

# Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND PROJECTS START TO TAKE SHAPE**

46 not-for-profit community groups throughout the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council have reaped the rewards of more than \$1 million in funding through the Stronger Community Grants program.

The Stronger Communities Fund was established by the NSW Government to provide councils with funding to kick start the delivery of projects that improve community infrastructure and services. Communities within Cootamundra-Gundagai regional Council should start to notice these projects commencing through-out our region.

Gundagai Historic Bridges Inc. (GHBI) applied for and was approved \$18,000 through the Stronger Communities Fund to erect safety fencing around the Prince Alfred Bridge. The old bridge is quickly decaying and in need of attention and accordingly funds through the SCF Program have been approved to ensure safety and minimise risk to residents and visitors to Gundagai.

The fencing has been now been completed.

GHBI plan to work closely with the Department of Crown Lands and Office of Environment and Heritage to list the bridge on the heritage register and to implement the bridge as a managed ruin, removing falling and loose material and focus on conserving a section of bridge over Morley's Creek and the more structurally sound pylons.

Both the Prince Alfred Bridge and the Railway Bridge in Gundagai are iconic structures nationally and tourism attractions for Gundagai and the Riverina.

GHBI will also be approaching the relevant government agencies, John Holland (contract railway management company), and council to look at restoring the old Railway Bridge and repurposing it for pedestrian and cycle use.

Spokesperson for the project Mason Crane stated 'Conserving at least one of these bridges in its entirety and conserving parts of the other is not only important for the people of Gundagai, but important in conserving our nations transport heritage.'

Administrator Christine Ferguson reminded all residents 'The NSW Government has provided Stronger Communities funds to newly merged councils following their commencement, enabling councils in conjunction with communities to investing in projects like the safety project for the Prince Alfred Bridge that would not have been possible had it not been for the merger.'

If any community members are interested in being involved in the Gundagai Historic Bridges Inc. they are welcome to contact Mason on 0427 770 594. Committee meetings are held every two months.

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