



Teacher housing for Bourke

State of Barwon

Kevin Humphries



Bourke Teacher Housing
RECENTLY I had the pleasure of touring the new teachers' accommodation in Bourke, which was completed earlier this year.

The NSW government, through the Teacher Housing Authority, invested more than \$1.2 million on the construction of six new single bedroom units on Green Street and the infrastructure looks fantastic.

Teachers are in strong demand in Bourke Shire, and the new accommodation is very welcomed as it is close to the state primary and high schools on Green and Tarcoon streets.

The new fully-furnished units will give teachers peace of mind, as they will not have to compete in the limited private rental market.

It's important that we get the best teachers out to our regional centres and providing suitable and attractive places to live will help to achieve this.

The new accommodation could help to attract new teachers and families to Bourke Shire.

The new units take the total number of available accommodation in Bourke Shire up to 49 residences and will mean there are more suitable places for teachers to live, regardless of family size or circumstances.

Previously, there were four older run-down units on the Green Street site, however by using more modern building techniques we've been able to fit six furnished units on the same block, while still retaining a high standard of comfort.



Thriving not just Surviving with Sam Cawthorn

I would like to congratulate Macquarie 2100 for hosting an upcoming event entitled, Thriving not just Surviving with guest speaker Sam Cawthorn. in

Narromine.

Sam is an accident survivor who is thriving in a new life devoted to helping others.

After virtually dying on the operating table after an horrific road smash Sam underwent extensive and incredible painful rehabilitation and says despite it all he wouldn't change anything - the experience has helped him become 'the person I was meant to be today'.

While in the district Sam, a Young Australian of the Year and international public speaker will also talk to hundreds of schoolkids from Narromine, Trangie and Warren this morning.

The community can hear Sam's message of optimism in both business and life at the Narromine USMC tonight at 7pm.

We certainly live in a harsh environment out here in the bush, particularly during this dry season, so I would highly recommend anyone who needs a motivational lift to hear Sam's incredible story.

Entry is a \$10 donation.



Out and About

Last week and again this week are sitting weeks so I'm back in Sydney but I did manage to slip out to Walgett late last week for a Lightning Ridge planning meeting with Walgett Shire Council and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

I also visited the local high school while I was in town, attended the St Josephs Fete and caught up with a number of local drought affected land holders.

On Saturday I headed across to Warren for the formal pre-selection process before next March's State Election.

I have now been formally pre-selected for the seat of Barwon, which will take in 44 per cent of NSW, from Narrabri through to Broken Hill and I'm looking forward to the challenge of representing even more of Western NSW and giving Barwon a greater voice in Sydney.

It is disappointing that my

home town of Moree is no longer included in the new Barwon electorate, and while this redistribution is something I strongly fought against with the Electoral Commission, I know the Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall, if re-elected, will do a stellar job of representing the Moree region in Parliament.



New Biodiversity fund open for consultation

A new policy for biodiversity offsets will provide certainty to business and provide new opportunities for farmers while directing funding to where it is most needed for lasting environmental protection.

The NSW government recently announced that the state's draft Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects was now open for consultation with the community and industry stakeholders.

This policy represents a new way of ensuring major projects adequately offset environmental impacts.

The fund will strategically assess the most appropriate offsets for lasting environment protection while streamlining major development approvals, saving proponents both time and money.

Previous ad-hoc negotiations around offsetting environmental impacts have served neither the environment, nor the community or business.

At present the costs associated with the assessment of a project's environmental impacts are highly variable, the time taken to move through the process is uncertain and environmental outcomes are inconsistent.

Our new approach includes a transparent method for assessing a project's biodiversity impacts and offset requirements, and will allow proponents to calculate the biodiversity cost of their project upfront.

This approach would also provide opportunities for landowners to benefit from hosting offset sites and in so doing will present an