



**BOURKE  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

“From the  
General Manager’s Desk –  
31 October 2024

**Back O’ Bourke Cafe**

Following the completion of upgrading works, the Back O' Bourke Café at the Back O' Bourke Information and Exhibition Centre has reopened its doors, offering both locals and visitors a warm and welcoming spot to relax and enjoy a coffee or a meal. The recent renovations have transformed the Café into a vibrant hub, perfect for catching up with friends or for simply taking the time to unwind in your own company. Some of the features of the revitalised facility include:

**Outdoor Deck and Shade Structure:** The Café’s new deck area is designed for those who appreciate the serenity of the outdoors. It is an inviting space where you can enjoy your coffee surrounded by the lush greenery of the gardens at the Information and Exhibition Centre.

**Enhanced Indoor Facilities:** Inside the Café, the kitchen has been transformed with the installation of new and modern equipment, ensuring that every meal served is fresh and delicious. The revised layout of the Café allows for a more efficient dining experience, accommodating more guests comfortably.

**Diverse Menu Offerings:** The Café’s menu has been revised and now includes a variety of breakfast, lunch, and morning tea selections, all crafted to please a wide array of differing tastes. Whether you're a fan of hearty meals or light bites, you'll find something to love at the Back O' Bourke Café.

**Exclusive Coffee Blend:** Coffee enthusiasts will be delighted by the exclusive Back O' Bourke blend, a unique creation that promises to be a highlight of your visit.

**Landscaped Gardens:** After your meal, visitors are encouraged to take a leisurely stroll through the Centre’s beautifully landscaped gardens. It's a perfect way to complete your visit, offering a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

The Café is open daily from 9am to 3pm with Sharon Donn and her staff eagerly waiting to welcome all to experience the revitalized space.

**Aerial Baiting Program**

Western Local Land Services is set to undertake its spring aerial baiting program for the control of wild dogs. This is scheduled to occur from yesterday, 30 October, until 13 November 2024 with 1080 (ten eighty) poison meat baits issued along pre-determined bait lines, with the rate of application being 10 baits per kilometre. The area being covered through the program is from Enngonia in the north-east, to Broken Hill in the west, near Pooncarie in the south-west and to Mt Hope in the south-east. Following the aerial baiting campaign, ground baiting will be carried out.

To find out more about the program or managing pest animals, contact a Western Local Land Services biosecurity officer on the phone at: 1300 795 299.

## **Net Zero Emissions**

The words “Net Zero Emissions” have become a regularly used phrase across society in recent times. The question is, however, what does “Net Zero Emissions” mean? I considered it would be good to share some information with readers as to its meaning and what Net Zero Emissions means to Council.

“Net zero emissions” refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. The Climate Council of Australia suggests that we think of “Net Zero Emissions” like a set of scales: “producing greenhouse gas emissions tips the scales, and we want to get those scales back into balance, which means no more greenhouse gas can be added to the atmosphere in any given year than is taken out.”

The NSW Government has committed to reach “net zero emissions” by 2050 (OEH 2016). Achieving “net zero emissions” will slow down the increase in global temperatures and the associated increased likelihood of climate-related risks for natural and human systems. To achieve this reduction in emissions, action is required by governments, communities, business and individuals.

Working towards a “net zero emissions” target is more than ‘just’ meeting our obligations. It will help society drive the transition to a cleaner, more efficient and resilient society. As the world we live in transitions and moves to “net zero emissions”, Australia is part of the global transformation of the world’s energy system. This will attract investment and job opportunities in emerging industries such as advanced energy, transport, carbon farming and environmental services.

Councils are uniquely positioned to help the drive towards net zero emissions through their connection to local communities, and their existing mandate to provide support and infrastructure to residents and businesses. Net zero related actions undertaken by respective councils across the sector include carbon-positive energy efficient buildings, smarter infrastructure, renewable energy technologies, circular economy waste solutions, sustainable transport services and increasing canopy cover and green restoration projects.

## **Illegal Rubbish Dumping**

Council officers will be targeting illegal dumping in and around Bourke in coming weeks and on an ongoing basis. Officers will be monitoring known rubbish dumping hot spots and issuing on the spot fines to offenders. Several measures will be introduced by Council including the use of drones, surveillance cameras and increased patrols of known dumping areas – all to combat illegal dumping. Residents dumping household waste are warned that “fines” await them if they opt to ditch their trash on vacant land, rather than at the Bourke Waste Management Facility, located in Gorrell Ave, Bourke.

Illegal dumping causes significant environmental damage to the land, and I would encourage residents to make use of the waste services and facilities that Council provides to the community, rather than resorting to illegally dumping their waste. Council provides many opportunities for the responsible disposal of waste including free green waste and e-waste (which includes old computers and televisions) disposal at the Bourke Waste Management facility.

## **Bush Fire Risk Management Plan**

Rural Fire agencies and land managers are currently developing a Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for the Barwon/Darling Bush Fire Management Committee area.

To address how the bush risk is managed across the Shire with the most appropriate responses and strategies in place to best protect the community, the community is invited to participate in the process by having their say. The new plan will map and describe the level of bush fire risk across an area and set out the treatment strategies to reduce the risk of bush fires and better protect the community over a five (5) year period.

To gather the required feedback from the community to assist with the risk planning, the Barwon Darling Bushfire Management Committee has developed a short, 5 minute "Have Your Say" survey on how bush fire risk is to be managed over the next five (5) years. All residents and landholders residing in the Shire are both invited and encouraged to participate in the confidential survey which can be accessed at the following address - <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees/barwon-darling>

The survey is available until Monday, 4 November 2024. Should you require further information on the survey or the Risk Management Plan, please don't hesitate to contact officers at the Bourke Fire Control Centre, Far West Team on telephone 02 6872 4023.

**Quote: "When underpinned by wisdom and good faith, democracy has, I believe, an extraordinary capacity for innovation, compromise and adaptability, as well as stability."** - King Charles in a speech at Parliament House, Sydney as part of his recent visit.