



CENTRAL NSW  
JOINT ORGANISATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

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

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### **Don't take the foot off the pedal on water security urges the CNSWJO**

The Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) and its member councils are urging the State Government not to take their foot off the pedal when it comes to the planning and delivery of critical water security solutions for the region's towns.

Councils in Central NSW have experienced some of their toughest driest times over the past 2 years with communities forced to adopt extreme water restrictions in the face of day zero predictions.

"It's been really hard times and some communities like Oberon and towns in the Lachlan valley are not out of the woods yet," says Cr John Medcalf, Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation and Mayor of the Lachlan Shire Council.

"While parts of the region have seen good rainfall and some dams are filling, the lesson from the past is that as soon as it rains, government funding and the political will to implement the large-scale regional solutions dries up," he says.

"Working collaboratively and with the State Government, some great work has been done on diversifying our water supplies and planning for the future."

"The long-term reliability of water supply is a major factor in having the confidence to plan ahead, invest and run a profitable business. In the face of the drought, we need this to ensure our communities are sustainable and thrive into the future."

"The reality is that with the right storage and pipe network there is plenty of water for town water supplies for Central NSW communities and to enable substantive growth in high value agriculture and industry- it's just a matter of getting it to the right place, at the right time and for the right price."

The CNSWJO Board will meet on 27 August with State Government agencies to discuss strategies to ensure long-term water security for the region.

"At the moment our focus is very much on working with the State Government on solutions that will ensure our communities prosper well into the future. We just can't let a bit of rain make us complacent," says Cr Medcalf.

**ENDS**

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**For media enquiry contact CNSWJO Chair: Cr John Medcalf - 0429 937 248**