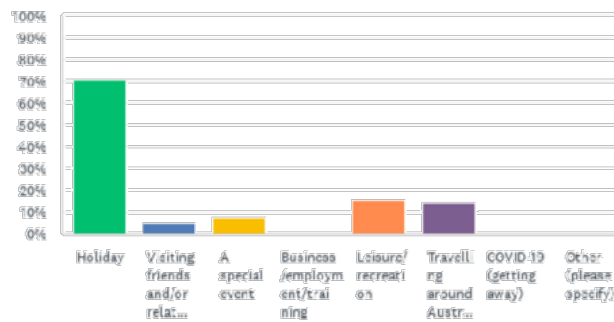
HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH BACK O BOURKE CENTRE?



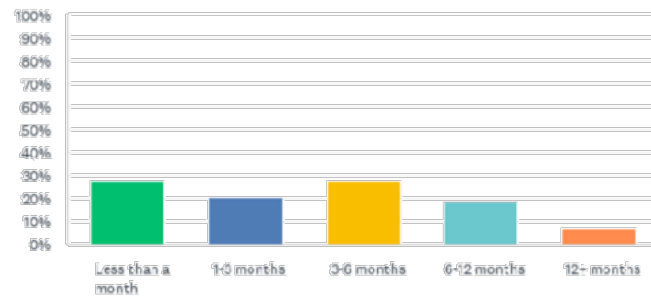
WILL YOU BE RETURNING TO BOURKE?



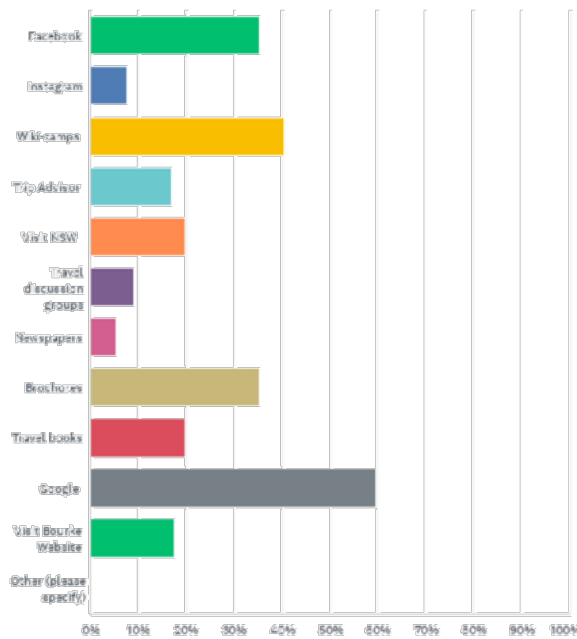
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP?



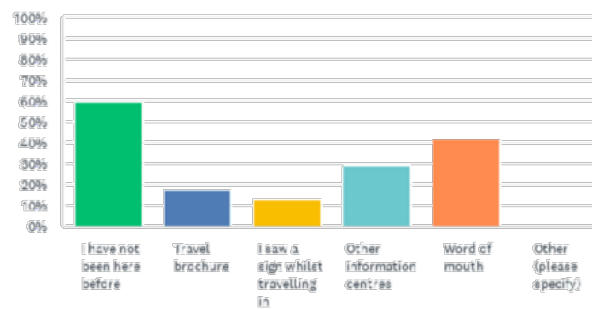
HOW LONG AGO DID YOU PLAN FOR THIS TRIP?



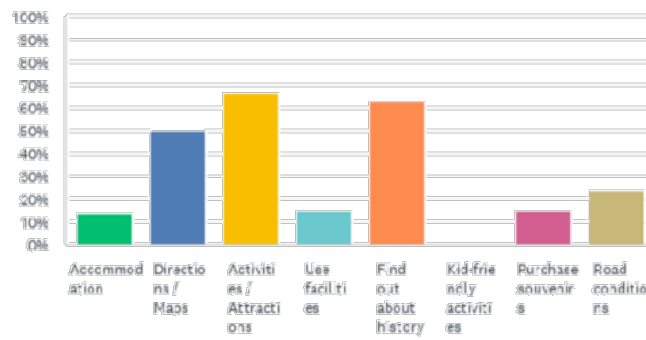
WHAT FORMS OF MEDIA DO YOU USE TO FIND INFORMATION?



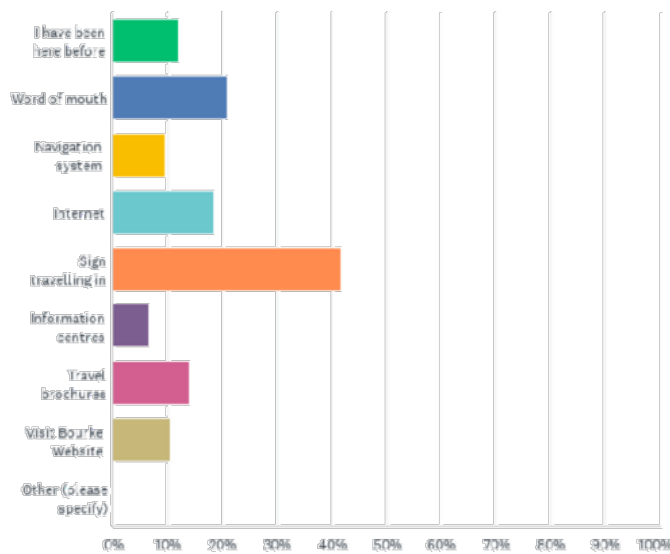
WHAT DETERMINES YOUR DECISION AS TO WHERE TO GO?



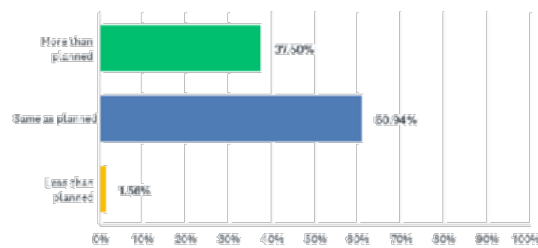
WHAT INFORMATION ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AT THE INFORMATION CENTRE?



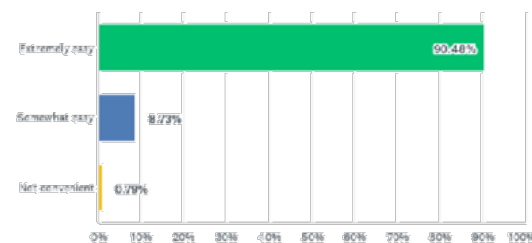
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS INFORMATION CENTRE?



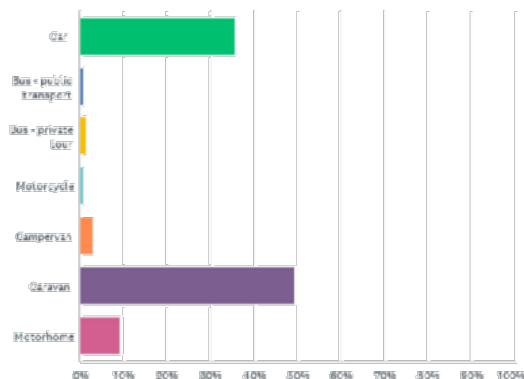
HOW DO YOU THINK THE INFORMATION THAT YOU GAINED FROM THE CENTRE MIGHT INFLUENCE HOW LONG YOU STAY AND THE ACTIVITIES YOU DO?



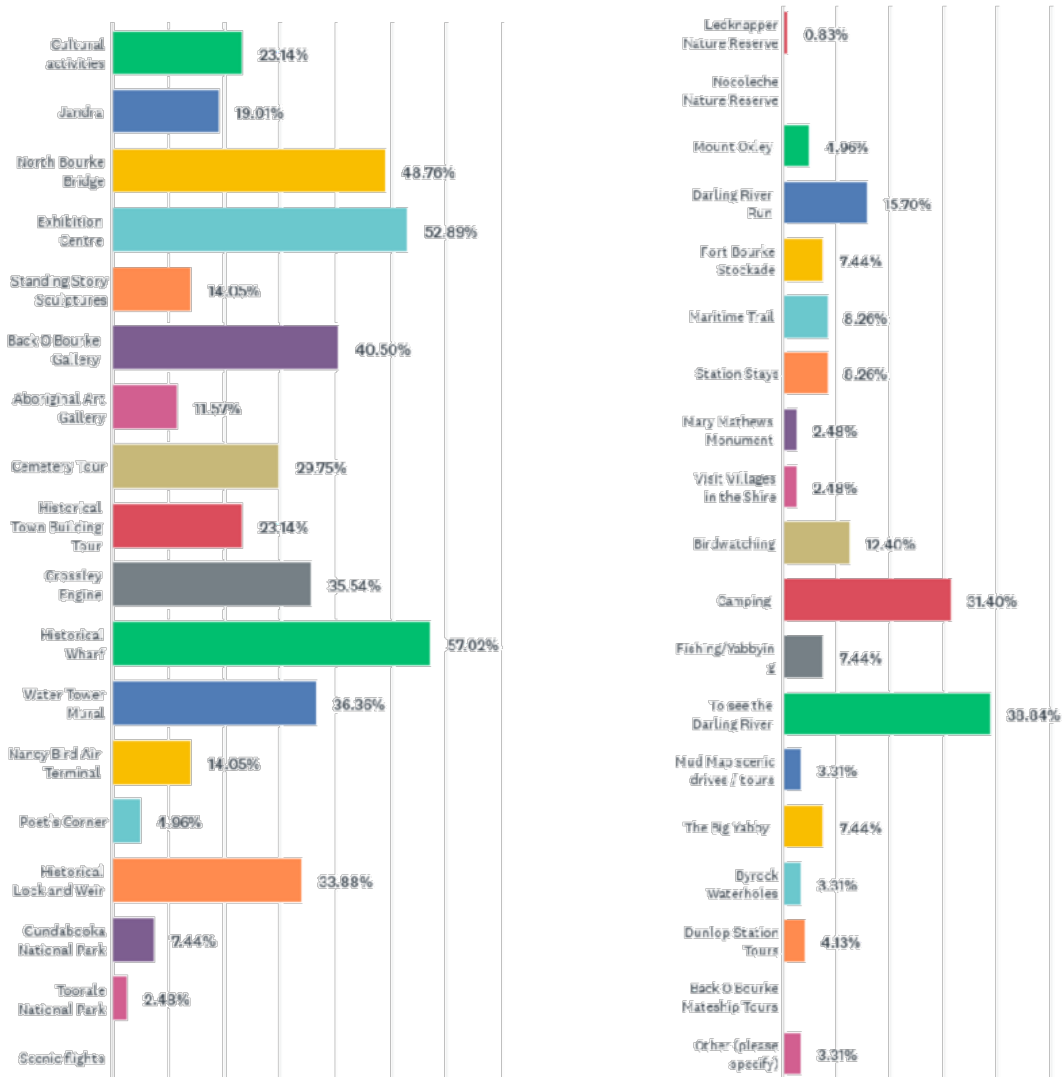
IN YOUR OPINION, HOW EASY WAS IT TO FIND OUR LOCATION?



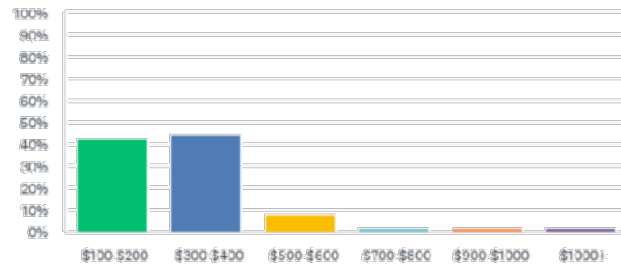
HOW DID YOU TRAVEL TO BOURKE?



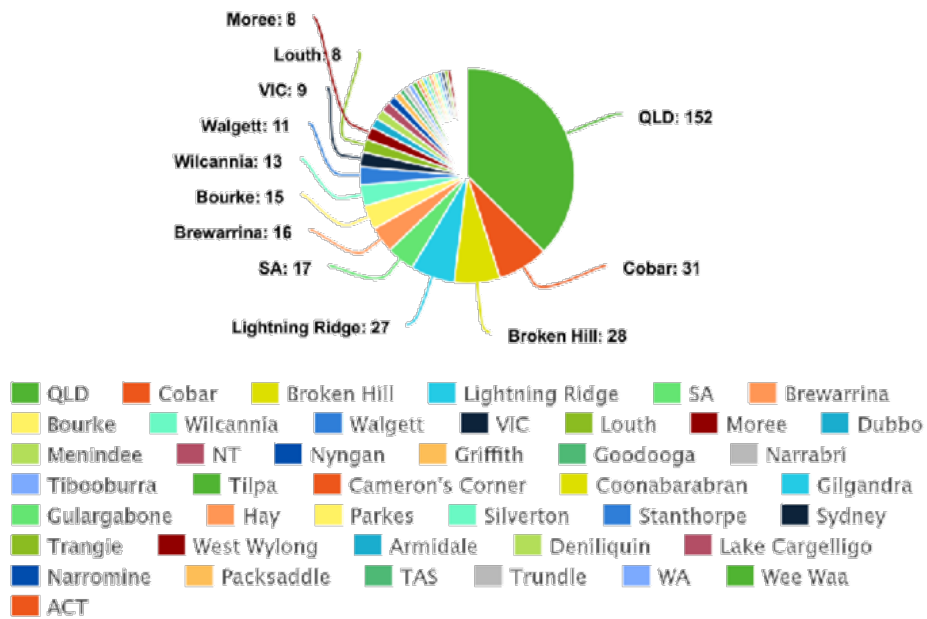
WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU DONE OR PLAN TO DO DURING YOUR STAY?



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

- Good town to visit/need a coffee shop.
- Unfortunately missed paddle boat by 1 day. Camped at Mitchell caravan park. People very friendly. Amenities clean. Happy hour around campfire great. Able to get en-suite site - fantastic door (old but clean).
- Bronwyn was a delight to do business with friendly , very friendly, informative and a great help.
- Loved the people the staff all paddle boat the scenery it all great. The staff the people very friendly and helpful.
- Very happy with Kidman camp accommodation Enjoy all other attractions Would come back again.
😊
- Open the cafe; clean up the town and housing.
- Weir - illegible information board, Poets corner - illegible information board. Would be great to have a talking app providing details of some of the notable people.
- Would have stayed longer but no decent free camps which makes everything too expensive for a good holiday.
- Caravan park quiet small and have trouble obtaining site as we had to have electricity as had problems with appliances unexpected.
- Kidman camp great. Local aboriginal tour would be good. We got good info from a local of things to see. Update the information in Poet's corner- currently they are unreadable.
- Thank you, great service at the visitor centre and good time in Bourke.
- Disliked the initial 20min film production. Liked the stories on headphones. Signs - VERY DIFFICULT coming in from Walgett. 1 sign 200metres. Only on way back after thinking this was wrong, did I see a sign - 1klm Judy at caravan park was welcoming. Lots of good info. SUGGESTIONS - Percy Hobson brochure - the street address. Same with Cemetery tour. Have more on local products. - Don't know what Bourke's main industries are. Toilets within the Back O Bourke Centre.
- Caravan park (North Bourke) needs dump site.
- Great town, clean and friendly. Great bakery.
- Over all excellent will plan to come to back in future years.
- Enjoyed views of the birds and animals by the road, the cotton farms and the wildflowers.
- May's Bend- brilliant. Made nervous about break ins at Kidman's.
- Accommodation at Oxford Hotel best described as clumsy and poorly designed.
- More Free Camping 🏕️ and locations.
- Great Service and facilities
- Bourke was / is a lovely interesting town to visit. Will definitely come back when time allows.
- We are doing the darling run and therefore we're disappointed we can't actually access the junction of the darling/ Bogarde rivers. Otherwise we're really enjoying Bourke!
- Really enjoyed this town.
- There were unfortunately a number of planned activities that were not open or operating eg steamboat, poets corner.
- Stayed at Mitchell caravan park and it's very good, unfortunately rained prevented some activity, but overall enjoyed our stay.

BOBEC Website Statistics – August 2024



Overview



Aug 1, 2024 - Aug 31, 2024

Total users
3.7K
↑ 1.2%

New users
3.6K
↑ 1.1%

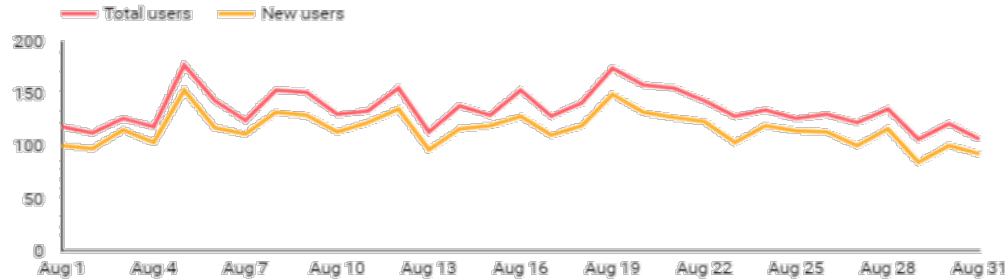
Sessions per user
1.3
↑ 5.1%

Page views
10K
↑ 1.9%

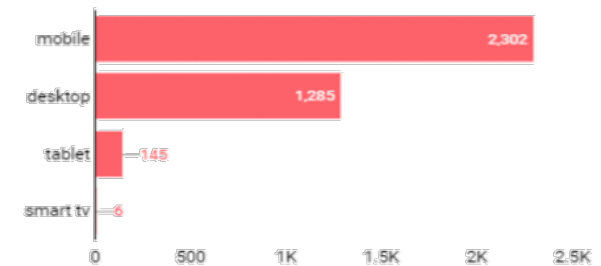
Conversions
485
0.0%

- Device category
- Country
- User source / medium

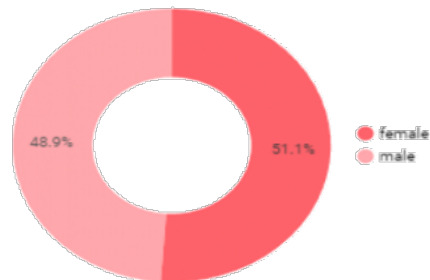
Total users



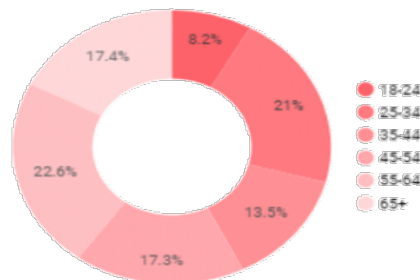
Users by Device category



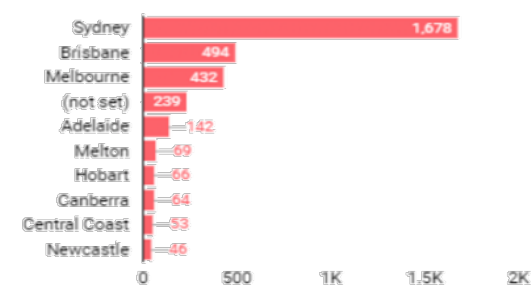
Users by Gender



Users by Age



Users by City



21.11 TOURISM AND EVENTS ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

File Number: 3283
Author: Ben Nott, Coordinator Tourism Operations
Authoriser: Melanie Milgate, Manager Economic Development
Attachments: 1. BOBEC Statistics - September 2024
 2. BOBEC Website Statistics - September 2024

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 September 2024, the Tourism and Events Team participated in the following activities:

Back O’ Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre

Performance Indicator	August 2024	September 2024	Trend	% Change
Visitor Numbers	3002	4450	+1448	48.23%
Email Enquiries	434	322	-112	(25.81%)
Incoming Calls	539	512	-27	(5.00%)
Website Enquiries	3738	2932	-806	(21.56%)
Exhibition Tickets	826	604	-222	(26.88%)
PV Jandra Tickets	568	481	-87	(15.32%)
PV Jandra Cruises	25	24	-1	(4.00%)
Café Turnover (ex GST)	Closed for extensions			
Café Event Catering	7	7	0	0%
Functions	7	5	-2	(28.57%)
Mt Oxley Tickets	157	159	+2	1.27%
Tour Groups	3	2	-1	(33.33%)

Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre (BOBEC)

BOBEC operated 7 days per week in September 2024 with hours from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre Garden staff were busy during September conducting ongoing maintenance and laying turf around the café site. New garden beds were planted and had mulch applied. New lights were installed on the walkways to the Function Centre.

The Information Centre was generally busy in September.

Café and Functions

Café renovations are almost completed with a target opening date in early October.

Catering continues to be provided utilising the Function Centre kitchen. Staff catered for five (5) functions and some off site catering.

There were five (5), one (1) day functions booked in September.

PV Jandra

The PV Jandra operated for fourteen (14) days during September. There were 24 cruises and one (1) private hire.

Tour Groups

There were two (2) tour groups booked during September.

Crossley Engine

The Crossley engine was open to the public 5 days per week in September. It is estimated approximately 390 people attended during September.

Staff Training

Nil.

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	325	326	302	348	386	782	1109	816	603	609	699
Feb	271	373	391	220	282	1043	386	630	725	557	764
Mar	1051	1342	1612	1245	1274	1021	412	1389	1100	1006	1185
Apr	3146	3849	3118	3114	4024	3166	0	2387	2323	1709	2117
May	3988	4602	4073	3983	4770	3693	0	2564	2016	1713	2379
Jun	4275	5437	5199	4754	5634	4490	993	2366	2227	1971	2487
Jul	6241	6002	5941	5982	7614	6834	2570	1068	2998	2520	2402
Aug	4793	5078	4951	5051	5548	4052	1898	255	2557	2559	3002
Sep	4764	4489	4532	4246	4676	3601	3325	0	2203	2234	4450
Oct	2486	2370	2475	2463	3574	2222	5246	409	1094	1661	
Nov	671	610	1031	876	1014	1220	1989	866	710	1047	
Dec	242	272	281	255	630	860	1194	897	586	1099	
Total	32,253	34,750	33,906	32,537	39,454	32,984	19,122	13,647	19,142	18,685	

Updates and Events

Spring Holiday Activities

Bourke Shire Council, in partnership with local agencies, held multiple meetings in September to develop an exciting Spring Holiday Activities Program for the youth of Bourke. Thanks to funding from the Regional NSW Department of Youth, a variety of fun and engaging events are on offer to our community’s youth this spring.



Council shared information on the activities through social media and

in the Western Herald for a two (2) week period. Maranguka plans to update the community via a daily radio segment.

The Council will provide mentoring and activities from Josh Toole and the Black Fit Fitness team. The plans also include a Jandra cruise with food and drink supplied.

Great Aussie Road Trips

The collaboration between the Bourke Shire Council and The Kamilaroi Highway Committee plays a vital role in connecting travellers from Willow Tree to Bourke, offering a genuine outback experience. Together, the seven local government areas that comprise the Highway encourage tourists to explore and appreciate the rich narratives and attractions along the Kamilaroi Highway.



In an early 2024 meeting, the committee decided to invite the team from Channel Seven’s Great Aussie Road Trips to document each council along the Highway.



The One Road - Great Aussie Road Trips crew recently concluded their week-long adventure in Bourke, where they showcased the area's unique attractions. Their journey began with an early morning cruise on the PV Jandra, providing a peaceful introduction to the region. Following the cruise, they visited the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, diving into the area's fascinating history.

After lunch, the team ventured to Gundabooka National Park, where they highlighted the park's stunning landscapes and vibrant spring blooms. They were particularly taken with the impressive rock art and breathtaking outback scenery. The crew expressed their admiration for Bourke's beauty, and the host even mentioned his intention to return with his family to fully experience everything the area has to offer.

New Main Street Business in Bourke

Bourke's Main Street is thriving with exciting new businesses that promise to boost the local economy and foster community engagement.

The River Dreams Store, formerly known as SETCH Clothing, plans to open by mid-September, offering a diverse range of fashion, accessories, gifts, homewares, linen, footwear, and work gear. In addition, the Bourke Aboriginal Art Gallery has worked closely with the Bourke Arts Council to revamp the tourist hotspot, presenting a unique opportunity to view and purchase artworks from local artists, including paintings, weaving, ceramics, and traditional tools.



Council staff recently previewed the new Yellowbelly Barbershop, which will operate Tuesday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm and welcomes walk-in customers.

Complementing this, the Yellowbelly Studio will provide a variety of services including free one-on-one sessions, open studio workshops, guitar lessons, podcasting, and dry hire for community organisations, making it a valuable resource for the Bourke community.

These new businesses are not just good news for the local economy but also for residents and tourists looking for fresh destinations to visit and enjoy.

Financial Implications

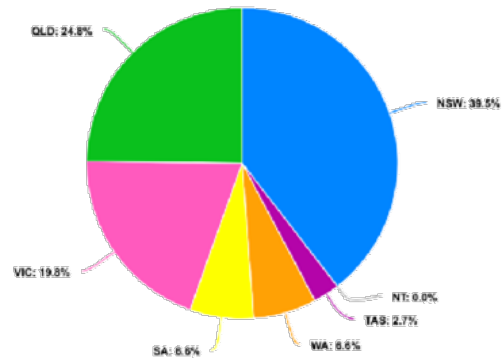
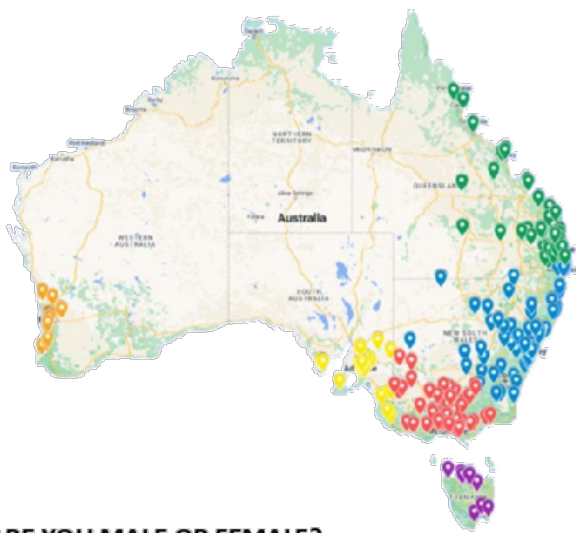
There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

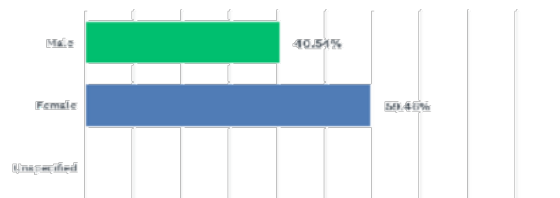
That the report of the Coordinator Tourism regarding Tourism and Events Activity for September 2024, as presented to Council on Monday, 28 October 2024, be noted.

BOBEC Statistics - September 2024

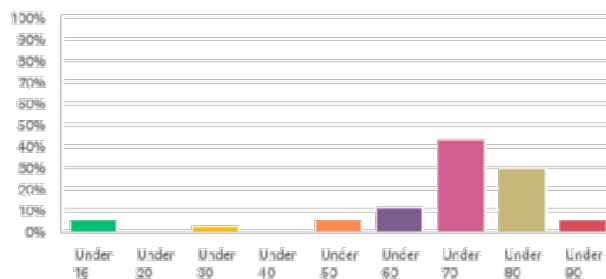
WHAT IS YOUR HOME POSTCODE?



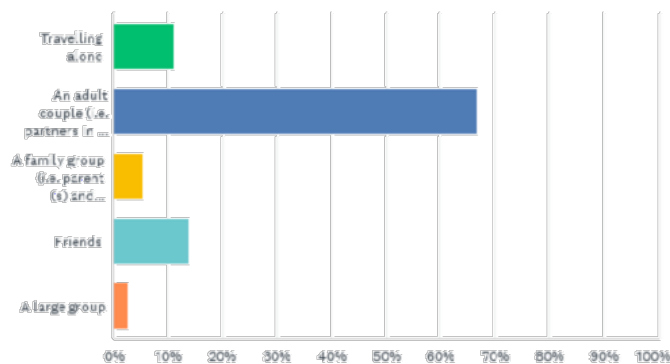
ARE YOU MALE OR FEMALE?



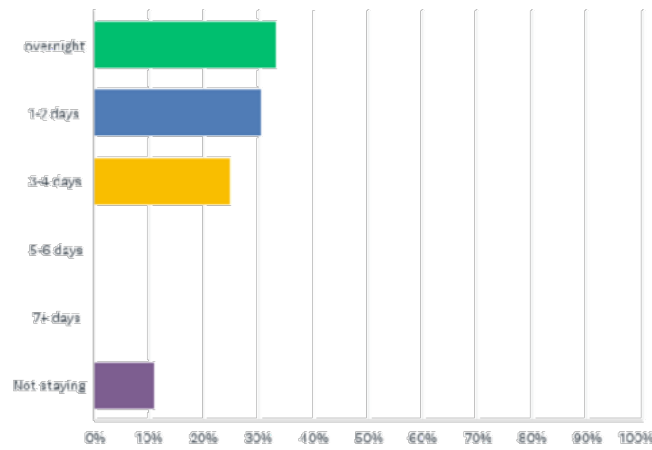
WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



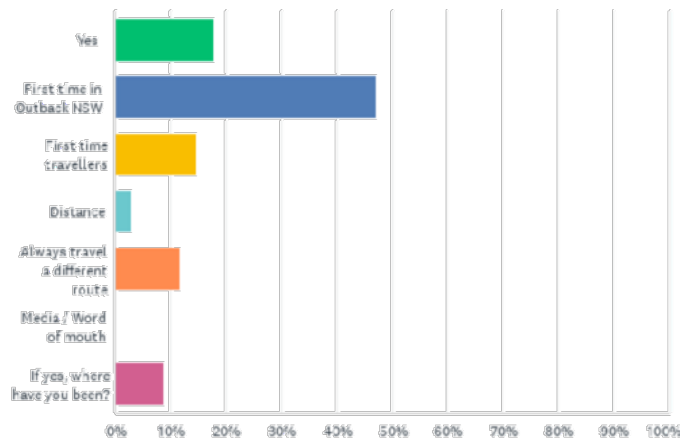
HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PARTY?



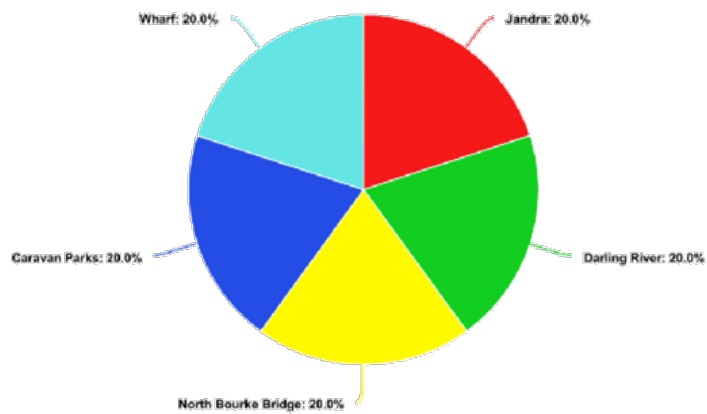
HOW LONG ARE YOU STAYING FOR?



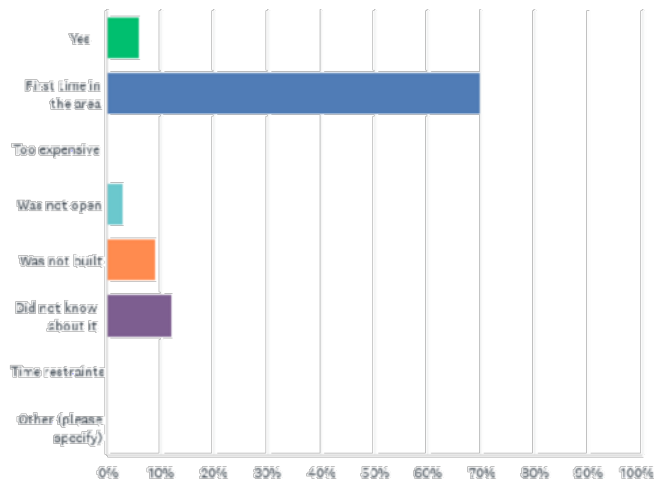
HAVE YOU BEEN TO BOURKE BEFORE?



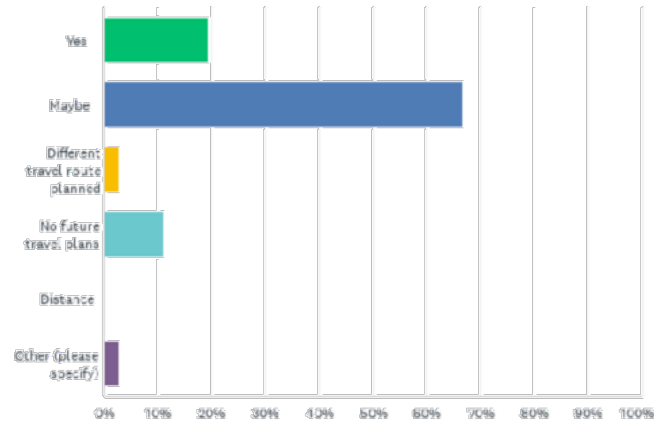
IF YES, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



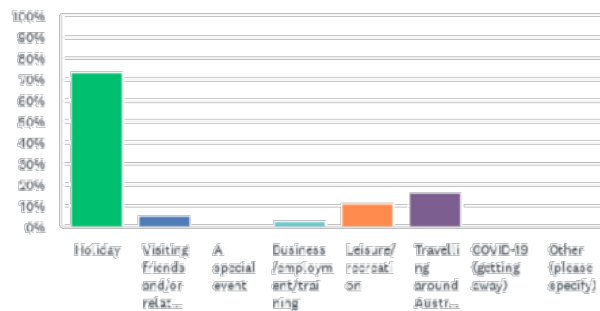
HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH BACK O BOURKE CENTRE?



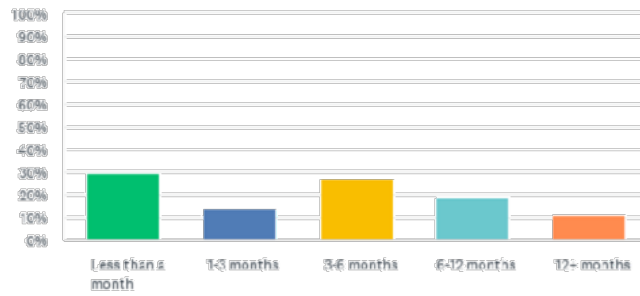
WILL YOU BE RETURNING TO BOURKE?



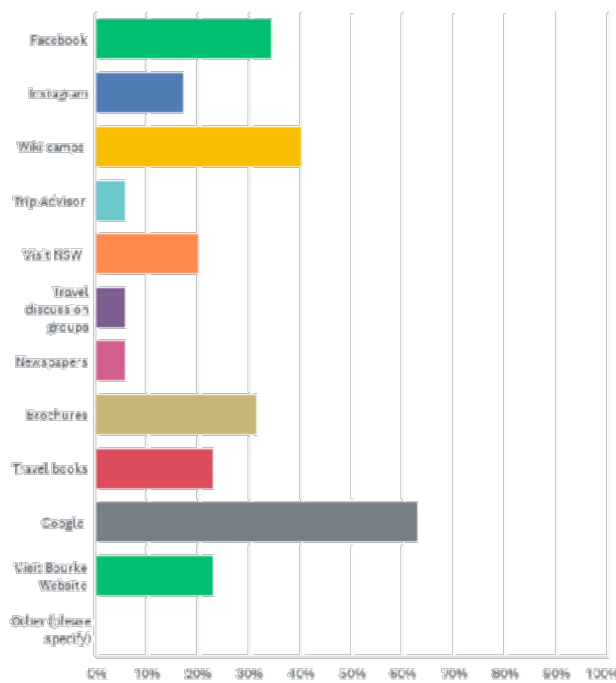
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP?



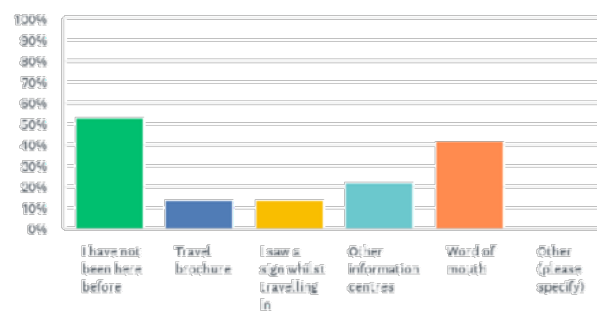
HOW LONG AGO DID YOU PLAN FOR THIS TRIP?



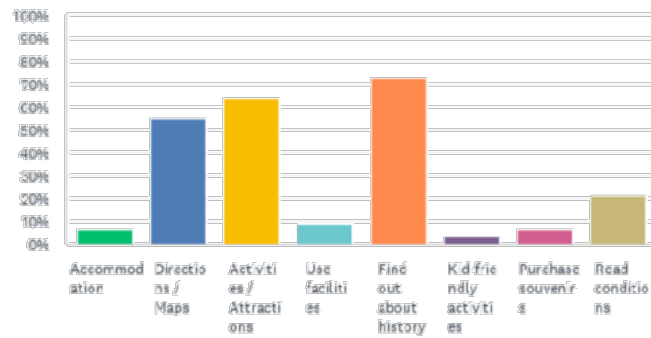
WHAT FORMS OF MEDIA DO YOU USE TO FIND INFORMATION?



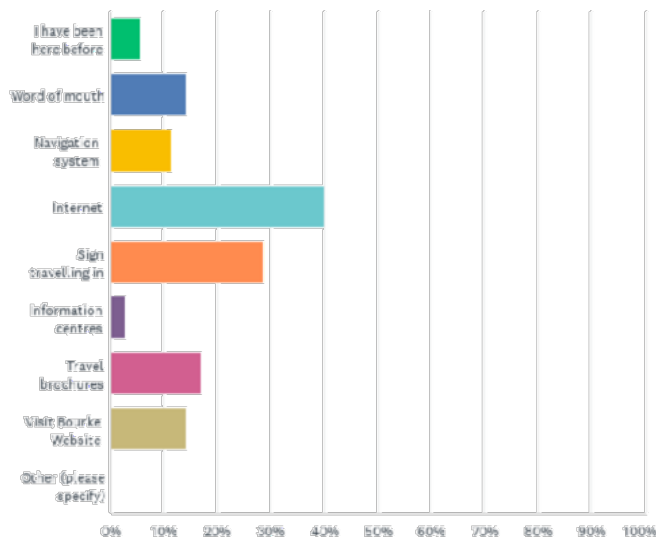
WHAT DETERMINES YOUR DECISION AS TO WHERE TO GO?



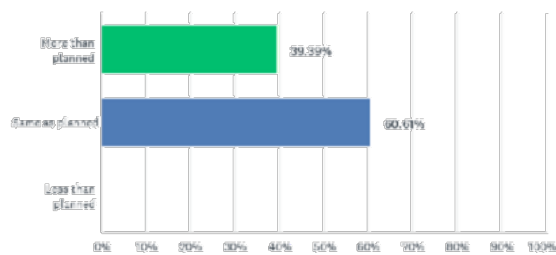
WHAT INFORMATION ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AT THE INFORMATION CENTRE?



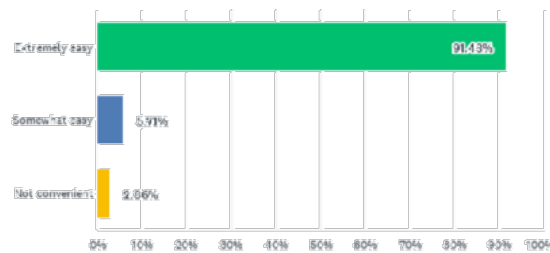
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS INFORMATION CENTRE?



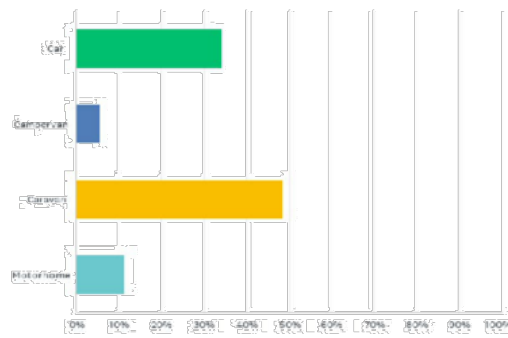
HOW DO YOU THINK THE INFORMATION THAT YOU GAINED FROM THE CENTRE MIGHT INFLUENCE HOW LONG YOU STAY AND THE ACTIVITIES YOU DO?



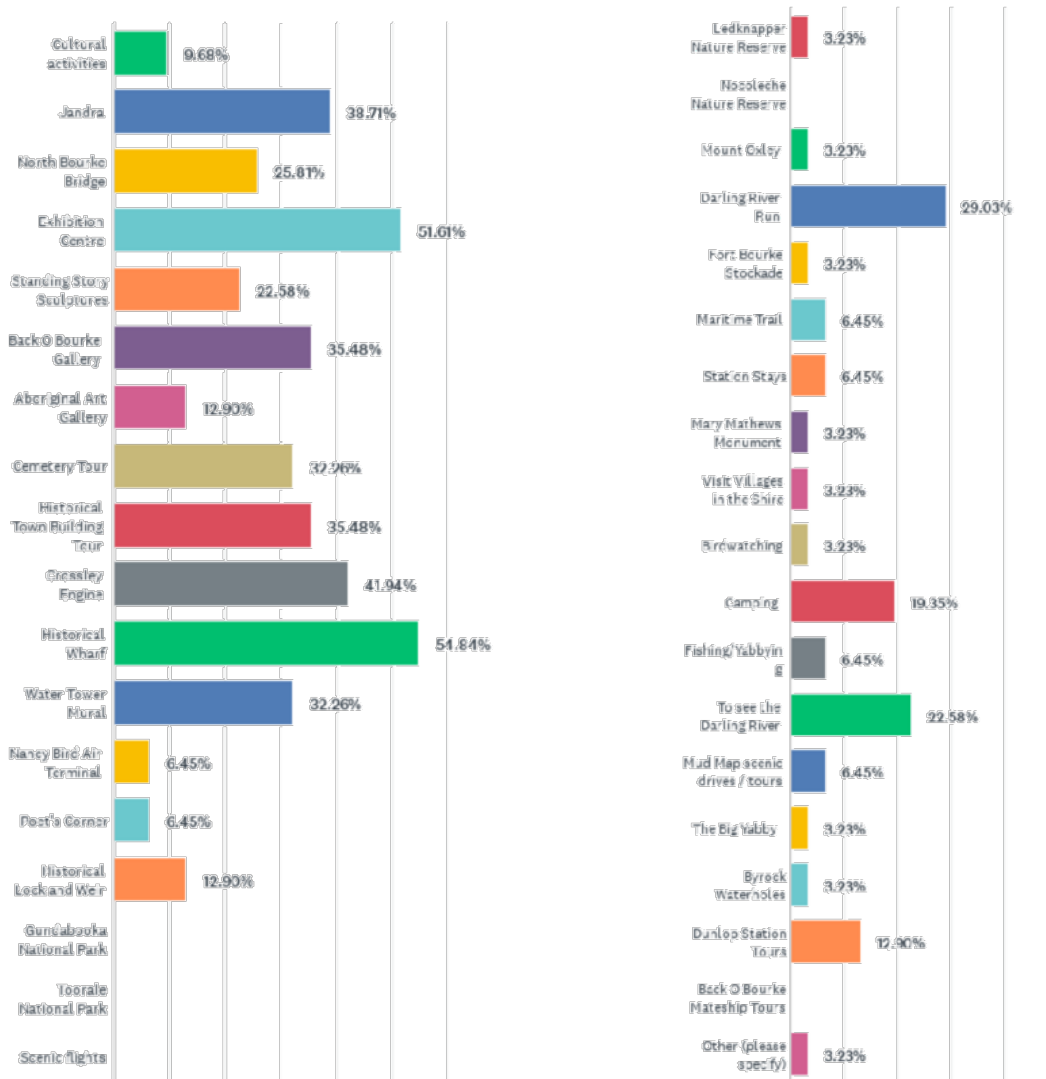
IN YOUR OPINION, HOW EASY WAS IT TO FIND OUR LOCATION?



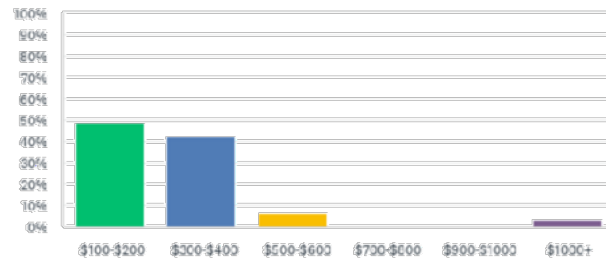
HOW DID YOU TRAVEL TO BOURKE?



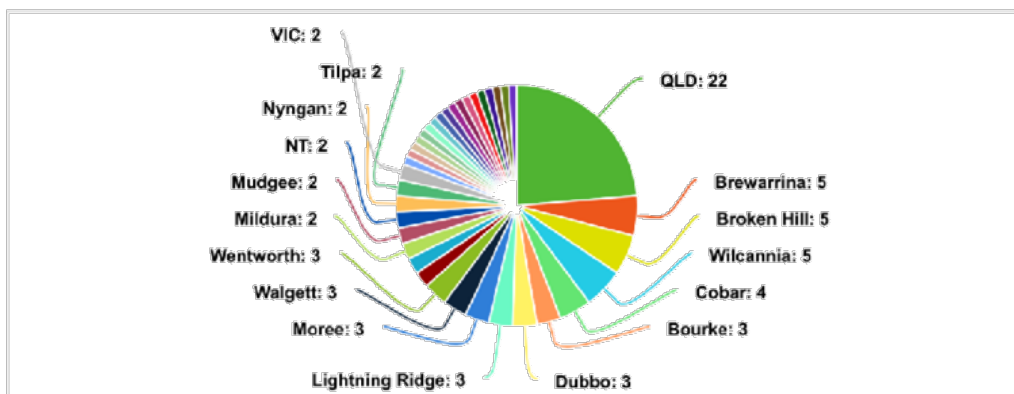
WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU DONE OR PLAN TO DO DURING YOUR STAY?



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

- Bourke is such a pretty town. The flowers and gardens. The history, the buildings are beautiful.
- Fantastic facility and town :)
- Lovely staff very helpful :)
- DUNLOP STATION this tour is definitely worth every dollar(\$20) per person. This includes morning tea, generous portions, and an extensive insight into the history of the station, along with the current owners purchase and journey, to get it where it is today. The tour includes the main homestead, the property's historic store and an awesome wool shearing shed. Highly recommend. Taking a tour helps the owner for future repair/restoration to preserve Bourke's district of wool production history. MT OXLEY Fantastic views, the last part of the road that takes you to the top is narrow with no place to pass another car. Maybe sounding a horn throughout this part allows another vehicle to hear this before they embark on that part.
- Kidman Caravan Park was excellent. Amenities, pool, location amongst the river gums – idealic!
- Info centre very helpful and happy.
- Caravan park is good, called in a good many years ago and am finding town very good to visit with a few more attractions.
- Mitchell caravan park excellent!
- Stayed at Mitchell caravan park, excellent, clean and lovely owners.

BOBEC Website Statistics – September 2024



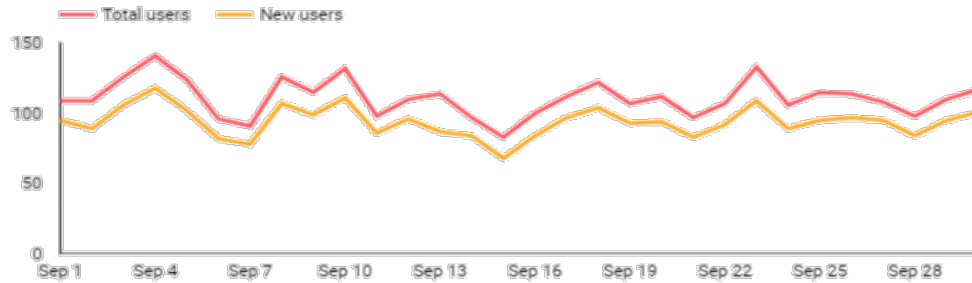
Overview

Calendar icon | Sep 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024

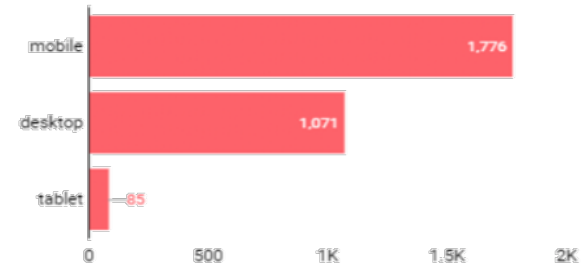
Total users	New users	Sessions per user	Page views	Conversions
2.9K	2.8K	1.3	8K	485
↓ -19.4%	↓ -20.0%	↑ 2.2%	↓ -18.6%	↑ 1.5%

- Device category
- Country
- User source / medium

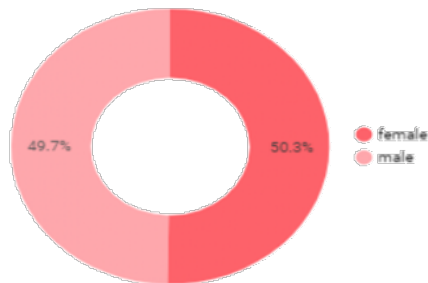
Total users



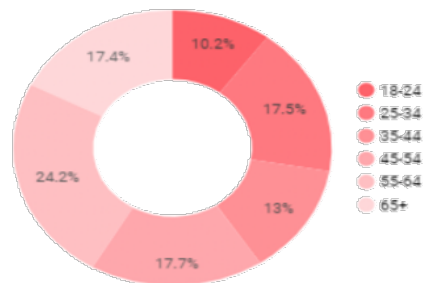
Users by Device category



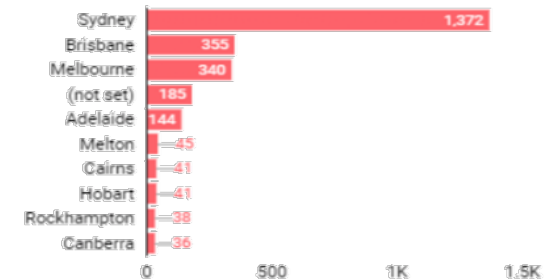
Users by Gender



Users by Age



Users by City



ROAM

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 Deconstruction of Approaches to North Bourke Bridge**

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.

22.2 * Tender for Jockey's Facility - Renshaw Oval, Bourke**

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.

22.3 * Mayoral Minute - General Managers Performance Review**

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).

