

Media Release

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Cootamundra's Town Clock Fit for the Future.

Time will tick on for Cootamundra's town clock thanks to a grant received from the Stronger Communities Fund. The final stage in the restoration of Cootamundra's iconic town clock has been completed with the installation of a new pendulum regulation system.

The new regulation system runs from satellite GPS (similar to our mobile phones). The regulation system is connected to a weight which adjusts the pendulum to keep the clocks time accurate.

The GPS pendulum synchroniser (automatic regulation system) will reduce WH&S issues, reducing the need for people to climb up into the tower to adjust the hands of the clock.

Mauri Jackson a spokesperson and project director for the Cootamundra Development Corporation said, the clock hands will now only have to be adjusted for daylight saving time changes.

"We will only now have to put a little oil on the mechanism and manually turn the clock hands when needed, we are looking at 50 to 75 years of service for our clock," Mr Jackson said.

The Stronger Communities Fund, administered by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council and an initiative of the NSW State Government provided \$2905 to the Cootamundra CDC for the project to be completed.

The clock tower sits proudly above Cootamundra's historic Post Office and was built in 1881, it is a prominent landmark and classified by the National Trust.

Sydney firm Master Clockmakers installed the regulation system recently and have undertaken restoration work on many of Australia's church and public clocks, including Sydney Town Hall, The Port Arthur Historic Site and the 5 metre diameter Central Station clock in Sydney.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Administrator Mr Stephen Sykes said the restoration of Cootamundra's town clock is the culmination of a lot of hard work by community members.

"It's a great sound, the bells ringing on the hour, I'm pleased that the Stronger Communities Fund has been able to contribute to seeing this project reach its final stage", Mr Sykes added.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP said the restoration is another example of how the NSW Government's Stronger Communities program is supporting local organisations and community resources and facilities.

"Having the clock restored and being accurate is such a worthy project and one the NSW government, and me personally, are proud to be able to facilitate," Katrina said.

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Caption: Master clockmaker Andrew Markerink from Camden based company Master Clockmakers, installs the GPS pendulum synchroniser on Cootamundra's town clock, completing the last stage of the clocks restoration.



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