



# Media Release

## Buloke Part of Pilot Program

**1 August 2017**

Buloke Shire Council is one of 13 Victorian councils included in a pilot program that aims to improve local responses to pollution and waste issues across the state.

The Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment pilot program has been born out of an independent inquiry into the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and will place 10 officers in local councils for 15 months. This was the first comprehensive examination of the EPA since 1971.

Buloke will share an officer with bordering Loddon Shire Council and Mildura Rural City Council. Buloke's friendship aligned Hobsons Bay City Council will also take part in the pilot program

The officers will be working closely with the EPA and Council to respond to smaller scale and lower risk waste and pollution complaints such as illegal dumping, odours and noise. They will also undertake proactive activities including inspecting premises and educational activities.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced the successful councils late last week.

"This is about delivering practical support to councils to help deliver a healthier and more liveable environment for Victorians. The new officers will complement the role of existing EPA based environment protection officers meaning more officers on the ground, more support and expert advice, and more investigations into compliance", said Ms D'Ambrosio.

### **End release**

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or [tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au)