

Date: 16th May 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUBJECT: COOTAMUNDRA JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

UPGRADE OF FOOD HANDLING, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION AREA.

The scene at Nicholson Park on any Saturday morning during football season, is one of children enjoying and playing sport with parents cheering them on from the sidelines, hundreds of youngsters aged between the ages of five and 16, participate in junior rugby league at Cootamundra. Nicholson Park would be one of the most utilised sporting areas in the region. Used also by multiple other sports including rugby union, cricket, touch football, carnivals and school groups.

A grant received by the Cootamundra Junior Rugby League, through the Stronger Communities Fund will allow the club to upgrade the canteen facilities. The improvements and renovations will include new kitchen cupboards and benchtops. The food preparation areas will have a stainless steel finishes, the floor area will tiled, new fridges purchased and the barbecue area enlarged.

The grant will provide the club with a modern and safe area for food preparation, along with barriers to protect children from the barbecue cooking area. The internal ceiling of the canteen will also be replaced and repainted. Value of the work is estimated at over \$39000, with the Stronger Communities Fund a program by the NSW State Government and in partnership with the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, contributing \$32000 to the cost.

Club President Luke Dabin said the canteen is a vital community asset being used by up to 4-5 sporting groups.

“The Stronger Communities Fund grant will provide benefits to a large number of community members. Allowing each group that utilises the canteen to continue to generate income and provide additional resources to the children within each club”.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council’s Administrator Stephen Sykes said, club canteens provide vital income for them to continue to improve their facilities.

“This grant and the long term benefits will help improve the users experience and encourage children to participate in their chosen sport, with the income used to purchase equipment and make further improvements to their surroundings”

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP said the canteen renovations will greatly improve food storage and preparation areas for the Club.

"Canteens are a vital money earner for local sporting organisations so it is great news that players, families and sponsors of Cootamundra Junior Rugby League will benefit from this update, with the assistance of funding from the NSW Government," Katrina said.

Work has been completed on the barbecue area, with a new concrete floor installed and brick surround wall constructed. The club has a strong connection with local tradesmen and they will be involved in the upgrade and renovations, with materials sourced locally where possible. The balance of the project is to be completed when football season finishes.

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Photo and caption:

Stephen Sykes, administrator Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council, inspects the concreted barbeque area with Cootamundra Junior Rugby League Club president Luke Dabin, the brick surround walls were constructed to protect children from barbeque and provide a safer barbeque area.



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