



COOTAMUNDRA-
GUNDAGAI REGIONAL
COUNCIL

ABN: 46 211 642 339
PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590
Email: mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au
www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

Business Paper

**LATE REPORTS
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GUNDAGAI

6:00 PM, TUESDAY 27TH JULY, 2021

Administration Centres: 1300 459 689

LATE REPORTS

Order Of Business

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8 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

8.1 BUSINESS

8.1.1 INFORMATION BULLETIN - JULY 2021

DOCUMENT NUMBER	353699
REPORTING OFFICER	Marianne McInerney, Executive Assistant to the General Manager
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Phillip McMurray, General Manager
RELEVANCE TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	<p>4. Good governance: an actively engaged community and strong leadership team</p> <p>4.3 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council is a premier local government Council</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no Financial implications associated with this report.
LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS	There are no Legislative implications associated with this report.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	There are no Policy implications associated with this report.
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CGRC Floodplain Committee Meeting Minutes.23.06.2021 Download 2. Correspondence in 29.06.2021 - Kerry Kostrubic Coordinator Meals on Wheels Cootamundra Download 3. Mayoral Correspondence - Member for Riverina - the Hon. Michael McCormack - Funding for Meals on Wheels and other Food Providers. Download 4. Mayoral Correspondence - Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke MP - Funding for Meals on Wheels Cootamundra and other Food Providers Download 5. Australian Local Government Women's Association NSW - Winter Newsletter. Download 6. Essential Energy Media Release dated 9.07.2021 - Trimming Trees in Cootamundra Download 7. Essential Energy Media Release dated 9.07.2021 - Trimming Trees in Gundagai Download 8. Correspondence in dated 30.06.2021 - Mrs L Quarmby. Download 9. Riverina Joint Organisation Draft Board Minutes Download 10. Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils Draft Board Minutes - June 2021 Download 11. Media Release - Member for Riverina - Royal Commission into Defense and Veteran Suicide. Download 12. Ministers Message - Free Pet registration for Rescue Animals - 2 July 2021 Download

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">13. Office Local Government Circular dated 8.07.2021 Council Decision Making Prior to the September 2021 Local Government Elections. ↓14. Office of Local Government Circular dated 08.07.2021 - Care Taker Period Notification. ↓15. Media Release - Member for Cootamundra - 210 piece bridge challenge starts at Wallendbeen. ↓16. Correspondence in - The Collaborative CDC and CAWP Mural is Now in Place on Parker Street! ↓17. Circular 21-18 Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22 dated 19.07.2021 ↓18. Circular 21-19 Joint Organisations Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22 dated 19.07.2021. ↓19. Media Release - Shelley Hancock - Independent Statutory Review into Local Government Boundaries Commission dated 20.07.2021. ↓
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RECOMMENDATION

The Information Bulletin July, 2021, and attached correspondence, be received and noted.



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Minutes

COOTAMUNDRA FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

**ALBY SCHULTZ MEETING CENTRE,
COOTAMUNDRA**

3.00PM, WEDNESDAY 23rd June, 2021

Administration Centres: Ph: 1300 459 689

mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au

www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

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Cootamundra Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting 23rd June 2021

Minutes

Meeting title:	Cootamundra Floodplain Risk Management Committee
-	Meeting No 6
Date:	23 June 2021
Time:	3.00pm – 5.00pm
Location:	Alby Schultz Meeting Centre, Cootamundra
Attendees:	Mark Ellis - Manager Civil Works Sharon Langman - Manager Planning, Building & Compliance Ganesh Ganeshamoorthy – Manager Assets Mike Brearley – Consultant Project Manager Steve Manwaring – DPIE Representative <i>via Teams</i> Erin Askew – WMA Water Steve Mills – Community Member (Muttama Ck Regeneration Group) Belinda Scott – Community Member
Apologies	Phil McMurray – General Manager CGRC Councillor Doug Phillips – Chairperson Councillor Charlie Sheahan - Alternate Chairperson

No.	Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome No quorum was present. The Terms of Reference requires at least 4 voting members (only elected Council members and community members are permitted to vote). The meeting proceeded as a non-quorum meeting and was chaired by Mike Brearley.	Chairperson
2.	Adoption of Previous Minutes and Business Arising <i>Moved: Steve Mills</i> <i>Seconded: Belinda Scott</i> Adopted	Chairperson
3.	Progress of Floodplain Risk Management Study. Erin Askew presented a progress report on the flood study. (Refer Attachment 1). The following structural flood mitigation options were discussed.	Erin Askew, WMAWater

This is the Minutes to the Cootamundra Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting
Held on 23rd June 2021
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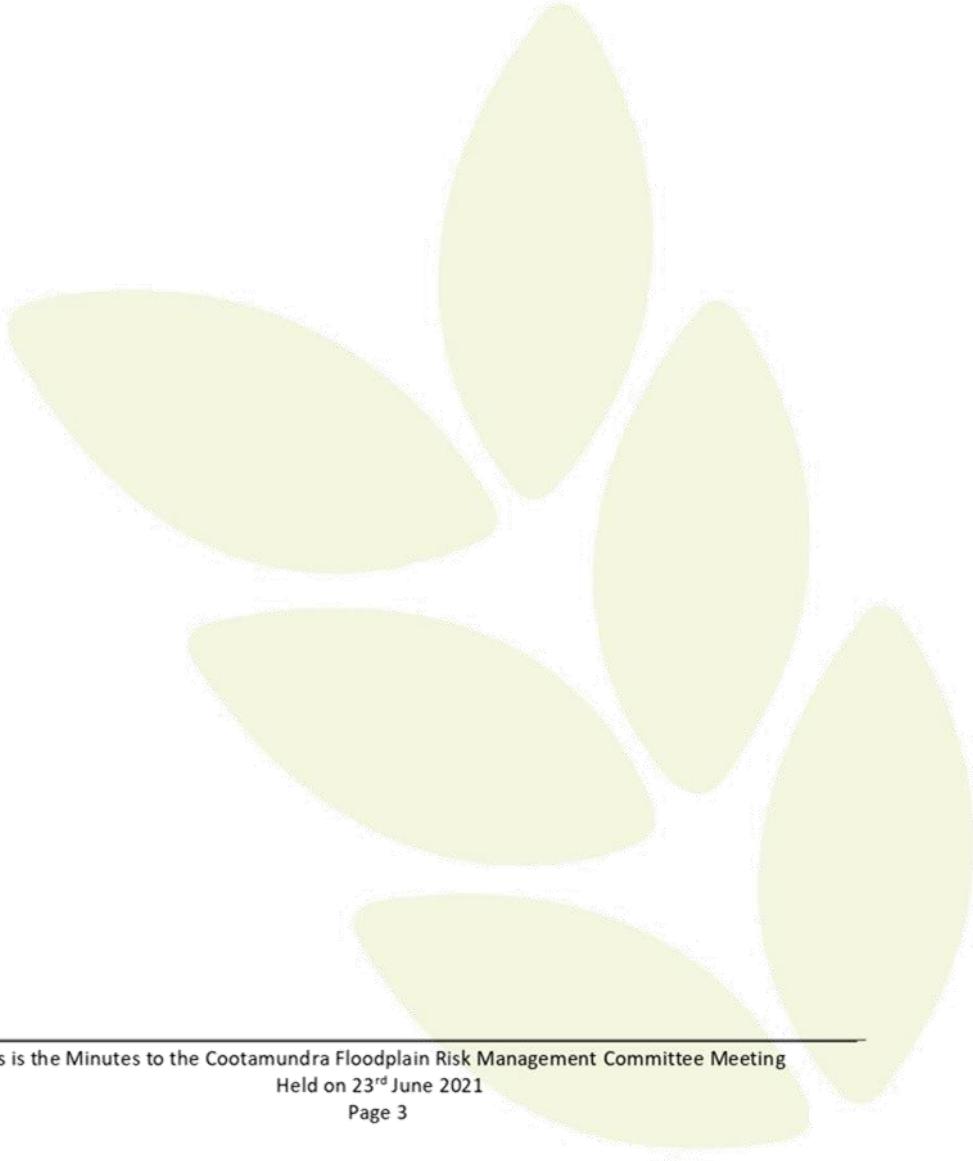
- Vegetation Management Options. It was noted that removal of vegetation does not have a significant impact on flood levels and that Council should continue with existing vegetation management practices.
- Concrete Lined Channel. Concrete lining of the existing channel would only marginally improve flood level and would not result in a good environmental outcome. This option will not be considered in detail.
- Localised widening of the existing channel. WMA will explore the option of widening and deepening sections of the existing channel to increase capacity, particularly between Adams Street and Onley Street.
- Southee Circle Area. It was noted that doubling pipe sizes does not impact flood levels due to the impact of backwater in the creek. The option of a pump-out system was discussed but is not preferred as the primary means of flood protection. WMA will explore the option of a diversion pipeline to convey flows from Southee Circle Area to down-stream where backwater impacts are reduced.
- West CBD Levee Option. This option increases flood levels in the CBD area and will not be considered further.
- McGowan Street Levee Option. This option generally has a positive impact on flood levels in the vicinity and will be explored further.
- Extension of Jindalee Levee. 3 properties may be impacted, and this option is not a high priority.
- East CBD Levee. This option worsens flood levels in the CBD due to the impact of flows around the levee and will not be considered further.
- Large detention basin at the airport. Whilst this option does have a positive impact on flood levels in the vicinity, it is very costly and is not a high priority.
- Detention basin at the racecourse. This smaller basin has a localised benefit only and is not a high priority.

WMA Water will continue their work on development of structural flood mitigation options, which will be considered further at the next meeting.

Non-structural options include the evaluation of house raising / house purchase. Steve Manwaring advised that this can be considered once the structural options have been explored.

Justification for an appropriate flood planning level was discussed, with general support for a 0.5 m freeboard. Preliminary mapping of the flood planning area shows a significant impact on future development across the town.

4. Questions/ Discussions	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Mills discussed the potential for increased wet weather events and emphasized the urgency of this project.• Steve Mills expressed disappointment that there has been no quorum at the last 2 meetings. It was noted that committee representation will be reconsidered by the new Council after the September Local Government election.
5. Date for next meeting	
	<p>Proposed for August 2021. Date to be confirmed.</p> <p>Meeting closed 5:00pm.</p>



This is the Minutes to the Cootamundra Floodplain Risk Management Committee Meeting
Held on 23rd June 2021
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PO Box 347
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Phone/Fax: (02) 6942 4695
Email: ctamow@bigpond.com
ABN 22 170 198 614

29th June 2021

Councillor Abb McAlister
Mayor
Cootamundra /Gundagai Regional Council
81 Wallendoon Street
Cootamundra NSW 2590

Dear Councillor Abb McAlister

The Morrison Government announced an increase in the minimum meals unit price* to \$7.50 on Tuesday 18 May. Unfortunately, this announcement may be misleading, as it only applies to those services currently receiving less than this unit price per meal. This "funding boost" is only to the minimum meal price of \$7.50, and while welcomed by Meals on Wheels in other states, however this is not an increase for NSW services. The vast majority of NSW services currently receive more than this meals unit price, due to prior state government funding policies.

We seek urgent clarification as to whether existing funding levels to NSW services will be maintained. While this proposed increase will provide some benefit to Meals on Wheels services in other states, the 148 Meals on Wheels service outlets across New South Wales, that forms 40% of the national Meals on Wheels network, will not get any relief at all.

In the media release with the headline '**Nod to volunteers as meal providers receive a funding boost**' which I have attached, **Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck**, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services, said "This vital measure puts the health and wellbeing of older Australians first, while strengthening the viability of meal providers across the country".

In order for our local Meals on Wheels Service, Cootamundra Meals on Wheels Service Inc. to remain active and viable within our community, whilst maintaining our current level of service, **we seek your support to gain clarification around the matters listed below:**

1. Sustaining the existing level of funding in NSW post June 2022

We would appreciate your support and advocacy around the requirement to maintain existing funding (as a minimum) to ensure we continue to supply our current level of service.

2. Payment in arrears

On 11th May, 2021 an announcement was made by the Australian Government that "most" CHSP services will be transitioning to Payment in Arrears, to come into effect for 22/23 financial year.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health



Meals on Wheels
Cootamundra



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ABN 22 170 198 614

Currently, Meals on Wheels services are block funded quarterly in advance. Based on a survey conducted with Meals on Wheels services in NSW in May 2021, 68% will not survive, and 14% are unsure if they would survive in their current form if moved to a payment in arrears system. Due to long term inadequate funding, most NSW Meals on Wheels services have no financial buffer and depend on receiving funding in advance. The Government accepted the Royal Commission recommendation to continue with a combination of activity-based and block grant funding to deliver its meal services. To properly sustain Meals on Wheels services in NSW, they should continue to be block funded in advance.

We seek your advocacy for Meals on Wheels to be exempt from this change to this proposed funding method, so we can remain an integral part of our local community. Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact Mrs Kerry Kostrubic on (02) 6942 4695.

Kind regards,

Kerry Kostrubic

Coordinator

Cootamundra Meals on Wheels Service Inc.

Please note: Clients pay for their meals out of their own funds. The meal unit price funds the administration and delivery of the meal and covers services for such items as wages for staff, rent of buildings, utilities for freezers and kitchens, assessments and reviews of client's needs, recruiting, training and supporting volunteers, compliance with reporting requirements to government, maintaining food safety etc.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck
Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services
Minister for Sport

18 May 2020

Nod to volunteers as meal providers receive a funding boost

The Morrison Government will increase the minimum meals unit price to \$7.50 to help aged care providers deliver meals to older Australians receiving aged care at home.

Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services Richard Colbeck said it was a significant step forward to reinforce the tremendous efforts of food providers which help meet the nutritional needs of an increasing number of older Australians.

“This vital measure puts the health and wellbeing of older Australians first, while strengthening the viability of meal providers across the country,” Minister Colbeck said.

The mechanism will see the minimum unit price of \$4.90 paid to providers lifted by \$2.60.

The changes are expected to be implemented over the course of 2021-22.

It amounts to a \$7 million funding injection under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

The CHSP provides home support to Australians aged 65 years and over (or 50 years and over for Indigenous Australians) living at home and in their own communities.

Meals are delivered under the CHSP to ensure food security and nutritional and social benefits for older Australians.

In 2020-21, there are 571 meals providers funded by the Australian Government to deliver 11.5 million meals across Australia.

One provider alone, Meals on Wheels, has been operating in hundreds of metropolitan and rural communities nationally for more than 60 years.

More than 10 million meals every year are delivered with the support of more than 76,000 Meals on Wheels volunteers.

As part of National Volunteer Week, Minister Colbeck acknowledged the efforts of volunteers across the aged care sector – from those caring for loved ones at home to those who give their time to ensure older and vulnerable Australians receive good food and nutrition.

“Volunteers are the backbone of Australia – but across the aged care sector, each and every day there are remarkable examples from people who put the needs of others ahead of their own,” Minister Colbeck said.

“These people are ultimately providing an important mechanism for older Australians to stay connected, healthy and happy.

“Thank you to the hundreds of thousands of people volunteer their time to improve the lives of others.”

ENDS



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255 Sheridan Street,
Gundagai NSW 2722

352498 / REC-210705-MMC-143500

The Hon. Michael McCormack, MP
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
Email: michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr McCormack

RE: Proposed Changes to the Funding of Community Service Food Providers by the Federal Government.

I recently received correspondence from Mrs. Kerry Kostrubic, Coordinator Cootamundra Meals on Wheels (CMoW), attached, detailing valid concerns of an announcement made by the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services, Senator Richard Colbeck, dated 18th May, 2021 regarding an increase to the minimum meal cost of \$4.90 to \$7.50.

While this may be an increase to food providers in other states and territories, Mrs. Kostrubic has advised me that this is not the case for NSW food providers. In particular, Cootamundra Meals on Wheels that currently receives \$8.36 per meal. To decrease this funding amount to \$7.50 would see a significant cut to their funding. CMoW served 10,078 meals to Meals on Wheels clients in Cootamundra. If you add the meals supplied through HomeCare Packages, under 65's and general sales that total increases to approximately 14,600. The cost to cook, package, label and distribute a Hot main meal in Cootamundra is \$8.20.

A decrease of \$0.86 to the current funding provided for the preparation and delivery of meals through Meals on Wheels amounts to \$8667.08 or \$12,556 to the total amount of meals prepared for HomeCare packages and other sales. This is a significant amount of funding to lose and would no doubt result in some kind of considerable loss to the current service level and seriously affecting those in need that receive these meal packages. Whilst the proposed change to the minimum funding announcement made by the Senator does not mention a decrease of funding to food providers that receive above the \$7.50 it has an ominous foreboding.

To increase a further lack of confidence to this ambiguity, an announcement made 11th May, 2021 by the Australian Government declared that most Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services will be transitioning to Payment in Arrears to come into effect for the 2022/23 financial year. What kind of Government expects such community services to be able to operate effectively in arrears?

I respectfully request clarification from the Federal Government on the following:

1. Of sustaining the existing funding levels for the provision of community meals by community food providers that currently receive above \$7.50; and,

2. The proposed 'Payment in Arrears' system, to be introduced for the 2022/23 financial year, detailing how the Government plans to protect the existing community services from disappearing by taking away the much needed funds required to provide healthy and nutritious meals to aging and needy Australians. The very concept is illogical. This proposed system could result in an increase of costs being passed to clients who already go without so much due to the cost of living. If this payment method is introduced it may result in clients reviewing how much they can afford to spend on food. So many of whom already go without heating through winter will now be forced to forgo food because of such a ludicrous system. It could also see such food providing services unable to continue with this vital community service. To lose food providers would be a tragic loss to communities, particularly rural and regional communities.

Why change a system that is working well, particularly as there is no issue of large accumulated unspent funds in the Meals on Wheels system, and secondly who benefits from such a change. It is difficult to see any beneficiary at all.

Lastly, COVID-19 has shone a light on what an essential service Meals on Wheels has become, providing not only a nourishing meal but the essential Wellness check and a social connection to the wider community, not only for older vulnerable people but for those who are isolated, those with very limited family or contacts and for their carers.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss the matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 0428 441 300.

Yours faithfully



Cr Abb McAlister
Mayor



5 July 2021

CC: Member for Cootamundra, Ms Stephanie Cooke, MP
Kerry Kostrubic – Coordinator Meals on Wheels Cootamundra

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352498 / REC-210705-MMC-143100

Ms Steph Cooke, MP
Member for Cootamundra
PO Box 350
YOUNG NSW 2594
Email: cootamundra@parliament.nsw.gov.au

RE: Proposed Changes to the Funding of Community Service Food Providers by the Federal Government.

I recently received correspondence from Mrs. Kerry Kostrubic, Coordinator Cootamundra Meals on Wheels (CMoW), attached, detailing valid concerns of an announcement made by the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services, Senator Richard Colbeck, dated 18th May, 2021 regarding an increase to the minimum meal cost of \$4.90 to \$7.50.

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This is an issue for the NSW and Federal Governments and a copy of this correspondences has also been sent to Member for Riverina, the Hon. Michael McCormack.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss the matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 0428 441 300.

Yours faithfully



Cr Abb McAlister
Mayor

2 July 2021

CC: Member for Riverina, the Hon. Michael McCormack, MP
Kerry Kostrubic – Coordinator Meals on Wheels Cootamundra

JULY. 2021



ALGWA

Australian Local Government Womens Association NSW



ALGWA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALGWA NSW Executive 2021

Shellharbour Council

ALGWA NSW held their Annual Conference in March hosted by Shellharbour Council.

The new executive was announced with the following members L-R Soraya Mahomed - Mayor Karen McKeown - Cr Christine Kay - Jennifer Lecky - Mayor Marianne Saliba - Ellie Robertson - Cr Cassandra Coleman - Cr Dianna Baker - Cr Sera Yilmaz - Cr Collen Fuller - Cr Anne Napoli - Allyson Bradford

Absent: Polly Makim - Cr Rina Mercuri

Presidents Report

Cr. Cassandra Coleman - Lithgow City Council

2021 will definitely be a year to remember!

As the President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association NSW (ALGWA NSW) I am proud to say that we on the Executive Board have been putting our best foot forward to ensure that in the upcoming NSW Local Government September elections, representation of women will increase across this great state. So far, we have presented twenty-eight "How to Get Women Elected" Forums across NSW, giving women encouragement and inspiration to be candidates. I have personally facilitated fourteen of them and met some amazing women who will make excellent councillors.

At the end of September, I hope to see that NSW Councils truly represent our modern and diverse society.

The positive response to our Forums has been overwhelming. We have had up to 40 attend a Forum. No matter how many attended, or where we were, the message is the same and irrelevant if the women live in Narrabri or the City of Ryde. ALGWA NSW wants to see as many women as possible take a chance, stand up for their community and nominate to be a candidate in the Local Government elections come September 4th.

I would like to acknowledge the support that ALGWA NSW has received from the Regional and Metropolitan Councils who hosted Forums. When the ALGWA NSW Executive team and myself walked in, we were welcomed by both the Mayor and General Manager, the equipment was functioning, presentations ready, and staff members willing to provide support. On behalf of ALGWA NSW, I thank you sincerely for ensuring that the Forum you hosted went without a hiccup.

Local Government election campaigning has begun for those seeking election and re-election. On a local note, I have started campaigning to work toward ensuring that my seat at the table here in the Lithgow local government area continues. Campaigning is challenging, but is an opportunity to connect, listen and learn the needs of your community. I am a campaign junky and relish the opportunity. I appreciate being nominated for the Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government 2021-Rural and Regional Elected Representative.

I will continue to champion the advancement and encouragement of female elected representation across NSW. I look forward to catching up with those who get elected and re-elected on September 4th.

Remember to join ALGWA NSW to continue our ongoing work towards increasing women as elected representatives and supporting all women involved in Local Government. Good luck for the elections everyone, from ALGWA NSW.

Cr Cassandra Coleman
President ALGWA NSW



Petersons Winery and Guesthouse in Arindale NSW was one of the many unforgettable experiences that I have had the pleasure of. As President I have had a once in a lifetime opportunity to present to a very wide audience, listen and learn from many. Until we meet again!

Ellie Robertson

Liverpool Council

Hi there! On 13 March 2021 I was absolutely delighted to be elected onto the ALGWA Executive Board at the Shellharbour annual conference.

At this conference I had the pleasure of meeting many amazing and strong women, previous and current board members and other councillors, mayors and council staff. Born to Greek parents (and speaking fluent Greek) I have always had a very keen interest in politics as I am acutely aware that everything we do in our daily lives is affected by decisions made in government.

I live in the Sydney south-west suburb of Holsworthy with my husband and furbabies where I currently serve on 6 committees (3 with Liverpool City Council). My working career has been with the state and public service.

I applied to be an Executive Member because I am very passionate about showing our community that not only women, but women with disabilities are more than capable of running for a government office when given the right opportunities. As a woman living with a significant physical disability I have a burning desire to right the wrongs on so many issues. I would like to raise awareness and indeed the status, of people living with disability in particular, women with disabilities.

I am equally passionate about our environment and our unique wildlife, climate change and animal welfare. I want to be a part of the decision-making processes that affect our fragile environment.

My ultimate goal is to get elected on 4 September onto Liverpool City Council!

DID YOU KNOW

ALGWA NSW has completed 26 Forums this year to date and 7 remaining.

If your Council would like to be involved please contact ALGWA for more information on algwansw@gmail.com.au



Ellie Robertson - ALGWA NSW Executive Member

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the President of Australian Local Government Women's Association Cassandra Coleman and Mayor Marianne Saliba on their nominations for the Ministers Award for Women in Local Government.

This is a great privilege to be nominated for a prestigious award.



Anne Napoli

Griffith Council

Thursday 6th May, the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association, were in Griffith to give support and information to the Multicultural residents with a disability and their Carers.

Our own Sera Yilmaz, travelled to Griffith with two other members of MDAA, the workshop was a great success with the participants gaining much needed information and referrals to other agencies that was appropriate for their needs. In particular information was given about the Active Citizens Project, this is about empowering citizens in the community to get active and know their rights and also what services that they can tap into. Many questions were asked about a range of topics such as, Immigration, Housing, Centrelink, Medicare and Domestic Violence and Abuse.



One woman, spoke about her circumstances that after five days of marriage her husband left and she has not seen him in nearly two years. Other women spoke about how difficult it is to find suitable accommodation.

I was given the honour of been part of a Q&A panel and also to give a brief speech about my background and how and why I became a Councillor. I, as someone from a Multicultural background hoped that my story empowered these women with confidence to reach their highest potential.

I was pleased to be able to give these wonderful women contact details on whom they can reach out to for help and I also contacted a local organisation to inform them that these women need their help.

MDAA is an organisation that will help people with a disability, their families and Carers. Here in Griffith they can contact the local representative, Rochelle Croucamp. Phone 69624144.

On another note I have been very busy talking and meeting with potential candidates for the upcoming Local Government Elections. I am all coffee-out and too many lunch meetings. I think I have put on 20 kilos. I believe it's all worth the time and weight. I am confident that I will have a great team running with me, come September.

Colleen Fuller

Gunnedah Council

Ladies attended Narrabri forum along with the former Mayor Robyn Faber and Councillor Kath Reading who will contest the next election.

Since that day there has been three other ladies who have made contact. Two of those ladies are interested. They were happy with the day and believe they were well informed.



Majorie Propsting Scholarship

Do you know about the Marjorie Propsting annual Scholarship?

Set up by ALGWA NSW in honour of the woman who was a founder of ALGWA in 1951.

Open to applicants who are ALGWA members, Councillors and staff members, to support women involved in Local Government to further their careers.

The Scholarship is up to \$3,000 and applications open now on line. Information and form available www.algwa.org.au



Majorie Propsting

JOIN ALGWA

Individual membership is \$80 pa available to all women elected to, employed in, or interested in Local Government.

Benefits include discounts for all ALGWA NSW Conferences, forums, programs, eligibility to vote at the AGM at conference and to stand for election to the ALGWA NSW Executive.

Associate membership is \$40 pa available to all those interested in supporting women in Local Government.

Council membership is \$275 available to all NSW councils.

Payment can be made online
www.algwa.org.au

- Download and fill in the membership form
- Payment can be made safely via Paypal

ALGWA NSW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Cr Cassandra Coleman
President ALGWA NSW
Lithgow City Council
clr.coleman@lithgow.nsw.gov.au



Cr Marianne Saliba
Immediate Past President ALGWA NSW
President ALGWA National
Mayor Shellharbour City
marianne.saliba@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au



Polly Makim
Treasurer
Mosman Municipal Council
p.makim@mosman.nsw.gov.au



Cr Sera Yilmaz
Secretary
Fairfield City Council
syilmaz@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au



Cr Dianne Baker
Country Vice President ALGWA NSW,
Inverell Shire Council
dibakerplan4@gmail.com

ALGWA NSW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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Media Release



09 July 2021

Trimming trees for safe, reliable power

Essential Energy will shortly begin vegetation management in Cootamundra, Wallendbeen, Stockinbingal and the surrounding area as part of its routine maintenance on more than 200,000 kilometres of powerlines covering 95% of NSW and parts of Southern Queensland.

Operations Manager, Central, Bronwyn Sigmund said "Keeping the power on is only possible with a safe and reliable electricity network. Managing the vegetation that's growing close to powerlines plays a crucial role in maintaining reliable power and community safety." Bronwyn said.

Essential Energy is committed to doing everything it can to preserve the natural environment, however some management of trees and other vegetation is required to maintain a safe and reliable network.

"Our specialist contractors do everything they can to strike a balance between keeping the local trees and bushes, and maintaining reliable power supply for the community," Bronwyn said.

"Trees and powerlines can be a deadly combination, with branches coming into contact with overhead powerlines posing a serious hazard to people and wildlife."

"There's also the increased potential for bushfires, damage to property, injury and unplanned power outages if contact occurs." Bronwyn said.

Essential Energy uses directional pruning techniques that remove branches growing towards a powerline and encourage re-growth away from the power network, techniques that are considered best practice throughout the arboriculture industry and are used by most power companies in Australia.

Contractors also comply with the Essential Energy operational protocols which have been developed to ensure employee, contractor and community safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, including complying with all social distancing requirements.

"Our comprehensive vegetation management program ensures minimum safety clearances are maintained between trees and overhead powerlines, while also securing a more reliable power supply. We encourage residents thinking about planting near powerlines to check our planting guide to choose the most suitable tree," Bronwyn said.

Residents can download Essential Energy's Tree Planting Guide at essentialenergy.com.au/trees for helpful tips on appropriate species for planting near powerlines or contact 13 23 91 for more information.

Weather permitting, the vegetation program will commence in August 2021.

Essential Energy consults with Councils, private landholders and National Parks on vegetation management activities. All vegetation risk management activities undertaken by Essential Energy and its qualified contractors are conducted in accordance with the NSW Energy Industry standard for Vegetation Management (*ISSC3 - Guide for the Management of Vegetation in the Vicinity of Electricity Assets*) and our own Vegetation Management Plan. Occasionally, however, practices can vary to accommodate the physical location and regrowth pattern of particular vegetation, or to comply with the *Electrical Safety Rules* and legislation such as the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* (NSW).

**Media contact: Sarah Johnston, Community Relations Manager Southern
Mobile: 0418 172 860**

FACT FILE:

- Essential Energy builds, operates and maintains one of Australia's largest electricity distribution networks, servicing 870,000 customers across regional, rural and remote NSW and parts of southern Queensland
- Our footprint covers 95 per cent of NSW, traversing 737,000 square kilometres of landmass with 183,612 kilometres of powerline, including 163,417 kilometres in designated bushfire zones
- The network has approximately 5.1 customers to each kilometre of powerline, which is almost one-tenth the customer density compared with our counterparts in NSW
- Essential Energy's footprint also includes 1.38 million power poles, equating to 1.6 power poles per customer

Media Release



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Operations Manager, Riverina Slopes, Shawn Eade said "Keeping the power on is only possible with a safe and reliable electricity network. Managing the vegetation that's growing close to powerlines plays a crucial role in maintaining reliable power and community safety." Shawn said.

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Cootamundra Gundagai
Regional Council
Document Received

- 1 JUL 2021

65 Parker St

File No. _____
Initials _____

Cootamundra 2590

30th June 2021

Cootamundra Gundagai Shire Council

Wallendoon St Office

Cootamundra, 2590

Dear Councillors,

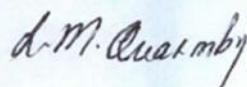
I wish to make a suggestion regarding the impending improvements to be made to Jubilee Park a park that is a credit to the Council and a beautiful place for residents and visitors to visit and relax.

One of the principal attractions to Jubilee Park is "The Captains Walk". My suggestion is to have a bust cast for the first female captain Margaret Peden 1934-1935. Recorded on the plinth supporting the bust could be a list of female captains since that time.

In recent years the popularity of Womens cricket (and Womens sport in general) has increased immensely and I think to acknowledge this would be a popular move and show that Cootamundra Gundagai Shire are prepared to be inclusive.

I ask that you give this matter your favourable consideration .

Yours faithfully



Mrs Lynn Quarmby



Riverina Joint Organisation
Minutes
Board Meeting held
25 June 2021

Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

The meeting opened at 9:07am

Present

Tony Donoghue PSM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr John Seymour OAM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr Abb McAlister	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Phil McMurray	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Cr Doug Meyer OAM	Greater Hume Shire Council	Alternate Delegate
Steve Pinnuck	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Cr Neil Smith	Junee Shire Council	
James Davis	Junee Shire Council	
Cr Rodger Schirmer	Lockhart Shire Council	
Peter Veneris	Lockhart Shire Council	
Cr Greg Verdon	Riverina Water County Council	
Andrew Crakanthorp	Riverina Water County Council	
Cr Rick Firman OAM	Independent Chairman	
Elizabeth Smith	Temora Shire Council	
Cr Graham Sinclair	Temora Shire Council	
Cr Greg Conkey OAM	Wagga Wagga City Council	
Peter Thompson	Wagga Wagga City Council	
Julie Briggs	Riverina Joint Organisation	
Paul Worsfold	Riverina Joint Organisation	
Isaac Cornell	Riverina Joint Organisation	
Kate Hardy	REROC	

1. Apologies

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N Smith, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the apologies of Cr H Wilton, Cr B Monaghan, R Smith, G Lavelle, Cr D Palmer, A Drenovski, G Butler and C Templeton be accepted.

2. Move to Committee of the Whole

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr J Seymour, seconded Cr D Meyer that the Board conduct its business as a Committee of the Whole.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by the Board or staff.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N Smith, seconded Cr G Conkey that the minutes of the 23 April 2021 Board meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

5. Business Arising from Previous Board Meetings

Dealt with in reports.

6. Correspondence

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr N Smith, seconded Cr R Schirmer that the Board receive and note the correspondence.

7. Chief Executive Officer Report

7.1 JO Funding Arrangements

Recurrent Funding for JOs – noted.

Cr A McAlister arrived at the meeting at 9:08am

P McMurray arrived at the meeting at 9:10am

JO Review – The review is currently underway with ARDT Consultants, a report is expected by the end of June, with the final report delivered by the middle of July. ARDT presented the findings to date at the Joint JO Chairs' meeting held in Sydney on 27 May 2021.

7.2 JO Core Activities - Regional Planning

JO Capacity Building Funding

1. **Freight Project** – the final report is due this week. We will be requesting further work on the opportunities and challenges relating to Inland Rail.
2. **Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement (BPAP)** – A consultation on Stage 4 o was held with the Riverina Joint Organisation General Managers in May to discuss undertaking a procurement planning project. The GMs agreed that they preferred procurement to be undertaken by REROC on an on-demand basis. We have received the Stage 5 draft report for review.
3. **Skills Shortages Project** – the project is progressing well. P Worsfold, Project Officer raised the following issues with the Board:
 - a. **LGNSW Project Sharing Highly Skilled Workers** – LGNSW is developing this project and will be sharing it with councils.
 - b. **Council Visits** - P Worsfold is currently undertaking on-site visits speaking with GMs and HR staff. As a result of these meetings, he is now looking at other areas of need for Member Councils.

S Pinnuck has expressed his thanks for all the work P Worsfold has done in this role.

The CEO noted that Riverina Joint Organisation has now been offered a further \$150,000 in Capacity Building Project funding be delivered by June 2023.

Page No. 2 of the Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

Chairman

CEO

Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

Resolved on the motion by Cr A McAlister, seconded Cr D Meyer that the Board note the report on the JO Capacity Building projects.

Regional Water Strategy – noted.

Regional Housing Strategy – Four workshops have now been held on this issue and have been well attended with good representation from all Member Councils and State Agencies attending. The Government released its NSW Housing Strategy and the NSW Housing Strategy Action Plan this month. The JO is also supporting RDA Riverina's Housing Summit which is being held on 13 August in Wagga Wagga.

NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 – the 20 Year Waste Strategy has been released. The JOs have requested more consultation on the Strategy.

7.3 JO Working Party Meetings

The Working Parties did not meet this month.

7.4 JO Core Activities – Advocacy and Lobbying

Visit to Parliament House Canberra – this will occur on the afternoon of 26 August. The Hon Michael McCormack's Office is assisting us with the arrangements. The August Board meeting will be held at the Canberra REX on the morning of 27th August.

Resolved on the motion by Cr N Smith, seconded Cr A McAlister that the Board write to Hon Michael McCormack to thank him for his three years of service as Deputy Prime Minister and for his support for the Region.

Meeting with Steph Cooke MP – noted.

ESL Contributions – LGNSW is requesting support for the lobbying they are undertaking in relation to the enabling legislation for the ESL contributions.

Resolved on the motion of Cr N Smith, seconded Cr R Schirmer that:

1. the JO write to the Minister for Local Government, the Deputy Premier and the Premier seeking support for the LGNSW amendment to the Local Government Act with copies to local members and to Country Mayors; and
2. the JO write to the Treasurer and request advice as to the methodology used to set the Funding Target for the RFS and what level of independent oversight is provided to the RFS budget process.

Section 7.12 Contributions for State Significant Developments – Riverina JO has written again to the Minister in relation to the Section 7.12 Contributions. The Joint Chairs have also written to the Minister about this issue and have received a similar response to the JO's.

IPART Review of the Rate Peg to include Population Growth – a response was prepared to this Review in consultation with the Members.

Page No. 3 of the Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

Chairman

CEO

Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

Resolved on the motion of Cr A McAlister, seconded Cr G Sinclair that the JO Board adopt the response to the Review of the Rate Peg to include Population Projections.

Cost of Introduction of e-Planning – noted.

Consultation on the ABS Agricultural Census – noted.

Certification of Council Engineers – noted.

Construction of a New and Larger Burrinjuck Dam – noted.

Mobile Phone Black Spots – noted.

NBN Regional Services – noted.

7.5 JO Core Activities – Intergovernmental Co-operation

The following activities have occurred in this Core Activity:

Partnership with NSW Spatial Services and RAMJO – this is an exciting new partnership which will see us working with RAMJO and NSW Spatial Services to transfer our Freight Transport mapping to the Spatial Services Collaboration Platform.

Critical Events Co-ordination Sub-committee – the Committee last met on 17 June and continues to share information between Member Councils and the participating agencies.

Regional Resilience and Recovery Sub-committee – noted.

Meetings with Murrumbidgee Primary Health District – noted.

Meetings with Department of Regional NSW – noted.

JO Executive Officer Meetings – noted.

Resolved on the motion of Cr N Smith, seconded Cr R Schirmer that the Board receive the CEO's report.

8. JO Chairman's Report

Joint JO Chairs' Meeting - the JO Chairs met in Sydney on 27 May with the focus of the meeting was a presentation on the JO Review from consultant's ARDT and presentations from IPART on the Rate Peg and from the Town Water Risk Reduction program.

The next meeting will be held in Sydney on 5 August.

Cr R Firman, Cr G Sinclair and Mrs J Briggs also attended Cr L Scott's Press Club Luncheon in Canberra on 22 June.

Page No. 4 of the Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

Chairman

CEO

Minutes of the Riverina Joint Organisation Board Meeting held at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga on Friday 25 June 2021

Resolved on the motion of Cr A McAlister, seconded Cr J Seymour that the Board note and receive the JO Chairman's Report.

9. Finance Report

Resolved on the motion of Cr D Meyer, seconded Cr R Schirmer that the Board receive the Year-to-Date Finance Report.

10. Urgent Business without Notice

Letter from Local Government Minister Hancock offering funding of \$150,000 to deliver Stage 2 Capacity Building projects. The projects are to be completed by June 2023. The funding cannot be used on operational expenditure or business as usual. The funding contract must be signed by 25 June and a plan for the projects to be undertaken must be provided to the OLG by 30 August.

Resolved on the motion of Cr G Conkey, seconded Cr N Smith that the Board accept and sign the Capacity Building funding agreement.

Resolved on the motion of Cr N Smith, seconded Cr G Conkey that Riverina Joint Organisation conduct a ZOOM workshop to discuss projects for the funding and that the project proposals be brought back to the August Board meeting for adoption.

11. Resolution to Move out of Committee of the Whole

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr J Seymour seconded Cr N Smith that the meeting move out of Committee of the Whole.

12. Next Board Meeting

The Board of the Riverina JO will next meet on Friday, 27 August 2021 at the Canberra REX Hotel, Northbourne Avenue Canberra

Meeting closed at 10:25am

RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
held at The Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga
Friday 25 June 2021

Meeting opened at 11:04am

PRESENT

Tony Donoghue PSM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr John Seymour OAM	Coolamon Shire Council	
Cr Abb McAlister	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Phil McMurray	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Cr Doug Meyer OAM	Greater Hume Shire Council	Alternate Delegate
Steven Pinnuck	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Cr Neil Smith	Junee Shire Council	
James Davis	Junee Shire Council	
Cr Rodger Schirmer	Lockhart Shire Council	
Peter Veneris	Lockhart Shire Council	
Cr Greg Verdon	Riverina Water County Council	
Andrew Crakanthorp	Riverina Water County Council	
Cr Rick Firman OAM	Temora Shire Council	
Elizabeth Smith	Temora Shire Council	Alternate Delegate
Cr Graham Sinclair	Temora Shire Council	Observer
Rachel Whiting	RDA-Riverina	
Julie Briggs	REROC	
Kate Hardy	REROC	
Matthew Dudley	REROC	
Isaac Cornell	Riverina Joint Organisation	

APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from of Cr B Monaghan, R Smith, G Lavelle, Cr D Palmer, A Drenovski, G Butler and Cr H Wilton.

Moved Cr N Smith, seconded E Smith that the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr N Smith, seconded J Davis that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Business arising dealt with in reports.

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved Cr J Seymour, seconded T Donoghue that the correspondence be accepted.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs raised the following issues with members:

Meeting with local MPs – the Board met with Steph Cooke, Member for Cootamundra on 19 May. Dr J McGirr, Member for Wagga Wagga was unable to attend the REROC Board Meeting today as a result of COVID. Arrangements will be made for an alternative date.

Meeting with Minister Evans Ewaste – Cr J Seymour, T Donoghue, J Briggs and representatives from Kurrajong Recycling Wagga Wagga met with Minister Evans on 22 June in Canberra to discuss the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS). The delegation outlined the problems associated with ewaste collections and the failure of the NTCRS to provide services in the regions. The delegation also discussed co-regulatory arrangements and what could be in place to improve the NTCRS. The Minister advised that the NTCRS is currently under review and our views would be taken into consideration, he also expressed interest in the operation of the NSW Voluntary Regional Waste Groups. REROC will write to the Assistant Minister to follow up from the meeting.

Review of the Rate Peg to include Population Growth – the JO has lodged a submission on IPART review. Councils are concerned about which population projections will be used as the basis of the decision making. J Briggs and R Whiting have had an initial discussion about working together on a population projections project as the RDA have a dedicated researcher.

Housing Shortage Project – we have held 4 workshops on this issue with good representation from all Member Councils and State agencies. The next activity is to turn the outcomes from these workshops into a Regional Housing Strategy. The Government has also released its NSW Housing Strategy and NSW Housing Strategy Action Plan which we will be looking to integrate actions from into our approach.

Sustainable Councils and Communities Program – this project is continuing successfully, and the SCC team have managed to secure a small amount of funding for further work next financial year.

REROC profiled by Bartier Perry for Council Connect – Bartier Perry, a law firm on our Native Title Panel requested an interview with J Briggs about REROC and its activities. This was featured in the May issue of their Council Connect magazine.

Moved P Veneris, seconded Cr J Seymour that the CEO Report be received.

CARRIED

RESOURCE SHARING REPORT

The report was tabled. J Briggs raised the following issues with members:

Southern Lights Project

The rollout of the LEDs continues with very positive results however, the deployment of the Smart Communications that will provide the backbone to allow lights to communicate to a central system is delayed. The Smarts' tender process took 18 months and we have been advised by Essential Energy (EE) that they will not proceed with the smart communications until councils commit to paying for the installation. At this stage there is no business case to support an investment by councils in the technology. The Southern Lights group was scheduled to meet with EE Management in Sydney on 8 July about this issue, however this has had to be postponed to 6 August due to COVID restrictions in place in Sydney.

Planning Technical Group

The Group met on 10 June. NSW Planning and Primary Industries send staff to these meetings to provide updates to the group. M Dudley also attends to update the group on the Contaminated Lands project.

Water and Wastewater Technical Group

The Group met on 17 June and discussed the Regional Water Strategy and the Town Water Risk Reduction Program. There was discussion about the Safe and Secure Water Program and the difficulty that councils are having accessing the funding for projects in very small communities. Greater Hume and Cootamundra-Gundagai advised that they were seeking funding for projects, but it was highly unlikely that they would qualify.

Moved S Pinnuck, seconded T Donoghue that REROC write to the Minister for Water, Hon Melinda Pavey MP, to raise her awareness of the issue and seek a solution to it. Copy also to be sent to Erin Cini from Town Risk Water Reduction.

Town Water Risk Reduction Program – the Group have invited Erin Cini from the Program to speak at their next meeting.

Gundagai Sewerage Treatment Plant – the Group will be completing a tour of the facility at the next meeting.

Energy Management Technical Group

The Group met on 17 June. The focus of the Group at the moment is the Sustainable Councils and Communities Program.

Sustainable Councils and Communities - The Energy Savings Action Plans (ESAPs) have reached draft stage for Bland, Coolamon, Greater Hume, Cootamundra-Gundagai and Lockhart. A small amount of funding has been sourced to continue to project, we will be looking at the ESAPs to identify regional projects.

We have agreed to arrange the distribution of "Save Power Kits" to libraries, training on the Kits will also be provided.

Retail Electricity Tender – Central NSW JO has recently gone out with an EOI for a consultant to assist in the process. REROC is also due to go out and it was agreed by the Board that REROC Member Councils will go out collectively for the retail electricity tender.

EV Charging Stations – this project is on hold awaiting the release of an announcement on funding from the NSW Government.

Local Government Energy and Innovation Conference – the conference will be held 8-9 September at The Rules Club, Wagga Wagga. The agenda is finalised and was provided to the Board. Essential Energy has come on board as the Gold Sponsors.

Meeting paused at 11:50am for Rachel Whiting, CEO RDA to address the Board.

- RDA Annual report provided to the Board.
- Skilled Migrant success stories brochure to be provided to the Board.
- Housing Forum is being organised. REROC CEO to speak at this event about the Regional Housing Strategy
- New Board has been appointed at RDA.

Meeting resumed at 11:53am

R Whiting left the meeting at 11:53am

Riverina Spatial Information Group (RivSIG)

The Group met on 18 May via Zoom. The move to on-line meetings has increased participation in the Group.

Mapped Out – selection of speakers is underway following a call for abstracts. We have invited NSW Spatial Services to be the Gold Sponsor of the event.

Infrastructure/Engineers Group

The Group met in Coolamon on 4 May. The CSIRO project on freight moving was discussed as was the Roads of Strategic Importance funding. It was agreed that we would invite someone from the ROSI program to speak at the next meeting. We are also intending to invite someone from UGL to speak.

Build a Bridge - The CEO thanked all Member Councils for their support of the event and in particular Riverina Water for the number of staff who supported the 3-day camp.

Moved P Veneris, seconded Cr N Smith that the Resource Sharing report be received.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was tabled by T Donoghue.

Moved T Donoghue, seconded J Davis that the Finance Report be received.

CARRIED

WASTE FORUM REPORT

The report was tabled. K Hardy raised the following issues with members:

No Time to Waste 2021 - The conference will be held in Wagga on 13-14 October, the agenda is almost finalised. Hon Trevor Evans, Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management will be one of the keynote speakers. We have also secured sponsorship for the event, with EPA the major sponsors, IMMIX Metal Management our Gold Sponsor and ASK Waste Management taking up a Silver Sponsorship.

EWaste - Ewaste collections continue to be a big problem with no solution to date after SIMS ended their NTCRS contract with Kurrajong Recycling. We will be conducting an EOI for the collection of ewaste with the purpose of clearing the ewaste that is currently being stored by councils at their landfills.

Waste Metal Collections – REROC will be going out to RFQ for the collection of waste metal in August for collections to occur throughout September.

Battery Collections RFQ – REROC will be completing an RFQ for the regional collection of batteries.

Recycle Night? Recycle Right! - Coasters are being printed to promote the Recycle Night campaign, these have been designed to include QR codes which will take residents straight to the Recycle Night website. A 6-month bus advertising campaign is scheduled to commence in Wagga Wagga in July.

Eaton Gorge Theatre Performances (Madam Mulch) - 8 shows were performed in May with 914 students and teachers attending. Feedback has been very positive with schools commenting on increased interest in the school vegetable gardens and the establishment of worm farms following the performances.

Safe Sharps website – a meeting was held with Ministry of Health (MOH) and Diabetes NSW on 29 April to discuss the need for funding so the site can remain operational. MOH has requested another meeting to discuss the website, but we have been unable to organise this with them to date. We have requested that this be a round table discussion with MOH, Diabetes NSW and the EPA.

20 Year Waste Strategy – the strategy, now known as the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* was released on 15 June. This is stage one of the Strategy which covers 2021-2027. It is expected there will be consultation on its actions and implementation.

Moved Cr A McAlister, seconded T Donoghue that the Waste Forum report be received.

CARRIED

YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK REPORT

The report was tabled. K Hardy raised the following issues with members:

PHN Funding for Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum - the evaluation and expenditure reports have been completed and sent to PHN. Copies were provided to the Board.

PHN Funding for regional Mindfulness Sessions run as part of Youth Week events - the evaluation and expenditure reports have been completed and sent to PHN. Copies were provided to the Board.

Moved Cr R Schirmer, seconded L Smith that the Youth & Community Development Network report be received.

CARRIED

PROCUREMENT REPORT

The report was tabled. K Hardy raised the following issues with members:

RFQ Conduit Camera Inspections and Jetting – 6 submissions were received for this RFQ with the evaluation panel meeting on 3 May to discuss the submissions. From this meeting it was agreed Interflow and Cleanaway would be the recommended suppliers for the participating councils. Each council must enter into individual contracts with their preferred supplier.

REROC Code of Conduct Panel – the last panel was appointed in August 2017 and is due for renewal. An EOI will be released in the coming weeks to appoint a new panel.

EOI for collection of EWaste – we will be undertaking a selected EOI for the collection of the ewaste that is currently being stockpiled by Member Councils.

Moved Cr N Smith, seconded Cr D Meyer that the Procurement report be received.

CARRIED

REGIONAL CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT

UPSS deadline - has been extended until the end of September, M Dudley will work closely with councils that still need to get these done.

DPIE review of the SEPP55 Planning Guidelines – this is still ongoing, and the end date has not been advised.

Council Surveys and workshops – a number of workshops, webinars and training sessions have been held throughout the REROC/RAMJO region. Training is being recorded and saved on the website for people to view at a later date.

RAMJO and REROC in collaboration with FNWJO, Dubbo and Bathurst have engaged Kell Moore Lawyers to advise on the regulatory framework for decommissioning UPSS sites and advice on council responsibilities.

Moved S Pinnuck, seconded T Donoghue that the Contaminated Land Management report be noted and received.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr Firman noted that this is the last REROC Board meeting for Riverina Water who are leaving the ROC at the end of June. The REROC Board expressed their sadness at losing Riverina Water as a member and wished them all the best.

The Board also noted that Mr S Pinnuck has announced his resignation from his role as General Manager, Greater Hume Council effective 30 June 2022.

NEXT MEETING

Friday 27 August 2021 at the Canberra REX Hotel at 11.00a.m.

CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 12:40pm

**The Hon Michael McCormack MP**

Federal Member for Riverina

MEDIA RELEASE

09 July 2021

McCORMACK WELCOMES ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE

Member for Riverina Michael McCormack has welcomed the Federal Government's formal establishment of a Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to be led by former New South Wales Police Deputy Commissioner Mr Nick Kaldas APM.

"Sadly, the Riverina and Central West, as with all communities and regions throughout Australia, has been affected by suicides among Australian Defence Force members and veterans, so this development is a good outcome," Mr McCormack said.

Mr McCormack praised the work of former Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester, who led consultation on the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission, assisted by the Attorney-General, Senator Michaelia Cash.

More than 3000 pieces of feedback were received during the consultation period between 19 April 2021 and 21 May.

"I think this large number of submissions reflects the community's intense interest in this most important issue," Mr McCormack said.

"We owe a debt to those who have served or who are serving our nation in the defence forces to find why there is this unacceptably high rate of self harm and to put in place measures to reduce the risks."

Mr McCormack said Mr Kaldas was a good choice as Royal Commissioner. As NSW Police Deputy Commissioner, Mr Kaldas commanded about 14,000 staff and a budget of more than \$2 billion.

Mr Kaldas also has extensive international experience in law enforcement and peacekeeping, including as Director of Internal Oversight Services for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and as Chief of Investigations for the United Nations Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Syria.

Mr Kaldas will be supported by The Hon James Douglas QC, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, and Dr Peggy Brown AO, a consultant psychiatrist and national leader in mental health policy with extensive experience in health and mental health service planning, governance and administration.

The Royal Commission will inquire into systemic issues and common themes related to defence and veteran death by suicide, including the possible contribution of pre-service, service, transition, separation and post-service issues, and other matters believed by the Royal Commission to be relevant to its inquiry.

The Royal Commission will be able to inquire into any previous death by suicide, including suspected suicide. It will be conducted independently of Government, including the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs.

Mr McCormack said the Royal Commission would conduct its inquiries in a trauma-informed way and private sessions would be available to those who wished to share their story in private.

"The inquiry will be informed by individual experiences of Defence members, veterans, their families and support networks so I encourage anyone who wants to make a submission to do so," Mr McCormack said.

"As a former Veterans' Affairs Minister, former Assistant Defence Minister and representing the only inland regional city with all three arms of Defence, I know just how important this is to the Defence Force community and their loved ones."

Counselling and support services will be available to assist people calling or engaging with the Royal Commission. This will include counselling support available before, during and after a person participates in a hearing or Private Session.

A legal financial assistance scheme will be available to people called as witnesses to the Royal Commission.

Further information on the Royal Commission, including the Terms of Reference and information on how to make a submission will be available at <https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au>

The Royal Commission is due to provide an interim report on 11 August 2022 and a final report on 15 June 2023.

The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention Bill, currently before the Parliament, will be amended to ensure that the National Commissioner will complement, and not duplicate, the Royal Commission's important work. The National Commissioner will be the permanent body responsible for implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations.

These landmark measures will together reduce deaths by suicide of defence members and veterans.

Mr McCormack said \$11.7 billion in Federal funding supported more than 325,000 veterans and their families each year.

If you, or someone you know, need support, you can contact:

- Lifeline Australia – 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467
- Open Arms (current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families can seek this free and confidential support) – 1800 011 046
- ADF Mental Health All-hours Support Line (for current serving ADF personnel and their families) – 1800 628 036.
- Safe Zone Support (for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families) – 1800 142 072. When you call Safe Zone Support, you do not need to identify yourself.

Media Contact: Shane Manning 0439 550 506



Message from Minister Hancock

[subscribe](#) | [print](#) | [forward](#)

2 July 2021



Free pet registration for rescue animals

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring animals are well looked after throughout their lives and determined to deliver the best animal welfare standards.

I want to thank our local councils, alongside animal welfare and rehoming organisations, for the important role they play in managing companion animals across NSW.

I know only too well the challenges faced by pounds and animal shelters in finding forever homes for cats and dogs, especially with the increased demand as a result of the

COVID-19 pandemic.

That's why I am delighted to announce free pet registration for people who adopt a rescue pet from council pounds, animal shelters and rehoming organisations, to help ensure more dogs and cats find a forever home.

The initiative will encourage prospective pet owners to 'adopt not shop' for a

7/2/2021

Minister's message - 2 July 2021

dog or cat, ease the burden on council pounds and animal shelters, and reduce euthanasia rates in NSW.

In 2015, the NSW Government introduced a 50 per cent discount on lifetime pet registration fees for people who rescue dogs and cats from council pounds and animal shelters, which was extended to include rehoming organisations in 2018.

So far, more than 60,000 pet owners have saved over \$1.8 million in reduced pet registration fees.

The NSW Government is committed to encouraging even more pet adoptions and that's why we are now introducing free lifetime pet registration for people who adopt a rescue dog or cat.

General lifetime pet registration fees will increase by \$5 to fund free pet registration for rescue pets, however, this will not apply to eligible pensioners.

The latest pound statistics reflect the commitment and dedication of councils, staff and volunteers in caring for our companion animals.

Figures collected from NSW councils for 2019-20 show that the number of animals entering pounds decreased by 15 per cent for dogs and almost 12 per cent for cats compared to the previous year.

They also show that 86 per cent of dogs and 60 per cent of cats were returned to their owners, rehomed or sold.

The NSW Government is committed to supporting our local councils to manage companion animals in their local communities and further improve these statistics.

That's why the NSW Government is providing \$5.8 million from the Companion Animals Fund to our 128 local councils in the 2021-22 financial year for companion animal management including pounds and shelters, ranger services, dog recreation areas, and education and awareness programs.

The fund is also used by the State Government to operate the [NSW Pet Registry](#) and carry out responsible pet ownership initiatives.

We also gave council pounds a \$500,000 boost in May last year to help them with increased vet, staff and food costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NSW Government has also introduced \$80 annual permits for owners of non-desexed cats to encourage desexing to prevent unwanted litters, and lessen the burden on pounds and shelters.

We will continue to work with councils and animal welfare and rehoming

7/2/2021

Minister's message - 2 July 2021

organisations to promote responsible pet ownership and strengthen companion animal management across NSW.

Please click here to [unsubscribe](#) from our mail list.



Circular Details	21-17 / 8 July 2021 / A755930
Previous Circular	21-12 "Electoral matter" and use of council resources prior to local government elections
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

Council decision-making prior to the September 2021 local government elections

What's new or changing

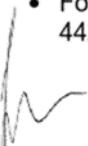
- Councils are expected to assume a "caretaker" role during election periods to ensure that major decisions are not made which would limit the actions of an incoming council.
- Councils, general managers and other delegates of councils (other than a joint regional planning panel, a local planning panel or the Central Sydney Planning Committee) must not exercise the following functions during the caretaker period:
 - entering into any contract or undertaking involving an expenditure or receipt by the council of an amount equal to or greater than \$150,000 or 1% of the council's revenue from rates in the preceding financial year (whichever is the larger)
 - determining a "controversial development application", except where a failure to make such a determination would give rise to a deemed refusal, or such a deemed refusal arose before the commencement of the caretaker period
 - appointing or reappointing the council's general manager (except for temporary appointments).
- In certain circumstances, these functions may be exercised with the approval of the Minister.

Key points

- "Controversial development application" means a development application for designated development under section 4.10 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for which at least 25 persons have made submissions during community consultation.
- The caretaker period for the September 2021 local government elections commences on Friday 6 August 2021 and ends on Saturday 4 September 2021.

Where to go for further information

- For further information, contact the OLG's Council Governance Team on 4428 4100.


Kiersten Fishburn
 Coordinator General, Planning Delivery and Local Government

Office of Local Government
 5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA NSW 2541
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 E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468



Circular Details	21-17 / 8 July 2021 / A755930
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Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Governance Team / 02 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
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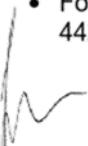
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The banner features the NSW Parliament logo on the left, followed by the text 'Steph Cooke MP' in large white letters, 'MEMBER FOR COOTAMUNDRA' in yellow, and 'MEDIA RELEASE' in large white letters. To the right is a portrait of Steph Cooke, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing glasses and a blue and white striped shirt, smiling. The background is a green landscape with a field and a road.

Tuesday, 6 July 2021

THE 210-PIECE BRIDGE CHALLENGE STARTS AT WALLENDBEEN

Work to construct a temporary bridge at Wallendbeen to speed up the opening of Burley Griffin Way for local residents and freight operators, is now underway.

Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke said the bridge installation is an engineering challenge and is comprised of modular, pre-engineered steel parts, which are being connected on site over the next three months.

"The bridge is being transported from Sydney to Wallendbeen in 210 pieces and will be assembled on a gravel hardstand that is being constructed next to the site," Ms Cooke said.

"A team of about 20 workers will build the full length of the bridge in the same way a Meccano set is constructed, with all the pieces snapped together for a perfect fit.

"Once this is done, a 650-tonne crane will lift the completed bridge into place across the rail corridor.

"This installation of the bridge will need to be carefully choreographed to be completed in a timeframe of only four hours, in order to avoid disrupting the train services running on the rail line below."

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said the replacement crossing over the rail corridor on Burley Griffin Way was urgently needed, after severe weather in March forced the original bridge to be demolished.

"This temporary bridge will be a 30-metre-long, four-metre-wide, single lane structure that will extend over the railway and be suitable for all vehicles, including PBS (2B) road trains," Mr Toole said.

"We're pleased to be able to offer this unique solution to the community and get this bridge built in just three months – a fraction of the time that it would take to build a permanent crossing.

"It's an interim solution that's going to make a huge difference for both local motorists and the freight industry, who will no longer have to endure the 40-minute detour between Temora and Wallendbeen via Cootamundra."

The temporary bridge will be open to traffic in September, weather permitting and remain in place while a permanent bridge is designed and constructed.

 cootamundra@parliament.nsw.gov.au

 www.stephcooke.com.au

 02 6382 2399

 PO Box 350, Young NSW 2594

NATIONALS
for Regional NSW



Steph Cooke MP
MEMBER FOR COOTAMUNDRA
MEDIA RELEASE

Motorists are advised to drive to the conditions, plan ahead, and follow the directions of signs and traffic control while this work is taking place.

For the latest traffic updates, download the Live Traffic NSW app and visit livetraffic.com or call 132 701.

MEDIA: Cootamundra Electorate Office | 02 6382 2399

From: Nina Piotrowicz
To: Phil McMurrae; Abi McAlister; Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party; Dennis Palmer; David Graham; Charlie Sheahan; Doug Phillips; Tim Kurylowicz; Steven Lowe; Wayne Bennett; Leah Sutherland - Cootamundra Development Corporation; cootamundra@parliament.nsw.gov.au; Mairin Crane; Casey Potter; Leigh Bowden; Penny Nicholson; Gil Kelly; Mail; chris@thetimes.net.au
Subject: The collaborative CDC & CAWP mural is now in place on Parker Street!
Date: Friday, 2 July 2021 11:46:14 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.jpg
image003.jpg
image004.jpg
image005.jpg
image006.jpg
image007.jpg
image008.jpg
image015.png
Mural1.jpg
Mural2.jpg
Mural3.jpg

On behalf of the Cootamundra Development Corporation and the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party, I would like to present to you our collaborative mural:

Mwäng Ngangaanha-gu Ngurambung-gu – Together Caring for Country

The mural demonstrates the journey of Country around Cootamundra with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Gudhamanghuray and Wiradjuri symbols depict the connections made between people and Country and how our custodianship continues for the areas of cultural significance in our community.

The mural is located between the current CDC offices and Kevin Deep's Clothing and Footwear, on Parker Street, Cootamundra.

An amazing project that was made possible through funding from Eastern Riverina Arts. The mural was beautifully painted by the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party and members of our community including Peter Beath, Leigh Bowden, Anissa Jones, Pauline Hancock, Kieran & Peter Hearne, Joy Horton, Murray Izzard, Amanda Levett, the Magrath Family, the Sannazzaro Family, Jason Manning and Colina Meadows.

The space was provided by Paul Deep (Kevin Deep Clothing & Footwear) and the project would not have been possible without the help from: Leah Sutherland, Manager CDC; the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party; Coota Signs; Steven Lowe and Wayne Bennett (& team) plus the Planning team from the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council; the Piotrowicz Family; Mitre 10 Cootamundra, the Cootamundra Paint Centre and Tegra Australia. We had wanted to formally welcome the mural to you in person, but unfortunately due to COVID restrictions and wanting to keep our community safe, we had to cancel the event. I am personally so excited to see the mural in place and I hope you love it and its important message of collaboration as much as I do.

Have a wonderful day

Nina Piotrowicz

Chair, s355 Cootamundra Tourism Action Group

Board Member, Cootamundra Development Corporation

Nina Piotrowicz

Coordinator, Credentials Development Projects, Engineering Business Group

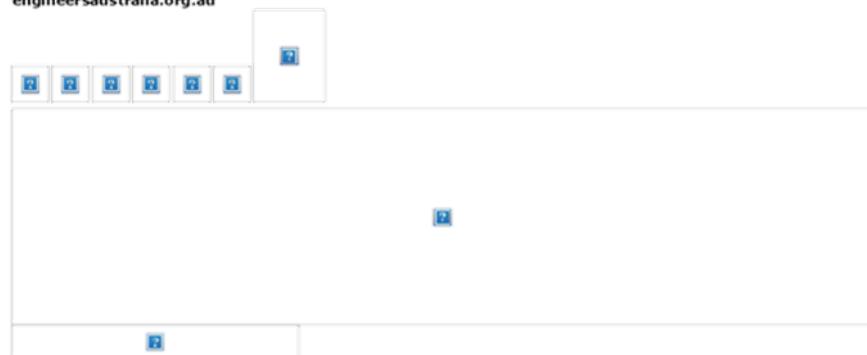
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M: 0409 304 447

National Office

Engineering House, 11 National Cct, Barton ACT 2600

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From: Ms Marianne McInerney
To: Ms Marianne McInerney
Subject: FW: The collaborative CDC & CAWP mural is now in place on Parker Street!
Date: Thursday, 15 July 2021 2:28:50 PM
Attachments: image015.png
cgrc_3f31424a-2515-4085-aef4-700b64663a35_383817ee-57d1-48c1-95cd-a1c02878a13d.png

Regards,

Marianne McInerney
Executive Assistant to the Mayor and General Manager
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council



P: 1300 459 689
M: 0429 137 888
E: marianne.mcinerney@cgrc.nsw.gov.au
W: www.cgrc.nsw.gov.au

From: <exec@easternriverinaarts.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 9:46 AM
Subject: Re: The collaborative CDC & CAWP mural is now in place on Parker Street!

Congratulations to the Cootamundra Development Corporation and the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party on a fantastic outcome!

Public art projects are always ten times harder than they look, and I think this is a classic example. Nina, your efforts to bring together so many in the community is to be commended, as is your tenacity in solving the logistical challenges along the way. Congratulations to the artists, I think the work is just beautiful, and a wonderful invitation to us all to care for Country.

On behalf of Eastern Riverina Arts, congratulations! It was a pleasure to be able to fund and support this project, and we certainly hope to be involved in many more great projects into the future.

Tim Kurylowicz
Executive Director
Eastern Riverina Arts
98 Fitzmaurice St
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

p. 02 69216890
m. 0403 878 442
e. exec@easternriverinaarts.org.au
w. EasternRiverinaArts.org.au

Eastern Riverina Arts is the lead organisation for arts and cultural development across the Eastern Riverina. We work with artists, communities and Councils to foster a vibrant and creative region.

Our region includes the Local Government Areas of Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Junee, Lockhart, Temora, Snowy Valleys and Wagga Wagga.

Eastern Riverina Arts is a member of Regional Arts NSW and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

Eastern Riverina Arts acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands on which we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

On Fri, Jul 2, 2021 at 11:44 AM Nina Piotrowicz <NPiotrowicz@engineersaustralia.org.au> wrote:

On behalf of the Cootamundra Development Corporation and the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party, I would like to present to you our collaborative mural:

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Have a wonderful day

Nina Piotrowicz
Chair, 355 Cootamundra Tourism Action Group
Board Member, Cootamundra Development Corporation

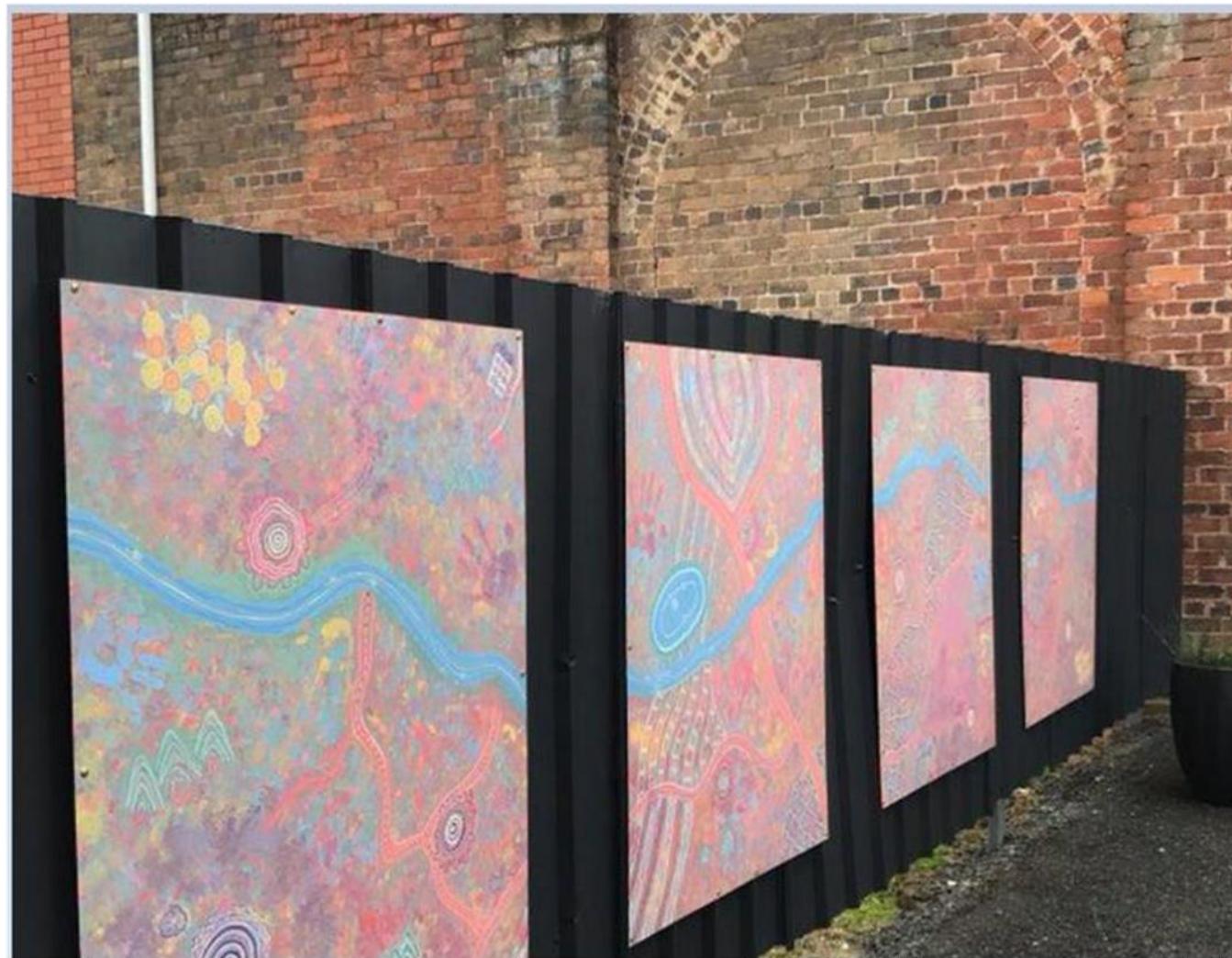
Nina Piotrowicz
Coordinator, Credentials Development Projects, Engineering Business Group
T: +61 2 6270 6548 | Ext: 2548
M: 0409 304 447

National Office
Engineering House, 11 National Cct, Barton ACT 2600
engineersaustralia.org.au

An advertisement for Engineers Australia. It features the "Chartered" logo on the left, followed by the text "Chartered. The Measure of Excellence." and the website "EngAus.org/GetChartered". To the right, there is a photograph of three professionals: a man in a suit (Dean Hobbs, CEng, General Manager Assess), a woman in an orange high-visibility vest (Alessandro Radulovich, CEng, Geotechnical Engineer, ACT Young Engineer of the Year 2018), and a man in a light-colored jacket (Alan Margolis, CEngA, Associate Group Manager). Each person has a small red box with their CEngA designation. Below the photo is another row of social media icons.

Engineers Australia promotes sustainability – think before you print.

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Circular Details	21-18 / 19 July 2021 / A779633
Previous Circular	20-33
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Performance Team / (02) 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Council to Implement

Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22

What's new or changing

The Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements for councils and county councils has been updated for the 2021-22 financial year.

What this will mean for your council

Councils and county councils should use the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22 to assist in planning strategic and operational tasks throughout the year.

Key points

- The Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22 includes key statutory and other reporting deadlines for councils and county councils.
- Councils' and county councils' statutory and other reporting deadlines are not limited to those included in the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22.
- The online Calendar of Compliance and Reporting, developed by the Office of Local Government (OLG), will be updated to reflect the Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22.

Where to go for further information

- The Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22 is available on OLG's website at <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/policy-and-legislation/guidelines-and-policy-information-resources-for-councils/council-annual-reporting-requirements/>
- A Joint Organisation Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22 has been prepared (Circular 21-19) and can be located at: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/circulars/>



Kiersten Fishburn
Coordinator General – Planning Delivery and Local Government

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Circular Details	21-19 / 19 July 2021 / A779633
Previous Circular	20-34
Who should read this	Joint Executive Officers / Councillors / General Managers
Contact	Performance Team / (02) 4428 4100 / olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information / Joint Organisation to Implement

Joint Organisation Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements 2021-22**What's new or changing**

The Joint Organisation Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements has been updated for the 2021-22 financial year.

What this will mean for your council

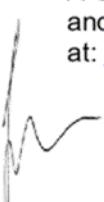
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Coordinator General – Planning Delivery and Local Government

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Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 20 July 2021

INDEPENDENT STATUTORY REVIEW INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

The NSW Government today announced an independent statutory review into the Local Government Boundaries Commission.

The review will examine the effectiveness of the membership composition, functions and processes of the Local Government Boundaries Commission.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock has also released the Boundaries Commission reports into the two elector proposals for Snowy Valleys Council and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council and confirmed that the current boundaries of these councils will remain in place.

"The NSW Government will not proceed with the demerger proposals for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional and Snowy Valleys councils," Mrs Hancock said.

"The reports do not provide a clear consensus on the issue of demerging and do not provide me with the necessary confidence to make these important decisions.

"This provides both councils with certainty and a plan for the future."

A reviewer will be announced shortly.

The terms of reference for review are available at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/LGBC-Review.

The Boundaries Commission reports into Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional and Snowy Valleys councils are available at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/lbc.

MEDIA: Caterina Polistina | 0439 196 539