



## MEDIA RELEASE

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

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### **CENTRAL NSW JOINT ORGANISATION RECEIVES NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT TO HELP COUNCILS WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS NET ZERO**

Central NSW Joint Organisation (JO) has been successful in its bid for capacity building funding under the NSW government's Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration (JONZA) Grant.

"The resource from the JONZA grant will help us progress our Regional Energy Strategy where we have identified 52 activities we would like to progress across our 11 Councils. Councils are financially constrained and at the same time every community wants to support reducing emissions in line with the NSW Government and international aspirations," said Cr K Beatty, Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation Board.

The Joint Organisation Net Zero Acceleration grant is a capacity-building pilot program established to help regional councils reduce their carbon emissions to achieve their part in the State's Net Zero target of 50 per cent reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

The program is delivered by the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC) to address chronic resource constraints in regional areas by funding full-time employees within JOs to lead and coordinate net zero activities for their member councils.

Director of Sustainability and Circular Economy Partnerships, Emily Yip, said the Government funding for the pilot program for the nine groups which cover 65 regional councils, will enable them to each employ a staff member for up to a year to drive net zero outcomes for the region.

"Projects will include developing a regional Electric Vehicle (EV) plan, implementing emissions reduction plans and establishing Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) for renewable energy purchase for member councils," Ms Yip said.

"Supporting all nine applicants means about 70% of regional NSW council areas will receive support through the program, demonstrating a strong commitment to cutting emissions in the regions."

"The grants are part of the Sustainable Councils program which helps local governments in regional NSW save energy and money, cut emissions, and set a path to net zero."

JOs strengthen collaboration and engagement between State and local governments and improve infrastructure and service delivery to regional communities.

By combining resources and focussing on the unique challenges and strengths of their region, joint organisational members can drive better outcomes for local communities and deliver outcomes on a regional scale.

More information is located here [<https://netzeronsw.smartygrants.com.au/jonza/>]

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