-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

15 April 2026

COUNCIL WELCOMES NSW DROUGHT CO-ORDINATOR VISIT

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) recently welcomed Ray Willis, NSW Drought Co-ordinator, to the region as part of his engagement with communities impacted by ongoing dry conditions.

Mr Willis is working to strengthen support for drought-affected communities by providing on-ground feedback to government and improving coordination between agencies. Since his appointment, he has met with key stakeholders including the Rural Financial Counselling Service and the Drought Innovation Hub.

During his visit, Mr Willis met with Council to hear firsthand about local conditions and the challenges facing farmers and the broader community.

Mayor Cr Abb McAlister welcomed the visit.

“We appreciate Mr Willis taking the time to visit our region and hear directly from Council about the impacts of drought on our communities,” Cr McAlister said.

“This engagement is important to ensure government support is practical and aligned with local needs.”

A range of support is currently available through the NSW Government, including low-interest loans, farm management tools, and on-ground assistance through Local Land Services, along with mental health support and online resources via the NSW DroughtHub.

Cr McAlister encouraged those affected to explore available assistance.

“I would encourage farmers and those impacted by drought to look into the support programs available and seek assistance where needed,” he said.

To view and access the NSW Government’s wide range of drought support, visit www.nsw.gov.au/drought

Those interested in reaching out and engaging with the Drought Coordinator can contact drought@lls.nsw.gov.au

Council will continue to advocate for support to assist local communities through ongoing dry conditions.

Photo and caption: Drought Co-Ordinator, Ray Willis, with CGRC councillors (left to right) Ethan Ryan, Deputy Mayor Ros Wight, Les Cooper, Penny Nicholson and Mayor Abb McAlister.

ENDS

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
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