

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

10 September 2021

GUIDELINES FOR EASING OF RESTRICTIONS IN COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) has been included in the NSW Government's list of low risk areas and will emerge from the stay-at-home orders from 12:01am Saturday 11 September 2021.

Information received by CGRC has outlined the NSW State Government's current guidelines in respect of the easing of restrictions and an end to the lockdown the local government area.

CGRC mayor Councillor Abb McAlister, said he welcomed the decision, it is testament to the great job residents had done in being vigilant, obeying the stay-at-home orders and being considerate towards their communities.

"I'd like to congratulate our communities for their efforts, they have shown great resilience and patience, whilst the stay-at-home orders were in place. We will need to continue to be cautious, and on alert, however for Council, the easing of these restrictions will mean business will return to almost normal," Cr McAlister said.

Council operations will return to normal hours and operation in line with the current COVIDSafe measures in place. QR Code registration, Social Distancing, indoor mask wearing, and hygiene stations will continue.

Administration offices will open and operate during normal business hours.

Libraries will resume normal opening hours, from Monday 13 September 2021; free home delivery of items will continue to be offered.

Waste – Landfill sites, open and will operate at normal advertised hours.

Caravan Parks and Showgrounds will open.

Gundagai Visitors Information Centre will open.

The Heritage Centre and Bradman Cottage in Cootamundra will remain closed due to the concerns volunteers have at present, this situation will be monitored.

Cootamundra Swimming Pool and Sports Stadium will re-open, patrons can contact the operator for operating hours on 02 69422 4687.

"I would like to encourage the community, to continue to limit face to face contact with staff where possible, and to think about the increased freedoms that will come with the 70%-80% vaccination rate and remain thoughtful that the situation will change if case numbers emerge in our local government area.

We are mindful that there are people who continue to feel vulnerable, I'm pleased that Council will continue to offer home delivery services from its libraries, that there are provisions for payment of rates, fees and charges that don't require face to face contact and our customer services teams are available to assist residents," Cr McAlister added.

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, the Hon. John Barilaro issued a press release outlining the following freedoms that will be available to all people in the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA).

Gatherings in the home and public spaces:

- Up to five visitors will be allowed in a home (not including children 12 and under).
- Up to 20 people can gather in outdoor settings.
- Venues including hospitality, retail stores and gyms:
- Hospitality venues can reopen subject to one person per 4sqm inside and one person per 2sqm outside, with standing while drinking permitted outside.
- Retail stores can reopen under the one person per 4sqm rule.
- Personal services such as hairdressers and nail salons can open with one person per 4sqm, capped at five clients per premises.
- Gyms and indoor recreation facilities can open under the one person per 4sqm rule and can offer classes for up to 20 people.
- Sporting facilities including swimming pools can reopen.

Schools:

- Schools will re-open with Level 3 COVIDSafe measures in place.

Stadiums, theatres and major outdoor recreation facilities:

- Major recreation outdoor facilities including stadiums, racecourses, theme parks and zoos can reopen with one person per 4sqm, capped at 5,000 people.
- Up to 500 people can attend ticketed and seated outdoor events.
- Indoor entertainment and information facilities including cinemas, theatres, music halls, museums and galleries can reopen with one person per 4sqm or 75 per cent fixed seated capacity.

Weddings, funerals and places of worship:

- Up to 50 guests can attend weddings, with dancing permitted and eating and drinking only while seated.
- Up to 50 guests can attend funerals, with eating and drinking while seated.
- Churches and places of worship to open subject to one person per 4sqm rule, with no singing.

Travel:

- Caravan parks and camping grounds can open.
- Carpooling will be permitted.

Masks:

- Masks will remain mandatory for all indoor public venues, including public transport, front-of-house hospitality, retail and business premises, on planes and at airports.
- Only hospitality staff will be required to wear a mask when outdoors.
- Children aged under 12 will not need to wear a mask indoors.

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