



# Media Release

## February Council Wrap

22 February 2018

At its February Ordinary Meeting, Buloke Shire Council endorsed its submission to the inquiry into VicRoads Management of Country Roads, voted to request authorisation to rezone parcels of land at local recreational lakes, noted progress of its major projects, motioned to make a submission to the Essential Services Commission on water pricing for recreational water and appointed dual acting CEO's for the duration of the recruiting process for a replacement for the departing CEO Lucy Roffey.

Council has endorsed its submission to the inquiry into VicRoads Management of Country Roads. VicRoads road network is of vital importance to the Buloke community from safety through to the support it provides to the agricultural industry. Amongst the range of key points made within the submission, Council pointed out the extremely poor condition of both the Birchip - Sea Lake Road and the Borung Highway at Wooroonook. Council also identified needs to improve flexibility when designing engineering solutions and to find urgent maintenance funding for roads that need repair.

Council will seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment to rezone parcels of land at Wooroonook Lakes, Watchem Lake and Tchum Lake. Rezoning the recreational lakes will correct inappropriate zoning on these parcels of land and will ensure the protection of the significant environmental qualities of the reserves.

Council will also advocate for fairer pricing for water to recreational lakes. A notice of motion was moved to make a submission to the Essential Services Commission on the GWM Water 2018 pricing submission. Council supports the continuation of the recreation water contribution charge, yet it opposes the planned increase of the cost of recreational water from \$20 to \$25 per Megalitre. Council would like GWM Water to consider further discounts for filling recreational lakes to give more support to volunteer recreational lake committees that are burdened with the cost of filling their lakes.

Council received a progress update on its major projects. These projects represent \$18.2 million of investment and it highlights the significant amount of project management work being undertaken by Council. It also is the realisation of a significant amount of community work to see these projects funded and delivered. In addition to the major projects, Council is working on delivering a flood restoration program worth more than \$11 million.

Director of Community Development Jessie Holmes and Director Works and Technical Services Anthony Judd will each act as CEO whilst Council undertakes its recruiting process to replace the departing CEO Lucy Roffey. Jessie Holmes will act as CEO from close of business on 2 March 2018 until Anthony Judd takes over from close of business on 30 March 2018. Council has already begun its recruitment for a new CEO with the position being advertised from 16 February. Mr Judd will stay as Acting CEO until a permanent appointment is made.

The next meeting of Council will be on Wednesday 14 March 2018.

### End release

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