

Business Paper

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GUNDAGAI

6.00PM, TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Administration Centres: 1300 459 689

The Mayor & Councillors
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
PO Box 420
Cootamundra NSW 2590

NOTICE OF MEETING

An Extraordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, Gundagai on:

Tuesday, 6th September, 2022 at 6.00PM

The agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Glen McAtear
Acting General Manager

Live Streaming of Meetings Statement

This meeting is streamed live via the internet and an audio-visual recording of the meeting will be publicly available on Council's website.

By attending this meeting, you consent to your image and, or, voice being live streamed and publicly available. Please refrain from making any defamatory statements.

AGENDA

Order Of Business

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Custodians of the Land at which the meeting is held and pays its respects to Elders, both past and present, of the Wiradjuri Nation and extends that respect to other Aboriginal people who are present.

2 APOLOGIES**3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST****4. NO OPEN FORUM TO BE HELD**

5 MAYORAL MINUTES

5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - CGRC DE-MERGE

DOCUMENT NUMBER	376831
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Glen McAtear, Acting General Manager
REPORTING OFFICER	Charlie Sheahan, Mayor
ATTACHMENTS	1. Letter to the Hon Wendy Tuckerman Minister for Local Government ↓

RECOMMENDATION

The information detailed in the Mayoral Minute and attachment be discussed and noted.

Introduction

The aim of this Mayoral Minute and the extraordinary council meeting, is to present, discuss and appropriately determine Council's plan moving forward, in regard to the de-merge of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council.

Discussion

The letter attached to the Mayoral Minute, was emailed to the Minister for consideration. It is now presented to council for further discussion and if required, further resolution.



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The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman, MP
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

RE: Discussion Paper, for your consideration.

This document created by Councillor Charlie Sheahan Mayor Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) purely as a recommendation for discussion around the process for demerger of the CGRC to the former Cootamundra and Gundagai Councils in line with the Ministry decision to demerge CGRC.

Firstly, I have discussed this with Jenny Dowel whose knowledge and understanding of Local Government, I believe is extensive and I respect, and she was extremely supportive of this proposal.

As this will be the first demerger of this kind in NSW it is important to get it right. I do not believe that a long period under administration is desirable or palatable for our communities, so a quick and cost-effective return to elected councils would be a wonderful outcome.

My proposal for discussion is a three-month period to work through division of assets, liabilities, plant and equipment and staff. My discussion with senior staff, is this is realistic, and in fact the process has begun.

I believe the need for a "manager" representing and reporting to the Minister and OLG would be essential to oversee the process. This position would be the responsibility of OLG and could be in place until general elections 2024.

Under the manager would be the recently appointed deputy GM, Matt Stubs located in Gundagai and the acting GM, Glen McAtear in Cootamundra. These positions could become the acting GMs for the two councils during the interim period to next general election.

The existing council could continue running business as usual as the CGRC over the next three months with the last meeting being November ordinary meeting. At this meeting council could set dates for extraordinary meetings to swear in new councils made up of existing councillors and using the resolution that was passed previously to fill any council vacancy with a count back to candidates who stood at the last election.

This would create the new councils Gundagai, existing four councillors plus two candidates, Cootamundra, existing five councillors and one candidate. Creating two new interim councils of six, avoiding the need and cost of a by election, and maintaining continuity of community representation.

I am aware that this is dependent upon that the other candidates are still willing to accept the positions. At the last election there were only the twelve candidates with nine elected and it just so happens that the three remaining candidates fall into the council boundaries as I have outlined above.

Most of the staff issues are reasonably positioned in their local communities, and any problems could be resolved through sharing and collaboration, as those relationships are well established within senior ranks, whilst any necessary vacancies are filled.

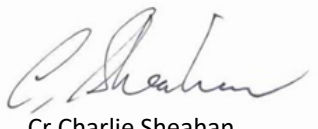
I suggest this proposal for discussion and suggest that it would only be an interim option, subject to review over the next two years up to the elections in 2024.

I put this to the Minister as a quick response to the decision to demerge CGRC, avoiding a long and possibly unpalatable period under administration. Maintaining community confidence in the process with an elected council in place.

If this suggestion, or something similar, were to be adopted then we could have the new councils of Cootamundra and Gundagai in place by December, with a minimum of cost and maintaining continuity for service delivery to our respective communities.

With the greatest respect Charlie Sheahan.

Yours faithfully



Cr Charlie Sheahan
Mayor

1 September 2022

5.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - GRANT FUNDING

DOCUMENT NUMBER	376844
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Glen McAtear, Acting General Manager
REPORTING OFFICER	Charlie Sheahan, Mayor
ATTACHMENTS	1. Notification of round 5 Stronger Country Communities Fund ↓

RECOMMENDATION

Council discuss potential projects to be considered for application to Round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Introduction

The NSW Government has announced the opening of Round 5 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund. Applications open to all eligible applicants on 5 August 2022, and close 5pm on 23 September 2022.

Discussion

This Mayoral Minute is presented to council to discuss and determine Council's allocation of these potential funds.



The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

OFFICIAL

22/38#43

Clr Charlie Sheahan
Mayor
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
PO Box 420
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590

mail@cgrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Sheahan,

Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round Five

I am pleased to confirm the NSW Government's commitment to a new \$160 million Round Five of the Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) as part of \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund.

The Stronger Country Communities Fund was introduced by the NSW Government in 2017. To date, the Fund has invested \$500 million into over 2,000 projects across every corner of regional NSW. These projects have boosted the wellbeing of the towns we call home and this new investment will support grassroots projects to reinvigorate rural communities.

Round Five will provide an additional \$160 million for community projects in regional NSW, including up to \$50 million for projects delivered by community organisations. This brings the total funding for the SCCF to \$660 million.

The funding available for projects in the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Local Government Area (LGA) is \$1,382,535. Of this \$950,493 is available to Council as the applicant with the balance of the allocation open only to eligible community organisations. Council is encouraged to partner with community groups as the lead applicant where the project involves council-owned infrastructure.

Round Five is open to regional councils and Joint Organisations, eligible community organisations and Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

I encourage Council to start consulting with the community and preparing applications for Round Five as early as possible.

Round Five of the SCCF will open on 5 August 2022

Round Five of the SCCF will open to all eligible applicants on 5 August 2022. Applications for councils will close at 5pm AEST on 23 September 2022.

How to apply

Visit <https://regionaldevelopment.smartygrants.com.au/SCCF5> to submit an application to the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Five. Only one application is required for up to 10 projects.

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GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 ■ P: (02) 8574 7000 ■ W: nsw.gov.au/deputypremier

Assistance to prepare applications

The Program Guidelines and other resources will be available on the SCCF website at nsw.gov.au/sccfr5 from 5 August. A webinar will be held during the application period to assist in application development.

Council is encouraged to work with the Department of Regional NSW to put forward eligible projects and/or programs that align with the program's objectives to boost the wellbeing of communities in regional NSW.

Your local Business Development Manager is Patricia Wilkinson who can be contacted on patricia.wilkinson@regional.nsw.gov.au or 0419 821 230 to provide information on the program and to assist you to develop applications.

Thank you for your continued support of the Stronger Country Communities Fund and I look forward to seeing your community's Round Five project applications.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Paul Toole MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional New South Wales

Minister for Police