

1 EXT/INT. DIRT ROAD, OUTBACK. DAY**1**

An old Ute is rolling down a dirt road surrounded by bush-land, there is no sign of human settlement anywhere. The radio is blasting music with a slightly melancholy feel. when the music finishes the NEWSCASTER starts talking.

NEWSCASTER OS

(over radio)

The closing of the Bourke meat-works
has meant that there are over one
hundred people who have lost their
jobs,

FELIX is looking sad and angry, his knuckles are white on the steering wheel, he is revving the engine hard.

CONTD NEWSCASTER OS

(over radio)

in a town that already has record
high unemployment, which means this
is being seen as the death-knell for
the town and for the regions as a
whole. And now here's a song request
from a former employee of the
Elizabeth Holden factory.

Music starts playing as the Ute continues down the road. Felix keeps looking down at the fuel gauge as it empties, he keeps ignoring it. When the song is about halfway through the song the Ute shudders and runs out of fuel. Felix pulls over to the side of the road and stops.

2 EXT. DIRT ROAD, OUTBACK. DAY**2**

Felix gets out of the cab of his Ute and grabs a Jerry can from the tray and shakes it, it is empty. He troughs the can back into the tray angrily and starts rummaging trying to find another can of Diesel, he also checks in the back seats to no avail. He slumps down against the Ute and pulls out his phone, he has no reception.

3 EXT. BOURKE, (FLASHBACK). DAY**3**

Felix and BRENT are leaning against an old Ford Falcon, they are both in high-vis shirts and work boots, they both look tired and beat down.

FELIX

What are you going to do with yourself now that the meat-works is closing?

BRENT

I'll probably head into the city, get a job there.

FELIX

What? you are not even going to try get a job at the plant? or something else here?

BRENT

What, so I have to get a new job in a year or two when it closes?

FELIX

What do you mean?

BRENT

You know as well as I do, there is nothing left in this town. I mean there aren't even jobs anymore!

FELIX

That's only because everyone's left, even you!

BRENT

Face it, the towns dead mate.

FELIX

NO IT'S NOT!
(passionately)

BRENT

Bloody hell mate if you stay, you will end up on Ceno and crack.

FELIX

far-out Brent! This town is my home, unlike you I don't have family in the city, this is all I've got, it's my home.

BRENT

I'm just saying it for your own good.

FELIX

Mate you might be happy to move to the city, but it would kill me, out here is my land, and I'm never

leaving it, even if there is nothing left.

Felix storms away looking furious, Brent gets in his car and drives off.

4 EXT. DIRT ROAD, OUTBACK. AFTERNOON

4

Felix is sitting in the Ute tray. he is looking through photos of him and Brent, he sighs and looks remorseful and presses the home button, there are 32 new phone and text messages, he closes his phone and starts staring off into the distance.

5 INT. CAB OF UTE, OUTBACK. AFTERNOON

5

Felix is rummaging around the cab of the Ute looking for food, he starts getting anxious.

FELIX

I'm sure I have some noddles in here somewhere.

He keeps searching, with no luck, he slumps back in his seat and grabs his water bottle and puts it to his lips to drink from it but only a few drops come out, he drops the water to the floor and puts his head in his hands.

FELIX

Why me?

(he takes a shuddering
breath)

someone will come by surely, right?

He closes his eyes.

6 INT. FELIX'S ROOM, (FLASHBACK) . DAY

6

Felix is sitting in his room with the radio playing, he is looking dejected slumped back in his chair.

NEWSCASTER OS

(on radio)

We interrupt this program with
breaking news that the Bourke Shire
production plant has announced that
it will be closing before the end of
2023...

(fades out)

Felix gets up, his ears buzzing and looking stunned, he grabs his keys and heads over to the door.

7 INT. CAB OF UTE, OUTBACK. AFTERNOON

7

Felix is sitting in his Ute, his head in his hands. He mumbles something and looks up, he sees the air freshener hanging off his mirror, it is a souvenir from his town, he sighs and reaches up onto the dashboard and grabs a letter, it is from Center-link. looks at letter and goes to put it back.

FELIX
Bloody hell!

He shoves the letter into his pocket and gets out of the Ute.

8 EXT. DIRT ROAD, OUTBACK. AFTERNOON

8

Felix slams the door of his Ute and starts walking back down the road toward the town.

FADE TO: BLACK