

Community Update

Buloke.

Expand Your Impact

All residents, businesses and organisations in Buloke are invited to take part in this free workshop series.

Meet together online with community members from other municipalities, compare your experiences, share ideas, and learn new skills to assist you to become more active in your community.

Are you working tirelessly to implement your projects?

Do you need more volunteers, with new ideas and support to make it easier?

Expand Your Impact challenges you to think a little differently and grow your success, in any area of life!

Delivered by Make a Change in collaboration with six regional partners, this program is for anyone who wants to do more, learn more, connect better, or generally be more effective in everyday life.

Take up this opportunity and register for these FREE Workshops. **Register via the link: <https://bit.ly/3IPM8W3>. Register before 20 February, 2023.**



Phone Survey In Buloke

When: January 30 to mid-March 2023.

You may get a call! Independent market research agency, National Field Services, have been commissioned to conduct a community satisfaction survey on behalf of Buloke Shire Council.

Similar surveys will be undertaken across Victorian councils and are designed to assess the performance of the Buloke Shire Council across a range of measures to identify ways to provide improvement or more effective service delivery to residents.

We appreciate you taking the time to assist us with your valuable feedback.

Please be assured that your details and individual responses are confidential.

Only the overall results are shared with the Buloke Shire Council.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Customer Service at 1300 520 520.

Whilst this survey is part of a state wide review, Council values feedback from residents all-year-round. You can call us, submit your feedback by emailing buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au.

Rate Payment Reminder

Residents are reminded that rates paid in full are due on **February 15, 2023**.

For rates paid by instalments, the third-rate payment is due **February 28, 2023**.

We are introducing a new system for secure payments via an online portal.

Payments can be made using debit or credit cards, direct debit and eventually PayPal and PayID. Additional payment frequency options will be available providing more flexibility in meeting obligations at your convenience.

All payment types can be found at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/make-a-payment.

Have Your Say

– Transport Management

Council's transport assets (roads) contribute to the community by allowing people to move safely and conveniently around and through the municipality, enabling the transport of goods and services and connecting people to service centres and other key destinations.

The Transport Asset Management Implementation Plan outlines the management approach to achieving these outcomes, by identifying future demand, planning for optimising the life of these assets and maintaining financial sustainability when planning over a 10-year period.

The plan also addresses continual improvement in the management of the assets and performance monitoring.

This Asset Management Implementation Plan has been developed in accordance with Council's Asset Plan, Asset Management Policy and principles of the Asset Management Strategy (Objectives).

Have Your Say on our Transport Asset Management Implementation Plan by visiting Council's website: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/have-your-say, or by contacting Dan McLoughlan on 1300 520 520, or emailing buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au. Closing date for submissions is 5pm 15 March 2023.



Electoral Structure Review

– Have your say

Do you have an opinion about the Buloke Shire Council electoral structure? An independent electoral representation advisory panel is conducting a review and wants your input.

The review looks at ward boundaries, the number of wards, and the number of councillors to ensure all voters are represented in a fair and equitable way.

It's easy to have your say by making a submission online. Grab all the details on the VEC website and get involved, visit: <http://bit.ly/3lcCCLW>. **Submissions close 5 April 2023**

Birchip Streetscape

Notice of Line marking works in Cumming Avenue, Birchip.

Street parking restrictions after 7.00am will apply on the following days:

• **Tuesday 14 February 2023**

• **Wednesday 15 February 2023**

On behalf of Buloke Shire Council, Inroads will be undertaking line marking works on Cumming Avenue between the intersections of Sunraysia Highway and Watson Street during the above period. Works will be carried out between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm on either of the dates listed above. Could you please ensure that the street remains clear for the duration of the days. Due to the extent of the works unfortunately we are unable to give an exact time we will be sealing each section.

To assist in completing this work and minimising any inconvenience to residents, we would appreciate that:

- Cars are not parked on the street or nature strip during the above period.
- Members of your household, particularly children and animals, are kept well clear of the work area so that we can provide a safe work environment.
- Automatic water sprinklers that may spray water over the road are switched off.

Flood Support

A range of support measures are available for flood-affected primary producers. Information about these measures can be found at agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods.

Rural Financial Counselling Service: the Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. A rural financial counsellor can assist farmers to understand, and apply for, government support. Call 1300 771 741.

The free **Business Relief Service** provides confidential one-on-one support from local Business Relief Advisers via phone and on the ground. Business Relief Advisers can help businesses with grant applications and connect them with relevant support services to help with their next steps towards recovery. Businesses can access this service by registering online, or calling the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15. If the caller needs a translator, the operator can contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on their behalf.

Mental health and wellbeing support is available to sole traders, business owners and their employees can call the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline on 1300 375 330 for free and confidential advice, available seven days a week. Trained financial counsellors, business advisers and wellbeing coaches are available to provide confidential one-on-one support.

If people are feeling overwhelmed or concerned about their wellbeing, there are Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs providing free support and can be accessed by calling the same number: 1300 375 330.

Prevent Mozzie Bites

A second case of Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus infection has been confirmed in Victoria this mosquito season. The case spent time in Buloke Shire and Swan Hill during their acquisition period.

Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus and West Nile (Kunjin) virus continue to be detected in mosquitoes in northern Victoria.

People spending time outdoors in northern Victoria are strongly recommended to take measures to prevent mosquito bites to reduce their risk of mosquito-borne disease.

The MVE virus can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the central nervous system and is spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

Symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle aches, although most infected people do not have symptoms. In serious cases, people can develop meningitis or encephalitis. Anyone with symptoms should seek urgent medical care.

When visiting these areas, and also local areas impacted by flooding are strongly advised to:

- Cover up – wear long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing
- Use mosquito repellents containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin
- Limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about
- Remove stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home or campsite
- On holidays make sure your accommodation is fitted with mosquito netting or screens.
- Use 'knockdown' fly sprays and plug-in repellent devices indoors
- Don't forget the kids – always check the insect repellent label. On babies, you might need to spray or rub repellent on their clothes instead of their skin. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of babies or young children.
- Sleep under mosquito nets treated with insecticides if you don't have insect screens on windows on your home or are sleeping in an untreated tent or out in the open.
- Mosquito coils can be effective in small outdoor areas where you gather to sit or eat.

In addition, residents and people visiting northern Victoria are strongly advised to take additional measures to reduce their risk of mosquito bites:

- Wear appropriate repellent at all times when outdoors.
- Avoid time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn as much as possible.
- Event organisers must consider their obligations to keep event patrons safe. This requires informing patrons of the risk of mosquito exposure and the necessary protective measures, including appropriate clothing and use of repellent. Organisers may wish to postpone outdoor events or relocate them indoors during this high-risk period, particularly for events scheduled around dawn and dusk.

For more information, visit: <https://go.vic.gov.au/3Qz9m5s>.

Future Drought Fund

The Future Drought Fund is investing \$40 million in long-term projects trialling innovative drought resilient farming practices. Projects in the trial are encouraged to utilise a combination of sites and include at least one trial location where scientific evaluation occurs.

For more information visit the Future Drought Fund, visit: bit.ly/3JPRfpX. Applications close on 15 March 2023.



Employment Opportunities

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. Council is currently recruiting for:

Administration Officer Maternal and Child Health

Council is seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to take on the role of Administration Officer Maternal and Child Health. This role will provide high-level front-line customer service with accurate collection of critical data and efficient administration processes for the Maternal and Child Health Team.

→ **Applications close: 9:00am Monday 20th February 2023**

Visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment or call Human Resources on 1300 520 520 for full details about this exciting role.