

Thursday 23 August 2018

## NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL DROUGHT ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

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Providing practical assistance to farming communities in the Shire was the focus of Council's resolution at the August Ordinary Council Meeting, supporting a proposal that will see the redeployment of the NSW Business Connect Bus.

Approval has been given by the NSW Department of Industry for the Bus to visit three rural locations throughout our Shire in September.

The Business Connect Bus will be staffed by business advisors who have valuable knowledge of the NSW Government's Drought Assistance packages and paperwork.

Mayor Neville Kschenka said "Shire farmers and other business people impacted by the drought will be able to meet with these expert advisors and gain first-hand information and help with drought assistance paperwork."

"The real value in this initiative is the Bus will travel out to our villages of Grong Grong, Sandigo and Barellan to meet with farmers and community members, and also includes a free Council sponsored BBQ from 12pm to 2pm each day for anyone attending to receive advice and support."

The NSW Business Connect Bus will be available from 10am to 4pm at:

- Wednesday 12 September                      Grong Grong adjacent to Sports Club, Narrandera Street
- Thursday 13 September                      Sandigo Hall Grounds, Sturt Highway
- Friday 14 September                      Barellan town centre, Yapunyah Street

Member for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke has shown her support for the initiative and aims to accompany the Bus on at least one day of the program.

Steph Cooke MP said, "Narrandera Shire Council have shown fantastic initiative and a real commitment to the shire's farmers in pulling this event together. It's wonderful to see a local Council actively working to help during drought alongside the State and Federal government."

Additional services to be available and accompany the Bus are currently under consideration and will be advised as they are confirmed.

The Mayor concluded "Narrandera Shire is pleased to be able to assist in a practical and supportive way at a time when the whole State is drought declared."

**END**

Precis or Summary: Narrandera Shire Council Drought Assistance Initiative			
Attachments	Nil	Embargoed:	N/A
<b>Authorised By:</b>	<b>Media Contact:</b>	Number	<b>1</b>

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George Cowan - General Manager	Communications Officer, Edwina Foley T (02) 6959 5502	of Pages	
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