



CENTRAL NSW  
JOINT ORGANISATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 13 November 2020

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

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### Mayors concerned for our visitors' experience

The Mayors of the Central NSW Joint Organisation have welcomed an influx of travellers to the region as a result of the Covid border restrictions, School holidays and long weekends over the past months.

“With borders closed and our strong tourism offering in this region every Mayor in the region is reporting a significant increase in visitation,” said Cr Medcalf, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

“Tourism operators have risen to the challenge of Covid safety and while the region has been marketing the “We Want You Back Campaign” into regional NSW we are also seeing increased visitation, at times double from this time last year, from Sydney,” said Cr Medcalf.

“A vast majority of visitors to the region travel by car and travel home on a Sunday, often after lunch. This causes gridlock between Hartley and Katoomba and often a similar experience on the Bells Line,” said Cr Medcalf.

“The Mayors of the region are concerned for the reputation of the region where our visitors are crawling up the western escarpment of the Blue Mountains through Mount Victoria and Blackheath. We see this as a disincentive to return visitation and are looking at ways we can help,” said Cr Medcalf.

“Transport for NSW have introduced traffic calming measures to try and manage this problem, however the solution is a safer, swifter transport connection between Sydney and Central NSW. It is vital for freight, for our economy, for access to health and education,” said Cr Medcalf .

“This is why we are encouraging support for the Western Link petition <https://westernlink.org.au/>” said Cr Medcalf.

“The petition is calling for a safe swift link at 100kph across the mountains. The Mayors of the region support this 100% and are encouraging our communities to sign the petition,” said Cr Medcalf.

**ENDS**

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