



CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 13 April 2022

Approved by: Cr Kevin Beatty, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Cabonne Council

Push for the Regionalisation Agenda

“According to the latest ABS data, in the 12 months to June 2021, the combined capital cities population declined for the first time on record — falling -0.1 per cent from an average of 1.8 per cent per year over the decade prior to the pandemic. Every month, there are thousands of job vacancies in regional Australia, with regional job vacancies increasing by 36 per cent in 2021,” said Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne Council and Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation.

“However, this story is not just about the pandemic,” said Cr Beatty.

“We are looking at a period of regionalisation. Where there was a trend of tree change before the pandemic and, major disruptions accelerate change as individuals and businesses seek to survive and prosper under the new paradigms. ‘Work from anywhere’ is seeing greater mobility around the regions as well as more work from home,” said Cr Beatty.

“We see this regionalisation as rebalancing the nation, meaning that the opportunities and potential of regional Australia are realised, leading to a more productive, more balanced and more equitable Australia, for the benefit of all Australians,” said Cr Beatty.

“Sydney and Melbourne CBDs are already at their peak in terms of marginal gains from increased density. Regional Australia employs around one-third of Australia’s workforce and produces approximately 40 per cent of the national economic output – with room to grow,” said Cr Beatty.

“Access to services like health and education is an ongoing challenge for our communities. The availability and affordability of housing in many parts of regional Australia are critical issues. Digital connectivity is an important enabler for regional Australia in overcoming barriers of remoteness and scale,” said Cr Beatty.

“What we need to see is nimbleness in State and Federal Government in supporting regionalisation. We have seen nimbleness in the Covid response. Now we need to see it in skills and housing shortages as well as ramping up ensuring the infrastructure and services we need are in the right place doing the right thing,” said Cr Beatty.

“We need to see the investment in fixing the current problems in region – not the problems of 3 years ago,” said Cr Beatty.

“Having just meet with both sides of Government in Canberra, the Mayors of Central NSW will continue to advocate in this regard where meetings with State Ministers are being organised for May,” said Cr Beatty.

ENDS

For media enquiry contact CNSWJO Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty 0439 506 596