

## Office of Local Government

### COVID-19 Local Government Economic Stimulus Package – FAQs

May 2020



Access to funding	
Why is the Government supporting local councils?	<p>The NSW Government recognises the vital role councils play in their communities and is only too aware of the significant financial and operational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our State's local councils.</p> <p>Local councils are the lifeblood of their communities as a major employer. Local councils employ more than 60,000 staff and in many towns and communities are the major employer.</p> <p>Our local councils also provide vital services and infrastructure to their communities, be it waste, roads, water, or management of our public spaces. Like other parts of the community they are suffering from reduced revenues and increased costs as well as significant challenges in maintaining delivery of community infrastructure and services.</p> <p>Importantly, council employees are not eligible to access the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper Payment. This package will give councils breathing space to adjust their structures and operations and be in a better position to effectively serve their communities throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.</p>
What are the conditions to access the funding?	<p>The Government has announced a \$395 million local government economic stimulus package to reduce the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local councils across the State.</p> <p>The package is comprised of four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council Job Retention Allowance</li> <li>• Funding to meet councils' increase in the emergency services levy for 2020-21</li> <li>• Access to low-interest, infrastructure loans from TCorp in line with TCorp's credit criteria</li> <li>• Access, subject to meeting certain requirements, to a NSW Government guarantee for commercial borrowings.</li> </ul> <p>The \$112.5 million <b>Council Job Retention Allowance</b> is a payment of \$1,500 per fortnight per employee, paid to the council, which will be administered by the Office of Local Government.</p>

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	<p>To access the funding councils need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To covered by the <i>Local Government (COVID-19) Splinter (Interim) Award 2020</i> (the Splinter Award) or equivalent agreement with relevant industrial unions</li> <li>• To have met the cost of four weeks paid COVID-19 Special Leave under the Splinter Award prior to each employee accessing the Council Job Retention Allowance, as well as any costs above \$1,500 a fortnight, per employee, for up to three months</li> <li>• To provide evidence to the Office of Local Government (OLG) of financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, and</li> <li>• To note that certain council staff are ineligible from accessing the allowance, even if they are redeployed to other roles during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> if any employee has ordinary earnings less than \$1,500, council will receive the full \$1,500 for that employee but must pass it on to them.</p> <p>The NSW Government will fully fund the \$32.76 million <b>increase</b> in the <b>Emergency Services Levy (ESL)</b> for all NSW councils for 2020-21. Councils will be required to pay their ESL invoices to Revenue NSW, and OLG will directly reimburse councils the 2020-21 increase in the ESL contribution.</p> <p>The stimulus package also makes it easier for local councils to secure <b>low-interest, safe and secure infrastructure loans from TCorp</b>, with councils previously ineligible for TCorp loans now able to access the Government's lending facility for the next six months. The criteria to access these loans will be in line with TCorp's credit criteria.</p> <p>The Government is also placing a <b>two-year moratorium</b> on using TCorp loans for capital works on council chambers and administration buildings to ensure infrastructure projects directly benefit local residents and businesses.</p> <p>Councils seeking to access commercial finance can apply to have the Treasurer to provide a "Deed of Indemnity for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of NSW". This will be conditional on Treasury's assessment, analysis and approval. This guarantee will increase the</p>
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	<p>availability and reduce the cost for those councils seeking to borrow from banks and other private sector credit providers.</p> <p>Councils that are a member of a <b>joint organisation (JO)</b> will need to continue to support that JO's continued operations, including with necessary funding contributions, for the next two years.</p>
Why does my council have to demonstrate financial distress to access the Council Job Retention Allowance? Shouldn't this package be available to all councils?	<p>The NSW Government wants to support all councils that need it. Much like the Commonwealth has limited access to JobKeeper, the State Government has taken a similar approach to ensure funding is prioritised to those that need it most. The funding is available to all councils in NSW that meet the conditions. Councils in NSW are facing severe financial pressures as a result of COVID-19 and are already showing signs of financial distress. While revenue is falling quickly, annual council employee costs in NSW remain stable and it is important that all councils in financial distress have access to the funding provided.</p>
What is financial distress?	<p>Councils will need to be projecting a 30% reduction in own-source revenue each quarter, commencing with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the 2019-20 financial year, to be eligible for the Council Job Retention Allowance. If councils have claimed funding for a quarter and subsequently significantly exceed this revenue target, they may be required to repay all or part of that quarter's amount. OLG will issue further information regarding the process and criteria to apply for the stimulus package.</p>
How does my council demonstrate/measure financial distress?	<p>The Office of Local Government will issue each council with a return to complete. The return will be based on cash receipts of items that are included in the councils' own source income. It is expected that the most significant decrease in cash receipts for councils will occur in the fourth quarter. The return will compare councils' projected current quarter cash receipts against either the original current quarter budgeted cash receipts or the previous quarter actual cash receipts.</p> <p>The items included in the own source revenue receipt calculations include:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rates and annual charges (but not the receipt of deferred rates and annual charges)</li> <li>• User charges and fees (but not the receipt of deferred fees and user charges)</li> <li>• Other revenue eg parking revenue, fines, rental income, and</li> <li>• Interest and investment income.</li> </ul> <p>For the purposes of calculating whether a council is in financial distress or not, capital and operating grants are not included in the calculations. The return will be based on general fund and not consolidated revenue.</p> <p>OLG will assess each councils' level of distress and confirm councils' eligibility.</p>
Which parts of the funding package may only be accessed by councils that are a member of a joint organisation (JO) and supporting their JO for the next two years?	Councils that are a member of a joint organisation (JO) are required to continue to fund their JO, as specified in Clauses 397L and 397B of the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2005</i> , for a period of two years as part of the package.
How can councils continue to support their JOs?	JOs can provide a strong regional voice for councils and ensure that NSW Government agencies are well placed to provide funding and projects that will support the region's strategic priorities. Councils can continue to support their JOs through active engaged participation and the provision of financial support through membership fees and in-kind support. Many councils are reaping the benefits of belonging to a successful JO, and others are working with their JOs to increase their capacity to deliver outcomes for their councils and communities.
My council isn't part of a JO, does that mean it won't get the funding? Does it mean my council needs to join a JO?	Councils that are not currently a member of a JO will be eligible for funding as long as they meet other criteria. Membership of a JO is voluntary, and no council will be required to join a JO to be eligible for funding. However, councils that are members of a JO will need to work with member councils to continue to fund their JO for a period of two years as a condition of funding. The NSW



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	Government continues to support JOs and encourages all councils to join their JO so that they and their communities can benefit from the advantages a strong JO brings to the region.
Why is the State Government not doing more to support council operations?	The NSW Government has delivered a support package to NSW councils worth \$112.5 million to ensure that valuable local jobs are safeguarded, and staff are retained to continue to serve the community. This is on top of the funding already provided to councils to help to keep childcare and family day care services open. The package also includes \$32.76 million to fund the increase in the emergency services levy for all councils in 2020-21. Importantly, the package will ensure that important infrastructure projects are delivered. These projects create much-needed jobs and investment and support local businesses.
<b>Council Job Retention Allowance</b>	
How much is the Council Job Retention Allowance?	<p>The job retention allowance is a payment to council staff by their employer of \$858.20 per week for an aggregate period of three months where there is no useful work for the staff member due to COVID-19. This amount was negotiated by the parties to the Award in the Splinter Award. The NSW Government has allocated \$112.5 million to contribute to councils' cost of providing the Council Job Retention Allowance to eligible employees after the State's councils were deemed ineligible for the Commonwealth's JobKeeper Payment.</p> <p>The State-funded Council Job Retention Allowance payment of \$1,500 per fortnight per employee for eligible employees will be paid to councils for three months to qualifying staff working in the NSW local government sector.</p>
Which councils and council staff are eligible to access the State-funded allowance?	The following eligibility requirements apply:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council needs to be covered by the Splinter Award or equivalent agreement with relevant industrial unions in order to access the State Government-funded Council Job Retention Allowance</li> <li>• To qualify for NSW Government support, the employee must have received their full entitlement to Paid COVID-19 Special Leave under the Splinter Award (funded by council) which is an aggregate amount of four weeks</li> <li>• Councils will need to be projecting or demonstrate a 30 per cent reduction in own-source revenue each quarter, commencing with the 4th quarter of 2019-20, to be eligible for funds. If councils have claimed funding for a quarter and subsequently significantly exceed this revenue target, they may be required to repay all or part of that quarter's amount</li> <li>• Staff performing key functions (including general managers, senior staff, and roles in planning, waste collection, childcare, water and wastewater) are ineligible from accessing the State Government-funded Council Job Retention Allowance, even if these employees are redeployed to other roles. This is because these employees are already required to work in providing vital services that are important to the ongoing functioning of the community.</li> </ul> <p>*Note: Childcare has already been provided with additional State funding to keep their services operating.</p>
How will the funding be administered?	The funding will be administered by OLG with councils being paid monthly in arrears and required to comply with the financial distress conditions. OLG will issue further information on how the financial distress criteria are to be calculated. Following the gathering and analysis of this information from councils, OLG will contact councils to discuss agreements and any other necessary information.
What is the commencement date for funding to be available?	The funding is available from the date the council became covered by the Splinter Award or equivalent instrument. The Job Retention Allowance Payment to councils commences once councils meet the access criteria.

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How long can councils access the allowance?	Qualifying staff will be provided with a State-funded subsidy of \$1,500 per fortnight to cover eligible employees who are unable to be provided work due to the COVID-19 pandemic for up to a total of three months after they have accessed their full entitlement to four-weeks paid leave under the Paid COVID-19 Special Leave provisions of the Splinter Award (funded by local councils). Further guidance will be provided about which staff qualify for the allowance.
Why is the Government only funding \$1,500 not the full cost of payments?	The \$1,500 per fortnight subsidy is consistent with the level of the Commonwealth JobKeeper Payment.
Why is the funding only available for three months when the Commonwealth JobKeeper package provides six months of assistance?	The three-month funding period is consistent with the provisions of the Splinter Award negotiated by Local Government NSW (LGNW) and industry unions.
What are qualifying frontline staff? Can all council staff access the allowance?	It is ultimately a matter for councils to determine which staff are eligible and in most need within the parameters of the allowance criteria. While most council staff are eligible, staff performing key functions (including general managers, senior staff, and roles in planning, waste collection, childcare, water and wastewater) will not be funded by the NSW Government, although the council can choose to cover the full cost. The exemptions are to encourage councils to maintain vital services for communities. Councils cannot redeploy these employees to make them eligible for the State-funded allowance. Further guidance will be provided on which staff perform key functions for the purposes of the allowance.
Which staff are not eligible for NSW Government support?	General managers, senior staff, and roles in key functions including planning, waste collection, childcare, water and wastewater are not eligible for State-funded support. It should be noted that the NSW Government is not paying staff but instead subsidising councils for the cost of a payment

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	they are required to make in certain circumstances under the Splinter Award. Councils can still choose to move these employees onto the Job Retention Allowance under the Splinter Award, but the State will not contribute to the cost of the allowance. Further guidance on this matter will be issued to councils.
How are key functions defined?	Key functions are areas of council and staff which are continuing to deliver the core council and utility services the local community requires to remain functioning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes services related to waste, water, sewerage, and planning or where care is provided to a vulnerable person, for example, aged, health, childcare and social services. Further guidance will be issued to councils on key functions.
I am working in a key function. What support is being provided to me?	While many council staff are eligible for a State-funded allowance, staff performing key functions (including general managers, senior staff, and planning, waste collection, childcare, water and wastewater) are exempt from accessing the State-funded allowance. The Splinter Award and Job Retention Allowance only apply to council staff whose job is affected or disrupted by COVID-19 and are unable to perform normal duties and normal work hours or redeployed into another suitable role. The exemptions are to encourage councils to maintain vital services for communities. If your role is not eligible for State-funded assistance but your council places you on the Job Retention Allowance under the Splinter Award, you will still be paid the allowance but the State will not contribute to the cost incurred by your employer.
What support is available for childcare workers?	Childcare workers are ineligible to access the State-funded allowance. Councils can still move childcare staff onto the Job Retention Allowance under the Splinter Award, and they will still be paid the allowance, but the State will not contribute to the cost incurred by the council.  In April 2020, the NSW Government announced up to \$82 million to support 260 council-run childcare centres not eligible for the JobKeeper Payment. This new funding will provide councils with certainty during this challenging time, ensuring childcare educators can be confident they will



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	remain employed. The new funding also means community preschools and council childcare centres should remain open, unless they are closed on health advice.
What if staff performing key functions have been redeployed into other roles?	While most council staff are eligible, certain staff performing key functions (including general managers, senior staff, and roles in planning, waste collection, childcare, water and wastewater) are exempt from accessing the State-funded allowance. The exemptions are to encourage councils to maintain these vital services for communities. Councils cannot redeploy these staff to make them eligible for the State-funded payment.
If a council moves an ineligible staff member onto the Job Retention Allowance will they still get paid?	Yes, the council will be obliged to pay the staff member in accordance with the Splinter Award. However, the council will not receive funding by the NSW Government for that position.
For staff and activities that are not performing key functions, does this mean the Government does not believe these services and functions are not essential and should not be undertaken?	The NSW Government recognises the vital role councils play in their communities and is only too aware of the significant financial and operational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our State's local councils. Councils are a critical part of the NSW economy, especially in many regional and rural towns where they are the largest employers. The State Government wants to encourage all councils to maintain services to the maximum extent possible while maintaining compliance with the relevant Public Health Orders, in consultation with their community, where possible. However, the NSW Government has identified key functions that are ineligible for funding if stood down to ensure that all parties understand the importance of these roles and functions.
What about the staff already laid off?	The Job Retention Allowance subsidises councils for the payments they make to council staff that are eligible for assistance under the Splinter Award.  As the Splinter Award does not apply to council staff who are no longer employed by the council, councils cannot receive the Job Retention Allowance for former employees.

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Land use planning activity has ground to a halt. Why can't a council stand down these employees?	The NSW Government is committed to supporting economic activity during the pandemic and this is why so much is being done to keep construction activity moving. Infrastructure and housing will play a key role in the economic recovery of the State after the pandemic. Maintaining a pipeline of projects for the State's recovery from the pandemic relies on the planning system continuing to deliver outcomes during this period.
What is the Splinter Award – what does it entail?	<p>The Splinter Award, which will apply for 12 months, was negotiated by LGNSW (on behalf of NSW councils) and the relevant local government unions to protect thousands of local government jobs put at risk by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Splinter Award operates in addition to the Local Government (State) Award 2017 and to any registered Enterprise Agreements a council has in place. Under the Splinter Award, councils are required to look for other suitable work for their staff whose usual jobs have been impacted by mandatory closures or other changes. Where this is not possible, council staff are entitled to up to a total of four weeks of paid COVID-19 Special Leave at their normal pay rate to cover any period where no work can be provided and then to be paid a weekly job retention allowance of \$858.20 for a total period of three months (13 weeks). The Splinter Award is not mandatory but councils may voluntarily sign up. A full list of participating councils can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Note: the periods referred to are not inclusive of any days/hours the employee has worked.</p>
What if a council has not signed up to the Splinter Award? Will staff still get the payment?	To access the State-funded allowance councils need to have signed up to the Splinter Award or equivalent instrument. OLG will consider providing funding to councils with local industrial arrangements on a case by case basis, but they must operate in the same manner and be agreed with all relevant industrial organisations. The NSW Government is not paying council staff, it is subsidising councils for the cost of a payment they are required to make in certain circumstances under the Splinter Award.

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Who are the parties to the Splinter Award?	<p>The parties to the Splinter Award are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government NSW</li> <li>• Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA)</li> <li>• United Services Union (USU)</li> <li>• Local Government Engineers' Association (LGEA)</li> <li>• Development and Environmental Professionals' Association (DEPA)</li> <li>• NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA)</li> <li>• Electrical Trades Union of Australia, New South Wales Branch (ETU)</li> <li>• Health Services Union (HSU).</li> </ul>
What if the parties to the Award change the Splinter Award or negotiate a new Award that changes the rate or access to the Job Retention Allowance?	<p>The NSW Government is providing this money to local councils to support their employees and communities in good faith. The Government expects all parts of the local government sector to similarly act in good faith.</p> <p>The NSW Government retains the right to modify the scheme if the parties to the award vary the award in a manner that has a material adverse effect on the NSW Government's liability or commitment to fund certain payments.</p>
Won't this encourage councils to move staff onto the Job Retention Allowance?	<p>The Splinter Award contemplates that the Job Retention Allowance is a last resort, only after all attempts at redeployment have been exhausted. Council staff concerned that they are not being offered adequate opportunities to be redeployed should raise this with their manager or local industrial representative.</p>

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Will casual staff be eligible for the payment?	The Splinter Award does not provide a job retention allowance for casual staff or staff employed under a term contract.
Will the State fund all staff that are stood down under the Splinter Award?	The State will fund councils for all staff on the Job Retention Allowance that meet the eligibility criteria, except those frontline staff that are exempt from accessing the State-funded allowance (including general managers, senior staff, and roles in planning, waste collection, childcare, water and wastewater).
Why do council workers get more than the Commonwealth JobKeeper payment?	The Splinter Award was negotiated between LGNSW and industry unions. The level of the Job Retention Allowance was agreed between these parties. However, the NSW Government is only funding eligible councils with an amount equivalent to the Commonwealth JobKeeper payment, and councils will need to 'top up' this amount to the amount prescribed under the Splinter Award.
<b>Emergency Services Levy (ESL)</b>	
Why is the Government making ESL grants to councils?	The Government understands now more than ever the importance of supporting our emergency services. Unfortunately, local councils simply cannot afford increased costs in the wake of COVID-19, bushfires and drought. These grants will enable local councils to redirect funds to vital services and deliver financial support (through rate and fee relief) for local businesses and communities.
Why pay for the value of this year's increase?	Our emergency services have long been funded through a cost sharing arrangement between insurers, councils and the Government. Councils will have budgeted for expected increased ESL contributions in their operational plans and financial planning for this year based on last year's invoices. The Government is stepping in to meet any ESL cost increases councils may not have anticipated to ensure that councils' available funds are fully directed towards supporting delivery of essential services to their communities at this time.



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What is the total value of local government ESL contributions for 2020-21?	Local government contributions to ESL will total \$178.28 million for 2020-21.
How much has the total value of these contributions increased since 2019-20?	The total value of these contributions has increased by \$32.76 million since 2019-20.
Why are council invoices increasing again?	The contribution of local councils will rise next financial year, primarily to pay for new workers' compensation arrangements for firefighters with cancer. This significant increase reflects the full-year impact of the legislation introduced to better support firefighters with cancer.
When will councils receive their invoices for 2020-21?	Revenue NSW will issue invoices to local government shortly.
How much has my council's invoice increased by?	Councils will be able to receive advance notice of their invoice amounts by contacting their OLG Council Engagement Manager. However, the NSW Government has committed to meeting these increased costs for 2020-2021.
How much will my council receive from the Government?	Councils will receive a grant to offset the amount that their invoices have increased by between 2019-20 and 2020-21.  The NSW Government will fully fund the \$32.76 million increase in the emergency services levy for all NSW councils for 2020-21. Councils will be required to pay their ESL invoices to Revenue NSW, and OLG will pay a grant to councils in the first quarter of 2020-21 to cover the 2020-21 increase in the contribution.
When will the payments be made?	Payments will be made by OLG to councils in the first quarter of 2020-21. This early grant payment will provide councils with a much-needed cashflow stimulus.

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Does this mean the Government will continue to fund annual local government ESL contributions?	No. Our emergency services have long been funded through a cost sharing arrangement between insurers, councils and the Government. These grants acknowledge that local councils simply cannot afford this financial impost in the wake of COVID-19, bushfires and drought as they focus on providing essential frontline services to their local communities.
Are councils obliged to pay their levy invoices? Will they have to return the grant money if they do not?	By law local councils must pay their ESL invoices. Grants for each council will also be provided on the condition that it is used to pay their ESL invoices.
Does this mean ESL contributions from insurers are also going up? How will that impact local ratepayers?	The cost of emergency services has increased in NSW and insurers, councils and the Government will each pay higher levies to fund these services. Property owners that hold insurance should speak to their insurer about their premiums.
What has the Government done to address the timing issues? Didn't the Government commit to fixing this?	<p>The Government acknowledges the need to provide earlier notice to councils and that the timing issue has been problematic for councils for a number of years. The Government is continuing to work towards a solution to enable the State and local council budgetary processes to work more smoothly.</p> <p>The Government has extended the time for councils to prepare their 2020-21 operational plans and budgets by one month. It has also provided a significant amount of funding to councils to help with the transition to the increased cost.</p> <p>IPART has also improved the calculation of the ESL component of the Local Government Cost Index, which allows the ESL increase to be reflected in the rate peg calculation more quickly.</p>
<b>Low cost loans to councils</b>	
Which councils can access TCorp low cost loans? What about Far West councils or what if councils have not met the	The Government is expanding eligibility to allow any council to access the TCorp low cost loans facility for the next six months, effective immediately. This means that Far West councils, and those councils that previously had not met the Government's financial sustainability criteria are now able to access TCorp, subject to meeting TCorp's credit criteria. To access the low cost

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Government's financial sustainability criteria?	loans, councils are encouraged to contact the TCorp Local Government Services team to discuss their requirements, read the 'Loan Facilities for Local Councils - Guidelines' and complete the Loan Facility Application Form and submit it to TCorp, along with the required documentation.
Why have councils only been given six months to access TCorp?	This is a concession made by the NSW Government to provide temporary assistance for all councils. All councils should have the opportunity at this time to fund suitable infrastructure projects as part of kickstarting economic recovery in their local community.
Does a council have to take out the loan for six months?	Terms of up to 20 years are available through TCorp.
What are the lending criteria to access the loans?	TCorp will assess loan applications using standard credit criteria, including a review of investments, based on a council's audited financial statements for the last five years, current 10-year long term financial plan and capital expenditure program, integrated planning and reporting documents, investment and debt policies and current investment reports. Councils are encouraged to contact TCorp's Local Government Services team to discuss their requirements, and read the 'Loan Facilities for Local Councils - Guidelines'.
Will the Government relax the borrowing criteria for TCorp?	TCorp has an independent credit committee that sets its credit policies to maintain an appropriate risk exposure.
Are there any moratoriums on certain projects to be funded by TCorp loans?	The NSW Government is placing a two-year moratorium on using TCorp loans for capital works on council chambers and administration buildings. This is to ensure infrastructure projects directly benefit local residents and businesses.
Can a council still build its civic centre with council funding or external borrowings?	Yes, provided that council has planned and documented its intention to do so in its suite of integrated planning and reporting documents. However, councils should carefully consider if these projects

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	will provide the best use of ratepayers' funds for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic recovery. The NSW Government encourages all councils to prioritise investment in economic and community infrastructure, such as roads and bridges.
Can my council use TCorp to borrow for operational expenditure? Can TCorp assist with cash flow?	No. TCorp loans are available for approved community and economic infrastructure, which form part of a council's annual capital expenditure program, such as roads, buildings, stormwater drainage, and water and sewerage networks. Councils should contact TCorp's Local Government Services team if they are unsure whether assets planned for acquisition, upgrade or replacement will qualify.
How does council access the TCorp's deferral of principal and interest payments?	TCorp will, when requested, also provide principal and interest payment deferrals to any council with existing loans for the next six months, commencing immediately.  Deferred interest and any associated costs will be capitalised as part of the council's loan.
Can council access commercial finance?	Councils seeking to access commercial finance can apply to have the Treasurer provide a "Deed of Indemnity for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of NSW". This will be conditional upon Treasury's assessment, analysis and approval. This guarantee will increase the availability and reduce the cost for those councils seeking to borrow from banks and other private sector credit providers. There is no obligation for councils to borrow from TCorp. Borrowing from TCorp is an option that the Government has made available to councils in NSW to assist with the cost of borrowing. Any council can still choose to access commercial finance providers.
Why is the Government forcing money away from local building societies by forcing councils to use TCorp?	There is no obligation for councils to borrow from TCorp if they do not want to meet the conditions of borrowing. Borrowing from TCorp is an option that the Government has made available to councils in NSW to assist with the cost of borrowing. Councils can still access private sector lenders, potentially with a government guarantee.



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What funding is available if my council cannot meet the borrowing requirements of TCorp?	Councils seeking to access commercial finance can apply to have the Treasurer provide a “Deed of Indemnity for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of NSW”. This will be conditional on Treasury’s assessment, analysis and approval. This guarantee will increase the availability and reduce the cost for those councils seeking to borrow from banks and other private sector credit providers.
Can council borrow against restricted funds?	No. Restricted funds are protected by law and can only be used for specific purposes and infrastructure.
<b>Two-year moratorium on using TCorp loans for civic centres</b>	
Why has this measure been introduced?	This will ensure that council resources are directed to essential expenditure on assets like roads and bridges, waste, sewerage, water and other transport infrastructure, which must continue to be provided to protect public health and safety or key community infrastructure. This is necessary given the financial challenges councils are facing and reduces unnecessary borrowing, which would need to be paid for by current and future ratepayers.
What types of buildings does it apply to?	TCorp loans will not be approved for capital works on council assets that are public buildings that are primarily used for administrative or decision-making purposes, including council chambers.
What are capital works?	The moratorium includes loans to finance capital expenditure, including the purchase of new assets as well as any renewal, renovation or rehabilitation works on relevant buildings.
When does this begin?	TCorp will not accept or assess any applications for works to which this moratorium applies. This policy comes into effect on and from 25 April 2020.

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When does this end?	The moratorium is for a two-year period. TCorp will not accept any new applications for works to which this moratorium applies until Monday, 25 April 2022.
Are there any exceptions?	Limited exceptions will apply to councils in financial distress in relation to emergency works and repairs required due to unforeseen failures, natural disasters and similar emergencies.
Does this apply to existing TCorp loans?	No. The moratorium applies to any loan for which an application is approved on or after 26 April 2020.
Can county councils access TCorp loans? If so, does the moratorium apply?	All councils and county councils are now able to access these low-cost loans for a period of six months if they meet the TCorp borrowing conditions. The moratorium applies to all Local Government Act entities that obtain loans.
Is there an exception for capital works set out in a council's integrated planning and reporting documents?	No. The moratorium applies whether or not the capital works are specified in an operational plan or delivery program.
Can these works be undertaken with other council finances?	Councils are strongly discouraged from undertaking capital works on council buildings primarily used for administrative or decision-making purposes. Council resources should be directed to providing economic infrastructure by investing in assets like roads and bridges, waste, sewerage, water and other infrastructure which must continue to be provided to protect public health and safety.
What happens for buildings affected by the moratorium when funding has already been provided?	Existing loan commitments will continue to be met. However, any loans within the process of approval will no longer be eligible.

NSW Office of Local Government | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment | 1

## Office of Local Government

COVID-19 Local Government Economic Stimulus Package – FAQs

May 2020



Does the moratorium apply to commercial loans where a Treasurer's Deed is sought?	Councils are strongly discouraged from undertaking capital works on council buildings primarily used for administrative or decision-making purposes. Council resources should be directed to providing economic infrastructure by investing in assets like waste, sewerage, water and transport infrastructure, which must continue to be provided to protect public health and safety.
<b>Indemnity</b>	
Why is the NSW Government offering the indemnity for councils?	Councils seeking to access commercial finance will be able to, conditional on Treasury's analysis and approval upon application, and subject to assessment by Treasury, have the Treasurer provide a "Deed of Indemnity for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of NSW". This will increase the availability and reduce the cost for those councils seeking to borrow from banks and other private sector credit providers. This is an important mechanism for councils that may need immediate operational or cashflow assistance as well as those that cannot meet the borrowing criteria of TCorp.
Is the indemnity only for the pandemic	These are temporary measures designed to assist councils deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic only.
<b>Other</b>	
What further funding is the Government considering for local government? What about infrastructure grants?	This package will give councils breathing space to adjust their structures and operations to be in a better position to effectively serve their communities during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Each level of government needs to play their part in dealing with the economic and social impacts of COVID-19, and this package supports local government to do their part.

## Office of Local Government

COVID-19 Local Government Economic Stimulus Package – FAQs

May 2020



How can a council get funding if it has a shovel ready project that would be perfect for economic rebuilding?

The NSW Government has made a record investment in community infrastructure throughout metropolitan and regional NSW. Since 2011, the NSW Government has provided more than \$9 billion to councils to deliver and improve local infrastructure, services and facilities for their communities and it is important that councils continue with vital projects as a result of their own or the Government's investment. In relation to COVID-19 alone, we have already committed billions of dollars to economic stimulus, including \$82 million for council-run childcare centres and \$25 million for councils to rebuild and refurbish infrastructure for local showgrounds. There are also a range of grant and infrastructure funding opportunities available for councils across NSW, which remain open.



To the Councillors of the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council,

As discussed at a Council workshop previously we are asking for a further loan to complete the Rugby Clubhouse. We realise that there have been some mistakes made, the project was too big and there were many unknowns causing some overruns, as discussed previously.

The building is close to completion but we require a further \$110,000 loan to complete the project. The building will be a Council asset and when completed this will be a top class facility that the CRUC, the community and Council will be proud of.

Previous to the start of this building the CRUC have not asked for much assistance from Council other than the usual ground maintenance etc. The ground was originally donated and most of the early construction carried out by club members. We have conditioned (gypsum) and fertilized the ground at our own expense and recent soil tests show the ground to be in the best condition compared to others. We have always been proactive in looking after ourselves.

The CRUC has already contributed a substantial amount of cash and in-kind work and will continue to raise funds to pay back any loans. At present we have 74 head of steers out on various properties. This should generate substantial funds at the end of the year and will become an annual fund raiser. We will also be approaching Club supporters and past players for some financial assistance in the way of loans or donations. With the building complete we will also generate good profits from our home games (not this season with covid 19) and other fund raising activities.

With the completion of this building there are many benefits for Rugby and other sporting bodies in Cootamundra, catering for both men and women. It will be a wonderful asset for the future, where functions can be held and all ages can come and enjoy sport and social interaction. There are many other benefits which have been mentioned before.

It's in nobody's interest to leave this incomplete and we need your support to finish the project, so please give consideration to our request.

Yours Faithfully,

Steven Hardie (President CRUC)

**From:** [Phil McMurray](#)  
**To:** [Marianne McInerney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cootamundra Rugby Clubhouse  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:10:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [CGRC\\_SF31424a-2515-4065-a9fa-700bd4d63a35.png](#)

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Regards,

[Phil McMurray](#)  
General Manager  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council



**P:** 1300 459 689  
**M:** -  
**E:** [phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)  
**W:** [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au)

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**From:** David Graham <[grahamdj@bigpond.com](mailto:grahamdj@bigpond.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 16, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Hardie Pastoral Co <[stirling1@activ8.net.au](mailto:stirling1@activ8.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Phil McMurray <[phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)>; Abb McAlister <[Abb.McAlister@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Abb.McAlister@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)>; [charlie.sheahan@hotmail.com](mailto:charlie.sheahan@hotmail.com); Dennis Palmer <[dennispf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dennispf@bigpond.net.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Cootamundra Rugby Clubhouse

Steve

Good letter

Suggest Club should add fact that Council will now have good public toilets at that end town and extra parking that assist with club across road

If approved I would suggest incorporate into one loan and after cattle repayment say \$50k plus GST say \$10 k as repayments by Dec 2020 and interest on existing loan actually paid up to day then have a position where club owes Council \$150 k

I am not a fan of accruing interest so I think it is good Cashflow discipline that club pays interest quarterly in arrears and then in December each year after season and cattle trading make a loan repayment of say \$15 k p a or more if cashflow allows.

Remember cattle trading is not always as profitable as this current trade

Thanks

David

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 May 2020, at 7:51 am, Hardie Pastoral Co <[stirling1@activ8.net.au](mailto:stirling1@activ8.net.au)> wrote:

Dear Phil,

Attached is a letter that I would like tabled at the next Council meeting if there are discussions about the CRUC clubhouse. I could attend the meeting if required.

Regards,

Steven Hardie

<To the Councillors of the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council.docx>

**From:** [Phil McMurray](#)  
**To:** [Marianne McInerney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Cootamundra Rugby Union Club Loan  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:09:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [CGRC\\_SF31424a-2515-4065-a9fa-700bd4d63a35.png](#)

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Regards,

**Phil McMurray**  
**General Manager**  
**Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council**



**P:** 1300 459 689  
**M:** -  
**E:** [phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)  
**W:** [www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au)

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**From:** David Graham <[grahamdj@bigpond.com](mailto:grahamdj@bigpond.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:11 PM  
**To:** Phil McMurray <[phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phil.mcmurray@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Abb McAlister <[Abb.McAlister@cgrc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Abb.McAlister@cgrc.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Cootamundra Rugby Union Club Loan

Dear Phil,

I refer to our discussions with reps from CRUC, and I believe that the project needs to be completed. Yes, it is easy to blame numerous reasons why there is a cost overrun but at the end of the day it is a Council asset which will bring substantial benefits to our community.

Benefits include:

- i) Excellent facilities to allow Rugby (and other sports) to utilise
- ii) Importantly has acknowledged females involvement in Rugby (and other codes) with separate dressing sheds to allow female rugby across all age groups to grow.
- iii) Facility which will bring many age groups together to enjoy sport, enjoy the social interaction and brings rural and town together.
- iv) Provide excellent well maintained public toilets in that area of Cootamundra.
- v) Assist by proactive involvement in many mental health issues, as active bodies are active minds.
- vi) Loan funds are at a rate twice what Council can currently earn so all ratepayers get a benefit from that funding, and
  - completed project
  - better return on Council investment.
- vii) Excellent club house which over time (and after Covid19) that will allow CRUC to expand its footprint, build further financial stability and grow the "fun" for all generations to enjoy from proactive involvement.

You may have others.



**How loan to be repaid?**

I spoke to Steve Hardie the other day and they hope to provide by weeks end;

- i) Letter of valuation from stock and station agents the sale value of cattle what's owed to agents (purchase price) which will result in a loan repayment to Council in Dec, 2020.
- ii) Advise that CRUC is now registered for GST which will result in some input credits to return to bank account and available for loan repayment
- iii) Letter from club setting out how they have approached current and former players, club members as to interest free loans, and / or donations and they aim to raise \$25k - \$40k.

It must be remembered that any surpluses for 2020 season have been destroyed by Covid 19, so from where I sit, if project completed will set the club to really hit the ground running 2021 and lets face it, after no or minimal sport in 2020, everyone will be keen to play, drink and enjoy the friendship.

I believe the above may assist you to put together a motion for next months meeting for a further loan of \$110,000.00 advanced to CRUC to complete project ASAP. If you want me to put it up as I understand where Club is coming from, then no problems, I'm happy to do so. The proposal should be (my suggestion):

Existing Loan	100,000
ADD	
New Loan	<u>110,000</u>
Total Loan	<u>\$210,000</u>

Interest rate 4% (I think)

Schedule principal repayments

Dec, 2020 (cattle & GST)	70,000
Oct, 2021	40,000
Oct, 2022	25,000
Oct, 2023	25,000
Oct, 2024	25,000
Oct, 2025	<u>25,000</u>
	<u>\$210,000</u>

Interest is paid quarterly in arrears – schedule to be worked out by finance.

All interest accrued on existing loan of \$100,000 to be paid prior to drawdown of new loan.

This may assist you.

Regards

David

**David Graham**

Consultant

PO Box 87

Gundagai NSW 2722

Mobile: 0427 441988

Council address – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Embarrassingly we are again here to address the council re: the Rugby Club and its current status.

No doubt you are all wondering why we are here again without a completed building. We are not here to shift any blame or offer a multitude of plausible excuses why the cost has blown out. We take responsibility for the costs blowing out and a lack of support from our previous administration that has left us with a short fall to complete the building. We realise we possibly 'bit off more than we could chew'. However, remain steadfast in the opinion that the building is and will be a facility that will stand the test of time and used by sporting bodies, schools and the community in general.

Approximately 12 months ago we addressed council for a loan in helping to complete the build. At that time, we were hoping that we could have finalized the majority of the works and operated out of the building raising enough funds from operating to finish items as we became financial.

Recently we were advised that an interim occupancy certificate would not be attainable and that all works would be required to be finished.

After that discussion with council employees we proceeded as instructed to get as much done as possible. Which leaves us where we are today.

We have been asked to provide a complete breakdown of all costs associated with the building being totally completed.

Importantly we come here not asking for council to finish the project but for financial assistance by means of a loan to complete the building in its entirety.

We also come here to explain how we intend to service the loan from council.

At present we have 74 head of cattle on agistment. On advice from a Stock & Station agent we have been given a conservative estimate that these cattle will return us a profit of approx. \$50k. This money we expect to have in toward the end of the year. January 2021 at the latest.

This commitment/fundraising was started by the club after new administration was elected and will continue into the future for the club to repay our loans and provide financial assistance in the future.

Further estimates of approx. \$30k from game day profits, 100 club sales and functions etc on a yearly basis are also projected income sources to help finance our loans.

RUGBY CLUB 20/02/2020		
List of Works	\$	Complete / Incomplete
Riverina Safes and Locks	\$4,387.80	Incomplete
Glen Emerson - Ramp footings	\$2,357.50	Complete
Coota Concete - Ramp footings	\$7,356.80	Complete
Tegra - Road base and crusher dust	\$2,886.00	Complete
Tegra - Concete Blocks	\$972	Incomplete
Toilet partitions - upstairs	\$5,068.13	Incomplete
Shower partitions - downstairs girls rooms	\$3,400.00	Incomplete
Bush Bricklaying - Blocks for ramp	\$5,500.00	Incomplete
Sand and cement	\$500.00	Incomplete
Coota Concrete - core fill blocks	\$2,000.00	Incomplete
Coota Concrete - Concrete for ramp	\$2,780.00	Incomplete
Peter Hoey - Concrete ramp	\$4,290.00	Incomplete
Glen Emerson - Concrete Ramp	\$4,290.00	Incomplete
Concrete Pump	\$1,500.00	Incomplete
Wilde Steel Fab - Handrail to Ramp	\$8,000.00	Incomplete
Road base for under ramp	\$5,000.00	Incomplete
Tactiles to landings	\$2,500.00	Incomplete
Electrical & a/c (electrical \$6k)	\$10,000.00	Incomplete
Floor coverings	\$15,000.00	Incomplete
Balcony ceiling	\$8,000.00	Incomplete
Painting	\$5,000.00	Incomplete
Landscaping	\$10,000	Incomplete
Contingency	\$10,000	
	<b>\$116,400.43</b>	



**CCACC Chairperson's MAY REPORT -****The Arts Centre Cootamundra**

As Chairperson of the Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre Committee would like to inform Council and Councillors our May monthly meeting has been cancelled. We are informing you we continue to employ our staff and ensure they have worthwhile and important tasks being carried out behind closed doors.

Although all our workshop, movies and performances are on hold Staff and volunteers are carrying on with the following tasks:

- The Office Manager attends work 4 days a week from 9am to 1.30pm. This is to ensure all enquiries (email and phone) are answered and follows up with up to date information.
  - Funded through the Fulcrum Grant work continues with the Policies and Procedure Documentation addressing all aspect of OH&S, Fire Warden and Security issues ready for reopening.
  - A cleaning document has been downloaded from Work Safe Australia on "How to clean and disinfect the workplace " for Covid 19. Staff are currently reviewing and copies will be sent to all volunteers before opening.
- The cleaning staff continue the "spring" clean process ensuring the Centre is ready for reopening when allowed.
  - Cleaning Staff have been issued with A Work Safe Australia document has been downloaded on "How to clean and disinfect the workplace " for Covid 19.

The communications officer is working hard behind the scenes keeping Community informed and engaged in Arts Centre off site activities.

- Regular posts on social media and updating the Website - interesting information bulletins continued to be posted.
- Posts and stories about The Centre its development and personalities behind the development are being posted along with outline suggestions of the activities the Centre has developed for community engagement during this period of closure.
- A marketing program for TACC community engagement "Social Dis-dance-sing CHALLENGES" is ongoing.
- Flyers, Posters and signage is in the process of being sent out and exhibited.

**Training Videos**

Work continues on the instructional videos being created to train volunteers in their various duties around the Centre. Currently this is being guided by the CCA Inc BOARD utilising funds from the Fulcrum Grant which will be finished up and acquitted at the end of June. The CCACC Committee thank our Treasurer for her continued attention to financial affairs of the Centre. -Monthly REPORTS ATTACHED



**Project Management:**

CCACC is applying for a Covid19 Regenerate Regional Event Grant. This application is to be submitted 19 May by 5pm.

- Title "**We're Free Create-dance-sing Showcase and Performance**" is an event designed for community representatives to outline their experiences during isolation and shutdown by taking up one of the Challenge options already in place. This Event will be organized and take place after reopening of Centre activities. When things are back to normal all creative participants will be asked to submit their works. From those entries a Production and Performance will be staged in the Tin Shed Theatre when the Centre reopens. An exhibition of works will also be staged in the Exhibition space of the Arts Centre at the same time.
- Underpinning the above Project is a community engagement project - "Social Dis-dance-sing". This program has three categories of Challenges all with options for engagement. SEE Flyer attached.

**Works Management:**

Andrew Brock CGRC Infrastructure Manager continues to attend to the sorting of compliance issues and the CCACC Committee look forward to his report.

The TACC Project Manager is still keen to have drawn up a lighting grid and document "how it works": a manual for efficient safe use of theatre lights and sound system. It will extremely beneficial if this documentation is ready when live performance activity begins. This will save working costs of the lighting grid and ensure the standard grid is user friendly for all organizations that utilise the TST for concerts and performance.

Thank you Andrew for your continued input and attention to TACC requirements for safe practice.

There is still no word on the Stronger Communities Funding for the Rehearsal Space upgrade moving forward. CCACC would like this to proceed forward in the hope TACC can provide a Youth Space utilising that space for Youth activities 3 days a week assisting the new Youth Council objectives when it is in place. The Committee would understand how difficult this would be to establish a Youth Council with the Covid19 restrictions. The added benefit of that Project is it provided On-line learning facility which will reduce costs around tutored workshop presentation for the education of new skills as well as provide conferencing and meeting procedure backup. This will open up how the Centre runs meetings.

When restrictions allow Volunteers are being gathered to clear out unwanted materials and objects from the Centre workspaces. Watch this space for jobs and timeframes.

Thank you. Hoping this keeps everyone up to date. Any concerns please contact

Isabel Scott Chairperson CCACC. through the email: [info@theartscentrecootamundra.org.au](mailto:info@theartscentrecootamundra.org.au) or ring 69421732.

**COOTAMUNDRA CREATIVE ARTS and CULTURAL CENTRE**

s355 Committee

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sunday 17 May 2020

**SOUTH WEST SLOPES CREDIT UNION**

ITEM		GENERAL A/C 400138690
<b>Statement Balance @ 30/04/2020</b>		<b>\$ 46,431.71</b>
Less:		
Outstanding cheques	0	
<b>RECONCILED BALANCE AS AT 30/4/2020</b>		<b>\$ 46,431.71</b>
Less:		
<b>ACCOUNTS PAID 1/5/2020 to 5/05/2020</b>		
One Music - movies & centre	239.36	
Its Secure	45.00	
CGSC - rent	200.00	
<b>To Pay</b>		
Electricity - 6 months to 30 March	4822.82	<b>\$ 5,307.18</b>
Plus:		
<b>Money Banked 1/5/2020 to 5/5/2020</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ 41,124.53</b>
Less: Funds Held in Trust		
<b>Gen Jereb Seminar in Trust</b>	\$ 13,936.53	
Less: E Magrath - conference expenses	-\$ 947.00	
Subsidise T Taylor wages x 26 weeks	-\$ 1,675.29	
Donations towards Murmuration/Ripple Effect	-\$ 2,000.00	
Hugh Clark - Art Centre film	-\$ 2,500.00	
Hugh Clark - Art Centre film	-\$ 2,500.00	
Donation towards Fulcrum	-\$ 1,000.00	
Capitalise Education Inv 1	-\$ 1,030.00	
Catering PD Day E Magrath	-\$ 145.83	
Catering PD Day M Twomey	-\$ 24.15	
Capitalise Educatio Inv 2	-\$ 1,030.00	
TACC Hire, Admin, Auspice Fee - PD Day	-\$ 616.00	
Bill Godman	\$ 131.82	
Wendy Sprang	\$ 131.82	
Wyangla Dam Public	\$ 263.64	
Cootamundra High School	\$ 790.91	
Cootamundra Public School	\$ 1,318.18	
Koorawatha Public School	\$ 263.64	
Casp-19 Grant - donations to Coota Strings	-\$ 621.45	<b>\$ 2,746.82</b>
<b>George Sullivan Donation -</b>		
towards a specific musical event		<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
<b>Lights Donation -</b>		
Michelle Ford (8/8/2018)	\$ 300.00	
Robyn McClelland (21/1/2019)	\$ 300.00	<b>\$ 600.00</b>
<b>Funds available for General Operations</b>		<b>\$ 33,777.71</b>

# TACC Social **DIS-DANCE-SING** Challenge 2020

TACC volunteers, participants and patrons, like most Australians are practising social distancing. Our doors are closed but our creativity continues! These are interesting and daunting experiences we are living with but with a little creativity we can make it a positive and productive time.

TACC has pulled together some challenging projects to help get you through. These challenges come with guidelines designed to build a documentation of your social 'dis-dance-sing' period. These positive challenges will require your creative resourcefulness to come to the fore.

***This is a free challenge with absolutely no element of competition – it is purely for the love of creativity!***

**There are 3 Challenges to choose from:**

**CREATIVE  
WRITING**

**WEARABLE  
ART**

**MUSIC,  
MOVEMENT  
AND FILM**

**For all of the details, please visit the website:**

**[theartscentrecootamundra.org.au/social-disdancesing-2020](http://theartscentrecootamundra.org.au/social-disdancesing-2020)**



**The Arts Centre Cootamundra - Our doors are currently closed.  
For any questions, queries or suggestions  
please email us via [info@theartscentrecootamundra.org.au](mailto:info@theartscentrecootamundra.org.au)**

Created: 30/04/2020 1:51 PM

## CootamundraCreativeArts&amp;CulturalCentre

The Arts Centre Cootamundra (TACC)  
355 Committee of Council  
18-20 Wallendoon St  
Cootamundra 2590

## Reconciliation Report

ABN: 46 211 642 339

Email: info@theartscentrecootamundra.org.au

ID No.	Date Memo/Payee	Deposit	Withdrawal
<b>Account:</b> 1-1110 SWSCU A/c 400138690 <b>Date Of Bank Statement:</b> 30/04/2020 <b>Last Reconciled:</b> 31/03/2020 <b>Last Reconciled Balance:</b> \$47,913.14			
<b>Cleared Cheques</b>			
EFT	1/04/2020 Atlas Printing Works		\$135.30
EFT	2/04/2020 It's Secure		\$45.00
EFT	2/04/2020 Coopers Couriers		\$69.50
EFT	2/04/2020 Cootamundra Newsagency		\$25.90
eft	3/04/2020 trns to CCA Inc as contrib to CASP 19 Grant		\$621.45
EFT	14/04/2020 Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council		\$200.00
eft	21/04/2020 Coopers Couriers		\$140.90
EFT	24/04/2020 Rural Press		\$187.98
eft	29/04/2020 Cootamundra Newsagency		\$55.40
Total:		\$0.00	\$1,481.43
<b>Reconciliation:</b>			
AccountRight Balance On 30/04/2020:			\$46,431.71
Add: Outstanding Cheques:			\$0.00
SubTotal:			\$46,431.71
Deduct: Outstanding Deposits:			\$0.00
Expected Balance On Statement:			\$46,431.71



**COUNCIL MEETING ACTION REPORT**

MEETING / ITEM	ACTION	OFFICER	STATUS
05.07.2017  18.06.2019  19.09.2019	Amend Gundagai LEP 2011 to correct mapping discrepancies	Manager Development, Building and Compliance	Ongoing.  Amendment No 4 is currently being reviewed following feedback from the Department of Planning prior to a Gateway determination. Gateway determination issued, currently on exhibition for 28 days. To be reported back to October 2019 Council meeting.  Partly complete – schedule 1 amendment gazette  May 2020 update – negotiations underway with DPIE regarding progressing the remainder of this proposal.

Ordinary Meeting 30 October 2018			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
Council, with further consultation, consider the representations made by Mr Peter Beath on behalf of the members of the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party, in his letter dated 24 October 2018.  8.1.4 Resolution 215/2018	“It is recommended the CGRC take a proactive approach engaging with the existing community groups and organisations to look at the formation of a formal Aboriginal Advisory/Consultative Committee under section 355 of the local Government Act 1993”	Manager Culture and Community	
8.1.5 Resolution 216/2018	2. In time, and subject to available funding, CGRC, in conjunction with the local Aboriginal communities, the Brungle-Tumut LALC and the Young LALC, undertake the	Manager Development	May 2020 – seek funding opportunities to undertake the required studies as they arise

	<p>mapping of the sites of cultural significance to Aboriginal people in this LGA.</p> <p>3. CGRC, in consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal communities in the region, form an Aboriginal Advisory Committee to liaise with Council about matters of importance and concern to local Aboriginal people.</p> <p>4. The Consultative Committee consider the implementation of an Indigenous Employment Strategy</p>	<p>Manager Culture and Community</p> <p>HR</p>	
	CGRC put in place Cultural (Aboriginal) Competency/Cross Cultural training to Council Staff and Councillors.	Manager Culture and Community	
28.11.2017 – 7.3.2.1	Waste Collection Services	Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation	<p>Council adopted for Stage 3 to commence with a schedule of works and timelines currently being prepared for staff's consideration.</p> <p>Once the schedule and estimates have been approved works will commence with council to be informed accordingly of the adopted schedule of works and timelines.</p> <p>18/6/19 update- First draft of the financial plan has been completed and review sent back to consultant for consideration. Next stage is the development of the Business Plan. For full details of the scope of works, timelines etc. refer to the Waste, Parks &amp; Recreation Managers' report to the June, 2019 Council meeting.</p>

			<p>23/10/19 update - Draft financial plan delivered to council in September with the final plan scheduled to go to the November Council meeting.</p> <p><u>November 2019</u> - Report to November 2019 for Councils consideration</p> <p>February 2020 – report adopted in principal, report to Feb meeting seeking council approval to place the report out to the community for 3 months seeking comment.</p> <p>March 2020 – Reviewed report going to council this month.</p>
31.01.2018 – 7.1.1.3	Continue with land transfer of Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot	GM/ Manager Facilities	<p>Site meetings undertaken with consultants. Funding options being investigated.</p> <p>Additional funding required for site development</p>
12.02.2020			
31.01.2018 – 7.1.1.4	Prepare detailed design and cost estimates for Turners Lane industrial subdivision. Include budget allocation in 2018/2019 budget.	GM	<p>22/03/2018 To be outsourced. An amount of \$500K has been included in budget estimates.</p> <p>Proposals being sought. Awarded to MJM – Designs expected Dec 18.</p>
18.06.2019		Bill	<p>July 2019 update - Final civil design plans received. Awaiting final electrical design (anticipated mid-August). Awaiting result of funding application prior to commencement of construction.</p>

ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
17.01.2019	Investigations to be undertaken to determine feasibility of providing a safe and accessible pedestrian pathway to link Cootamundra town centre and the cemetery on Yass Rd.	Manager Civil Works/ Road Safety Officer	Long term project.  Include in new PAMP CYCLEWAYS Plan Safety audit of rail overpass completed.
31.07.18 – 9.2	Council, in collaboration with the Muttama Creek Regeneration Group, investigate the feasibility of creating a walking track alongside sections of Muttama Creek.  <i>Council, in collaboration with the Muttama Creek Regeneration Group, investigate the feasibility of creating a walking track alongside sections of Muttama Creek. continued</i>	Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation	Application prepared and submitted for grant funding for footpath/walking track.  17/01/2019 update - Still awaiting response on submission. Actively seeking alternative funding options or grants as they become available.  21/03/2019 update - Arrangements are current being arranged to meet onsite with the group to discuss future plans. Once this has been determined a report will need to be presented to council for determination and approval.  18/06/2019 update -Any plans will need to consider the Muttama Flood Study and seek recreational opportunities.  July 2019 update - A meeting between the group and the Waste, Parks & Recreations Manager is yet to be arranged. It is the intention to arrange a meeting for September 2019.  <b><u>November 2019</u></b> - This is still yet to happen with the current work load and this rated as a low priority action will be implemented ASAP.  In the meantime Council is working with the Group with the existing works as and when required  <b>no change to date.</b>  <b>March – no change</b>
11.02.2020			



Ordinary Meeting - 26 March 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
Item 8.1.7	Showground users group	Manager Facilities	<p>A masterplan for the Showground be prepared with staff and the Committee including the provision of a caretakers cottage.</p> <p>18/06/2019 update - Drone work complete. Being presented to users group Wednesday 19-6-2019.</p> <p>July 2019 update - Awaiting feedback from user groups.</p> <p>12.02.2020 Feb 2020-No further progress. User groups still working on requests.</p>
Item 8.4.1	NSW Public Works Advisory be invited to prepare a proposal for a concept design incorporating an optional PV arrangement to offset power costs and with the provision for future chlorine treatment should Council wish to supply treated effluent for irrigation purposes within the village.	GM/ Manager Assets	<p>23/05/2019 update - Discussions with Public Works are continuing.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING - 28 MAY, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
Question 8.1.10 Council Meeting Action Report		GM	<p>Prepare report for June/July business paper.</p> <p>Ongoing. Seeking funding opportunities for bridge assessment.</p>
<p>9.1 Notice of Motion (172/2019)</p> <p>07.2019</p> <p>9.1 Notice of Motion (172/2019) continued</p>	<p>Council investigate the feasibility of extending the Cootamundra indoor pool weekend operating hours. Further, Council undertake a review of the facility's processes and expenditure and incorporate options regarding the use of staff or contractors in the management of both the pool and stadium facilities.</p>	<p>Manager Waste, Parks And Recreation</p>	<p>No time frame was provided for a report to be submitted to Council.</p> <p>An independent report to be prepared at the conclusion of the trial period and with a report to be submitted for the Council consideration. The extended winter season operating hours have been implemented as per Council resolution, with the outcomes to be reported back to Council at the end of the winter pool season. A report to Council will be presented in August, 2019 indicating the cost associated with the undertaking of an independent review of the aquatic centre and stadium operations.</p> <p>23/10/19 update - Associated reports will be submitted to council regarding both the trail extended hours and aquatic centre feasibility study.</p> <p><u>November 2019</u> – Report to the November council meeting.</p> <p>March 2020– Pool and Sports Stadium now closed.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING - 25 June, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	GM	Status
Aside request from Cr Sheahan	Disability access audit of business' with awareness programme delivered by Council staff to business owners/managers Starting with Council premises first.	Manager Development, Building and Compliance	May 2020 Update – committee agreed to access the professional services on offer to commence this process. Due to the COVID 19 situation this has not been possible.

ORDINARY MEETING - 30 July, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
8.1.2 Cootamundra Tourism Action Group s.355 Committee Meeting Minutes and Membership	The Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation meet with Friends of Pioneer Park to discuss improvements proposed in the Friends of Pioneer Park Management Plan, attached to the report, and report back to Council.	Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation	<p>This is pending the results of a grant submission made as part of the Stronger Community Grants R3 in October.</p> <p>November 2019 – no change, result on grant application is expected early 2020.</p> <p><b>March – Grant application unsuccessful no further action to be taken at this stage. The Friends group to be notified.</b></p>

ORDINARY MEETING - 28 AUGUST, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
Item 8.1.9 Gundagai TAC Minute Recommendations	Council seeks funding for a Tuckerbox plinth for tourists to pose their dogs on for a photo as a permanent fixture at the Dog on the Tuckerbox Site.	Manager Community & Culture	Seeking funding opportunities. Update to be provided at a later date. November 2019 – It is intended to use the proceeds of the donations received. Still awaiting quotation to be able to apply for funding 11.02.2020
8.5.1 Pigeon Strategy Report	Council prepare a fact sheet to distribute to residents and local businesses providing information on pigeon control.  Council undertake pigeon proofing on Council assets where roosting pigeons congregate.  Council liaise with business owners to facilitate efforts to eradicate pigeons from the CBD area and seek Expressions of Interest from pest exterminators with the intention of providing a report to Council once the information has been collated.  The report and resolution be distributed to CBD businesses.	Manager Regulatory Services	12.02.2020 Manager Regulatory Services has written to the Cootamundra Development Corporation and, in turn, they have written to the local businesses regarding contributing towards a pigeon control program. A meeting to be held with interested local businesses will be arranged at the end of February.
8.10.1 Cootamundra Aquatic Centre Access	3. The cost for the installation of permanent barricades be investigated with the consideration to disabled access.	Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation	This has been completed on a temporary trial basis. <u>November 2019</u> – no change.  <b>March – Pool now closed no further action at this stage.</b>
8.10.2 Cootamundra Aquatic Centre Independent Review	3. A further report be prepared containing any Expressions of Interest received and be submitted to Council for consideration.	Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation	Report going to Council in October 2019. <u>November 2019</u> – completed, consultants are to be engaged and works undertaken as per Council resolution,  <b>March – First draft completed will go to council workshop in April</b>

ORDINARY MEETING - 24 September, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
9.2 Notice of Motion - Cootamundra-Gundagai Local Area Traffic Committee Develop Draft Guidelines for Roadside Trailer Advertising	Council request Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Local Traffic Committee develop a draft policy guidelines paper to regulate the use of advertising trailers across the local government area. Once the draft policy guidelines to regulate the use of advertising trailers has been completed a report will be prepared and submitted for the consideration of Council. The policy guidelines should commit to: a) Present a degree of fairness, reflecting Council's ongoing support for the promotion of local businesses, b) Regulate appropriate sites to protect public access and safety, c) The proposal of a fee to cover the cost of administration of the regulation of the policy guidelines, and d) Ensure the proposed fee reflect fair commercial advertising costs.	Manager Civil Works	Initial report went to November, 2019 Traffic committee to consider suitable sites



ORDINARY MEETING - 29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	Status
8.1.1 Local Government Elections 2020	Council invite a representative from the Australian Electoral Commission to address Council and explain the costs included in the quote received for the local Government elections 2020.	GM/ EA to GM & Mayor	Waiting on response from AEC to indicate their availability to attend a Councillor Workshop  Elections deferred due to COVID-19
8.1.8 Gundagai Tourism Action s.355 Committee Meeting Minutes	From Minutes – council wait for outcome of SCCF 3 funding before spending \$300K	Manager Community & Culture	
8.3.1 Friends of Old Gundagai Gaol Committee Meeting AGM Minutes	Restricted funds audit report to Council	Manager Community & Culture	Manager Community & Culture and Manager Finance to discuss to determine what is required.
9.3 Notice of Motion - Save our Recycling Campaign	4. Council write to the local State Member(s) Ms (Steph) Stephanie Anne Cooke MP, Hon Michael McCormack MP, Minister for Energy and Environment the Hon Matt ean MP, Local Government Minister the Hon Shelley Hancock MP, NSW Treasurer the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, Premier the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Opposition Leader Jodi McKay MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage Kate Washington MP, and Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren MP to confirm their support for recycling and outline the urgent need to educate, innovate and invest in	EA to GM & Mayor	

	<p>local waste and recycling services via the Waste Levy.</p> <p>5. Council formally write to its own Youth Council advising its members of its support for the Save Our Recycling campaign and asking them to consider endorsing and sharing it with their own networks across the CGRC local government area.</p> <p>6. Council advise LGNSW President Linda Scott of the passage of this Motion.</p>		
<p>9.4 Council develop a local services preference policy detailing that, where opportunity exists, service providers, based within town boundaries are given preference should they be available, they are able to meet essential criteria and specifications and their quote or tender amount is comparative with other submissions received by Council.</p>	<p>Council develop a Local Services Preference Policy detailing that, where opportunity exists, service providers, based within town boundaries are given preference should they be available, they are able to meet essential criteria and specifications and their quote or tender amount is comparative with other submissions received by Council.</p>	<p>Procurement Officer</p>	<p>March The Procurement Policy has been updated with reference to buying local and further information will be contained in the Procurement Procedure document to go to the April Council Meeting.</p> <p>May, 2020 update - Report to be prepared and submitted to the June, 2020 ordinary meeting for the consideration of Council</p>

ORDINARY MEETING 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	STATUS
8.3.4 EVERYONE CAN PLAY APPLICATION - LINDLEY PARK SOUTH GUNDAGAI RESOLUTION 429/2019 Moved: Cr David Graham Seconded: Cr Charlie Sheahan	Council endorse a matched application for funding for Lindley Park South Gundagai to the Everyone Can Play Grants.	Manager Finance/ Manager Community & Culture	If grant application successful set aside funding in budget. Determine how to fund. Works in kind from what department. Discuss with relevant Managers.
8.7.2 COUNCIL MINI HIACE BUS COMMUNITY USAGE REVIEW RESOLUTION 437/2019 Moved: Cr Penny Nicholson Seconded: Cr Leigh Bowden	2. Council undertake consultation with representatives of Mirabooka to develop a fee proposal, to be included in the report, to be prepared and submitted to the Ordinary Meeting to be held Tuesday, 26th May, 2020 for the consideration of Council for inclusion in the 20/21 Fees and Charges. 3. A further report with more accurate hire details be prepared and submitted to the Ordinary Meeting to be held Tuesday, 26th May, 2020 for the consideration of Council.	Manager Civil Works/ GM	12.02.2020 Trial continuing.  <b>Report to be prepared for the consideration of Council at the Ordinary Meeting to be held 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>

ORDINARY MEETING 10 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	STATUS
8.7.2 Fixing Local Roads Funding Program. RES 471/2019	Council commit to a 25% contribution to all projects submitted under the program.	Manager Finance/ Manager Civil Works/ Manager Technical Services	Reported at December 2019 meeting with nominated projects and 25% council contribution.
9.1 Notice of Motion - Council Undertake Another Volunteer Induction For Drivers of the Council Community Hiace Mini Bus in February, 2020	That a group volunteer induction day be advertised in January, 2020 so members of local community groups be eligible to drive the Community Hiace Mini bus so as to optimise its use.	Manager Civil Works/ Madlin	Madlin to arrange induction process  <b>Deferred due to COVID-19</b>

RES 479/2019			
9.4 Notice of Motion - The Cost of an Irrigation System for the Off Leash Dog Park in Hurley Street be Included in the 2020/21 Budget. RES 482/2019	That an amount of up to \$30,000 be considered within the 2020/21 Budget for an irrigation system to be installed at the Off Leash Dog Park in Hurley Street, Cootamundra.	Manager Regulator y Services	Update required  <b>March, 2020 To be completed by Regulatory Services</b>
11.2 Proposed Compulsory Acquisition Land Affecting Lots 35, 71 and 88 DP751415 and Lot 2 DP1100263 Reno Road, Gundagai  RES 485/2019	1. Council make application to acquire land affecting lots 35, 71 & 88 DP 751451 and lot 2 DP1100263 under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act, 1991. 2. The General Manager be authorised to sign any relevant documentation in relation to the proposed acquisition referred to in 1 above. 3. Authority be granted to affix the common seal of Council to the necessary documents.	GM	Confidential Report. Confidential update required.
11.4 Proposed Acquisition by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council for Bangus Quarry Remediation Project - Late Report  RES 487/2019	1. Council approve the acquisition of Crown land Lot 7300 DP1149008 and Lot 7004 DP1028797 for the Bangus Quarry Remediation Project. 2. The General Manager be authorised to sign any relevant documentation in relation to the proposed acquisition referred to in 1 above. 3. Authority be granted to affix the common seal of Council to the necessary documents. 4. Upon acquisition by Council the land be classified as operational.	GM	Confidential Report. Confidential update required.

ORDINARY MEETING 28 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	STATUS
8.1.7 Tender - Town Entry Signs, Cootamundra and Gundagai RES 012/2020	That the Tenderer, Gundagai Constructions be advised of the resolution of Council.	Manager Business	Update required by Procurement Officer
8.1.8 The Response to the New Risk Management and Internal Audit Framework for Local Councils in New South Wales  RES 013/2020	Council make representations to Member for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke MP and the Office of Local Government in relation to the unfairness of the fees required to be paid by Council for the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.	Manager Business	<b>CGRC contributed to representations provided by REROC to the Office of Local Government. Letter to Steph Cooke MP outstanding.</b>
8.1.15 Cootamundra Tourism Action Group Section 355 Committee Minutes of meeting held 15 January 2020  RES 020/2020	1. That appropriate grant funding be acquired to develop a specific agri-tourism and regional tourism tours strategy for the Gundagai and Cootamundra region which develops rural, agriculture, food tourism and experiential tourism opportunities through the collaboration between Council, Local businesses and producers.  2. That Council seek an appropriate funding arrangement to ensure the position of Economic Development and Tourism Officer in Cootamundra, continues beyond the current one year term which ends in November, 2020.	Manager Culture and Community	No update available to date
8.1.16 Gundagai Tourism Action Section 355 Committee  RES 021/2020	Council seek permission from Transport for New South Wales to locate a variable message sign on the northern side of Gundagai, with the intention of encouraging south bound motorists to Stop, Revive, Survive in Gundagai.	Manager Culture and Community	Anthony Carroll taking to February, 2020 traffic committee
8.2.1 December 2019 Quarterly Budget Review Statement RES 025/2020	A report on the funding of Cootamundra Water Mains Replacement Program be prepared and submitted to the Ordinary Meeting to be held 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020.	Manager Finance	A report on the funding of Cootamundra Water Mains Replacement Program be prepared and submitted to the Ordinary Meeting to be held 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020.



Ordinary Meeting February, 2020			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	STATUS
Jan 2020 resolution 034/2020	The Motion to Review the 2019/20 budget with relation to staff and Councillor development with the view to allocate funds in the 2020/21 Budget was deferred until the Ordinary Meeting to be held 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020 to source benchmark funding information to then be provided for the information of council at the Request of Cr Graham and with the approval of Cr Nicholson	Manager Finance	
8.3.1 Recreational Needs study public consultation (066/2020)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Draft Cootamundra-Gundagai Recreational Needs Study (attached under separate cover) be placed on public exhibition for a period of twenty eight days inviting submissions from the community.</li> <li>2. A further report on the Cootamundra-Gundagai Recreational Needs Study including submissions, if any, be prepared and submitted for the consideration of Council.</li> </ol>	Manager Culture and Community	
8.3.2 Drought communities program (067/2020)	Applications be prepared and submitted through the Drought Communities Program for the Gundagai Main Street Development Stage Two (2) and Parker Street Cootamundra Upgrade.	Manager Culture and Community	

Ordinary Meeting March, 2020			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	STATUS
8.1.4 Cootamundra Showground Users Group s355 Committee Minutes 18 <sup>th</sup> march, 2020	Tree dropping limbs on to private property bordering the ground be removed.	Manager Waste, Parks and Recreation	
8.1.6 Minutes of the Gundagai Tourism Action s355 Committee Meeting February 2020	Council look at options for funding a speaker system to be purchased and installed in Sheridan Street that has the capacity to play a local radio station and can be utilised for events	T and ED Officer	
8.2.2 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements	Send letter of thanks to Mr Brad Bohun		Complete
8.2.4 Grader Finance	Loan to be arranged to finance purchase of the grader	Manager Finance	complete
8.6.2 Stockinbingal Sewerage Scheme	1. Engage Public Works to prepare business case 2. An application be made under the sage and secure water program for funding towards a detailed design.	B Moore	

Ordinary Meeting 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2020			
ITEM	ACTION	STAFF	STATUS
8.1.2 Financial Sustainability Dr Joseph Drew	Council make representations to The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock to finance the service of Dr Joseph Drew provided by University of Technology Sydney.	GM	
8.1.4 Community Donations Policy	The Community Donations Policy be amended to reference the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Mission Statement values.	Relief Governance Officer	Complete
9.1 NoM – That the Waste Strategy be adopted and made available for public review and comment	Undertake the usual advertising protocols	Manager Waste, Parks & Recreation	
9.2 That Council write to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock, and Member for Cootamundra, Ms Steph Cooke, MP advising them that Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council has undertaken the Rate Harmonisation as legislated by the State Government, and that the letter include the table of rate changes, the formula applied to ascertain the harmonisation figures and a comment on the adverse impact that the rate increases are likely to have on many members of its community.		GM	

# Michael McCormack MP

Federal Member for Riverina  
Deputy Prime Minister of Australia  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development  
Leader of The Nationals

Councillor Abb McAlister  
Mayor  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council  
PO Box 420  
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590

Abb  
Dear Mayor McAlister

Ms Margaret Cossey OAM, a resident of the Cootamundra-Gundagai Local Government Area, recently contacted me about the lack of mobile phone coverage in the area of Jugiong Road, Cootamundra.

As you would be aware, the Australian Government has invested \$380 million into the Mobile Black Spot Program to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia, delivering a number of mobile phone towers in the Riverina already.

This funding commitment includes \$80 million in new funding for Round 6 of this highly successful program, announced last year as part of the Government's response to the 2018 Regional Telecommunications Review.

Given an additional round of the Program has been announced, and nominations of black spots are no longer being accepted from Members of Parliament and the community at large, I trust Council will lobby and consult with telecommunication providers to suggest possible blackspots to be considered for enhanced coverage.

Therefore, I write at this time to seek your support and Council's consideration to include specific areas identified as blackspots by local residents, such as Mrs Cossey, to be put forward to telecommunications providers as locations where mobile phone reception is not currently adequate.

<p><b>Canberra</b> PO Box 6022 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 <b>ph</b> 02 6277 7520 <b>website</b> <a href="http://www.michaelmccormack.com.au">www.michaelmccormack.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>Parkes</b> 207A Clarinda Street Parkes NSW 2870 <b>ph</b> 02 6862 4560</p>	<p><b>Wagga Wagga</b> Suite 2 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 <b>ph</b> 02 6921 4600 <b>fax</b> 02 6921 5900 <b>email</b> <a href="mailto:michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au">michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au</a></p>
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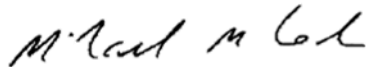
THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

More information on the process by which telecommunications providers can apply for funding and nominate blackspots can be accessed by visiting: [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)

With both of us travelling across regional areas to represent our constituents, I am certain you, too, would be familiar with the lack of mobile phone coverage and the inconvenience it causes, especially for business, emergency communications and general social connectivity.

I appreciate your support of the Program and Council's participation in the blackspot identification and nomination process.

Yours sincerely



Michael McCormack MP

**Federal Member for Riverina**

mm.eb.pke

8/5/2020





Office of  
Local Government

## Circular to Councils

<b>Circular Details</b>	20-15 / 1 May 2020 / A700190
<b>Previous Circular</b>	
<b>Who should read this</b>	General Managers, Governance and Integrated Planning and Reporting staff
<b>Contact</b>	Council Engagement Team / 02 4428 4100
<b>Action required</b>	Council to Implement

### New Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements for NSW councils

#### What's new or changing

- This circular provides advice to councils in relation to their Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) requirements until the next local government elections.

#### What this will mean for your council

##### The Integrated Planning and Reporting Cycle

- The existing Delivery Program will apply for a further 12 months, maintaining the key themes and any activities not yet completed. Where additional activities are proposed that are significantly different to those identified in the existing Delivery Program, the usual public exhibition requirements will apply.
- Councils will have adopted their 2019-20 Operational Plan and should continue to operate under this plan until 31 July 2020. Note the timing is extended to allow councils additional time to prepare their 2020-21 Operational Plan because of extenuating circumstances under the COVID-19 emergency.
- A new Operational Plan (2020-21) must be developed for adoption by 1 August 2020, reflecting the existing Delivery Program.
- In preparing for the next annual Operational Plan (for the 2020-21 period), councils should take the following approach:
  - The existing Community Strategic Plan remains in place as a valid reference document
  - The existing Resourcing Strategy remains in place, with the long-term financial plan being annually reviewed, as usual.
- Once the deferred election is conducted, council will commence its next cycle of Integrated Planning and Reporting.
- Any planned measurement and recording of progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan can proceed and be used to inform the next Integrated Planning and Reporting cycle.

##### Exhibition of Documents

- Standard exhibition periods, including the requirements relating to the Statement of Revenue Policy, apply.
- IP&R documents can be published on council's website and made available for inspection electronically or in such other form as determined by the council.

Office of Local Government  
5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541  
Locked Bag 3015 NOWRA NSW 2541  
T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209  
E [olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au) W [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au) ABN 20 770 707 468

Annual Report

- The time for the preparation and publishing of 2019-20 annual reports has been extended until 31 December 2020. The annual reporting requirements for 2020-21 will continue as usual, with 2020-21 annual reports due to be published by 30 November 2021.

End of term reporting

- End of term reporting is deferred in line with the election cycle. Further information will be provided closer to the rescheduled election in 2021.

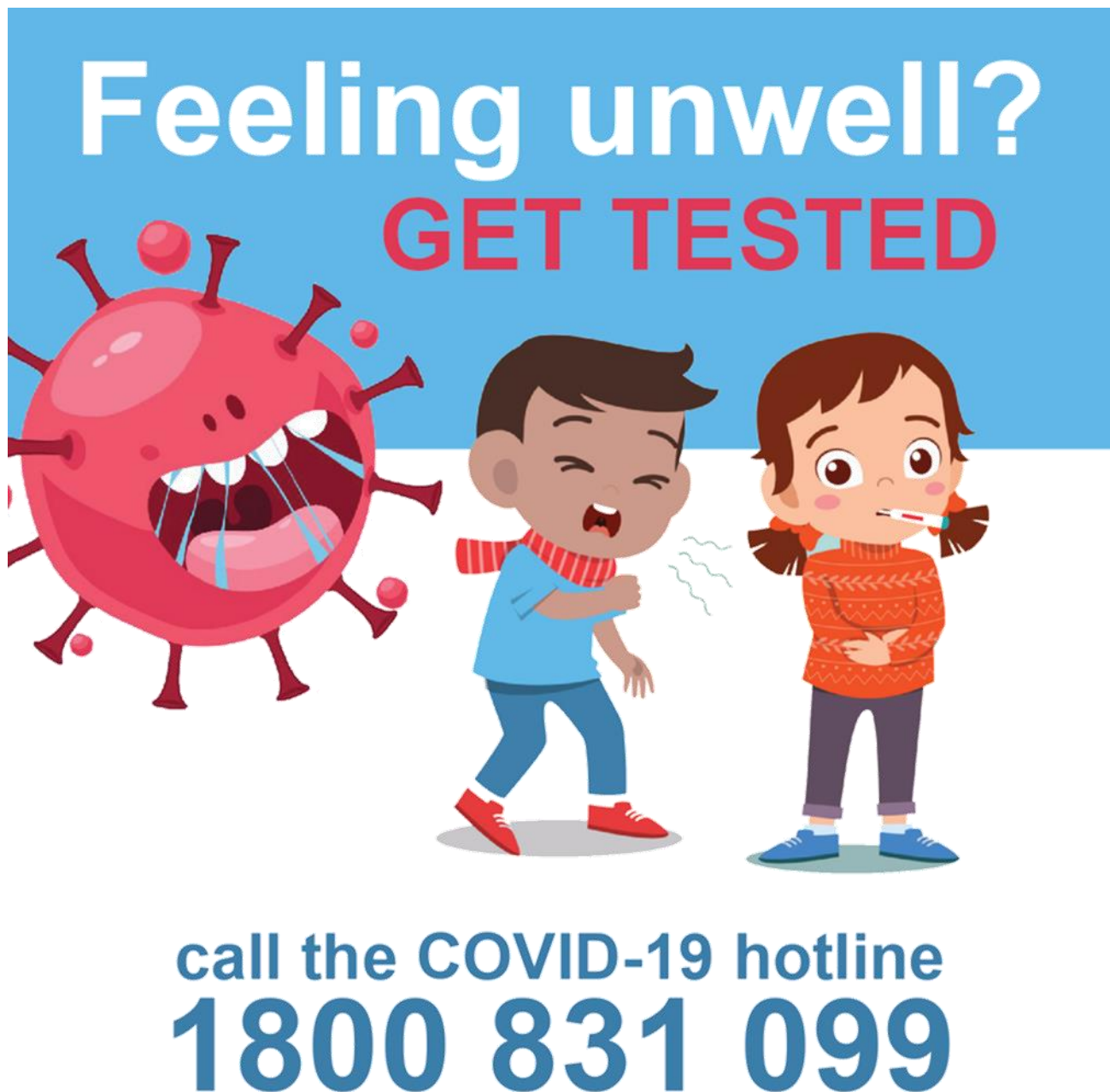
**Where to go for further information**

- Please contact your council's Council Engagement Manager with any questions.



**Tim Hurst**  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Local Government, Planning and Policy**

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call the COVID-19 hotline  
**1800 831 099**

#### COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Most common symptoms include fever and dry cough. Some people also experience sore throat, shortness of breath, or runny or stuffy nose.

#### CALL NOW

Call the COVID-19 Hotline: 1800 831 099 (open 7am – 9pm everyday). Callers will receive a confidential over the phone assessment, and if they require testing, an appointment will be made for them at their nearest, or preferred location.



**Health**  
Murrumbidgee  
Local Health District



## Office of the Mayor

Frankston City Council  
 30 Davey Street, Frankston, Victoria, Australia  
 Telephone: +613 8773 9529 Mobile: 0400 236 107  
 PO Box 490, Frankston VIC 3199  
 Website: frankston.vic.gov.au

Reference: A4157559  
 Enquiries: Kathryn Renwick  
 Telephone: 03) 9784 1014

Cootamundra Gundagai  
 Regional Council  
 Document Received

17 MAR 2020

Mayor, Cr Abb McAlister  
 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council  
 PO Box 34  
 GUNDAGAI NSW 2722

File No. ....  
 Initials .....

6 March 2020

Dear Cr McAlister

# **JOIN THE CALL FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ROYAL COMMISSION REFORM**

As the Mayor of Frankston City Council, I am writing to you in conjunction with the Alliance for Gambling Reform, asking your Council to join the call for a Federal Royal Commission into Gambling Harm.

Council at its meeting on 28 January 2020 adopted the following Notice of Motion:

*That Council:*

1. Affirms the Australian Local Government Association commitment to support the City of Yarra Notice of Motion in calling on the Federal Government to:
  1. Establish a Royal Commission into the gambling industry and the \$24 billion in annual gambling losses nationally, the highest in the world in per capita terms.
  2. Embrace national harm minimisation policies to reduce gambling harm in Australia such as:
    - a) Following the lead of the UK Labour Party in supporting a ban on credit card usage with Australian licensed online gambling companies;
    - b) Introducing further restrictions on gambling advertising, emulating the approach taken with the tobacco industry;
    - c) Establishing a national ombudsman scheme to process consumer complaints and resolve customer disputes with online gambling companies;
    - d) Introducing a ban on federally registered political parties from owning gambling licences issued by Australian governments, including for the operation of poker machine venues.
2. Calls on the Federal Government, through support of the Australian Local Government Association, to investigate the gambling industry's influence on the democratic process, including political donations and third party campaigning;
3. Notes the letter of support from the Alliance for Gambling Reform in relation to this Notice of Motion;

Seafood » Frankston » Langwarrin » Karingal » Skye » Frankston South » Frankston North » Carrum Downs » Langwarrin South » Sandhurst



4. *Prepares a joint letter with the Alliance for Gambling Reform to all Mayors in Australia calling on similar council resolutions (including a generic Notice of Motion template); and*
5. *Resolves to not accept any corporate sponsorship for council based activities from gambling/gaming entities, without exception.*

Frankston City Council is part of the Alliance for Gambling Reform's group of Leadership Councils because we are concerned about gambling harm and the damage it is doing in local communities. The latest data shows that across Australia, almost \$25 Billion dollars was lost in 2017/18 on gambling, an increase of 5 per cent from the year before. Given the scale of the damage done by gambling, and the costs to our communities, the Federal Government should establish a Royal Commission into the industry.

The last serious investigation of the gambling industry was by the federal Productivity Commission that concluded in 2011. This report found that significant changes to harm minimisation strategies were required such as reducing the maximum bet limit per button push to \$1 and limiting the amount of cash that can be inserted into a machine at one time. Since then, whistleblowers have come forward detailing a string of appalling behaviours. These are likely to be the tip of the iceberg that a Royal Commission could fully investigate.

**There are known links between gambling harm and issues that plague our communities such as mental-ill health, family violence, poverty, homelessness and chronic illnesses.**

Carolyn Crawford, a resident from Frankston City and an advocate with lived experience of gambling harm, said: "In 2016 at the age of 64, I was sentenced to 18 months in prison for taking money from my place of employment to gamble on the pokies. I went to the pokies every day after work and weekends. Many a time I would be driving home after losing all my money thinking to myself that I should just drive my car into a tree to stop the loneliness and pain I was feeling in myself."

"The only thing that stopped me was the guilt I felt about causing pain and sadness to my family and friends. A gambling addiction is not something that you can see like alcohol or drugs but is just as mentally unhealthy."

Research since the Productivity Commission report has revealed that harm to health caused by 'low' and 'moderate' risk gambling is greater than that experienced by 'problem' gambling. This change in our understanding of gambling harm warrants a re-assessment of the industry and its societal costs. Our understanding of gambling harm as a public health issue requires a wider scope than the Productivity Commission, and requires the Federal Government to fully investigate the problems within the gambling industry and take action to address these.

A Royal Commission into gambling will help address the social, political and industry regulation concerns arising from the continuous escalation of money lost and harms caused by gambling in communities across Australia. Given the extent of influence exerted by the gambling industry in Australia, nothing short of a nation-wide Royal Commission will achieve the degree of strengthened regulation and bolster the case for reform to reduce the gambling industry's impacts on our communities.

Please join us in calling for a Federal Royal Commission into Gambling and for the Federal Government to embrace national harm minimisation policies. Together we can tackle harm from gambling in your community and call for reforms to give your residents the protections they deserve.

Attached is our Notice of Motion that you can use as a template for a motion at your Council. If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Kathryn Renwick, Social and Community



Planner, [kathryn.renwick@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:kathryn.renwick@frankston.vic.gov.au) or the Alliance for Gambling Reform's Council Gambling Harm Advisor, Katherine at [katherine@agr.org.au](mailto:katherine@agr.org.au).

Yours faithfully



Cr Sandra Mayer  
MAYOR – FRANKSTON CITY



Rev. Tim Costello  
ALLIANCE FOR GAMBLING REFORM

Enc.



**ALLIANCE FOR  
GAMBLING REFORM**

**Template Notice of Motion:**

1. Affirms the Australian Local Government Association commitment to support the City of Yarra Notice of Motion in calling on the Federal Government to:
  1. *Establish a Royal Commission into the gambling industry and the \$24 billion in annual gambling losses nationally, the highest in the world in per capita terms.*
  2. *Embrace national harm minimisation policies to reduce gambling harm in Australia such as:*
    - a) *Following the lead of the UK Labour Party in supporting a ban on credit card usage with Australian licensed online gambling companies;*
    - b) *Introducing further restrictions on gambling advertising, emulating the approach taken with the tobacco industry;*
    - c) *Establishing a national ombudsman scheme to process consumer complaints and resolve customer disputes with online gambling companies;*
    - d) *Introducing a ban on federally registered political parties from owning gambling licences issued by Australian governments, including for the operation of poker machine venues.*
2. Calls on the Federal Government, through support of the Australian Local Government Association, to investigate the gambling industry's influence on the democratic process, including political donations and third party campaigning;
3. Resolves to not accept any corporate sponsorship for council based activities from gambling/gaming entities, without exception.

<sup>i</sup> "Expenditure on Gambling in Victoria and Australia" <https://responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/resources/gambling-victoria/expenditure-on-gambling-victoria-and-australia/>

<sup>ii</sup> Browne, M et al., "Assessing Gambling-Related Harm in Victoria: a public health perspective", Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation (July 2016) <https://responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/resources/publications/assessing-gambling-related-harm-in-victoria-a-public-health-perspective-69/>



**The Hon Scott Buchholz MP**

**Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport  
Federal Member for Wright**

Ref: MS20-000490

Cr Abb McAlister  
Mayor  
Cootamundra-Gundagai Shire Council  
PO Box 420  
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590

Cootamundra-Gundagai  
Regional Council  
Document Received  
10 MAY 2020  
For No. ....  
Initials .....

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your Council's involvement in the consultation sessions to discuss the Australian Government's Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative – Toowoomba to Seymour Corridor.

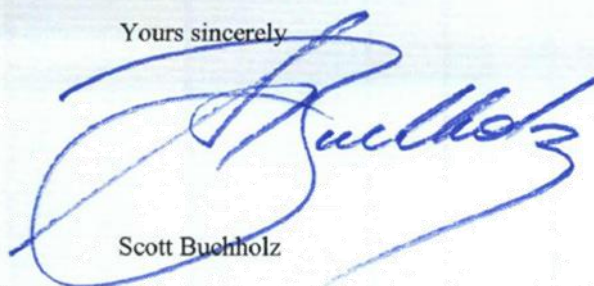
The purpose of these consultations undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) has been to better understand local priorities and identify a list of priority projects along the corridor for the Australian Government's investment consideration.

Your Council's input during these consultations was invaluable to the Department, as it highlighted the key transport issues along the corridor and the potential project options to resolve them. This information will help to inform the Australian Government's continued investment decisions under the ROSI initiative and the policies of future infrastructure investment programs.

The Department will refine and prioritise the list of projects identified during the consultations by assessing their alignment with the ROSI principles, and in consultation with Transport for NSW. I thank you in advance for the ongoing assistance and cooperation of your Council during this process.

I look forward to hearing more about your Council's infrastructure priorities in the ongoing implementation of ROSI.

Yours sincerely



Scott Buchholz

The Hon Scott Buchholz MP  
Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 4144 | [minister.buchholz@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:minister.buchholz@infrastructure.gov.au)  
21 William Street, Beaudesert QLD 4285 | [scott.buchholz.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:scott.buchholz.mp@aph.gov.au)





## Commentary

### Budgeted Operating Result

The Council's Income and Expenses, and Net Operating Result are reported on pages 4 & 5 of this Review Statement.

The revised estimated net operating result for the year to 30 June 2020 is a surplus of \$782,000 (original budget was a surplus of \$7,649,000) and the revised estimated result before capital grants and contributions is a \$2,843,000 deficit (original \$5,758,000 deficit).

The major changes detailed in this report are related to timing of income and expenditure.

### Budget Variations to the Operating Result

The budget adjustments recommended to Council for approval in this report result in a net increase to the operating surplus of \$3,265,000.

The material variations from the original budget for the year to date are attributed to:

#### Favourable variations

- Amounts levied for annual waste charges exceeded the budget by \$45,000.
- \$25,000 is recommended to be reallocated from operational expenditure to a capital project.
- The result for cemeteries is expected to be \$100,000 better than budgeted.
- Revenue from the waste soil operation is expected to be \$120,000 better than budgeted.
- Expenditure of \$1,625,000 on community projects funded by grants was

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completed earlier than anticipated, and was included in the 2019 Financial Year.

- Budgeted repayment of funding received under NCIF round one has been removed, resulting in a positive adjustment of \$1,400,000.
- Private works contract profits are expected to increase by \$135,000.

#### Unfavourable variations

- Projected interest to be received from investments has been downgraded by \$180,000
- Changes to the organisational structure as a result of amalgamation have resulted in termination payments funded by NCIF (New Council Implementation Fund) and the Employee Leave Entitlement Reserve.

