



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL- The ordinary meeting will be held on 23 February 2021, at the Alby Schultz Meeting Centre, Cootamundra, starting at and livestreamed from 6pm. COVID restrictions as determined by the NSW State Government will be in place and enforced, please refer to Council website or call Council for information on meeting restrictions prior to attending open forum. Meeting agenda available from CGRC website.

OLYMPIC HIGHWAY "GAP" REHABILITATION PROJECT- CGRC wishes to advise work will recommence on road rehabilitation works at Olympic Highway "GAP" on Monday 8 February and should be completed on Saturday 13 February, weather permitting. Rescheduling due to wet weather forecast. Works will start at the Cootamundra Creek Bridge and finish at the Campbell Street Intersection with Sutton Street. Work commences at 7am and finishes at approximately 5pm each day except for Saturday where works should be completed by 11am. Works will involve road stabilisation, grading, compaction, and bitumen sealing. Line marking will be completed following these works. Traffic movements will be under full traffic control with reduced speed limits and single lane closure only, with priority given to local residents when possible, ensuring safety of road users, residents, and workers at all times. The Back Brawlin Road intersection with Olympic Highway may be affected by turning traffic only. Short delays only may be experienced. This project is a Transport for NSW initiative supported by CGRC. For more information contact Council on 1300 459 689.

WEED MANAGEMENT - Weeds are everybody's responsibility. We can all work together to protect our LGA and the unique bushland, swamps and waterways of the LGA. Council's obligation. Weeds are plants that do not occur naturally in the bush. They compete with native plants and often dominate or replace them. They degrade and destroy the habitat of our native animals. Under the Biosecurity Act 2015 CGRC as the Local Control Authority has a legal obligation to manage the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed to human health, the economy, community, and environment by Priority Weeds. Council meets these obligations through programs to: Control Priority Weeds on Council managed land. Inspect private lands to ensure owners of land carry out their obligations. Council's Biosecurity Regulatory Officers take a co-ordinated approach working with residents, community groups and other agencies. Your obligation. Under the Biosecurity Act 2015, all landowners or land managers have a 'General Biosecurity Duty' to prevent, eliminate or minimise the Biosecurity Risk posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds. What is a Priority Weed? Priority Weeds or Biosecurity Matter can impact on human health, the economy, the liveability of our city and the environment. Impacts can include allergies and other health issues, costs of control, loss of tourism value, degradation of natural landscapes, parks and recreation facilities, reduction of useful agricultural land and loss of primary production, loss of biodiversity and water quality. For further information please check Council's website www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au to view the NSW Government - Local Lands Services - Riverina Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 or visit NSW Government Department of Primary Industries - NSW WeedWise

COOTAMUNDRA LIBRARY NEWS – Beginners Conversational French Language Lessons for Adults. March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. 10am to 11am. Cost \$30 per person, booking essential phone Library on 6940 2200. Celebrate all things reading on February 14, Library Lovers Day! Go into the draw every time you borrow before then to win a \$50 voucher at Dusty Road coffee shop. This month's community craft session explores the unique 3D artform of pencil shaving art. Friday February 26, 2-4pm. \$5pp. Bookings essential: Storytime for 2-5 years has recommenced on Wednesdays. Note the new start time of 10am. Free program - no booking required. Tech Savvy Seniors, a free and fun technology training for seniors will be held over 6 sessions from Wednesday 17 March 2021 until Friday 26 March 2021. Learn how to use an iPad to navigate the digital world. Topics covered include basic device use, email and social media, cybersafety and internet. **The library now has a direct phone line, please call 6940 2200 for all library enquires.**

MICROCHIPPING MAKES SENSE – Could your companion animal find its way home? Microchipping makes sense.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV) APPLICATION – On Monday 8 February 2021 Council submitted an application for a SRV to IPART. Council has listened to the community feedback and applied for an SRV lower than originally proposed. The application is for an increase of 20%, 16%, 5%, 5% over 4 consecutive years, commencing 2021/22. Importantly taking on board feedback that Council needs to achieve more savings, Council has asked IPART to require a further community survey in May 2022 to demonstrate savings achieved and planned before going ahead with the next three years as proposed in the application. By this time Council will know the outcome of the de-merger proposal. The application and other supporting information will be posted on Council's website in the near future.

COOTAMUNDRA TOURISM ACTION GROUP AGM - Section 355 Committee. Interested residents are cordially invited to attend the AGM of the Cootamundra Tourism Action Group s.355 Committee to nominate the executive positions for the term of one (1) year. The meeting is to be held at the Stephen Ward Rooms Cootamundra, on Thursday 4 March 2021 commencing at 4:30pm.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - CGRC is calling for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified trades to supply quotes for the **erection of street furniture and other structures. Landscaping works, which will include planting of trees, removal of pavers and various labouring jobs** associated with the beautification project in Cootamundra's main street, Parker Street. Scope of works can be obtained by contacting Steve Lowe or Wayne Bennett at CGRC. **EOI's closes on 28th February 2021.**

REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED KERB - Council has commenced replacement of the damaged kerb in front of the Cootamundra Country Club. The kerb, as well as the pavers, had been lifted by tree roots from the Plane tree which had created trip hazards for pedestrians walking to and from the club entrance. The tree was removed prior to the replacement of the kerb. A new disabled parking bay and pedestrian ramp will be included in the construction of the kerb.

SERVICE NSW is returning to Gundagai with the Mobile Service Centre, on 23 February from 1.30pm to 4.40pm in Gundagai Services Club car park. 2021 \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card applications are now open and can be processed at the Mobile Service Centre. Renewing a driver licence or vehicle registration. Processing of Medical and Mobility Parking Permits. Processing of RSA and RCG cards. Undertaking driver knowledge tests. Applying for births, deaths, and marriages certificates. Applications and Renewals for Working with Children Checks. Consulting with a Cost-of-Living specialist for help accessing more than 70 government rebates and savings. Mobile Service Centres will accept cashless payments by credit and debit card or cheque. Please check the website for the latest information on service locations and opening hours at service.nsw.gov.au/msc

DRIVER REVIVER AT COOTAMUNDRA VISITORS CENTRE – Volunteers from the Cootamundra Visitors Centre participated in a Driver Reviver trial over the period 17 December 2020 to 27 January 2021. The trial was a success, with many visitors coming through the centre. The Centre volunteers are hopeful they will be able to continue the service over the Easter holidays. Council intends to apply for funding under the Driver Reviver Site Upgrade Program Round 2 funding to improve the Centre facilities to allow the driver reviver program to continue in the future. Applications for funding close February 25.

NSW STATE GOVERNMENT DINE & DISCOVER INITIATIVE- Invitations are now open for businesses in dining, arts and tourism sector to participate in the Dine & Discover NSW initiative. NSW residents will be able to apply to receive \$25 vouchers to spend at dining, arts, and tourism businesses. Businesses within these sectors are encouraged to register to be part of the Dine & Discover NSW initiative and begin accepting vouchers. Businesses will need to go to nsw.gov.au/dine-discover-register and meet the criteria to participate.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY – SLOW DOWN TO 40KM/H – Motorists are reminded that a 40km/h speed zone applies when school bus wig wag lights flash. The speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving. With school returning, and new students starting their journeys, motorists are urged to slow down, when they see a school bus stopping.