



CENTRAL NSW  
JOINT ORGANISATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Date of Release:** 14 September 2021

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

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### Central NSW JO backs progress connecting the two Wests

Mayors of the region met with Minister Paul Toole at their recent Board meeting and were very pleased to hear of the progress connecting Western Sydney to the Central West.

‘A safe swift link between Sydney and Central NSW remains a priority for our communities,’ said Cr Medcalf, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation.

‘The region shares Minister Toole’s vision for dual carriageway at 100km per hour for the Great Western Highway,’ said Cr Medcalf.

The region’s Mayors were provided advice on the planning for tunnels to reduce the gradient down the western escarpment, with the current Medlow Bath section on exhibition and were pleased that dual carriageway is possible through this challenging terrain.

‘This region 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,’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘The safety, time and productivity benefits are so important for our visitors, our freight and for us as we travel to and from Sydney.’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘Reducing congestion and separating people from trucks are key components of the upgrades planned between Katoomba and Lithgow. It has to work for the communities of the Blue Mountains. It is always a balance where safety comes first,’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘This is a very big opportunity and the Mayors of the region are keen to ensure that we realise every part of it,’ said Cr Medcalf.

‘Again we thank the Government for the ongoing commitment to the improvements of the Great Western Highway.’ said Cr Medcalf.

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