

Media Release

Cootamundra Rodeo Grounds trees trimmed.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Cootamundra Rodeo Association has been able to prune large gum trees at the local rodeo grounds. The huge yellow box trees were in danger of dropping limbs over the shutes and holding yards. Two of the four trees loped had limbs fall off and destroy a catering shed in the past.

Local tree loping service, Cassidy's undertook the mammoth task of removing the branches from the huge trees. The pruning will make the area safer for riders and visitors and protect infrastructure from damage.

A grant of \$3,300 was provided to the association from the Stronger Communities Fund, a NSW State Government initiative and administered by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.

Built on the current location on Rodeo Drive in 1964, the grounds have held numerous national finals for rodeos. The grounds are often hired out to the public for private and fund raising functions, and equine events. On average the Rodeo committee hold six gymkhanas each year.

The committee felt a number of very large gum trees needed pruning back to keep the area around them clear of debris and falling limbs, the pruning will also help the small band of committee members with maintenance around the grounds.

Cootamundra Rodeo Association president Mr Francis Ross said the Association was established in 1957 and has a small but strong and dedicated committee and the grounds are used for a number of equine purposes as well as private functions throughout the year.

"With our gymkhanas and other events held here the trees were becoming dangerous, the pruning of the limbs we believe we have eliminated a risk to users and structures," Francis said.

Francis added, "The cost of removing the hazardous limbs and debris was prohibitive, the Stronger Communities Fund grant has given our association the means to carry out a long term plan in relation to our grounds."

Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council's Administrator Stephen Sykes said. This project although small in dollar value has helped the Rodeo Association achieve a project that would have been beyond their financial means.

"It's projects like this one that have made a huge difference to local community organisations, the Rodeo Association now have an area safe from falling tree limbs," Stephen said.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP said it is great the NSW Government's Stronger Communities program is supporting the work of a wide variety of local organisations.

"I'm pleased this funding has helped the Cootamundra Rodeo Association make their grounds safer for all who use the area," Katrina said.

Picture & Caption

Cootamundra Rodeo Association president Francis Ross is pictured dwarfed by two of the four trees, which have been pruned back by local contractor Cassidy's Tree Services at the Cootamundra Rodeo ground.



Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

For further media information contact:
Maxine Imrie Media Officer 0407 539 870
maxine.imrie@cgrc.nsw.gov.au