



CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Mayors of Central NSW call on all sides of government to prioritise aged care and telecommunications

In the stoush and joust leading up to Federal election the Mayors of Central NSW are concerned that two critical issues are being overlooked.

“Telecommunications and aged care need to be given greater consideration,” said Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne Council and Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation.

“A society is only as good as the extent to which it cares for our most vulnerable. This is not just about pay increases for aged care workers – but the whole system itself,” said Cr Beatty.

The Mayors of the region are particularly concerned about the community owned aged care facilities in the region.

“Our people volunteering on boards and committee to care for our elderly need better support. It’s getting too hard for these volunteers and the aged care homes and services they are trying to provide. It is just not good enough. These community assets and services need genuine commitment from government driven by sensible policy and the right level of resource,” said Cr Beatty.

“The days of buying off regional communities with a sports field or equestrian centre, while our health and aging services languish; are over – our communities need to have the systems and policies in place that will ensure we have metro comparable services and infrastructure,” said Cr Beatty.

The other notable absence in the suite of policies announced to date is telecommunications. According to Ookla's speed index Australia is ranked 67 globally for average (mean) broadband speeds for fixed broadband.

“Everyone driving and working in Central NSW is subject to a telecommunications’ network that is groaning under the pressure. For decades we have asked for scalable future-proof telecommunications that offer our regional communities the connectivity for work, study and health. A sampan on the Mekong Delta in Vietnam gets better service than a fire truck driving between Molong and Orange,” said Cr Beatty.

“We are seeing more debate about who is funding which candidate than we are about the issues. How about putting our communities first and talking to us about aged care and telecommunications?” said Cr Beatty.

“Meanwhile the people I talk to want to see better aged care services and telecommunications. They will be voting on the policy platforms of the candidates not the colour of their electoral material,” said Cr Beatty.

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