



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Mayors of the Central NSW region are raising concerns about the current direction of the NSW and Australian Government's efforts to get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

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"While there is broad support for emissions reduction, how it is being rolled out in regional NSW is more than concerning," said Councillor Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne and Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation.

"An absence of consistent policy at the federal level in Australia for the past decades has led to a narrowing of the window to meet the nation's international obligations on greenhouse gas emissions' reduction and closure timeframes of coal-fired power generation," said Cr Beatty.

"This has led to some extremely poor outcomes for communities in the current NSW scramble to rewire the state. These poor outcomes are likely to continue for at least the next decade. Ironically, the poor execution of the rewiring is likely to lead to it stumbling with its ongoing challenges for community," said Cr Beatty.

"A completely different approach to coordination and focus from a logistics and cumulative impacts perspective needs to be fast tracked. However, business as usual processes such as State Significant Development with their corollary weaknesses and community impacts are creating growing concern across our communities," said Cr Beatty.

"What is particularly galling is that for all the pain regional communities will endure, it is likely that timeframes as outlined by the Australian Energy Market Commission for greenhouse gas reductions will not be achieved," said Cr Beatty.

"There needs to be a significant rethink about what is achievable where distributed energy systems and incentivising batteries in the domestic setting, including electric vehicles, would be much more logistically possible than the current effort," said Cr Beatty.

With the assistance of Mr Phil Donato, Member for Orange, CNSWJO Mayors are meeting with the Premier and various Ministers in November and will be raising this issue.

ENDS

For media enquiry contact Chair, Kevin Beatty 0439 506 596