

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

6 NOVEMBER 2024:

NEW INTERIM GM HAS COUNTRY CONNECTIONS:

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC) will see a new Interim General Manager (IGM) take on the top job from 13 December 2024, when the current IGM Mr. Steve McGrath departs for his home in Coffs Harbour.

Mr. McGrath, initially appointed for a 12-month term, extended his stay for a further year to assist with the progression of the demerger issue.

Mr. Roger Bailey has been appointed by Council and will commence in December. Mr. Bailey has extensive experience in local government particularly at the rural and regional level and understands the need to cultivate professional and political networks to drive positive outcomes for the communities he has served. He comes to CGRC with a track record of improving council finances, improving services and project completion.

Mr. Bailey's previous role prior to joining CGRC was General Manager for the Warrumbungle Shire Council, based in Coonabarabran, it is a large Council with a staff of 220. The Warrumbungle Shire was formed through an amalgamation of the former Coonabarabran and Coolah Shire Councils in 2004 and includes six towns. Mr. Bailey has a good understanding of and respect for the challenges faced by Council ensuring Council resources and services are delivered appropriately across all communities within the LGA. The Shire has faced a lot of challenges during Mr. Bailey's term as General Manager including the severe drought, devastating natural disasters and challenges with housing, livability, Covid 19, and water shortages.

CGRC Mayor Abb McAlister said the experience Mr. Bailey will bring to the role will be of great benefit to Council.

"Roger's background and experience in rural and regional local government certainly gives him a greater understanding of the challenges we face and deal with in the bush. I am certain he will have the expertise to engage with the diversity of our communities, our environment, and the values of the region," Cr McAlister said.

Serving in local government for over 35 years, Mr. Bailey has held positions in West Wyalong at the Bland Shire. (Director of Finance and Administration), and General Manager for the Lachlan Shire Council at Condobolin, Leeton Shire Council, Lithgow City Council, Acting General Manager for Upper Macquarie County Council in Bathurst, before taking on the role at Coonabarabran in 2018.

"As we look to 2025, and what that year will bring for CGRC I welcome Roger to the team and would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Steve McGrath, his knowledge and proficiency will be missed, I think we all understand that Steve is keen to get home to his partner and pick up his life. His almost two years with us has been rewarding for all. I'm sure Roger Bailey will bring another tier of knowledge and skills to Council, and we look forward to working with him," Cr McAlister said.

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Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
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