Media Release

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The First of many steps

12th February 2018

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council is currently partly funding a project to determine the viability of the Gundagai Rail Bridge. The NSW Government and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council has granted $50,000 from the Stronger Country Communities Fund to commission a development study to plan and fully cost the conservation and repurposing of the heritage listed structure, as a pedestrian and cycle way.

Considered one of Australia's most photographed bridges, the Gundagai Rail Bridge is a step closer to again becoming a source of transportation across the mighty Murrumbidgee and a dynamic asset for the Gundagai community.

Built in 1903 the iconic bridge has a span of 819.4 metres making it one of the longest wooden bridge spans in the world. In its heyday the bridge played a vital role in transporting passengers and freight on the Cootamundra to Tumut line.

The study will include consultation and design for the section of the walking and cycleway along the rail corridor within the Gundagai town limits and also an engineering study detailing the cost and proposed design to utilise the railway viaduct for this purpose. Whilst the study will help determine the feasibility of the project, there is still a long way forward before this project could come to fruition.

Consultants Mike Halliburton and Mike Maher were in the area last week to walk the section of corridor and meet with landholders to hear their ideas and discuss any issues that need to be dealt with in the trail design.

CGRC mayor Abb McAlister said the establishment of a pedestrian and cycle way across the bridge would be a great tourist attraction for the town.

“This section of trail is the missing link in the town urban cycle way and will facilitate a commuting route between residential area, local schools and three of the town’s biggest employers. This section will also be the first and most iconic stage of Gundagai Railtrail, with the bridge being a drawcard of international appeal. We certainly hope the study will show us the way forward in preserving the historic bridge,” Cr McAlister said.

Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke MP, said the bridges were of significant historical value.

“I’m pleased we have been able to fund this study through the Stronger Country Communities Fund, it gives us a starting point and will help the community decide how to proceed with the proposed

Gundagai Railtrail project," Steph said.

Photo and caption:
A bird's eye view of the historic and iconic Gundagai Rail Bridge, a study is currently underway to determine whether the bridge can be used as a pedestrian and cycle pathway connecting Gundagai and attracting tourists.

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