



Councillor **William Maslin**

For Immediate Release

9 October 2009

Council to miss boat again on possible main street funding

Gundagai Shire Councillor, William Maslin, today said that he is disappointed that Council will again miss out on possible funding for the Sheridan Street upgrade as a result of planning only being at the concept stage.

The Australian Government has today opened Round Two of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP), worth \$220 million, with applications for \$120 million for larger Strategic Projects, which are allocated on a competitive basis, due by 15 January 2010.

"It is absolutely disgusting that this major infrastructure project has been at the concept stage since 2005. It is now coming to the end of 2009 and still no sufficient plans to make a submission for any substantial funding," Cr Maslin said.

"The Australian Government has been throwing around billions of dollars over the last 12 months and Council has not been in the position to grab a cent.

"Yes it's a big job, but it is not unique to Gundagai. We must be the laughing stock of Councils in the Riverina, nearly all of which have had their main streets upgraded in the last 15 years.

"If we have fiddled and diddled around for this long over plans, God help us when it actually comes to getting on with and doing the job. It is time that we set a deadline for fully costed plans, so in the event of any future funding we are ready to go. I only hope there are further funding opportunities available," Cr Maslin concluded.

End.