



SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS – BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL (25 March 2020)

Bland Shire Council will continue to deliver essential services to the local community while also putting in place a range of new measures to protect staff and community from the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

While there are currently no confirmed cases in the Bland Shire Local Government Area, Council advises changes to the following services until further notice -

COUNCIL OFFICES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Council's Customer Service and Administration Office will be closed to the public from Monday 30 March 2020 until further notice. For urgent business phone Council on 69722266 during business hours to make an appointment or be directed to the relevant officer.

Where possible customers are advised to make rates payments using BPAY. Please contact your financial institution to arrange for BPAY payments to be made directly from your bank account. For more information about BPAY phone 13 18 16 or visit <http://www.postbillpay.com.au/>. Alternatively phone Council to make other arrangements.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE - CLOSED

Access to visitor information remains available through the 24 Hour Tourism Touchscreen, by contacting staff via phone/email or taking a tourism information pack from the entry foyer at the Council office.

LIBRARY - CLOSED

People are encouraged to utilise free apps and resources including Story Box, Borrow Box, RB Digital and other online services offered on the Riverina Regional Library e-library website using their Library membership details to log in. People are asked NOT to return current books and loans until advised to do so. All loans will be extended until library services resume.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Toy Library service and all community playgroups and "It Takes A Village" (ITAV) programs are suspended.

Bland Preschool, Ungarie Preschool and Family Day Care are currently operational. Measures have been put in place across all services to reduce the risk of cross infection including ceasing all unnecessary excursions, increased hand hygiene and suspending sensory based play.

YOUTH WEEK AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

All Youth Week and School Holiday activities scheduled for April 2020 have been cancelled.

HOME & COMMUNITY CARE (HACC)

Direct services to current clients will continue as normal unless advised otherwise. However, HACC is unable to take on any new clients until further notice.

All group activities have been cancelled until further notice including Bland Blokes, Wednesday Activity Day and Exercises.

WEST WYALONG STADIUM – CLOSED

HOLLAND PARK AND UNGARIE SWIMMING POOLS - CLOSED

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

All Council community facilities including halls and museums are CLOSED

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Councillors and staff will not attend any non-essential meetings and/or events.

- The Council meeting public gallery is closed until further notice. Audio recordings of each Council meeting will continue to be made available from Council's website.
- The Community Reference Group meeting scheduled for 14 April has been cancelled

PUBLIC TOILETS

Public toilet facilities in McCann Park, Herridge Park and at Council's Administration building are closed.

All other public toilet facilities remain **OPEN** and Council has increased cleaning routines.

The following services will continue to operate as NORMAL with people urged to observe social distancing guidelines when attending all sites -

Garbage Collection

Tips and Landfills

Bland Shire Pound and Ranger

Sewer

Cemeteries, and

Road Maintenance

Council has put a number of measures in place including an increase in the cleaning routine and hand hygiene facilities at all Council venues and locations to help protect customers and staff.

All visitors are urged to make use of the hand sanitizing facilities and social distancing advice whilst onsite. If you are ill with cold or flu like symptoms, please do not visit a Council venue and contact us via phone on 69722266 or email at council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au instead.

Arrangements may change rapidly and members of the public can refer to Council's Facebook page and website at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au for updates.

For the latest information regarding COVID-19 residents should visit the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au or the NSW Health and Murrumbidgee Local Health District Facebook pages.

If you have concerns about your health, or the health of a family member or friend in NSW, please contact:

- Healthdirect helpline on 1800 022 222.
- Call your GP
- Visit the emergency department
- Call the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 020 080 if you are seeking information on COVID-19. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.