

Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design

September 2021



**CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION**

Bathurst
Blayney
Cabonne
Cowra
Forbes
Lachlan
Oberon
Orange
Parkes
Weddin

2 September 2021

Reference: jm:jb 210902
Enquiries: Ms J Bennett: 0428 690 935

Great Western Highway
Upgrade Program
Medlow Bath Upgrade
REF & Concept Design
PO Box 2332
Orange NSW 2800

Have your say portal response.

Re: Medlow Bath Upgrade, Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design

Local Government Regional Joint Organisations (JOs) were proclaimed in May 2018 under the NSW Local Government Act 1993. The Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) represents over 200,000 people covering an area of more than 50,000sq kms comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin, and Central Tablelands Water.

Tasked with intergovernmental cooperation, leadership and prioritisation, JOs have consulted with their stakeholders to identify key strategic regional priorities. The CNSWJO Strategic Plan can be found here: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/51b46b_31886650ecf546bc916f15e99a733b3e.pdf

A safe swift link between Sydney and Central NSW is a significant priority for Central NSW communities. We thank the Government for the ongoing commitment to the improvements of the Great Western Highway and welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Medlow Bath Upgrade Review of Environmental Factors and Concept Design.

The Board was very pleased to hear of the progress on connecting the two Wests. We share the Minister for Regional Transport, The Hon Paul Toole's vision for dual carriageway at 100km per hour for the Great Western Highway.

The Board thanks the Government for its commitment of \$4.6bn towards the project that will give an additional 67km of dual carriageway and greater safety especially for emergency vehicles.

The Board understands the planning for tunnels to reduce the gradient down the western escarpment, with the current Medlow Bath section on exhibition, and it is pleased to learn that dual carriageway is possible through this challenging terrain.

Further, the region is concerned that the congestion through the Blue Mountains not only impacts through traffic but has significant impacts on local communities and supports upgrades that minimises this congestion.

The Central NSW JO speaks for over 157,000 people covering an area of more than 47,000sq kms comprising of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, and Weddin.

The CNSWJO policy is that we are “solution agnostic” to a safe swift link between the two Wests. We support all upgrades in the context of our shared vision with the Minister for Regional Transport the Hon Paul Toole’s position of 100km between Central NSW and Penrith.

This region supports the concept design for these upgrades. However the CNSWJO Boards preference is for a dual carriageway at 100km per hour for the Great Western Highway. The safety, time and productivity benefits are so important for our visitors, our freight and for us as we travel to and from Sydney.

Please contact me on 0428 690 935 should you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Jennifer Bennett

Executive Officer

Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO)

