

Illegal Dumping

A big thank you goes out to the community members who have reported incidents of illegal rubbish dumping in our shire.

It is unacceptable that the burden of cleaning up this rubbish falls on our community as a whole, and the fact that the costs are ultimately passed on to ratepayers is both unfair and unsustainable.

Illegal dumping poses a severe threat to the environment, violating the law and damages our ecosystem. It can contaminate waterways, harm wildlife, and destroy native vegetation, which affects the well-being of our community.

If you witness any suspicious activities or notice any signs of illegal dumping, please do not hesitate to phone Customer Service on 1300 520 520. Your report will be kept confidential, and your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a sustainable and clean environment are essential to preserve our shire for future generations.

Let's keep Buloke beautiful!

Grants Closing Soon

Please contact Council on 1300 520 520 if you have been flood affected and have not yet registered with a support agency, so that we can refer you for assistance. Many support grants close on April 30. For information about farm support, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods. A list of other grants and support networks are available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/funding-available-for-those-affected-by-flooding>.

VNI West Transmission Line

The Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) is a proposed new high-capacity transmission line, connecting the Western Renewables Link (WRL) in Victoria to EnergyConnect in New South Wales. Following the release of the Project Assessment Draft Report (PADR) in July 2022, and consideration of stakeholder feedback received, AEMO Victorian Planning (AVP) and Transgrid recently published the Consultation Report. The report provides further analysis of VNI West, including a new proposed preferred option for the VNI West connection to WRL near Bulgana.

For more information head to: <https://aemo.com.au/initiatives/major-programs/vni-west/stakeholder-consultation>.

If you have any questions specific to the WRL project, please call 1300 360 795 or email info@westernrenewableslink.com.au

Written submissions are **due on or before 5 April 2023** and should be emailed to VNIWestRITT@aemo.com.au

Cast your vote now! Go Buloke!

The Paddock Run flood initiative driven by the Buloke community has been nominated in the 2023 National Awards for Local Government in the category of Disaster Preparedness, which recognises outstanding innovations that have enhanced local communities. The Paddock Run was initiated by Council and provided information about flood response and recovery support to the community, particularly the agriculture and business sectors - getting information to "where they are" during what was a challenging time for everyone.

The Paddock Run also reminded us that in supporting our local businesses we are also investing in our futures.

The award winner is judged by the highest number of peer votes received. Whilst our population may be smaller than some of the municipalities also nominated in this category, collectively our voice has always been mighty. **To cast a vote, go to <https://bit.ly/318AoEV> and click the green vote button.**

Voting is now open until 11:59 PM on 14 April 2023. The initiative involved our Council staff visiting grain delivery sites in Buloke during harvest season, delivering 1000 packets of Kookas Country Cookies Pty Ltd to our hardworking harvest workforce and distributing over 8000 postcards to our amazing local businesses, who passed on the message. It was a fantastic effort by our whole community and something we should all be proud of.

Tourism Business Grant

Buloke Shire Council in partnership with the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions will be supporting new and innovative tourism business ideas in Buloke. We are offering a grant of up to \$15,000 to further encourage and support tourism business pilots within the Buloke Shire.

Applications for Round 3 Grants close 2:00pm Wednesday 12 April 2023.

Have Your Say – Wycheproof Wetlands Project

The Wycheproof Wetlands Project has opened to public submissions for the Draft Concept Plan. This is your chance to provide your valuable input towards a project that aims to create a sustainable and thriving environment for our local wildlife, improve recreational opportunities, enhance the overall health of our ecosystem and create a new outdoor space for placemaking.

The Draft Concept Plan includes a wide range of exciting features such as a pump/skate track, picnic areas, artificial beach spaces, and places to watch wildlife.

A reduced scaled view of the plans are provided below as a reference. To obtain a comprehensive and detailed copy of the plans, please do not hesitate to contact our Customer Service team at 1300 520 520, who will assist you with your request for the plans to be sent to you via email or post.

Have Your Say by visiting Council's website: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/have-your-say or emailing buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au. The closing date for submissions is 5pm 14 April 2023.

The image displays two pages of a draft concept plan for the Wycheproof Wetlands project. The left page shows a detailed site plan with various zones and features labeled, including a circuit walking path, picnic area, relocated fitness equipment area, fenced nature play area, artificial beach area, and a modular skate facility. The right page features a series of numbered callouts (1-10) with corresponding photos and descriptions of key elements like the skate pump track, modular skate facility, and wetland areas. Both pages include legends for site elements and a table of amendments. The plan is marked as 'DRAFT' in large letters.