

# Media Release

## Mountain Bike track attracts High School bikers

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Cootamundra Cycle Club's further development and improvement of the mountain bike track is attracting more riders from Cootamundra High School's mountain bike sports elective. Around 20 youngsters are braving the weather and testing their skills on Wednesday afternoons riding the track situated next to the golf course.

The project was made possible with a \$50,000 grant from the Stronger Communities Fund, an initiative of the NSW state government and administered by the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.

Cootamundra Cycle Club member Stephen Doidge said that the project will be completed in the spring, when remediation of ground erosion will take place.

"We will be doing some excavation works and further tree plantings in spring to alleviate erosion when the weather is more amenable," Stephen said.

Although not quite complete that mountain bike track is still attracting bike enthusiasts who are commenting on the improvement and challenges the track presents.

The Cootamundra Cycle Club leases a Crown Land site from Council, in Hurley Street Cootamundra, adjacent to the Cootamundra Golf Club.

The site is currently used for mountain bike riding and walking, however due to erosion, caused largely by motorcycle riders, the site was in need of extensive redevelopment. The redevelopment of the site has included earthworks, erosion control and fencing, with the fencing providing protection of the site from motor bike riders and providing a safe recreation area for other users such as training, cross country running and recreational walking.

"It is hoped that we will attract some three hour mountain biking events in the future, bringing visitors to town to compete in these events," Mr Doidge said.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council administrator Stephen Sykes visited the site during the week and were impressed with the improvements that have been made so far.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council's Administrator Stephen Sykes said, having usable outdoor spaces that encourage a healthy lifestyle should be encouraged.

"This grant and the long term benefits will help improve the experiences had by not only mountain bike enthusiasts but will also encourage cross country runners and recreational walkers," Stephen said.

Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP said the improvements and remediation of the site is another example of how the NSW Government's Stronger Communities program is supporting local organisations and their attempt to improve and enhance their facilities.

"This is such a worthy project and one the NSW government, and me personally, are proud to be able to facilitate," Katrina said.

“Encouraging young people to lead healthy and active lifestyles has never been more important and it’s gratifying to be able to play a part in that in Cootamundra.”

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**Picture (Stephen Doidge) and caption (below)**

Cootamundra Cycle Club member Stephen Doidge is pictured (centre) at the start of the mountain bike track which runs behind the golf club, whilst Cootamundra High School students prepare for their afternoon sport activity.



**Picture (Katrina, Stephen S & Stephen D) and caption (above)**

Impressed: Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council administrator Stephen Sykes (left), Member for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson MP (centre) and Cootamundra Cycle Club member Stephen Doidge pictured at the entrance to the Mountain Bike and walking track in Hurley Street, adjacent to the Cootamundra Golf Club. Stephen and Katrina were impressed with the work that has so far been completed.

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