

# Media Release

## Success for Listening Sessions

Tuesday, 06 June 2017

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council has been hearing from the community with over 80 people attending a series of workshops designed to gather input to the creation of the Community Strategic Plan. Run by an independent facilitator, the workshops took participants through a process to draw out their thoughts on what they love about the region and where they want to see it go over the coming ten years.

“I was very heartened to hear so many people having some great discussions and providing valuable input into the Council’s strategic planning process,” said Mr Stephen Sykes, Administrator, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC).

The workshops included participants with a mix of age groups, interests and backgrounds. Some were lifelong residents whilst others had moved to the region quite recently; some had a business and economic focus whilst others were interested in the community, arts and tourism aspects of their Council area.

“Whilst a wide range of ideas were proposed through the workshops, a number of common themes also emerged. For instance, living affordability; community spirit; unique location; excellent health, disability and aged care services; as well as a strong arts movement were often cited as assets of the region.”

The groups tackled some big picture issues such as the ageing population, changing nature of work and a changing climate. They embarked on the long term strategic thinking that will be carried on by the incoming Council after the September elections.

“Participants were encouraged to identify specific projects, funding priorities and other initiatives that might be required to make their vision for the Cootamundra-Gundagai region a reality,” said Mr Sykes. “Since this is a community plan, not just a Council document, they were also invited to think about how other players such as community, Government agencies and the volunteer sector might be involved.”

Due to the interest expressed in the workshops, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council has announced additional workshops in the series of Listening Sessions to gather input to the creation of the Community Strategic Plan. These will be held on Wednesday 21st June in Cootamundra and Thursday 22nd June in Gundagai. People are urged to visit [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au) to register interest.

“We appreciate the commitment of people who have already taken the time out of their busy lives to attend a community listening session. I encourage everyone in the community who has not already done so to take the opportunity to attend one of the additional Listening Sessions coming up later in June or become a member of the Digital Community Panel which will be an ongoing consultation mechanism,” said Mr Sykes.

**-END-**

**Attached: Images of workshop in progress**

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council  
[www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au)

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