



COOTAMUNDRA-
GUNDAGAI
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

COMMUNITY NEWS

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A FORTNIGHTLY PUBLICATION

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CGRC RESPONSE TO MANAGING THE RISK OF CORONAVIRUS - UPDATE 19 MARCH 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak has been declared a Global Pandemic by the World Health Organisation and it continues to create massive disruption across the world. Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council continues to take advice and guidance from the New South Wales Government (NSW Health) and the Federal Government (Department of Health) which are the lead agencies in this situation. Council is monitoring the situation to ensure an adequate response plan is in place for the community. Council is aware that information should weigh up the need to protect individuals from infection but also ensure essential services, business and communities can still operate on a viable level. Residents will be informed about any changes regarding the availability of Council services and facilities if and when the need arises, and as decisions are made in response to the evolving situation. "Although there has been no confirmed cases in the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council local government area at this stage, rest assured, we have the safety of our people and our residents in the forefront of our response to this challenge" said Mayor Abb McAlister. For accurate and consistent information on COVID 19 please refer to NSW Health - www.health.nsw.gov.au. We'll keep you updated with any Council related matters on our website www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au.

WHAT YOU CAN DO - If you believe you may have contracted the COVID-19 virus (returned travellers/had contact with a confirmed case/showing symptoms: fever, sore throat, dry cough and shortness of breath) you should: call HealthDirect 1800 022 222 or call the Murrumbidgee COVID-19 Hotline 1800 831 099 or contact your GP, advise them in advance if you have symptoms. If you are sick – stay away from others. We can all help to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Australia, and residents are reminded of what they can do.

HYGIENE - Practice food, hand and sneeze/cough hygiene; wash your hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet; cover your cough/sneeze, dispose of tissues, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser, and; if unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5m from people).

SOCIAL DISTANCING - Social distancing is an effective measure, but it is recognised that it cannot be practised in all situations and the aim is to generally reduce potential for transmission. While practising social distancing, people can travel to work. For non-essential activities outside the workplace or attendance at schools, universities and childcare – social distancing includes: avoiding crowds and mass gatherings where it is difficult to keep the appropriate distance away from others; avoiding small gatherings in enclosed spaces; attempting to keep a distance of 1.5 metres between themselves and other people where possible, avoiding shaking hands, hugging, or kissing other people; avoiding visiting vulnerable people, such as those in aged care facilities or hospitals, infants, or people with compromised immune systems due to illness or medical treatment.

SELF-ISOLATION - If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must stay at home to prevent it spreading to other people. You will be directed to stay at home if you may have been exposed to the virus - Recently travelled from overseas, or been in contact with someone who has the virus. Staying at home means you: Do not go to public places such as work, school, shopping centres, childcare or university; Ask someone to get food and other necessities for you and leave them at your front door; Do not let visitors in — only people who usually live with you should be in your home; You do not need to wear a mask in your home. If you need to go out to seek medical attention, wear a surgical mask (if you have one) to protect others; You should stay in touch by phone and on-line with your family and friends.

BULK-BUYING - There is no need to bulk-buy products at supermarkets including toilet paper, paracetamol and canned food. It is prudent for households to have a small stock of non-perishable groceries to cover the event that in the coming months the household has been asked to self-isolate for 14 days. However, it's important to note the role of family and friends in supporting those in isolation.

CHANGES TO BUSINESS OPERATIONS – SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

It is noted the latest directive from Government is indoor gatherings are not to be held when exceeding 100 people, and outdoor gatherings are not to exceed 500 people. Council is required to abide by this determination. Cancelling events and use of facilities is necessary. Council encourages all community, social, cultural and sporting organisations that use Council facilities, to abide and suspend non-essential meetings and such gatherings until further notice. *Facility closures include: Bradman Birthplace; Cootamundra Heritage Centre, Gundagai Museum.* Council's Outdoor Swimming Pools in Gundagai and Cootamundra are closed for the season. *Cootamundra's heated pool will be closing to the public effective Monday 23 March until further notice. The Visitor Information Centre in Cootamundra is closed, as staffed by volunteers.* Please use the website - <https://www.visitcootamundra.com.au/> for Visitor Information Services.

VISITING COUNCIL OFFICES - Residents are requested to consider whether they need to visit Council offices for day to day transactions. Rates and Water accounts can be paid online with options listed on your accounts. Development Applications can be lodged online at the NSW Planning Portal www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au. Applicants will need to create an account to lodge an application. Residents are reminded Council Officers are available on 1300 459 689 or via email mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au during normal office hours to assist with any enquiries or requests for support. Please make contact if you need assistance. For out of hours emergencies, residents can contact Council on 1300 459 689. If you are unwell, please do not visit a Council venue.



LIBRARY SERVICES—Currently Libraries in Cootamundra and Gundagai remain open, however some programs have been cancelled. Residents are reminded a home delivery service is available. Information can be obtained by contacting the Libraries – Cootamundra on 6940 2200, and Gundagai on 6944 0270.

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES—The Visitor Information Centre in Gundagai remains open to the general public at this time. Online options are available for most services. Please use the website where possible - <http://www.visitgundagai.com.au/>. The visitor information centre at Cootamundra is closed, as staffed by volunteers. Please use the website - <https://www.visitcootamundra.com.au/> for information services.



As global concern about COVID-19 grows, we're doing our best to keep everyone healthy and safe in our community, while also trying to remain productive. Please visit visitgundagai.com.au and visitcootamundra.com.au for up-to-date information on cancelled and postponed events.



COOTAMUNDRA AND GUNDAGAI RECEIVE \$1,548,054 FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS - Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke MP recently announced \$1,548,054 from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund to develop sporting facilities, give young people new skills and upgrade halls in the Cootamundra and Gundagai region. The NSW Government funding has been spread across eight projects, each of which will benefit communities across the shire. *\$448,526 for the Carberry Park Car Park & Toilet Upgrade – this project will build a new toilet facility adjacent to the new million dollar playground in Gundagai and update the carpark to improve visitor access and experience. *\$250,000 for the Indoor Rock Climbing Wall at the Cootamundra Sports Stadium. *\$200,000 for the Youth & Community Toolbox Room at Gundagai Library – this project will build a high-tech space where youth groups and community members can hold meetings, workshops, events and activities, explore ideas, and grow their knowledge at the library. *\$199,659.00 for the Sustainable redevelopment and upgrade of Cootamundra Library – this refurbishment creates an open-plan, energy-efficient and accessible environment with dedicated spaces for children, recreational and cultural use, research and customer service. *\$165,000 for the Cootamundra Pump Track – this project will build a pump track, skills park and jump line adjacent to the existing skate park, giving a total youth activity and play precinct within the town of Cootamundra. *\$129,000.00 for the St Patricks Primary School Enhanced Active Space – this project will upgrade the artificial turf and landscape in the playground area at St Patricks Primary School Gundagai. *\$96,000.00 to replace the turf wicket at Stan Crowe Oval. *\$59,869.00 for the Muttama Memorial Hall Rejuvenation Works – this second stage of the hall rejuvenation will replace the dilapidated kitchen/supper room's floor and frame with a concrete slab floor and steel frame.



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Residents are advised the Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on **Tuesday 31 March 2020** in the Council Chambers Gundagai. The meeting Agenda will be available from Council Offices or website prior the meeting. <https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/business-papers-and-minutes-2020/>. The Meeting will be livestreamed from 6pm.

BOUNDARIES COMMISSION INQUIRY – Residents across are invited to view to a series of video presentations from Professor Joseph Drew explaining various important concepts of the Boundaries Commission inquiry into a possible de-amalgamation. The videos can be viewed at <https://www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au/boundaries-commission-inquiry/>.

SLOW DOWN! - Residents across the region are reminded that a 40km/h speed zone exists when school buses have their wig wag lights on. This rule applies at both formal and informal (road side) bus stops whenever children are getting on or off the bus. The speed zone applies to all roads, regardless of the sign posted speed limit when a school bus has its wig wag lights flashing. Buses use speed signs and orange flashing wigwag lights to warn motorists that they are picking up or setting down school children. The lights begin to flash when the bus stops and the doors are opened. They keep flashing for about 30 seconds after the doors close and continue even after the bus moves off. You must not drive past the bus in the same direction at more than 40 km/h while the lights are flashing.

BE BUS AWARE
Slow down to 40
when lights flash



WATER MAIN FLUSHING – COOTAMUNDRA

As the water main replacement program is nearing completion, Council is going to undertake a town wide flushing of the water supply system to remove those silts and other deposits that were disturbed during the construction. This should see a further reduction in the incidents of dirty water. The flushing program is due to commence in the next week and will continue for several weeks, depending on the availability of staff and other resources. During this time residents may experience some temporary reduction in pressure and flow rates.



Council Officers were out and about in Cootamundra last week, taking over head shots of three projects currently underway within the town. New line marking has been completed around the town's schools, clearly showing the Dragons Teeth line marking in school zones, these triangular shapes are designed to increase the visibility of school zones for motorists. The Cootamundra Netball Courts and Tennis Courts, are an impressive site from the air, the drone shots show work at the Netball Courts, before the new surface was applied. Council road work teams have been working on the Olympic Highway, Gap Bridge project, the drone was deployed and gives a shot of a large section of the works.