



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

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### **Sydney gets smart – but not Central NSW**

The eleven member Councils of Central NSW Joint Organisation congratulate South Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and Ausgrid's recent announcement of smart street light installation.

"It is so good to see that this can be done in NSW, but it's a bitter pill as this is exactly what this region and others in the Southern Lights Group asked of Essential Energy over 4 years ago. We even worked for years on a lengthy procurement process with Essential Energy on smart controls for streetlights– but it did not proceed," said Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne and Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation.

"We know that for the asset owners of streetlights it is international business as usual to use smart controls, but apparently just not in regional NSW. When smart controls are installed on a street light, there is no need for someone to report the light being out, or for a drive-by on a night patrol. If you want to dim the lights, change their operation times, or even turn them off altogether – it is all at the flick of a switch, or in this day and age, the tap of a smart device," said Cr Beatty

"As a nation and a world going as fast as we can to net zero, every bit of electricity we can save is important. Then there are the costs to councils and their communities who are paying the bills," said Cr Beatty

"I think of the hours and money this region and others have spent over the past decade working with Essential Energy to have smart controls for streetlights, and all we have to show for it is a small trial in Bathurst. It beggars belief," said Cr Beatty

"What we wanted was for the recent LED streetlight roll-out to include smart controls. A co-deployment would have sensibly saved more truck rolls in a second deployment. The LEDs are saving councils money through reduced energy consumption, however it could have been so much better if we were able to get the technology we asked for over and over again," said Cr Beatty

"Our regional communities deserve the same level of service as our metropolitan cousins. We need this technology to be future ready", said Cr Beatty.

"A really good idea would be if Essential Energy talked to Ausgrid about how they were able to achieve this and then roll it out in regional NSW," said Cr Beatty

"Eventually someone in Essential Energy will wake up to the new century. We just wish it would happen sooner rather than later," said Cr Beatty

**ENDS**

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