

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

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DEMERGER COMMITTEE MOVES TO SECURE FUTURE OF SUCCESSOR COUNCILS:

The Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC), Demerger Transition Committee is taking the next critical step to ensure both future councils are financially sustainable and operational from day one.

A key requirement of the demerger process is that each successor council (Cootamundra and Gundagai) can operate independently with strong financial foundations. To support this, CGRC previously developed a Financial Sustainability Plan (FSP) in 2024, later updated in 2025, which informed its submission to the Local Government Boundaries Commission Inquiry.

However, with financial conditions continuing to shift across the local government sector—and within CGRC itself—the Committee has recognised the need for a refreshed and more robust plan.

At its meeting on Tuesday 10 March, the Committee resolved to engage a specialist contractor to update the FSP and carry out additional preparatory work ahead of the new councils' establishment.

Building a roadmap for long-term sustainability

The updated FSP will focus on identifying practical, evidence-based pathways to ensure both councils remain financially viable well into the future.

Key areas of focus will include:

- Understanding the factors shaping CGRC's current financial position
- Reviewing existing financial settings, governance, and performance frameworks
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen revenue and reduce costs, including:
 - Rates, fees and charges
 - Service delivery and operational efficiency
 - Capital works and asset management
 - Governance and monitoring systems
- Considering equity and fair distribution of resources across communities
- Aligning financial strategies with broader planning and service levels

The final outcome will include clear recommendations, risk and benefit analysis, and a practical implementation roadmap. Separate long-term financial plans and draft revenue policies will also be prepared for each successor council, along with a public-facing summary of findings.

Council expects to go to tender shortly, with the work to be completed by November this year. Investment in smarter operations.

The Committee also turned its attention to improving operational efficiency, considering a proposal to replace an older 3-ton lime spreader with a larger 10-ton unit.

The business case highlighted not only productivity gains, but also the potential to generate additional income by offering lime-stabilisation services to neighbouring councils.

The Committee therefore recommended that Council

- Source a second-hand spreader and provide a further report to Council for consideration before proceeding with the purchase
- Explore entering into agreements with neighbouring councils to utilise the spreader on a commercial basis that benefits of both parties
- Explore a 'shared service' arrangement between the future Cootamundra and Gundagai councils.

The next meeting of the Demerger Transition Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 14 April, as planning continues to build a strong and sustainable future for both successor councils.

ENDS

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