



MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 28 August 2023

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



Central NSW Councils tackle better readiness for Natural Disaster

With Central NSW hit by successive natural disasters over recent years, the 11 Councils of the Central NSW Joint Organisation are taking steps to do better at natural disaster readiness.

To better prepare, Councils in the Central NSW region, with 49 other Councils across 7 jointly funded Joint Organisations that have been funded by the Australian and New South Wales Governments' Disaster Risk Reduction Fund, will undertake a needs analysis of their LGAs to better understand the gaps in natural disaster preparedness with their communities. Leading professional services company GHD has been commissioned to lead the work.

"Cabonne Local Government Area has been hit hard with 10 natural disasters declared in just 3 years with recovery efforts still continuing," said Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne and Chair of Central NSW Councils

"The need to prepare for unforeseen weather events is becoming more common. Floods, storms, bushfires are all expected to become more frequent and severe. We need to continually improve their local preparedness to ultimately prevent and reduce the impacts of natural disasters on their communities," said Cr Kevin Beatty

"Some local government areas in Central NSW have been impacted by concurrent disasters over recent years. They've experienced it all from drought to floods, to landslips, Covid and fires, with one disaster starting before the other has been fully recovered from," said Cr Kevin Beatty

"We know that all levels of government need to do better particularly in working together in supporting community," said Cr Kevin Beatty

This work supports the findings of the Royal Commission Report into Natural Disasters that found communities are not well prepared.

"It is imperative that our communities are as best prepared as we can be for whatever mother nature throws at us. This project seeks to provide clear strategic direction for Councils in disaster preparedness moving forward," said Cr Kevin Beatty

ENDS

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