

GUNDAGAI COUNCIL IN EXILE INC.

We Want Our Shire Back

Correspondence to:

The Chairperson
Gundagai Council in Exile
PO Box 102
Gundagai NSW 2722

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton,
Minister for Local Government,
52 Martin Place,
Sydney 2000

16 October 2018.

Dear Minister,

Gundagai Council in Exile Inc is an association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act. It has been the instigator of a proposal ("the proposal") to alter the boundaries of the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council ("CGRC") and to recreate the former Cootamundra and Gundagai Councils with the boundaries applicable as at 11 May 2016.

Although the boundaries are a matter of public record maps depicting the boundaries of the two former Local Government areas are appended.

As at 24 August 2018 CGRC had 8536 enrolled electors. This information was sourced from the NSW Electoral Commission.

A total of 1057 enrolled electors of CGRC have signed the proposal. Those proposal forms are contained in alphabetical order in 3X ring bind folders handed to you herewith. Appended to this letter is a Schedule showing the name and address of each proponent.

Should, as we will expect, you determine to proceed with this proposal and to give the requisite public notice we will be making detailed submissions but to aid you in deciding to proceed with the proposal we provide a non-exclusive summary of those submissions:

- Complete failure to achieve the financial savings predicated prior to the amalgamation with the opposite applying. Since the amalgamation the accumulated loss before grants and capital contributions provided for capital purposes is \$14.2 million.
- Projected 40% increase in rates payable after the termination of the moratorium period
- Lack of transparency and accountability in the governance, management and operation of Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council.
- Lack of Fiscal Responsibility in the failure to realise that each of the grants for specific works will require funding out of rate revenue for recurrent expenditure in their maintenance and repair estimated to be a 28% increase in rates to fund recurrent expenditure on those projects.
- Lack of efficiency in utilisation of staff resources and elimination of the ethos of Council/Staff partnership.

- Removal of 'local' from local government resulting in a lack of representation and a loss of community identity.

In short, the stated benefits of amalgamation have become detriments.

Dr Joseph Drew provided to Gundagai Shire, the Delegate and the Land and Environment Court his report on the likely effects of the then proposed amalgamation. A copy of his report is appended. You might seriously consider engaging Dr Drew to provide to you an independent report on the actual effects of the amalgamation.

We now ask that at your early convenience:

1. You acknowledge receipt of this letter and its appendices
2. You advise whether or not it is your intention to proceed with this proposal and to give public notice of it pursuant to the Act.
3. Whether you would be assisted by representatives of this organisation waiting upon you at a venue and time nominated by you.

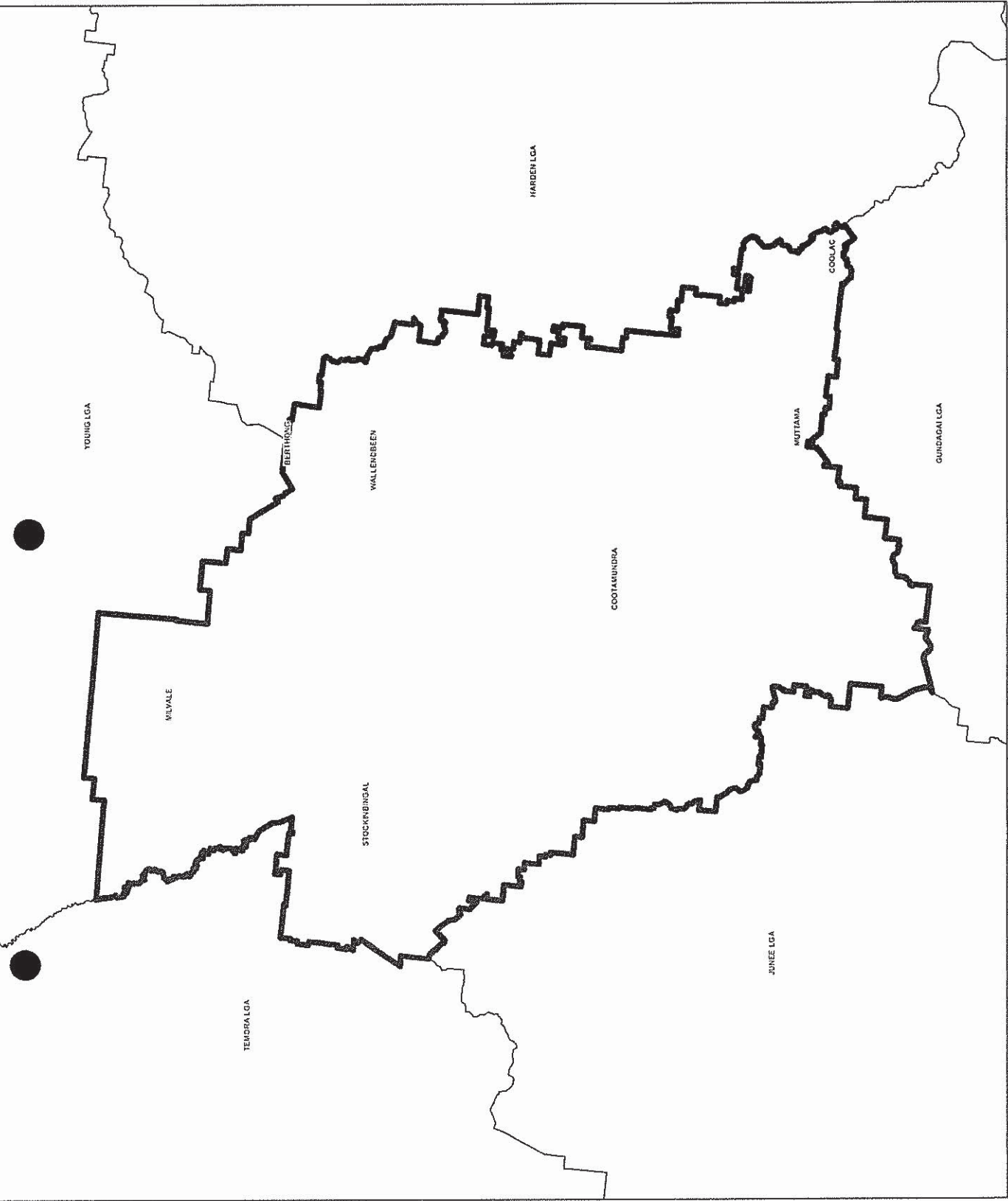
Obviously we see this matter as extremely urgent and so we will follow up with your office in 28 days if we have not received your substantive response within that time.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr. Paul Mara AM,

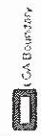
Chair,

Gundagai Council in Exile Inc.

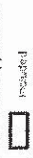


Cootamundra Local Environmental Plan 2013

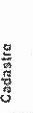
Land Application Map - Sheet LAP_001



LGA Boundary

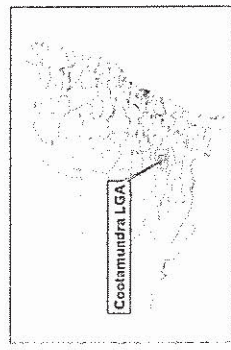


LEP Land Application



Cadastral

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


Approved 2013
Map Date 2013
Map No. LAP_001
Map No. LAP_001

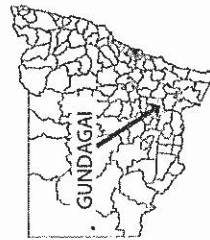
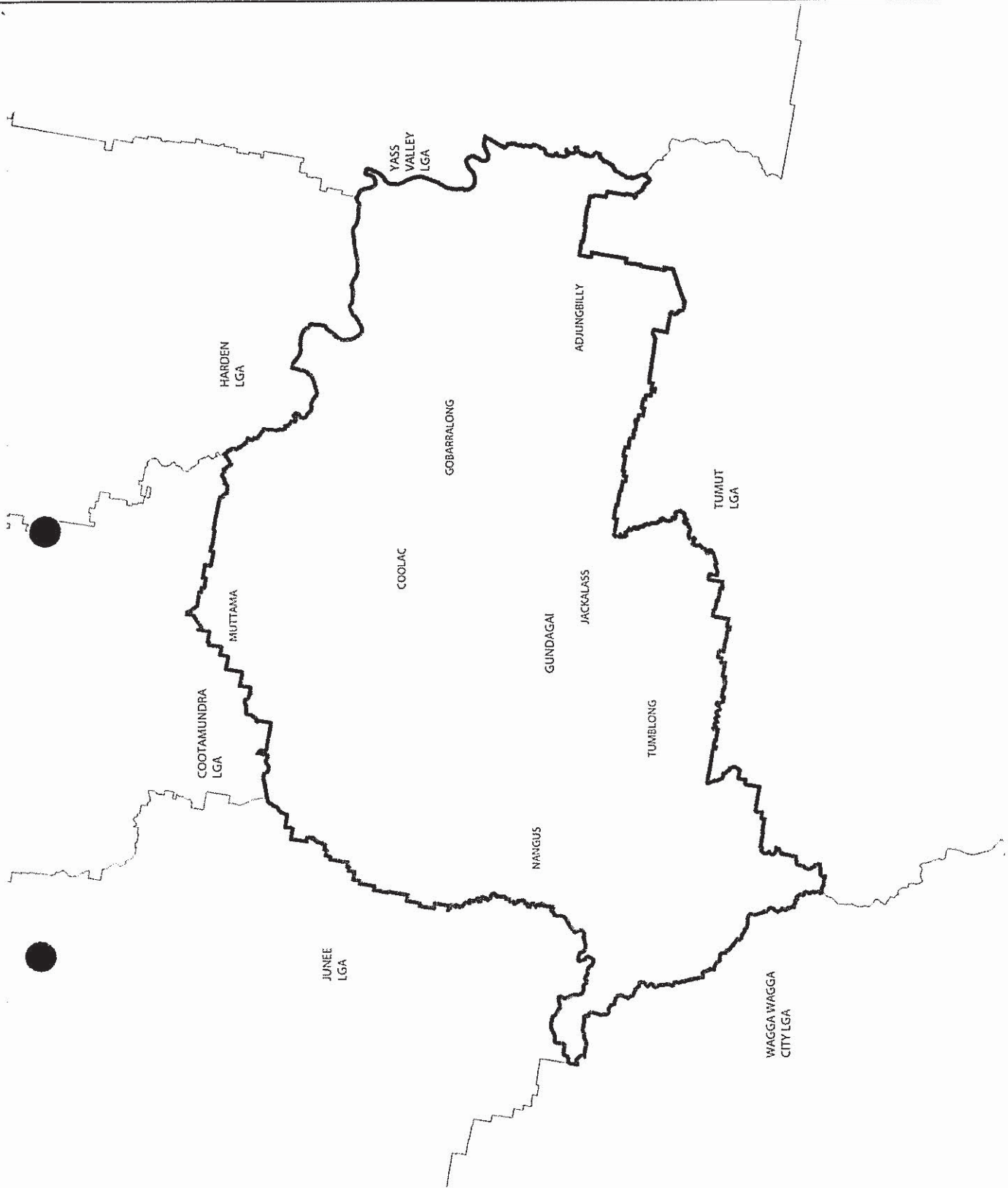


**Gundagai
Local
Environmental
Plan 2011**

Land Application Map
Sheet LAP_001

-  LGA Boundary
-  LEP Land Application
-  Included
-  Cadastre

Cadastre 22/01/10 © NSW EPMA



Scale 1:100,000 @ A4
Gundagai LGA 2011

Map Information Number
1002, ENR, APR 2011, 22-23

PROPOSAL TO REINSTATE THE FORMER GUNDAGAI AND COOTAMUNDRA SHIRE COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

I am an enrolled elector of the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council Local Government Area. I support the proposal under Sections 215 and 218E (2) of the Local Government Act 199 to alter the boundaries of the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council and to recreate the former Cootamundra and Gundagai Shire Councils with the boundaries applicable as at 11 May 2016.

SAMPLE
PETITION

I support this proposal to the NSW Local Government Minister because:

- The forced amalgamation of Gundagai and Cootamundra Councils was undemocratic and deeply unwanted by the local communities
- Each former Council provided essential local representation as well as environmental protections for its residents
- The social, geographic and commercial history of the two constituent Councils makes an inappropriate fit in the regional council.
- Gundagai Shire Council was financially robust and very capable of managing its own financial affairs, and
- The residents of the Cootamundra District were accepting of the proposed merger with Harden. An overwhelming majority of the residents of the Gundagai District preferred to retain a stand alone Council. Neither District residents wanted nor now want the merger that has been forced on them.

FULL NAME:

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

