



COOTAMUNDRA-
GUNDAGAI REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Annual Report 2018/2019



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR - ABB McALISTER

Please find the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council 2018-2019 Annual Report. This report has been developed for our community, to share our improvements over the previous financial year.

The past year has been a rewarding and successful 12 months with the progress and completion of a number of major projects. Major projects including Councils footpath renewal program, the continuation of Cootamundra Water Main Replacement and the development of the Gundagai Sewage Treatment Plant ensure our community continue to receive the highest quality services and enjoy new and improved facilities and infrastructure. *Council has been committed to providing for the region's young residents, with the installation of a number of playgrounds, and upgrades to sporting facilities across all communities. The regions villages have also seen improvements to public spaces and infrastructure.* Council staff have excelled in delivering projects on time and budget.

In this regard, I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff for their resolve and commitment to ensuring work is carried out to the highest standard, with minimal disruptions to our community. We have developed a wonderful team spirit across our organisation and this can only be attributed to devoted staff.

Thank you to my fellow Councillors, we continue to develop into a powerfully unified team committed to ensuring we deliver a thriving region, attracting visitors and businesses while focusing on the liveability for our residents.

The Annual Report is our way of being accountable to our community ensuring we achieve the goals we have set out to achieve in our Strategic Plans.

Abb McAlister
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER – PHIL MCMURRAY

With my appointment as Acting General Manager I have worked determinedly to develop a dedicated team of Managers to work cohesively in maintaining an established and economically viable community for the region.

I am delighted with the advancement we are making on our major projects, community facilities and regional improvements and am encouraged by the positive community feedback. The 2018-2019 Annual report contains some of the major achievements we have accomplished in the previous 12 month period.

I am proud of the achievements we have accomplished over the last twelve months. We have continued to deliver to our community enhanced and upgraded services. We have worked hard to bring the two former Council's administrative systems together and review fees and charges across the Region, aiming for a fairer and economically sustainable approach.

Phil McMurray
General Manager



VISION STATEMENT – COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL

A vibrant region attracting people, investment and business through innovation, diversity and community spirit.

ABOUT COUNCIL

Cootamundra -Gundagai Regional Council encompasses an area of 3,981 square kilometres of the Riverina region in New South Wales. The population is 11,504, and it includes the towns of Cootamundra and Gundagai, as well as the villages of Brawlin, Nangus, Tumblong, Coolac, Frampton, Muttama, Stockinbingal and Wallendbeen.



COUNCILLORS

At the Local Government Election held on 9 September 2017 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council elected 9 representatives to Council.

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2017 Cr Abb McAlister was elected Mayor and Cr Dennis Palmer elected Deputy Mayor.

Mayor – Cr Abb McAlister

Abb McAlister was elected to the former Gundagai Shire Council in September 2004, was elected Deputy Mayor in September 2005 and served in this role until he was elected Mayor in September 2010.

Abb was elected as Mayor of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2017 for a period of two years.



Deputy Mayor – Cr Dennis Palmer

Dennis was elected as a Councillor for the former Cootamundra Shire Council in 1999 and elected as Deputy Mayor in September 2013. He was Chairman of the Engineering Services committee and was also Councils' delegate on the Board of Goldenfields Water County Council.

Dennis was elected as Deputy Mayor of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Thursday 21 September 2017 for a period of two years.



Cr Leigh Bowden

Leigh and her husband, Richard White, moved to Cootamundra from Sydney 6 years ago.

Leigh holds a BA Dip Ed, MA and an Advanced Diploma in Applied Aboriginal Studies. She is currently employed by CSU as a casual academic in the Indigenous Academic Success Program.

Leigh is a member of The Arts Centre Committee, the Course Coordinator of U3A and the non-Indigenous Project Officer of the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Group. In July 2014, she convened AWARE Cootamundra and Surrounds Social Justice and Environment Group.



Cr David Graham

David Graham was elected to the former Gundagai Shire Council in September 2004. He was elected Deputy Mayor in September 2011.

David was elected to Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council at the Local Government Election held in September 2017.



Cr Gil Kelly

Gil Kelly was born in Cootamundra. This is Gil's first term on Council but is no stranger to community service. He is currently Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Captain of the Cootamundra Rural Fire Service. He is also a committee member and Treasurer of the Combined Emergency Services Ball and is also former Director of the Cootamundra Ex-Services Memorial Club. Gil is employed as an Area Manager with a market leading international supply company.



Cr Penny Nicholson

Penny Nicholson was born in Gundagai, moved away for work and returned to marry and raise a family. Penny and her husband Mark have owned the Gundagai Newsagency for over 15 years.

With great communication and vision for the years ahead, Penny is committed to making our new Council work.



Cr Doug Phillips

Doug Phillips held the position of Councillor with the former Cootamundra Shire Council from 2004. Mr Phillips held the position of Mayor from 2011 to 2013 and Deputy Mayor in 2010.

Doug and his wife are both partners with members of their family in a local joinery operating for almost twenty years and a local boutique hotel for the past three years. Along with his other commitments Doug has over the past five years taught full time at the local high school in Cootamundra



Cr Charlie Sheahan

Charlie Sheahan, married to Susan, grew up in Jugiong, now resides in Cootamundra and has done so since 2014. Charlie is employed as a farm manager at Coolac for the same employer for the past 22 years. Charlie has been an active member of the Cootamundra Lions Club for the past 10 years and past president for 2 years. Charlie is also a member of Rural Fire Service Coolac Brigade. Previously Charlie served on the Jugiong Park Trust; Jugiong P&C as Secretary and President and the Jugiong Parish Pastoral Council.



Cr Craig (Stewie) Stewart

Better known as 'Stewie' the father of one was first elected to the Cootamundra Shire Council in 2012. Now in his second term and elected to the bigger and brighter Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, Stewie is on the board of the Cootamundra Development Corporation and the Cootamundra Heritage Centre. Stewie also has been on the board of the Cootamundra Country Club for 5 years and has worked at Mitre 10 for 10 years.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND R1 & R2 (SCF), STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUNDS R1 & R2 (SCCF), NEW COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION FUND R1 & R2 (NCIF), MISCELLIOUS GRANT FUNDING PROJECTS.

The Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Project Management Team are currently responsible for works to the value of \$54.6 million.

Gundagai RSL Multipurpose Shed Project:

A multipurpose shed for Gundagai’s Golf Club, Tennis Club and Bowling Club is complete, the shed will be used by all three groups to house equipment, electric golf buggies and will also have toilets and a kitchen facility for future events.



Cootamundra Tourism Website Project:

Cootamundra has a new tourism website. The website menu includes a comprehensive list of accommodation sites, things to do and see, eating out, and what’s on guides. Quality photos and easily navigated the new website will give visitors plenty of information about Cootamundra and surrounds. The new website address is www.visitcootamundra.com.au.

Cootamundra Aerodrome Resurfacing Project:



The Stronger Country Communities Round Two (SCCFR2) funding has enabled Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) to construct a starting pad surface on the current runway at the aerodrome suitable for drag racing events. The new surface is the same product used in other motorsport tracks such as Mount Panorama in Bathurst. The special mix and design will stop damage to the existing runaway surface, make for a smoother landing for airplanes. The higher quality section of the first 70m will enable better traction for high powered vehicles, making it safer, and will make the event more inviting to more car owners. Less rocks will be thrown up on launch, meaning cars will not be damaged. The surface will also give better traction over the first 70m.

Combined Town Swimming Pool Projects:

2019/2020 summer swimming season, has brought a new and exciting chapter for both Cootamundra and Gundagai Swimming Pools. The Gundagai Pool has been transformed with the installation of a zero depth ramp, new tiling and ground rehabilitation. The zero depth ramp will enable people of all ages and disabilities access to the Olympic Pool. A waterpark playground has been constructed at Cootamundra’s Swimming Pool. This new addition to the Cootamundra pool will be a welcome addition for all pool users and help attract additional tourists/visitors to town.

Gundagai's Improved Fencing Projects:

CGRC has replaced a number of old post and rail and wire fences around public amenity spaces in Gundagai. Yarri Park, Anzac Park and William Street Sewer Pump Shed. The new fencing is aesthetically pleasing and provides greater security for these



Wallendbeen Fitness Infrastructure Project:

A fitness station designed to promote health and well-being in community spaces has been established in Wallendbeen.

The Wallendbeen community suggested the installation of the fitness station at the Barry Grace Oval. To allow various user groups and community members the opportunity exercise and take part in physical activities.



Gundagai Sewerage Treatment Plant Project:



Earthworks on Gundagai's new sewerage treatment plant has progressed with the installation of a large embankment constructed to house the sewerage treatment plant buildings. The embankment has been built by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council employees to a height 200mm above the 100 year flood level to ensure the buildings are safe from the impact of flood in the future.

Soil from the Gundagai main street rejuvenation project has been recycled to allow the pad to be constructed. Council resources have been utilised constructing haul roads and ensuring the area is a ready as it can be for the construction of the actual plant. The replacement of the treatment works is being made possible with funds from the Australian Federal Government, the NSW State Government and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.

Village Playgrounds Projects:

Council has installed a number of new playgrounds and recreational spaces for the regions youth during the year. Wallendbeen has a new playground and rage cage. Stockinbingal and Nangus have also had new playgrounds installed in public spaces for all children to enjoy.



Above: Playground Equipment at Wallendbeen



Above: Playground Equipment at Stockinbingal



Above: Playground Equipment at Nangus

Carberry Park Adventure Playground Project:

Gundagai’s Carberry Park’s Adventure Playground saw children playing and adults enjoying the space prior to Christmas 2019, with the finalising of turf and landscaping features in January. The park was enjoyed by locals and visitors alike over the Christmas holiday period. The park features a family friendly environmentally safe space that will encourage strong community spirit and opportunities for all to engage in healthy and active lifestyle choices. It will also encourage tourists and visitors to stay a little longer in Gundagai, and spend time shopping and eating in Gundagai’s CBD, Sheridan Street.



Jubilee Park Adventure Playground Project:

The new playground installed just in time for the 2019/2020 Christmas holidays saw structures designed for use by children of all abilities and ages. Structures within the playground include shade shelters, picnic tables and barbeques. A ‘Nature play’ separation section separates toddler and senior play areas and feature smooth rocks and sand pockets. Delineation of areas will feature mulch, Softfall matting, sand and lawn areas.

The existing rotunda will be improved and integrated within new play spaces as a chill out zone and there will be a connection to external footpath links with roadways.

Shade sails, toddler swings, dexterity panels, a Sky Rider Double Cable Ride, general play areas with swings, play tower structures and a smart play cube are all featured.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1: A vibrant and supportive community: all members of our community are valued

1.1: Our Community is inclusive and connected

1.2: Public spaces provide for a diversity of activity and strengthen our social connections

1.3: Our community members are healthy and safe

Cootamundra Tennis Courts Upgrade:

Cootamundra's town tennis courts are currently undergoing a major upgrade, with the resurfacing of six courts, installation of four Hot Shots courts, replacement of fencing and gates, and construction of walkways between the courts.

The project has been funded by the Stronger Country Communities Fund, which is administered by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council and is an initiative of the NSW State Government.

Operating since the mid 1940's, the Cootamundra Tennis Club currently has over 100 members, ranging from children to people in their 70's and 80's. The Club holds social competitions, coaching (including Hot Shots) clinics, school sports, tournaments and the courts are available for casual hire.



Stan Crowe Oval Amenities Block Project:

The new facilities located between Stan Crowe and Owen Vincent Ovals include male and female toilets, showers and change rooms. A well-equipped canteen, a store room and a large spectator shade area have been incorporated.

With funds coming from Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, a grant from NSW Rugby League, a grant from McDonald's NSW Cricket Grants, and thousands raised by user group organisations, this facility will provide for the needs of the community for decades to come.



Refurbishment of Ellwoods Hall – Stockinbingal Project:

The refurbishment of Ellwood's Hall has resulted in the Stockinbingal community having a comfortable functioning social hub. Such hubs are paramount in the wellbeing of rural communities in they provide social interaction and positive activity that maintains a sense of community. The hall can now begin to fulfil the purpose it was built for. Improvement in heating and cooling has provided a comfortable setting. Access to the hall has improved mobility and safety for the elderly.

Undercover Training Area for Gundagai Pony Club Project:



The Gundagai Pony Club now has an undercover enclosed training area. The huge 61x36 metre structure is almost complete. Completely covered, the steel construction can be used by all horse enthusiasts and will provide a safe environment for riders with varying degrees of experience.

The undercover training area has a sand mixture flooring to allow all weather use and will be used for competitions and as a secure training space. The multipurpose structure can be utilised for competitions, clinics, training and other horse enthusiast activities.

Stockinbingal Pump Track Project:

An area at the recreation ground in Stockinbingal has been transformed with the construction of a "Pump" Track. The \$75,000 project was fully funded by the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund round one grant.

The project was the brain child of local youngster Adam Mayor who wrote to Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council asking Council to consider building a skate park complex in the village. The Pump Track provides a new recreational resource for children and teenagers. The "pump" tracks are designed for BMX and mountain bikes, scooters and skateboards. The "pump" track is emerging in many Australian townships with a resurgence in BMX popularity. The pump track is a continuous loop of round bumps and banked turns designed to be ridden completely by riders "pumping" – creating a momentum by up and down body movements. Skateboarders can refine tricks on the track.

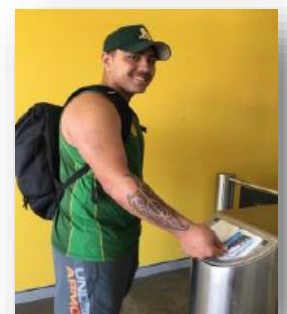


Digital Cinema Theatre Projection Equipment Project:

The Arts Centre Cootamundra (TACC) launched the new film projection system. The installation of a new Digital Cinema Initiatives (DCI) equipment will allow TACC to screen new release movies. Funded with a \$60,000 grant from the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 2, an initiative of the NSW State Government and administered by CGRC.

Swipe Cards Introduced at Cootamundra Pool:

The swipe card entry system was introduced at Cootamundra Swimming Pool. The system will allow Pool Staff are able to continue to monitor swimming activities without having to go to the gates to give change. Council will get valuable data and most importantly patrons will have access without the need to bring money each time they want to use the pool.



2: A prosperous and resilient economy: we are innovative and ‘open for business’

2.1: The local economy is strong and diverse

2.2: Strategic land-use planning is co-ordinated and needs-based

2.3: Tourism opportunities are actively promoted

2.4: Our local workforce is skilled and workplace ready

Cootamundra Saleyards: Truck Wash Facility & Electrical/Lighting Upgrade Project:

Funding for the \$330,000 Project has come from the Australian Federal Government, NSW State Government and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council. Overall the projects bring the Cootamundra Saleyards in line with other facilities of similar size and have addressed Workplace, Health and Safety, environmental and economic issues.



Electrical upgrades to the lighting and security systems were undertaken with lights positioned to give even light over ramps, races, yards and pens to avoid glare and to minimise shadows.

The new wash out facilities ensure consistent measures are in place to deliver against bio-security, community health and animal welfare requirements. Driver safety and fatigue issues are addressed as carriers do not have to travel longer distances to wash out. The minimising of environmental issues such as weed management and effluent run off will have long term benefits.

New Attraction at Bradman Cottage:

Cootamundra’s Bradman Birthplace museum has a new attraction. The addition of a story board display of the great batsman’s life has been installed in the Bradman Birthplace Cottage in Adams Street Cootamundra.

The story boards depict “the Dons” life as an athlete, businessman, correspondent, family man, cricket administrator and selector, captain, and national icon.



The boards were erected recently by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, and will be back lit with lights to highlight the images on each board. The boards were donated by the Bradman Museum in Bowral.



3: Sustainable natural and built environments: we connect with the places and spaces around us

3.1: The natural environment is valued and protected

3.2: Our built environments support and enhance liveability

Gundagai’s Morleys Creek – Fishing Platform and Footbridge Projects:

A fishing platform was installed on Morleys Creek at Gundagai. The project has been funded with a grant from the NSW Government Department of Industries, Recreational Fishing Trust.



The 6 metre long jetty will be particularly useful for those who wish to teach children and others to fish as it has a flat and level base away from branches and other obstacles that can make learning to cast difficult. The project will improve access to the creek for recreational fishermen and can be utilised by those with limited mobility.

Seen as a drawcard for tourists, this project will be an added bonus to the hundreds of travellers who stay in the RV-Friendly Site on the banks of the Creek and will be visible to visitors in Gundagai.

The footbridge over Morleys Creek has been completed. Destroyed by floods in 2016, the old bridge was replaced with a new structure designed to withstand destructive flood waters. The handrails can be removed to allow debris to flow over the concrete and steel walkway and pylons.



The cost of the replacement bridge was \$138,000 and was fully funded by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.

Footpath Renewal Project:

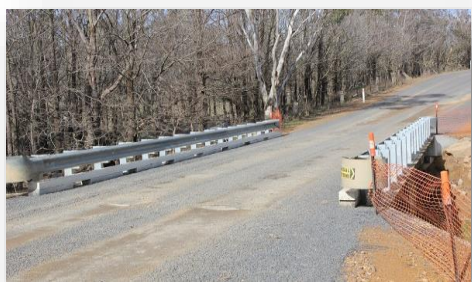


Footpath renewal programs across the Council region have continued throughout the year.

The project will ultimately reduce the risk of trip and fall incidents and promote a safe and active lifestyle within the community.

Sheridan Street Public Toilet Project:

A new public toilet amenities block, on the corner of Sheridan and Byron Streets, has been installed. The construction of the project has seen extensive relocation of underground services new plumbing and drainage installed. The public toilet project is funded by a \$150,000 Stronger Communities Fund grant (SCF). The SCF is an initiative of the NSW State Government and administered by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council in Gundagai.



The Three-Ways Bridge Project:

The new bridge was fabricated off site, and assembled at the Three-ways site. Council was able to reuse the original bridge deck as this was determined to be satisfactory which resulted in savings on the overall project. The approaches to the bridge had to be built up to the new height of the new deck by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council road

crews. The work was funded from Roads to Recovery funding.

4: Good governance: An actively engaged community and strong leadership team

4.1: Decision-making is based on collaborative, transparent and accountable leadership

4.2: Active participation and engagement in local decision-making

4.3: Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council is a premier local government Council

Where will you be in 2050 Project.

Council is undertook community consultation during the month of June for the Cootamundra town strategy – *Cootamundra 2050: My Place, My Town*.

Primarily a land use planning document, Cootamundra 2050 will establish a roadmap for development and investment to achieve the vision of Cootamundra 2050. The purpose of this consultation period is to determine what Cootamundra is now and what Cootamundra 2050 will be, by identifying current and future opportunities and constraints.



Wallendbeen Strategic Heritage Study.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) Councillors resolved to the place the Wallendbeen Heritage Study on public exhibition. The community will have the opportunity to view the study and make comments. The study contains an assessment and recommendations and has identified important heritage items within the village and surrounds. The study has also identified development potential for the area and development protection for areas of heritage value. The project aims to increase community pride in local heritage and increase visitor numbers to the village. Extensive community consultation between CGRC and the Wallendbeen community has taken place over the last 18 months, with members of the community assisting with the Heritage Study.

STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following information details Council's response to the statutory reporting requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 under section 428 Annual Reports and the more detailed response to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

TOTAL RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

Local Government Act Cl 132 (5)

The total rates and charges written off was \$16,211.

MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a1)

	Total for year	
	Fee	Travel and IT expenses
W1001.357.462 (355 Travel)		
Councillor Fee		
Doug Phillips	\$ 11,835.80	\$ -
Dennis Palmer	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 942.24
Craig Stewart	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 520.88
Penny Nicholson	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 4,413.56
David Graham	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 2,737.80
Abb McAlister	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 12,703.97
Leigh Bowden	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 8,134.93
Charlie Sheehan	\$ 11,835.80	\$ 730.86
Gil Kelly	\$ 11,835.80	\$ -
Total Councillor Fee	\$ 106,522.20	\$ 30,184.24
W1001.479.460		
Mayoral Fee		
Dennis Palmer	\$ 12,913.71	
Abb McAlister	\$ 12,913.71	
Total Mayoral Fee	\$ 25,827.42	
Total Mayoral and Councillor Fees	\$ 132,349.62	\$ 30,184.24
	Total for year	

**NOTE: Travel and IT Expenses includes necessary travel required for Mayor and Councillors to attend meetings and conferences.*

DETAILS AND PURPOSE OF OVERSEAS VISITS

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a)

During the year no Councillor, Council Officer or other person undertook an overseas visit as part of their Council duties.

CONTRACTORS / WORKS AWARDED

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a2)

The following table details contracts awarded by Council during the year for sums of greater than \$150,000.

Contractor Name	Description of Goods, Works or Service	Contract sum or estimate¹
Interflow	Cootamundra Sewer main relining and associated works	\$2M to \$3M
S E Rentals Pty Ltd (on behalf of Microtech DPS)	Printer rental, including prints per billing period	\$232,620
SideEffekt Pty Ltd	Managed Server and Managed Workstation (IT support services)	\$94,322
Boral Asphalt	Annual resealing of bitumen roads and sealing of new works	\$1.2 M
Killard Excavations Pty Ltd	Cootamundra Town Water Main Replacement	\$2M
Killard Excavations Pty Ltd	Cootamundra Town Water Main Replacement (additional works)	\$300,000
Total Creations & Services	Design and construct Water Playground at Cootamundra Pool	\$400,000
Power by Watts	Fisher Park light tower upgrade	\$222,000

Notes

All amounts are GST inclusive.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a3)

During the year the total cost of legal expenses in relation to legal proceedings incurred by Council was \$182,015.00.

PRIVATE WORKS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Local Government Act s67(3) and Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a4)

Section 67(2) of the Local Government Act permits Council to subsidise the cost of works carried out on private land subject to certain conditions.

Council did not undertake any works on private land where there was any decision to charge less than the approved fee.

AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED OR OTHERWISE GRANTED

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a5)

During the financial year, Council provided funding to external bodies as per section 356 of the Local Government Act, as follows.

Financial Assistance

Council provided financial assistance to other organisations, totalling \$37,950 during the year. Council also approved in-kind assistance to local schools and other community based organisations.

FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a6)

To better engage the community and reflect local community views and needs, Council delegates a range of its functions to volunteer committees and other organisations.

The following committees were involved in the planning and management of Council facilities or functions and were appointed in accordance with section 355 of the Local Government Act.

- Cootamundra Showground Users Group
- Wallendbeen Memorial Hall
- Stockinbingal Ellwood's Hall
- Muttama Hall Management Committee
- Cootamundra Beach Volleyball Festival Committee
- Cootamundra Heritage Centre Management
- Cootamundra Concert Band
- Muttama Creek Regeneration Group
- The Arts Centre Cootamundra
- Tourism Action Committee (Gundagai)
- Cootamundra Tourism Action Group

CONTROLLING INTEREST STATEMENT

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a7)

Council held no controlling interests in companies during the 2018-19 year.

EXTERNAL BODIES, COMPANIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a8)

Cootamundra Development Corporation Limited

Cootamundra Development Corporation is a company limited by guarantee that provides services to Cootamundra businesses, with the objective to develop Cootamundra and district. Council has representation on the board of management. Council benefits from services provided in accordance with a memorandum of understanding, in exchange for a Council contribution of \$30,323 per annum. The services provided relate to tourism and economic development.

Goldenfields Water County Council

Goldenfields Water County Council is a local water authority that provides water directly to residents within the Council area. In addition, Council purchases bulk water from Goldenfields and supplies it to residents within the Cootamundra township. Council has one Council representative on the Goldenfields Water County Council.

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

REROC is a voluntary association of 9 General Purpose Councils and 2 water county Councils. Initially established with a focus on resource sharing activities which save money for member councils, REROC's activities have grown to encompass regional planning, intergovernmental collaborations and advocacy and lobbying. Virtually every operational area of local government has been touched by the activities of REROC with the purpose of delivering more efficient and effective outcomes by utilising both the number of members and their combined demands and resources to create scale and capacity.

Riverina Joint Organisation

REROC was selected to work with the NSW Government to develop a new model to replace ROCs, called Joint Organisations (JOs). JOs will become legal entities with additional administrative and compliance requirements imposed by legislation. REROC is one of five groups of NSW councils that are piloting the JO structure. Each of the groups has a strong history and a commitment to partnering with the State to address regional priorities such as economic development, transport and infrastructure.

Riverina Regional Library

The Riverina Regional Library (RRL) is the largest regional library service in NSW. It provides library services to approximately 137,845 constituents of 10 local government areas in a partnership arrangement with those Councils, being Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Federation, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, Snowy Valleys and the City of Wagga Wagga. The service consists of 18 stationary library branches and a mobile library spread over an area of 47,830 sq km.

Thrive Riverina Inc.

Council is a member of the peak regional tourism organisation in the Riverina; Thrive Riverina Inc. The key role of the organisation is as a tourism marketing body for the Riverina. Council contributes to the direction of Thrive Riverina Inc. as a member, working collaboratively with the other member Councils to promote the region. Thrive Riverina Inc. has been responsible for a number of successful tourism campaigns throughout the year, including TASTE Riverina and monthly email marketing of local attractions and events.

Eastern Riverina Arts (ERA)

ERA enriches, inspires and connects our region by fostering arts, culture, creative industry and community. ERA are the peak body for arts and cultural development in the region and part of a network of arts organisations across regional New South Wales. Eastern Riverina Arts is supported by the New South Wales Government through Create NSW and is a member of Regional Arts New South Wales.

Softwoods Working Group

Council is a member of the Softwoods Working Group. The group was formed in response to the rapid expansion of the softwood plantation industry. It has a key objective to lobby for adequate funding to upgrade and maintain the road network with a load capacity that can support the heavy haulage vehicles of the timber processing industries.

South East Weight of Loads Group

Council is a member of the South East Weight of Loads Group which was formed to ensure that road pavements are protected against overloaded vehicles in the South Eastern Region of New South Wales. The Group enforces the weight of loads restrictions within the participating local government areas. Council administers the investment of this group, being their unexpended funding, at a fee of 0.25%.

South West Regional Waste Management Group

The South West Regional Waste Management Group is a regional collaboration that jointly manages waste management and has long term contracts with the operator of the Bald Hill Quarry (near Jugiong) to use as a landfill site.

South West Slopes Zone Rural Fire Service

Council is a member of the South West Slopes Zone Rural Fire Service, with Hilltops Council. The Group controls the obligations of both Councils under the Rural Fires Act, 1997 and jointly employs a Fire Control Officer and four other personnel to co-ordinate the activities of the group. All positions are based in the township of Harden and utilise the services of an extensive radio network to maintain contact with the volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

NSW Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme (Statewide)

Statewide Mutual is a discretionary mutual pool scheme providing insurance cover for its member councils major insurable risks. It is a self insurance mutual which is backed by reinsurance placed through local and international underwriters. Members own each scheme and benefit from building equity resulting from surplus contributions.

EEO MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(a9)

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) focuses on recognising and valuing diversity within the workplace. This means having workplace policies, practices and behaviours that are fair and do not disadvantage people who belong to particular groups.

Council provides a large number of services to a diverse community and aims to promote an environment free from harassment, bullying, victimisation and discrimination. We have an EEO Management Plan with strategies that assist members of EEO groups to overcome past and present disadvantages.

Key EEO activities implemented during the year were:

- Facilitating induction programs for new employees including EEO practices
- Implementing traineeship and apprenticeship programs across Council
- Using merit based recruitment practices
- Reviewing and managing Council's Employee Assistance Program
- Managing the ongoing review and implementation of HR policies and procedures that support staff grievance resolution, anti-discrimination, workplace bullying and harassment.
- Implementing staff training programs.
- Facilitating appropriate workplace communication.

TOTAL REMUNERATION FOR GENERAL MANAGER AND SENIOR STAFF

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(b) and (c)

During the 2018-19 financial year Council's senior officers were comprised of:
General Manager

General Manager	\$451,178
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**NOTE: General Manager Remuneration figure includes payments made to both a General Manager and Acting General Manager for the bulk of the 2018/19 year.*

STORMWATER LEVIES AND CHARGES

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(e)

Council levies an annual Stormwater Management Charge to both residential and business properties, subject to exemptions provided for under the Local Government Act 1993. All funds raised are applied to stormwater management improvements, including the following projects completed during the year:

Pinkerton Road Drainage Works

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION EXPENDITURE

Local Government Act 1993 s508(2)

2014-15 Ten year variation

The former Gundagai Shire Council applied for a special rate variation of 12.82% above the rate peg for a period of 10 years from 2014-15 to 2023-2024.

The total income received in the 2018-2019 year was \$440,043.45. The additional income is used for the purpose of financing the debt servicing cost of a \$3M bank loan to fund the main street upgrade project.

COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT

Local Government General Regulation Cl 217(f)

Council has lodged its Animal Care Facility return with The Office of Local Government. A copy of this data is included with this report. Council has recorded 13 dog attacks in this period. From these incidents 11 infringement notices were issued, 2 dogs were declared dangerous and 6 dogs were euthanized, in other cases the offending dog was unable to be located. Council receipted \$12,749.00 in registration fees for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Council has a proud reputation of rehoming animals or returning animals to their owners. As can be seen by the attached figures. No cats were euthanized and only 6 dogs were euthanized. All of these dogs were involved in incidents where Council staff deemed that the animals were unsuitable for rehoming. Council utilises a very large network of rescue organisations to assist in the safe rehoming of animals.

Council staff as well as Council volunteers liaise closely with these organisations to ensure compliance with Regulatory requirements is met and that the animal are taken to ethical organisations. Council also utilises a Facebook page to assist with advertising of these animals. Nearly 60% of animals that are seized are returned home, this indicates that a high percentage of Companion Animals in the LGA are identified.

Council conducted a number of free microchipping days in the region. Not only setting up in the larger towns but also spending time in 6 small villages in the region. This initiative was well received and it is planned to continue with this practice.

Council has two Rangers that regularly patrol townships as well as villages. The Rangers maintain a high profile within the community and are proactive in putting education first before prosecution.

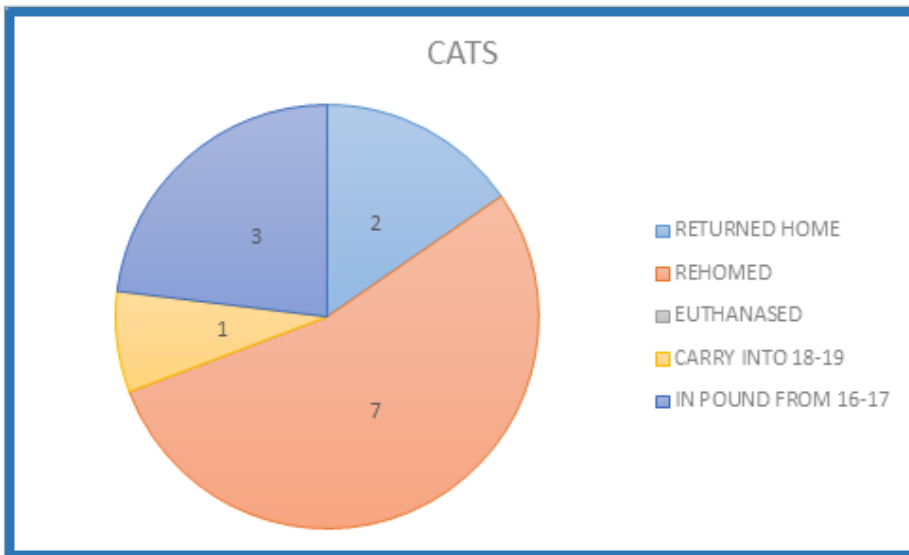
Council currently has two (2) unfenced off leash areas in the township of Cootamundra and 1 fenced area. Investigations are underway to establish two (2) off leash areas in the township of Gundagai. These areas are serviced with dog tidy dispensers, providing owners with disposable tidy bags for animal clean ups.

Cats

Seizure details	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	No	Dec	Jan	Feb	Ma	Apr	Ma	Jun
Seized	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Returned to owner no impounding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred to Council pound	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1

Release details	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	No	Dec	Jan	Feb	Ma	Apr	Ma	Jun
Released to owner from pound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Released for rehoming	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen from council pound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euthanased	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total in ACF	4	5	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1

Summary of Seizures & Impounding's	
Total Cats received	10
Returned to owner	2
Rehomed	7
Euthanased	0
In Animal Care Facility at 30.06.19	1

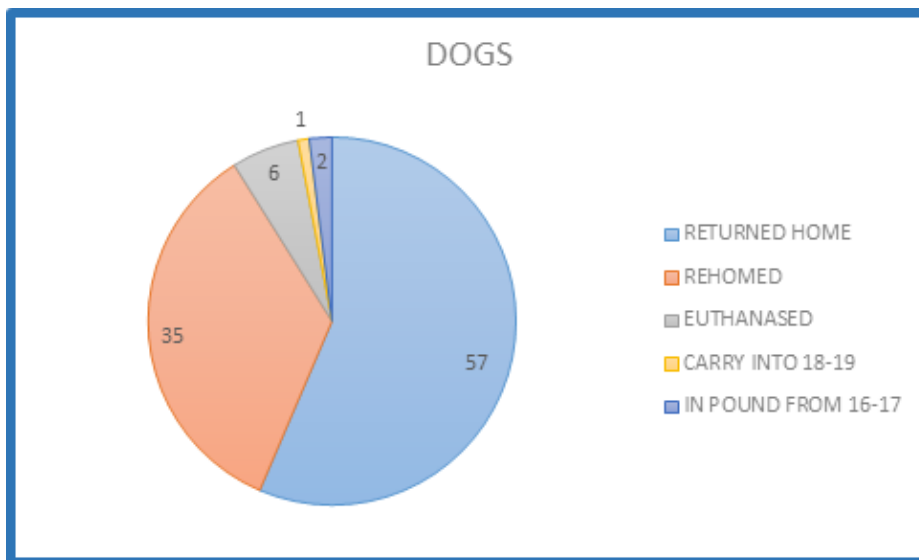


Dogs

Seizure details	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	No	Dec	Jan	Feb	Ma	Apr	Ma	Jun
Seized	8	4	8	12	6	3	10	10	11	11	9	7
Returned to owner no impounding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred to Council pound	8	4	8	12	6	3	10	10	11	11	9	7

Release details	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	No	Dec	Jan	Feb	Ma	Apr	Ma	Jun
Released to owner from pound	3	4	3	10	4	3	5	4	3	6	7	5
Released for rehoming	0	3	1	4	2	2	2	4	4	5	6	2
Stolen from council pound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euthanased	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0
Total in ACF	5	2	5	2	2	0	3	4	6	6	1	1

Summary of Seizures & Impounding's	
Total Dogs received	99
Returned to owner	57
Rehomed	35
Euthanased	6
In Animal Care Facility at 30.6.19	1



**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PUBLIC ACCESS (GIPA) ANNUAL REPORT
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 section 125 (1)**

Review of proactive release program

In accordance with section 7 of the GIPA Act, agencies must review their programs for the release of government information to identify the kinds of information that can be made publically available. This review must be undertaken at least once every 12 months. Council undertook the following initiatives as part of the review of its proactive release program for the reporting period.

- Updated Access to information page on website
- Created new Access to information forms and information documents
- Created a new Agency Information Guide
- Created Access to Information policy
- Making further improvements to access to information processes used within Council

Number of access applications received

During the reporting period, Council received a total of three (3) formal access applications. There were no invalid applications.

One (1) application was withdrawn. No applications were transferred to other agencies.

Number of refused applications

No access applications were refused. One (1) application was granted in part with copyright documentation refused.

No applications were refused based upon a conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure.

Timeliness

All three (3) applications were decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus extensions).

Reviews

There were no reviews of application requests and no requests for any decisions to be reviewed.

Number of applications by type and outcome								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm /deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members of Parliament	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private sector business	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not for profit organisations or community groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members of the public (other)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Number of applications by type of application and outcome								
	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm / deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 Regulation 2011

Council has an adopted Internal Reporting Policy in accordance with the requirements of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (PID Act). The policy provides a mechanism for Council Officials to make disclosures about serious wrongdoing.

During the year, the following disclosures were made under this policy.

Number of public officials who made public interest disclosures	Nil
Number of public interest disclosures received	Nil
Of public interest disclosures, number primarily about:	
Corrupt conduct	n/a
Maladministration	n/a
Serious and substantial waste	n/a
Government information contravention	n/a
Pecuniary interest contravention	n/a

CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct Administration Procedure, Part 12

All staff and Councillors are bound to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct. All complaints are investigated and dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure. The following statistics are reported about code of conduct complaints made during the period 1 July 2017 to 31 June 2018.

	Total
a) Complaints made about councillors and the general manager	Nil
b) Referred to a conduct reviewer	Nil
c) Finalised by a conduct reviewer at the preliminary assessment stage Outcomes of finalised complaints: n/a	Nil
d) Complaints investigated by a conduct reviewer	Nil
e) Complaints investigated by a conduct review committee	Nil
f) Outcomes of finalised complaints: n/a	
g) Reviewed by the Office of Local Government Outcomes of reviews: n/a	Nil
h) Cost of dealing with complaints about councillors and the general manager, including staff costs	Nil

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

For a copy of this report or information concerning documents referred to herein please contact

COOTAMUNDRA-GUNDAGAI REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Website: www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

Cootamundra Office

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Gundagai Office

Address: 255 Sheridan Street, Gundagai NSW 2722

Phone: 1300 459 689

