

MEDIA RELEASE

Drought Communities Funding Allocated

14 July 2016

Buloke Shire Council allocated funding available through the Drought Communities Program (DCP) at its July Ordinary Meeting.

The Berriwillock Bowling Green redevelopment (\$200,000), Green Lake Water Security project (\$50,000), Charlton Park 2020 development (\$775,000) and the Donald Community Precinct development (\$475,000) will share in \$1.5 million of funding available through the DCP. The proceeds of this funding need to be spent prior to 30 June 2019. Council will review progress of each project in December 2017 and reallocate any funds if projects are not on track.

In May this year, the Federal Government declared that Buloke Shire was eligible for funding under the DCP program. These projects are seen as delivering the maximum benefits to the Buloke community by leveraging funding with other state and community funding streams to deliver important community projects.

The four projects are longstanding priorities for the Buloke community. Three of the projects are backed by master plan and feasibility studies and they are key priorities in the local community plans.

The Green Lake Water Security project was given a high priority for this funding and is considered Council's most important community project. This project is currently undergoing a business case process and awaiting environmental and cultural heritage planning analysis. The DCP funding provided will progress the planning activities. Through discussions with state government representatives, Council believes that the Green Lake project has the best chance to be fully funded through other external funding. The investment of DCP funding will ensure it is 'shovel ready'.

Through allocating \$1.5million towards the Berriwillock, Charlton, Green Lake and Donald projects, Council is ambitiously aiming to undertake approximately \$9.3 million of works. Staff have worked closely with the state government in establishing these priorities and this allocation will allow staff to formally submit funding applications for the relevant state funding streams.

"When natural disasters such as drought happen, people need support to maintain connectedness. Whilst it has finally rained in the last few weeks, it hasn't rained money. The DCP funding enables community support through infrastructure and the employment of locals in building projects. It is a very exciting day when we can announce investments in the Buloke community of this size and this nature", said Mayor, Cr Reid Mather.

End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520.