



CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr John Medcalf, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

Three projects to be undertaken to build capacity in Central NSW

“Joint Organisations were enabled under the Local Government Act in 2018. Building on the decades of successful collaboration between Councils in the region, the Central NSW Joint Organisation was the first to be proclaimed in May 2018. The member Councils of the Joint Organisation are Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Lachlan, Forbes, Oberon, Orange, Parkes and Weddin,” said the Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation, Cr John Medcalf said.

“Working together, ten Councils in Central NSW are seeking to deliver better value to their communities through shared advocacy, working better with the State and providing operational support to Councils in things like training and procurement,” Cr John Medcalf said.

“Proudly funded by the NSW Government, \$150K has been provided to grow the capacity of these relatively new local government entities. Central NSW JO will undertake three projects with this funding, seeking to leverage the monies to derive even more value for members,” Cr John Medcalf said.

“While infrastructure projects in water and transport are our top priorities, roads and dams cost tens of millions. However, the \$150K is very useful for building capacity in other areas,” Cr John Medcalf said.

“The first project is Best Practice in Aggregated Procurement. Working with three other Joint Organisations, this project seeks to leverage the Local Government Act to reduce costs to Councils and their communities and support local businesses through aggregated procurement. Over the past decade Central NSW Councils and now the Joint Organisation has accrued savings to its member Councils of close to \$12m through aggregated procurement,” Cr John Medcalf said.

“The Regional Capacity Building in Energy Innovation Project is the second piece of work being done by the region. This project has two areas of activity. The first is to leverage the roll out of LED lights with smart controls by building Council’s understanding in the use of smart controls and how they can better service delivery to communities. The second is to undertake some preparedness for electric vehicles,” Cr John Medcalf said.

“The third project seeks to work with State agencies and RDA Central West on a project that seeks to understand the changing use of Central Business Districts as retail is increasingly online and vacancy rates in shops increase. That information will inform Councils on what they can do to in terms of planning controls and upgrades to optimize use of their main streets,” Cr John Medcalf said.

“These are all very different projects and show the breadth of the sorts of activities being undertaken by the Joint Organisation,” Cr John Medcalf said.

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