



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

Confusion reigns over ESL

Despite the recent NSW Parliament Legislation to resolve the NSW Emergency Services Levy (ESL) situation that has concerned Councils for years, advice from the Office of Local Government is that this is no longer the case.

Parliament resolved to take the ESL out of the rates cap, however last week the Office of Local Government said it was still to be included.

‘ Confusion reigns, and trying to budget when the cost impacts are so significant is impossible ’, said Cr Medcalf, OAM, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council.

‘ Council has no control over the sky rocketing increases in the Emergency Services Levy, the State does. This State imposed Levy takes up all of the rate rise and more for too many CNSWJO councils ’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘ Rates should be determined by our community not capped using formulas that benefit city councils above regional councils ’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘ This means our services will go down and our regional councils have to provide so many more services than our city cousins, ’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘ It is just galling the way regional communities are being treated, ’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘ The CNSWJO Board meets this week, and I will be encouraging members to support the discussion at the recent Country Mayors Association and refuse to pay this levy until the NSW Government sorts out this mess ’ said Cr Medcalf.

ENDS

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