

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR TAKES ACTION WITH COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Since commencing in the role of Administrator for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Stephen Sykes has been out in our communities speaking to Council's support committees, community leaders, business owners, employers and service providers listening to views, and seeking input around long term planning and vision for the district.

'These discussions are providing me with a clearer view of community needs and priorities and equipping me with the knowledge required to take these priorities to the next level.' Mr. Sykes said.

Mr Sykes took action last week and headed to Sydney to meet with key Ministers armed with identified community priorities and seeking funding for their implementation.

'First and foremost we are seeking funding for the urgent upgrade of the Gundagai Sewerage Treatment Plant, which I am advised is at critical risk of failure at the next major flood, as well as additional investment into resolving identified safety issues around the highway at Gundagai.'

'I was able to secure meetings with The Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, The Hon. Niall Blair, Minister for Regional Water, and The. Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, Member for Cootamundra.'

'The meetings were extremely positive and I anticipate receiving a timely response to our requests'. Mr Sykes said.

'I affirm to our community that we are listening, we will continue to analyse options available to us and we will take action to ensure that the Council elected in September has solid, community-led foundations from which to deliver this region a dynamic future" Mr. Sykes remarked.

To further instil in the community Councils desire for their input into the big decisions Council has a month of community consultation commencing this week.

Village Strategy Engagement has commenced and is all about ensuring the most is made of the assets and community spirit that exist in our small villages. This consultation seeks people's ideas on what the potential opportunities are to improve or reinvigorate the villages, as well as identifying any barriers that Council might address.

This will be complemented by a week-long series of Community Listening sessions commencing on the 29<sup>th</sup> May to consider the Community Strategic Planning process, giving those in attendance the opportunity to express their 10-year vision for their area. These interactive sessions will cater for up to 25 people and require registration via Councils website [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au) to participate.

Online Surveys and information on session times for Village Strategy and Community Strategic Planning are available on Council's website [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au).

Council continues to encourage all interested community members to register to be part of our Digital Community Panel to provide input on an ongoing basis. Please register your email address at: [digitalpanel@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:digitalpanel@cgrc.nsw.gov.au).

Mr Sykes encouraged all community members to be involved. 'The community consultation process is relevant to everyone who lives, works and invests in the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council area. This process is an exciting opportunity to have a say on the future planning of the region'.

To get more information about how you can get involved in the different consultation mechanisms available please visit Councils website [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au) or pick up some information from either the Cootamundra or Gundagai Council Offices.

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The Hon. John Barilaro, MP Deputy Premier, The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, Member for Cootamundra and CGRC Administrator Mr Stephen Sykes



The Hon. Niall Blair, MLC, Minister for Regional Water, The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, Member for Cootamundra and CGRC Administrator Mr Stephen Sykes