

Media Release

Stronger Communities Fund Major Projects Endorsed

Wednesday, 26 July 2017

The Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) Administrator Stephen Sykes is set to endorse the CGRC's Assessment Panel's decision on the \$9mil major projects. The projects are to be funded under the NSW Government's stronger community funds. The Assessment Panel is made up of the Local member Katrina Hodgkinson, Administrator Stephen Sykes and a representative of NSW Premier and Cabinet, Probity Advisor Mrs Margot Gill of JMA Legal Services has reviewed the process.

The local communities have been positive in providing feedback on which projects they believe should be funded from the \$9 million Stronger Communities Fund, which was provided by the NSW State Government. "The Assessment Panel has been able to consider all the projects and I believe that the community views have been fully considered."

Members of IAG (Implementation Advisory Group) and LRC (Local Representative Committee), have assessed the projects over the last few months. Final priority projects were discussed and prioritised at a session held with both committees last week, before projects were submitted to the assessment panel for determination.

To meet the major projects program criteria council are to deliver projects that are new or improve infrastructure or services to the community.

One project to get the nod is Cootamundra's Water Main Replacement Program. CGRC has identified the urgent need to replace 60 year old old water mains in the Cootamundra town area. This is designed to deliver clear water to residents all year round. Cootamundra has 70 kilometres of mains pipe, with 18.8 kilometres being the old ductile and cast type. Most of the ductile and cast iron water main pipe was laid in the 1930's. Council will undertake a replacement program over the next few years to renew the sections of old pipe. The Stronger Communities Fund project will expedite the replacement with an injection of \$2 million.

Gundagai Netball will also be in for a windfall. Community response to an upgrade of the town's netball courts was encouraging and positive. Located within council's existing recreational and swimming pool area, the upgrade of the courts will see lighting, shelter and storage facilities established. At an estimated cost of \$200,000, netball officials are enthusiastic about attracting major carnivals to the area and increased interest in the sport in the town. "The opportunity to support a project that increases evening Netball activity is exciting and a great outcome" Katrina Hodgkinson said.

Another project that attracted community support was the establishment of a public toilet facility accessible to adults with major disabilities, on Gundagai's main street. With the current \$5.4 million main street redevelopment taking shape, the need for a public toilet facility within the main shopping zone was identified, the closest public amenities are located in Carberry Park and Yarri Park, some 10 minutes' walk away from the central business centre.

NSW State Government member Hon Katrina Hodgkinson and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Administrator Stephen Sykes inspected the sites during the week.

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Picture and caption: (1) State member Katrina Hodgkinson and CGRC administrator Stephen Sykes discuss Cootamundra's water main replacement project. Mr Sykes has a section of the ductile/case pipe which shows corrosion and blockages.



Picture and caption: (2) Gundagai Netball Club officials president Michelle McDonnell and coach Carmel Lemon are pictured with State member Katrina Hodgkinson and CGRC administrator Stephen Sykes at the Gundagai Netball Courts, which could see a major upgrade with funds from the Stronger Communities Fund.



Picture and caption: (3) Public toilets in Gundagai's main street are a possibility with funds from the Stronger Communities Fund. Local business owners Ron Moses and John Glascott check out the proposed site on the corner of Byron and Sheridan Streets with State member Katrina Hodgkinson and CGRC administrator Stephen Sykes.

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

For further media information contact:
Linda Wiles Public Relations Officer 02 6940 2100
linda.wiles@cgrc.nsw.gov.au

