

# **BOURKE LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT**

**NOVEMBER 2019**



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# Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional lands for all Aboriginal people, we respect all Elders past, present and future. We ask all people that walk, work and live on traditional Aboriginal lands, to be respectful of culture and traditions, we stand together side by side, united with respect for land for oneself and for one another.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this document may contain images of people who have died.

Rock Art- Gundabooka



# Foreword

Bourke identifies as the Gateway to the Outback and is a focus for industry diversification and growth in both the agriculture sector and tourism in the Far West Region.

We will have opportunities to diversify our economy, including development linked to the Darling River Meats Abattoir and growth in experiential tourism.

The challenge is to plan for change in our community profile in consultation with the community in a way that enhances the character of our local area.

North Bourke



# What does this strategy do?

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for the economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. The LSPS has also taken account of land use planning in adjacent councils. It also works with Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The LSPS gives effect to the Far West Regional Plan 2036, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. The LSPS planning priorities, directions and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community's broader goals. The LSPS document sets the land use direction for the area.

## Monitoring

Council will monitor, review and report on its LSPS annually to ensure that its planning priorities are being achieved. Council will use the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework under the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of monitoring implementation of the LSPS.

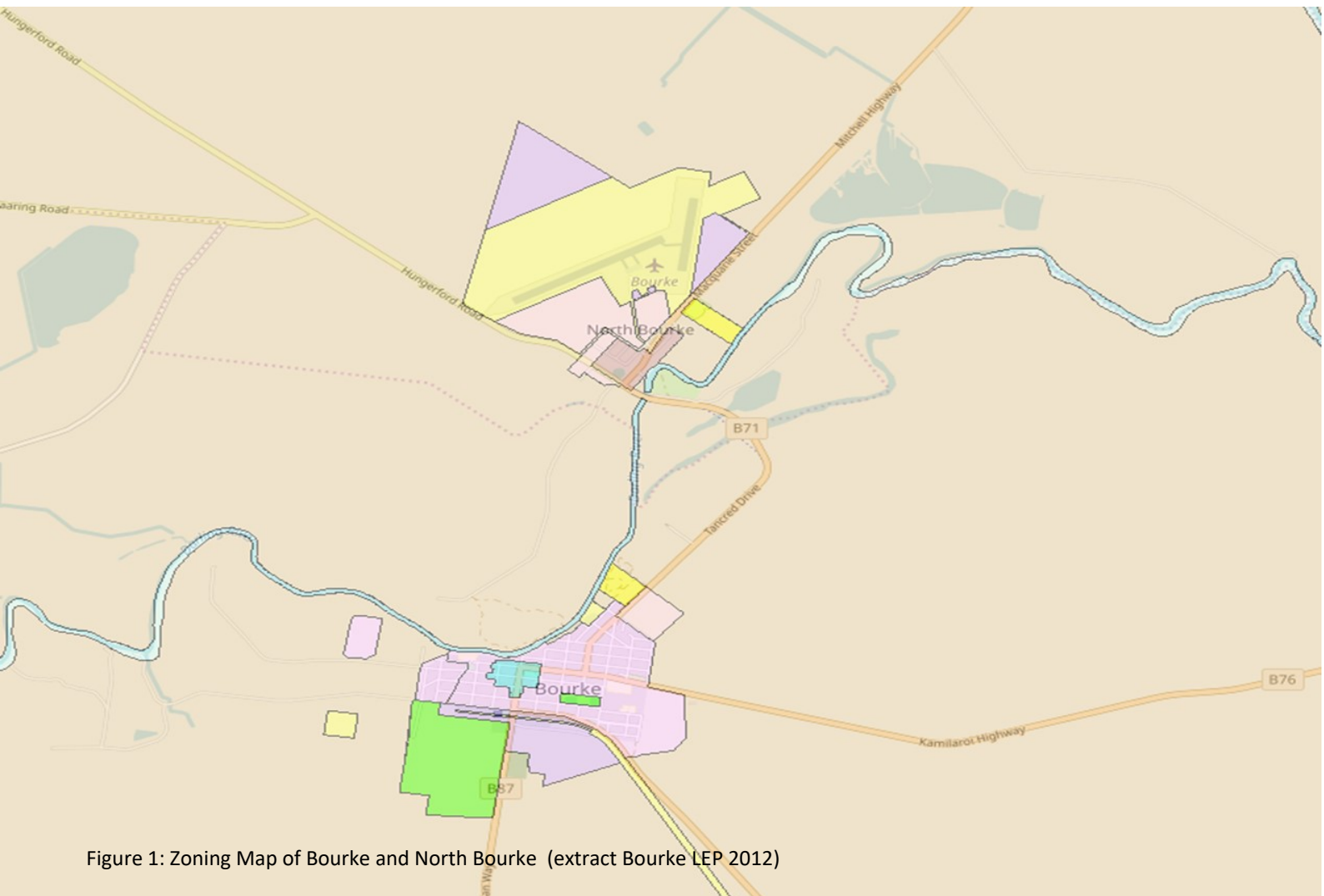


Figure 1: Zoning Map of Bourke and North Bourke (extract Bourke LEP 2012)

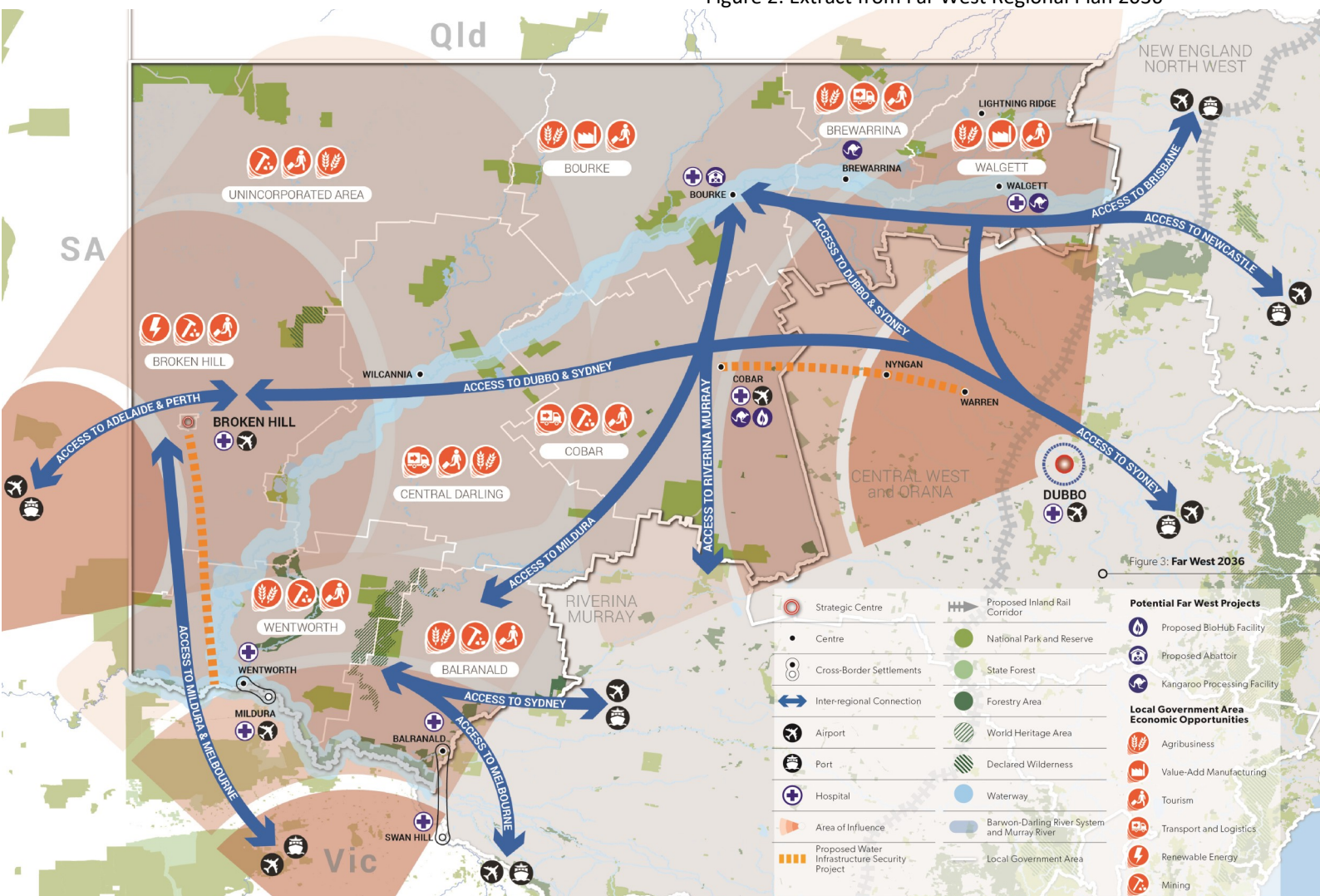
# The Far West Region

The focus for the future of the Far West is to leverage its competitive advantages and unlock the potential for unique economic opportunities. With vast distances, small populations and challenges across government and regional boundaries, all tiers of government and the region's service providers face significant challenges.

Bourke has a strong connection to the northern area of the Far West, as well as the vast outback of Queensland. The eastern area comprises Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar and Walgett Local Government Areas and is known as the Gateway to outback NSW. It is recognised for its productive and diverse agriculture and mining sectors. The eastern area is home to approximately 34 percent of the Far West population. The local centres of Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett and Lightning Ridge provide business, office, retail, health, education, arts, culture, recreation and entertainment uses and support smaller settlements across the area.

This region also has a strong cross-regional relationship with the Orana region, and residents access higher-order health, education, retail, commercial and transport services in Dubbo.

Figure 2: Extract from Far West Regional Plan 2036



# Our Unique Shire

Bourke Shire Council (Shire) is located in North Western NSW and covers an area of 43,116 square kilometres, this makes Bourke Shire Local Government Area bigger than countries like, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium. There is 1,850km's of road networks that run through our Council area, maintaining these road networks is essential for accessibility across the Shire. Notably our population density is less than 0.07 people per one square kilometre, highlighting the sparse area in which we govern and aim to sustain and foster over the next 20 years. Bourke is a central hub for a large proportion of Western NSW. The services that are provided in our Shire are essential to support the livelihoods of the immediate and surrounding areas due to our severe remoteness from major centres. Our closest major centre is Dubbo, which is 362km away, this distance notably recognises the value of ensuring retail supplies are available in the Shire to support local industry and residents daily needs.

Bourke Shire has an incredibly rich and diverse Aboriginal heritage resource that dates from 50,000 years ago to the present day. This heritage should be celebrated and protected into the future. The Bourke Shire is part of the Riverine Region of the Western Division of New South Wales which was traditionally the home of around fifteen Aboriginal groups (following Horton (2) 1994: 946). The boundaries of the land they occupied do not align with the artificial boundaries of the shire and were defined largely by rivers and landforms, as well as by access to the diverse seasonal resources of the environment. The people of the region managed the environment and were traditionally hunters and gatherers as well as seed harvesters (Goodall 1999: 181). The traditional owners of the land now known as the Bourke LGA consisted of the Barkindji people, Bardaji people, Murrawari people, Ngiyampaa (Ngemba) people and Nyirra people. Bourke LGA possesses a unique and plentiful Aboriginal heritage resource with approximately 1,900 sites recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) AHIMS database for the Bourke Shire. These records are only those places that have been registered with AHIMS; and it is known that many more exist. The Bourke Aboriginal Heritage Study was completed in 2019.



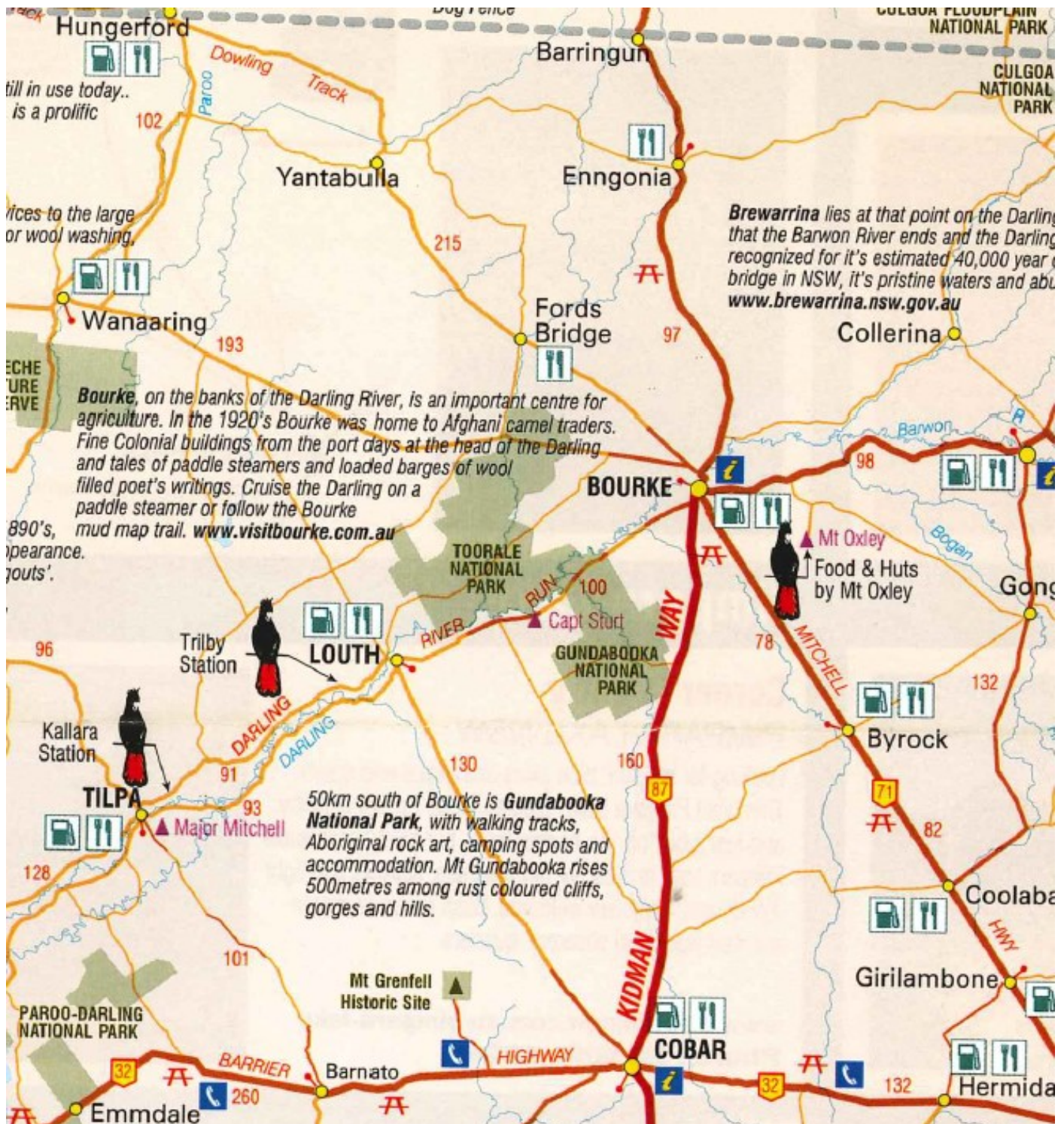


Figure 3: Features of Bourke and Surrounding Area, Bourke Visitor Information

# Bourke

The town of Bourke is located on the banks of the Darling River and is the intersection of three significant cross-country transport routes - the Kidman Way, Mitchell Highway and Kamilaroi Highway (see figure3). The Shire is considered a gateway into south west Queensland and the far west of New South Wales and is home to small villages including; Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Wanaaring and Louth. Bourke supports all the nearby communities as the core service centre for daily supplies and community services. Transport infrastructure services are limited to road and air in Bourke. The highways cross through Bourke, provide key linkages to major cities including Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Darwin and Melbourne.

The Darling River is the heart of the Bourke community, providing economic and environmental sustainability to the township. Sheep for wool and meat have largely dominated local industry, however in recent years producers are capitalising on the international growth in goat meat consumption. In 2017/2018 NSW supplied and processed approximately 900,000 goats (DPI, 2019). The recent development of a small stock abattoir, approximately 11km north of Bourke, has recognised this growth industry and provides local producers with an accessible processing plant, optimising time and resources required to get stock to market. Whilst the agriculture sector has changed over the years, primary production remains the significant contributor within the community, sustaining the local economy. There is industrial land available at north Bourke near the airport.

Tourism is another major economic industry in Bourke. The community's remote location in Far West NSW, rich connection to Aboriginal culture and identity as the last stop before the "real outback" is a key attraction for many tourists. The town's long history as a primary agricultural community, initially as a major wool port, is also a key attraction. The Shire offers the local and visiting community with awe-inspiring skies, dramatic sunsets and starry nights on Australian floodplain landscapes are just a few things that can be enjoyed while camping at Darling River campground (Yapara Paaka Thuru). Bourke hosts an annual Easter Festival which includes the local races, an Easter egg hunt, wool bale rolling, and old boys' game and varying Friday afternoon festivals, with family activities the core characteristic of the event. The Jandra, paddle steamer and historic North Bourke Bridge are physical attractions that are available to the public throughout the year. Improving the structural integrity of the North Bourke Bridge would provide pedestrian access to an iconic bridge as well as increase pedestrian access to North Bourke camping ground and sites along the river corridor.

Supporting the current tourism industry and promoting future opportunities will enhance the sustainability of the Bourke economy as discussed in the Tourism section on page 17.

Bourke Main Street





# Our Villages

Bourke Shire Council boasts 6 villages which support the Bourke Shire. The presence of villages supports the social and economic prosperity of the Shire providing residents across the vast area with a social hub and essential services. Council recognises the difference between the villages and their longevity and will continue to proactively support communities that are engaged in fostering a prosperous village. Local pubs are essential social infrastructure for the community. Securing the infrastructure needs to sustain current levels of service is paramount to the sustainability of our Villages. It is noted that the villages do not have access to potable water and many roads are unsealed which represents a prominent infrastructure limitation.

## Louth (population – 43)

100km's South West of Bourke located on the Darling River is Louth (see figure3). Louth is well known across NSW for the annual Louth races. Every August, between 5,000 and 8,000 people visit each year for up to two weeks, attracting the local community, including grey nomads and the young race goers, who camp throughout the village. Whilst the races are a positive event for Louth, there is increasing pressure on available land, within the village area for caravans to park.



Infrastructure and utilities to support such a huge influx of people during the duration of Louth races adds additional pressure on Council. Louth is situated on the tourist route known as the Darling River Run which draws tourists to town each year. The historic cemetery and monument for Mary Matthews are also key attractions Council hopes to promote in the future. The local primary school provides school aged children with face to face learning, a key service in the community. Health services are provided by the RFDS, with a monthly clinic for residents. Louth is rich in family history and remains in the ownership of local families. This characteristic promotes sustainability within the village, which is strongly recognised and supported by Council.

## Enngonia (population – 148)

100km's north of Bourke located on the Kidman Way is Enngonia (see figure3). Enngonia is the largest village in the Bourke Shire LGA and is well serviced by key infrastructure, including community facilities, police, health care service once a week, a primary school and preschool which offers face to face learning. Each September the community boasts a horse racing event which attracts more than 1,000 people for a fun, family-orientated day out.



Enngonia Hotel

## Fords Bridge (population – 54)

Fords Bridge is a small and isolated village, 70km's north west of Bourke (see figure 3). The village sports a local cricket team as the core recreational activity. Like many communities in the Bourke LGA, the pub holds the social fabric of the community. The village is the site of the old Salmon Ford Hotel which once served as a Cobb & Co change station where the legendary stage coaches swapped out their horses for a fresh team.

Fords Bridge Hotel



## Byrock (population – 50)

Byrock Rock Holes



Byrock is located 80km's south east of Bourke on the Mitchell Highway (see figure 3).

Byrock is home to a largely transient population that rely on employment on local properties and at the local pub. The hotel is a popular watering hole which also offers camping facilities and bushwalks through the scrub. The historically sheep producing land is currently utilising the Carbon Credits Scheme with several properties being utilised for carbon farming under long term leases. With dense scrub land and extensive population of Mulga trees this is a trend which supports the natural environment.

Byrock is home to the Aboriginal Heritage Rock Holes, that are about 400 metres west of the Mitchell Highway, on the road north of the Mulga Creek Hotel. The Rock Holes represent a prominent tourist feature for the village. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently developing education products on the interpretation of the site's history which will be a terrific opportunity for the community. Tourist accommodation and Facilities are available at the local pub.

## Wanaaring (population – 140)

Wanaaring and Barringun are the most isolated villages in the Bourke LGA, located 190km's West of Bourke (see figure 3). Wanaaring is the corner hub for people travelling through to the corner country (Unincorporated Area). Located on the Paroo River, Wanaaring is also close to the Paroo-Darling National Park, Nocolèche Nature Reserve and Currawinya National Park. The local community is serviced by a health centre, police station, primary school, general store and caravan park, as well as regular clinics from the Dubbo based Royal Flying Doctor Service. A notable aspect of Wanaaring is the mobile children's service which provides early childhood education for children before they start school. The Mobile attends central venues in remote North West NSW and South West QLD covering an area of 36,000 square kilometres, about the area of Tasmania. The area is statistically the most isolated region in NSW.

Wanaaring Main Street



Wanaaring is isolated during wet periods which has been recognised by Council through \$11m road upgrades being delivered to seal the primary road corridor. This will increase the accessibility for residents throughout the year.

Primary production is the backbone of the village's economy, however in addition to sheep and goats, bee keeping is also a prominent industry. Like Byrock, carbon farming is becoming increasingly prominent throughout the area. In Wanaaring absentee farm ownership is increasing which is creating weed management issues.

Barringun truck stop

## Barringun (population – 7)

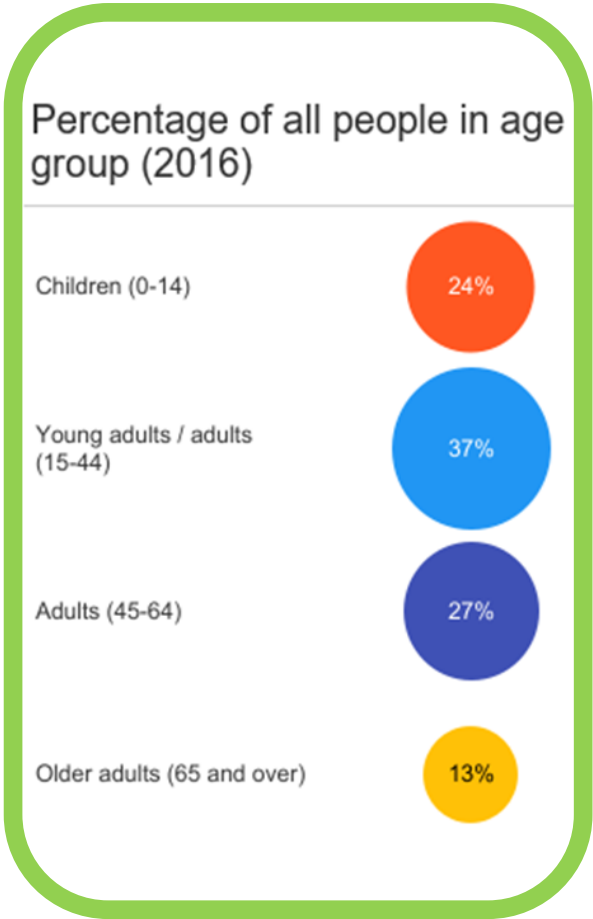
Barringun is a small village on the border of Queensland and New South Wales, 100km north of Bourke on the Kidman Way (see figure 3). The truck stop is the primary service available in town and the historic cemetery offers a unique tourism opportunity for travelers.



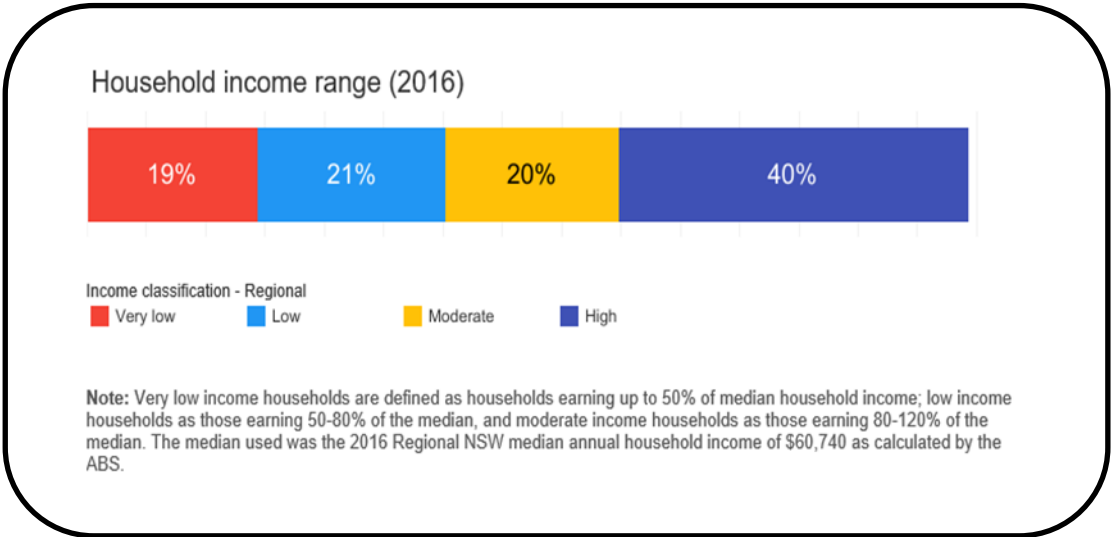
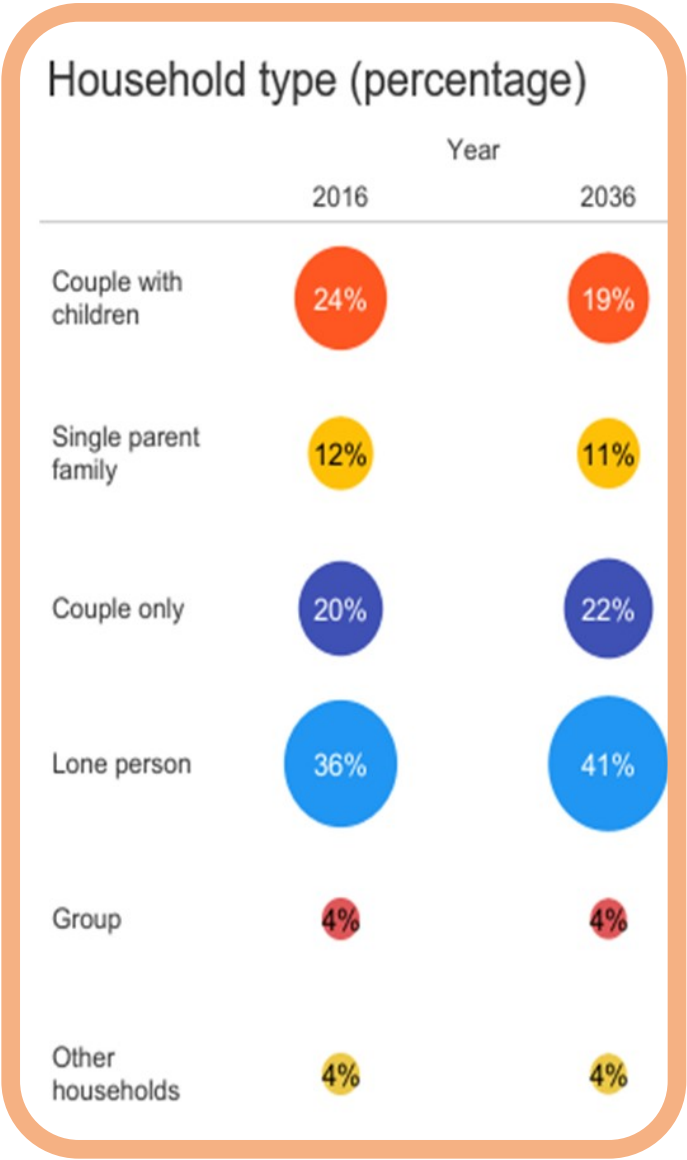
Bourke Post Office 1880



# Bourke Local Government Area

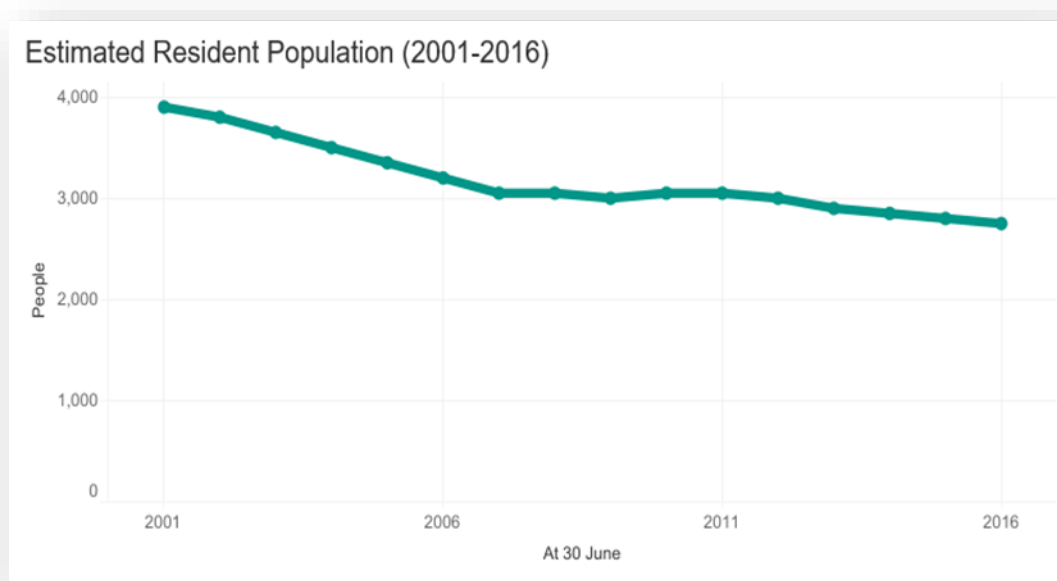


Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Demography and Housing - Regional NSW



## Population

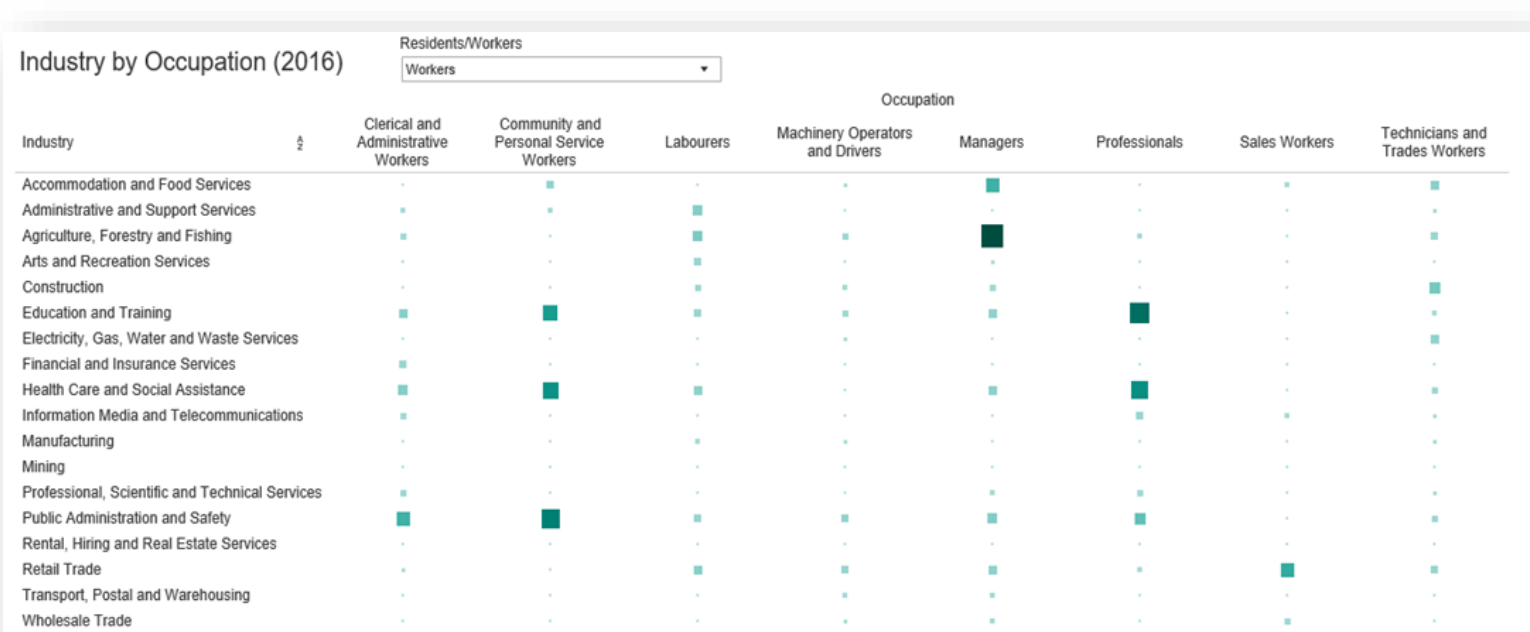
The Estimated Resident Population was 3,200 in 2006, and 2,750 in 2016. This is a decrease of 13.3% (-1.4% a year). The 2016 NSW Population Projections has the Bourke population increasing by 1.7% (0.2% a year) from 3,000 in 2016 to 3,050 in 2026, and then increasing by 1.6% (0.2%) to 3,100 in 2036.



Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Demography and Housing - Regional NSW

## Employment

The unemployment rate in Bourke has fallen from a peak of 12.4% in 2014 to an average of 8.9% for the year to September 2016. It is noted that these figures do not reflect the recent development of the Darling River Meat Small Stock Abattoir which is and will continue to be a key employer in the community.



Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Demography and Housing - Regional NSW

## Vision

*Bourke Shire will continue to establish as an iconic, outback, regional community and destination. Focusing on engagement and unity within the Shire to foster sustainable prosperity and productivity.*

Our unique environment and remote location are key assets to further promote and utilise as a major tourism draw card. Using current trends in experiential tourism and supporting value add opportunities will be a priority for Council.

Continuing to value and protect the built environment of our towns and villages with an increased focus on our natural environment including the majestic Darling River, iconic Toorale and Gundabooka National Parks, and diverse landscape is vital to the sustainable prosperity and productivity of our region. These natural assets are core to the everyday livelihood of our communities, providing broad sweeping rangelands provide ideal opportunities for broadscale sheep and goat grazing.

Diversification in primary production (range of dryland, irrigated crops and livestock), in our rural areas and continued tourism focus in Bourke, our villages and on properties across the Shire, will be pivotal to the sustainability of local industry and employment opportunities. Building resilience and adapting to climate change and natural hazards will continue to be an ongoing focus for Council. Establishing water security for our villages and the Bourke township is essential to secure the longevity of the community. Bourke is a major thoroughfare for several arterial roads. Representing the central access point to major cities including, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Darwin investigating and promoting Bourke as a potential freight and logistics hub for Western NSW is an opportunity for industry development.

Council recognises that our population is declining. Our core aim is to ensure we stabilise change for our community, across the LGA and optimise services available to our residents for the next 20 years. We are committed to supporting key opportunities that will support our villages, particularly tourism.

We have identified two major planning priorities to achieve this vision, including agriculture industry diversification and sustainability as well as liveable and united, sustainable prosperity. We believe these priorities encompass the key outcomes to realise our vision.

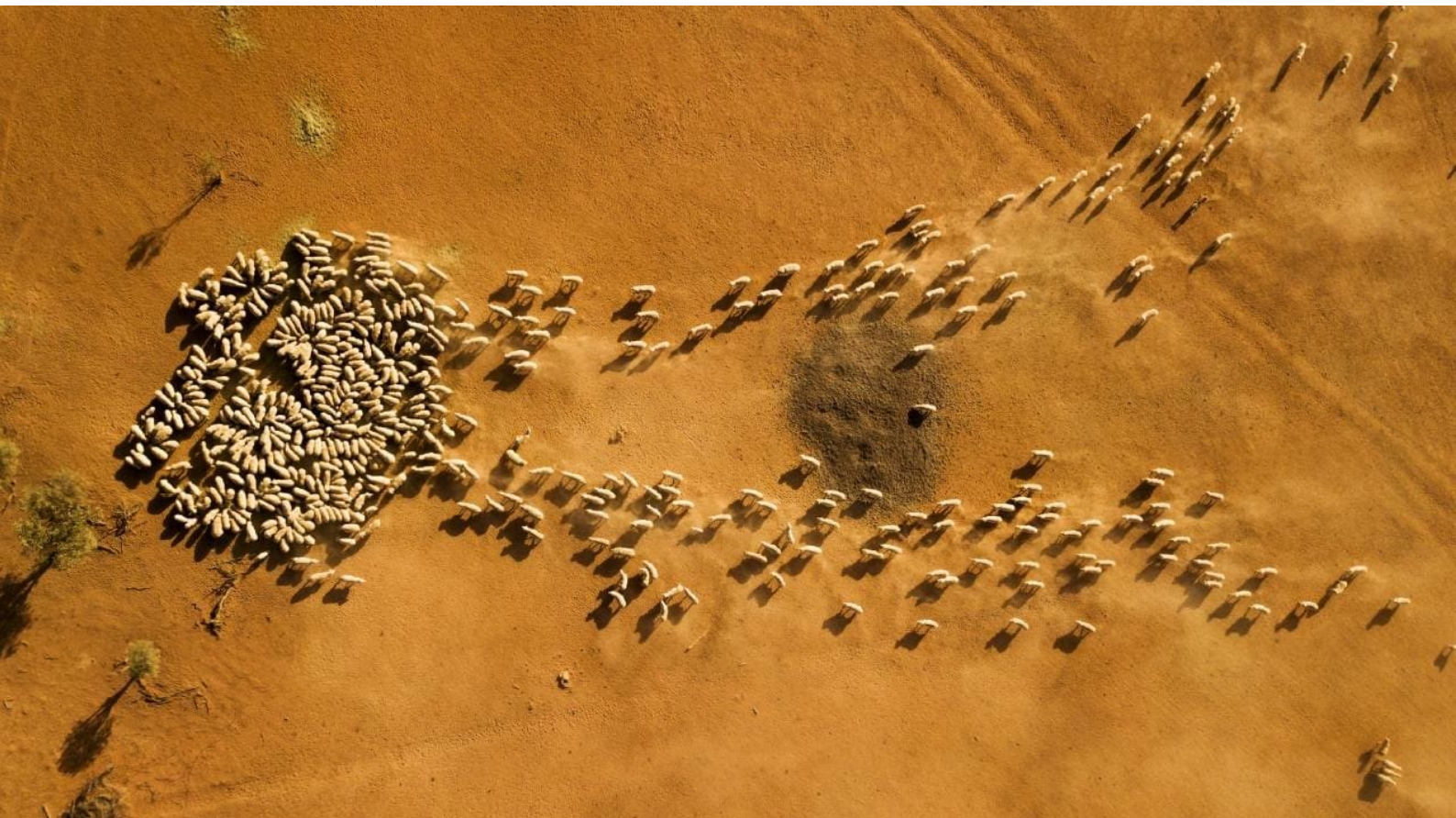
# Industry Diversification and Sustainability



## Agribusiness

Primary production and associated industries are the backbone of the Bourke economy, taking place on rural land across the Shire. Traditionally the area has been a key producer of cotton, fruit and sheep for wool and meat. At its peak 40,000 bales of wool were being shipped down the Darling annually. Cotton and sheep remain prominent industries, however cotton productivity is limited to water availability, from the Darling River, which has been scarce in recent years. Industry is diversifying into rangeland goats to capitalise on international demand and to adapt to drier climatic periods. The recent development of a small stock abattoir at North Bourke has recognised this growth industry and provides local producers with an accessible processing plant, optimising time and resources required to get stock to market.

Recent changes in biodiversity legislation have opened a new market in carbon farming. Several primary producers are diversifying into this sector, committing to long term leases as part of carbon offset schemes. Another niche industry which is prevalent across farming properties in the Shire is farm stay accommodation and experiential tourism, for example Trilby Station. Bourke provides a unique Australian experience that brings visitors in contact with the ancient and spectacular landscape of the Outback. Here you'll find rugged beauty, vivid red earth, bright blue skies, endless horizons and prolific native wildlife.





## Tourism

Louth Races



Bourke Shire Council is committed to ensuring that existing and potential opportunities and localities appropriate for tourism development are identified and protected. To achieve this commitment, Council will continue to work across the region with tourism industry, education, other local and state government and communities. There will be opportunities to continue to market and promote our Shire, celebrating our unique environment, especially centering on 50,000-year-old dreamtime territory of the Ngemba tribe in the canyon of Mt Gundabooka, where you can view classic rock paintings, as well as vast and productive pastoral and irrigation industry.

Key attractions in Bourke itself include the historic buildings and architecture, key points of interest include The Old London Bank (1888), Courthouse (1900), Post Office (1880), Post Office Hotel (1888), Old Towers Drug Co Building (1889), Lands Department Building (1898) and Riverside Motel (1875) these buildings represent the rich pastoral history of Bourke and remain prominent buildings today. There is also the Mulgowan (Yappa) Aboriginal Art Site walking track, Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, North Bourke Bridge, Rotary Park, Wally Mitchell Historic Wharf Precinct, historic crossley steam engine and the original Jandra paddle steamer. Our iconic Gundabooka and Toorale National Parks offer once off experiences to witness original rock art and vast untouched habitat.



## Health

Bourke is the central hub for Western health care services which is supported by several permanent and visiting health services who care for the local and wider community. Services are based out of the Bourke District Hospital, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service and RaMS Health Bourke. These services are supported by the aged care facility which has 14 permanent beds with an additional 14 beds in residential care at the hospital. These services are integral to support the growing aging population (24% of residents in Bourke will be aged over 65 by 2036 - DPIE). The Aboriginal Medical Service provides primary health care services initiated and operated by the local Aboriginal community to deliver holistic, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate health care to the community. Maintaining and expanding health care services across the Shire is integral for community wellbeing, we are committed to supporting the retaining of these services into the future. Recognising and supporting the further development of health services in Dubbo will equally benefit access to services in Bourke.

Attracting and retaining staff is an ongoing challenge across our communities. Supporting continuity of care in our community by attracting new doctors and medical staff who will stay in the community long term is a focus for Council. Council currently supplies housing for Doctors and new units are currently being built for students to support the Extended Clinical Placement Program which provides GP and community hospital placements. The intent of this program is to entice more students to practice in rural NSW, which could possibly extend the service provided in town, particularly birthing services. Lobbying for rural incentive to support health care workers is also another avenue that would increase professional appetite to launch long term roots in our community, matching the incentive provided by the NSW Police and Education.

## Education

Bourke is fortunate to have available all levels of education for school aged children. The strong early childhood services, particularly, draw young professionals to the community. The TAFE NSW Bourke Connected Learning Centre is a state-of-the-art facility providing greater access to skills training and employment outcomes to the people in the north-west of New South Wales. The Connected Learning Centre gives the local community access to digitally-enabled technologies, such as simulations and virtual reality experiences, and offer a greater number of courses and flexible study options.

## Supporting infrastructure

Local industries are reliant on road transport, particularly road trains, with many of the goats and the sheep being transported further afield to Dubbo, Forbes or Southern Queensland. It is important to note that many of the roads in and out of our villages are not sealed which limits the capacity of producers during wet periods. During a flood period, roads can be cut for months, with alternate routes adding pressure on producers. Council is committed to ensuring access to the villages continues to improve. Council would like to investigate the opportunities for a freight and logistics hub which capitalises on the limitations of the road network. Trucks commonly with 3 trailers must drop to 2 trailers from one side of Bourke to the other, this provides an opportunity to locate and establish a freight and logistics facility in North Bourke. Working collaboratively as part of Far West North Joint Organisation (FWNJO) to utilise map freight impediments and secure funding will support our local infrastructure projects. Re-establishing the local rail network has been raised as an opportunity to increase accessibility and improve freight efficiencies.

Telecommunications across the LGA need to be improved to support emergency services, access to education and boost economic prosperity. Supporting investment in solar power, close to the existing substation would reduce the Shire environmental footprint and improve network

Camping at Bourke



# United Sustainable Prosperity



## Our changing demographic

The Bourke LGA, like many other communities is undergoing significant demographic change. Recognising that we are a population in decline and anticipating future decline by investigating ways to mitigate change is vital for community sustainability. We are focused on ensuring continued and expanded service provision is accessible for the community to foster sustainable prosperity. We have identified that the key drivers of change are:

- Climate, particularly water availability and reoccurring drought conditions
- Access to higher order services
- Poor continuity of industry and employment

Our community is aging and ensuring the current access to low level care remains available in town is essential to allow our community to age in place. These services include residential care and in-home care. Recognising the need for many older residents to move away for higher order services and supporting this transition is also important in our Shire.

Our remote location reduces the number of professionals willing to reside in the Shire. Coupled with the absence of sustainable industries across our Shire, these factors contribute significantly to demographic change. Stabilising our economy by adapting to climate variations as well as increasing accessibility within the Shire and to larger centres would support the retention of professionals in Bourke Shire.



## Housing

By recognising we have a declining population centralising future development around the Bourke township before other options are investigated is a key focus. Any future development proposal will be focused on underutilised sites within Bourke before areas that are not serviced in North Bourke and other potential greenfield sites. A comprehensive study of North Bourke will be required to support future development opportunities, by identifying suitable potential sites and economic opportunities.

It is noted that North Bourke has an adequate supply of zoned R5 Large Lot Residential land that will meet any future demand. Council note that the land along High Street, Wortumerie (between Bourke and North Bourke) is subdivided from the original village of Wortumertie. The existing lots are approximately 2,000 square metres, Council would like to investigate possible zonings that would recognise the residential value of the existing properties.

There is an increasing trend of people buying lots in Louth as an affordable remote retreat. This trend needs to be reflected through local planning instruments to extend the current Village Zone and allow for potential development on lots surrounding the Louth village, to the East of Bloxam Street. Expanding the RU5 Village zone to encompass smaller lots in the outlying areas of the current zoned land within the Louth flood levee bank would support future land sales.

# Protect Our Natural Environment



## Increase resilience to climate change and natural hazard risks

Supporting projects that will increase our preparedness for seasonal fluctuations will be a core adaption strategy. Opportunities to improve water security include raising the weir or developing an alternate weir or maintaining and expanding current bore infrastructure. Improving access to our remote areas during wet periods will also be an ongoing project for Council. Undertaking a prioritised work plan of flood related studies and planning for the Shire and updating the Bourke LEP with the corresponding mapping will mitigate development on unsuitable land, along the Darling River Corridor.

Severe heat throughout the summer periods, averaging over 35°C, is continuing to rise and extend for long periods of the year. Sustainable adaptation strategies for existing and proposed infrastructure and residential development, particularly renewable energy supply and water security, will improve our communities living standards and boost our resilience to harsh climate variations.



## Protect and manage environmental assets

Gundabooka National Park and State Conservation Area is a vast area rich in Aboriginal and European heritage that stretches from the banks of the Darling River, across the plains and over Mount Gunderbooka. The park, featuring woodlands, floodplains, sandhills and the rugged Mount Gunderbooka that rises 500m above the park, is of great significance to the local Ngemba Aboriginal people. The Mulgowan (Yappa) Aboriginal Art Site walking track provides an opportunity to see some ancient Aboriginal rock art up close.

Toorale Station National Park contains around 91,000ha of land and elements of the Darling Riverine Plains, Mulga Lands and Cobar penneplains bioregions. The natural landscape is worth preserving on its own merits, but the station's important history makes conservation a matter of national heritage too. Toorale Station featured the first shearing shed in Australia with electric light. It contains buildings that include shearing sheds, shearing quarters and multiple homesteads, including one by the Darling River dating back to the 1880s.

Protecting our natural assets is paramount to the sustainable prosperity and productivity of our Shire. Protecting our Darling River corridor and extending our support for projects in Toorale and Gundabooka National Parks are key areas that will sustain our environment. Further to this the ongoing take up of carbon farming opportunities will increase the protection of environmental assets and expand our catalogue of current assets. Undertaking hazard reduction projects across these areas will increase our communities' resilience to natural hazards, particularly bushfires.

We have a growing demand for lifestyle blocks along the river corridor. There is an opportunity to investigate potential land use along the river corridor as part of the proposed North Bourke Study. A study would highlight the cost benefit of allowing development along the river corridor and propose effective planning tools that will mitigate impact on the river system and risk for residents.

Bourke is home to unique fauna and flora species which reside across the rangelands and are enjoyed by residents and tourists to the Shire. Identifying and protecting where our environmental assets are will help us to protect them for future generations.



## Celebrate heritage assets

Our rich history underpins our valuable heritage assets which include cultural heritage and physical heritage items. Key physical heritage items include the North Bourke Bridge, which is the oldest moveable spanned bridge in Australia, the Aboriginal rock art, particularly in Gundabooka National Park, and the Rock Holes at Byrock and a variety of historic European buildings in town. Involving local community groups involved in the management of assets will holistically protect the significance of these assets.

Wally Mitchell Wharf Precinct is an example of a heritage asset that has been identified as a pivotal tourist attraction and heritage asset in Sturt Street, this area is a priority for the community and Council to develop and maintain. This public space / Wharf is used daily by visitors to Bourke and residents of Bourke - the number of users is exponential - Families, children, youth, sporting groups, schools, PCYC, NFP organisations, Aboriginal Community and visitors to Bourke.

The Wally Mitchell Wharf Precinct (Rotary Park) has within its bounds Bourke Wharf, retail shops, public toilets, access to Crossly Engine and access to Darling River. This area will be developed to create an outdoor space for residents and visitors, increased disabled access, pedestrian access and parking. The area will be more inviting for foot traffic to visit the Wharf area and this will lead onto the walkway connecting Bourke township to the Back O Bourke Centre.

Culturally our community represents a rich Aboriginal history. Supporting the documentation of local history to protect, manage and respect Aboriginal significance in the LGA is an asset to the Shire.

Council has completed an Aboriginal Heritage Study. Ensuring new heritage items, that were identified as part of the strategy, are correctly protected through the LEP will support certainty in the community. Completing a review of the Shire wide Heritage study would equally benefit other heritage assets in the Shire, ongoing recording and maintenance of databases to inform significance of items will protect value in perpetuity.

Bourke District Memorial Hall



# Our actions for achieving our vision

Monitor annually through Integrated Planning and Reporting under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework.

Focus	Alignment with Policy	Strategic Outcome	Description
Agribusiness	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 1 & 12	Locate advanced and value-added manufacturing industries and associated infrastructure to minimise potential land use conflict. Encourage agribusiness diversification and value-adding opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete a strategic land use study of the North Bourke Precinct. A strategy will ensure an adequate supply of industrial land with the capacity to encourage co-location of related industries and strategically plan for value-add industries that may establish alongside the abattoir and central location for many arterial roads.</li> <li>2. Review Council's DCP to ensure local development controls align with Council's strategic direction.</li> </ol>
Tourism	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 5	Promote and diversify local tourism market	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Identify existing and potential opportunities and localities for tourism development, through a tourism strategy.</li> <li>4. Establish a regional tourism network to drive local tourism development</li> <li>5. Promote local indigenous cultural opportunities in tourism, including river walks, art workshops and a cultural centre.</li> <li>6. Review Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the LEP to support the appropriate labelling and protection of heritage sites, that were identified in the 2019 Aboriginal Heritage Study.</li> <li>7. Establish opportunities to promote Bourke as part of broader regional tourism initiatives.</li> </ol>
Supporting Infrastructure	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 6	Unlock economic potential through improved capacity of infrastructure to support industry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Investigate cost benefit of upgrading the Bourke airport to boost capacity and safety, and increase ability to attract visitors</li> <li>9. Locate freight and logistics facilities to capitalise on connections to external markets, maximise the use of existing infrastructure and support future industrial development.</li> <li>10. Work with the FWN JO to map freight impediments and secure funding to enhance infrastructure.</li> </ol>
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 4	Diversify energy supply through renewable energy generation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Facilitate small-scale renewable energy projects using bioenergy, solar, wind, small-scale hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies through local environment plans.</li> </ol>
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 8	Enhance access to telecommunications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Identify options to improve access to shared telecommunication and internet services, including public access to services at community centres and schools.</li> </ol>
Housing	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 27 and 29	Sustainably manage residential development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Investigate possible zonings that would be suitable for existing dwellings in Wortumertie. Upgrade planning controls for Wortumertie.</li> <li>14. Expanding the RU5 Village zone to encompass smaller lots within the Louth levee bank.</li> </ol>

# Our actions for achieving our vision

Focus	Alignment with Policy	Strategic Outcome	Description
Changing Demographic	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 20	Plan for a changing demographic	<p>15. Investigate management strategies for declining populations</p> <p>16. Review Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) provisions to plan for appropriate housing choice options in Bourke.</p>
Protect our Natural Environment	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 26	Manage natural hazard risks	17. Investigate supplementary water sources for town water supply during periods of drought
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 13	Protect and manage environmental assets	<p>18. Review council owned land to identify offset requirements for future development and any opportunities to use council land for Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.</p> <p>19. Review LEP controls to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>20. Support the establishment of Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements within the LGA and across LGA boundaries.</p>
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 15	Manage land uses along river corridor	21. Develop a management strategy that considers and assesses the potential impacts of new development on biodiversity along the Darling River corridor.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 16	Increase resilience to climate change	22. Incorporate the findings of the Far West Enabling Regional Adaptation project to inform land use and planning decisions.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 17	Deliver long-term water security	<p>23. Incorporate the best available flood hazard information for the Darling River Corridor in local plans consistent with current flood studies, flood planning levels, modelling and floodplain risk management plans.</p> <p>24. Prepare a prioritised work plan of flood related studies and planning and then implement as funding permits.</p>
Celebrate Heritage Assets	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 18	Respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage assets	25. Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements in consultation with
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 19	Conserve and adaptively re-use European heritage assets	26. Prepare, review and update Shire wide heritage studies in consultation with the community to recognise and conserve heritage assets and items and include appropriate local planning controls.

