



# Central NSW Joint Organisation

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Approved by:** Cr John Medcalf, Chair of Central NSW Councils and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

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### **Ready for new opportunities working with the NSW Government**

With the dust settling on the recent State election and some significant changes in regional NSW, Councils Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) will be getting on with business of working with the Government finding solutions to problems and new opportunities for the region. 'The focus on the regions is welcomed and the Councils and communities of Central NSW have plenty of ideas about how we can work with the government to solve problems, including the really big challenges of water and transport links,' said Cr Medcalf, Chair CNSWJO

The Chair of CNSWJO offers his congratulations to the Member for Bathurst, Paul Toole, Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke and Member for Orange, Phil Donato who all retained their seats. Further congratulations must be extended to Paul Toole, for his appointment as Minister for Regional Transport and Roads and Steph Cooke who was appointed the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier.

There are significant projects that Central NSW Councils have already spend time investing in. This includes the Southern Lights project working with our neighbours to the South for an enabling Infrastructure project designed to deliver better, safer, cheaper lighting and smarter, connected communities. It will result in one of the largest deployments of smart-enabled LED lighting in Australia with over 75,000 led streetlights deployed over 41 local government areas.' said Cr Medcalf. 'This will certainly contribute towards the State target for zero net emission by 2050.' said Cr Medcalf.

Central NSW Councils have long advocated for their communities for safe and secure water. 'The \$1.4 billion dollars committed before the election will be welcomed funds at a time when there is so much to be done.' said Cr Medcalf. Central NSW Councils has sought to progress the business case for the Lake Rowlands to Carcoar Dam pipeline and to progress for the raising of the Wyangala Dam wall.

Central NSW communities commissioned a Drought Issues Paper, in that paper there are 18 recommendations that range from immediate, to long term actions. Where a collaborative approach from all tiers of government and the rural and business sectors is needed to best deliver drought assistance and ensure sustainability of regional areas. 'Any money that comes into a farmer's pocket is the district's money.' said Cr Medcalf. 'Investing in rural communities now is sound and better than picking up the pieces later.' said Cr Medcalf.



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Another significant win for the region is the \$2.5 billion for the Great western Highway a sound step in connecting a safe swift link between Sydney and Central NSW, and this region's biggest transport constraint. 'Given changes to technology and the rapid growth of Western Sydney we are solution agnostic and just want the problem addressed' said Cr Medcalf.

Central NSW Councils is embedded in its membership and their communities and seeks advice through Councils from community. In addition to providing operational support for its members, the Joint Organisation's principal functions are to, establish strategic regional priorities and plans to deliver those strategies. Provide regional leadership and advocate for strategic regional priorities and identify and take-up opportunities for inter-governmental co-operation.

**ENDS**

**For comment please contact Executive Officer Jennifer Bennett on 0428 690 935**