

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 8 August 2022

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



Image Credit: Iberdrola Australia

Councils in Central NSW secure renewable energy deal

The Central NSW Joint Organisation is excited to announce a renewable energy deal with Iberdrola Australia to supply electricity to its member councils. The 8-year contract will see councils in the Central NSW region source 78% renewable energy for councils' large sites and streetlighting from the Bodangora Wind Farm near Wellington NSW. The councils can change to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm near Blayney when it becomes operational.

Chair of CNSWJO, Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne Council said, "this is a huge achievement for our region. We have been on the rollercoaster of short-term electricity contracts for so many years, and it was time to get serious about supporting renewable energy through a long-term arrangement. The price of electricity has gone through the roof in recent months and there doesn't appear to be an end in sight. This deal means councils can have long-term price certainty while no longer being at the mercy of the electricity market on a 2-3 year cycle".

Cr Beatty said, "the 11 councils in the Central NSW region have partnered with 5 councils from the Eastern Riverina region, increasing the buying power to a total combined annual electricity consumption of 36GWh per year".

"In 2021 the CNSWJO Board agreed to work collaboratively to accelerate the transition towards net zero carbon for our councils and their communities. The councils want to take control of their energy security and destiny, and investing in renewable is a big step towards this. Our region will be doing our bit to help the environment by reducing greenhouse emissions by over 20,000 tonnes of CO₂e annually through this deal," said Cr Beatty.

"Electricity is only one component of councils' emissions though, so there is still a long way to go to achieve our net zero aspirations and this includes working strategically to tackle emissions through fleet and landfill waste, which is no easy feat," said Cr Beatty.

CNSWJO Executive Officer, Jenny Bennett said, “we are so excited to work with Iberdrola in the coming years. Their vision aligns closely with ours and hopefully together we can do amazing things”.

Iberdrola Australia Managing Director and CEO, Ross Rolfe AO said: “We are delighted to be partnering with Councils in the Central NSW and Eastern Riverina Regions, enabling them to access reliable and affordable clean energy backed by our wind farms and flexible, fast-start assets. We have worked with the Councils and communities in these regions for many years and we are very pleased to be deepening our partnership with them. These councils have supported not only our strategy but also the Australian economy’s green energy transition. Looking ahead, we see many further opportunities to collaborate with our partners to create shared value for our stakeholders in regional NSW”.

“So many people have worked tirelessly on this project for the past 12 months, and we couldn’t have achieved this without each and every one of them. This project has been made possible with funding from the NSW Government and councils”, said Cr Beatty.

Director of Sustainability and Circular Economy Partnerships at the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change, Anne-Marie Poirrier said, "This is an exciting demonstration of how regional councils can collaborate to drive down emissions and switch to renewable energy. The councils in Central NSW and the Eastern Riverina area have made an inspiring start to their transition to Net Zero".

“We are just thrilled that we can support renewable energy projects within our patch. This has been a dream of ours for so many years and it has finally come to fruition”, said Jenny Bennett.

ENDS

For media enquiry contact CNSWJO Chair and Mayor of Cabonne Council Cr Kevin Beatty - 0439 506 596