



Gilgandra Show Society Inc.

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17 March 2020

President
Mr. Alan Smith

Vice President
Mr. David McBurnie

Media Release

Secretary
Mr. Iain Thurlow

Cancellation of 2020 Gilgandra Show

Treasurer
Mrs. Joy Marchant

It is with regret that Gilgandra Show Society Inc announces the cancellation of our advertised annual Show, which was to be held on May 1st and 2nd 2020. This decision was made at an extraordinary meeting of the Society on Tuesday 17 March 2020, which was called in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

The meeting resolved, however, to investigate support for, and the feasibility and logistics of holding a replacement Show or substitute community event later this year.

On Sunday 15 March, the (NSW) Public Health (COVID-19 Public Events) Order 2020 was made under the Public Health Act 2010. Under this order, commencing from 16 March 2020, the Minister for Health and Medical Research directs that a person must not hold a public event at which there are, or are likely to be, 500 persons or more in attendance at any one time. Section 10 of the Public Health Act 2010 creates an offence if an individual fails to comply with a direction with a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of up to \$11,000 (or both) plus a further \$5,500 fine each day the offence continues. Corporations that fail to comply with a direction are liable to a fine of \$55,000 and \$27,500 each day the offence continues.

On Monday 16 March, the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW (ASC) met to discuss the effect of the Order on Show Societies. Following this meeting, Mr. Tim Capp, President of the ASC communicated to member Societies that the ASC recommended "all agricultural shows and show related activities in NSW do not proceed."

As there is no definitive timeline on the spread of COVID-19, Gilgandra Show Society Inc. does not believe that the restriction on public events will be relaxed or removed in time to allow a May Show to lawfully proceed.

Beginning in 1912, the Gilgandra Show has been an annual fixture, disrupted only for three years during World War Two. No Show was held in 1942, while only small patriotic events ran in 1943 and 1944 to aid the War effort.

Gilgandra Show Society thanks those sponsors, advertisers and donors who have pledged their support for the May Show. The Society is now in the process of contacting these stakeholders.

The outcome of the extraordinary meeting allows Gilgandra Show Society not only to explore options around providing a community event later this year, but also importantly to remain in a viable position to present next year's Show, set down for 23rd and 24th April 2021.

ENDS