



CENTRAL NSW
JOINT ORGANISATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council budgets and the environment reap the benefits of buying renewable energy

In 2022, councils across Central NSW and the Eastern Riverina region came together to buy electricity.

“Central NSW Councils have been buying electricity together for decades and have been slammed by pricing volatility on a number of occasions – looking into the future we formed the view that this volatility was only going to get worse and we wanted to get off the electricity market rollercoaster and have medium term price certainty,” said Cr Kevin Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne and Chair of the Central NSW Joint Organisation.

“Electricity procurement is very complex and there are strict rules for what Councils can and can’t do. With the support of funding from the NSW Government and councils, the region was able to buy in expert advisors in renewable energy procurement and probity,” said Cr Beatty.

A Power Purchase Agreement contract for large sites and streetlighting was awarded to Iberdrola, a gentailer of renewable electricity, with the contract commencing on 1 January 2023 for 8 years. For this region, 78% of all electricity procured under this arrangement across the 10 councils is renewable.

“Councils are all working towards reducing emissions and procuring renewable electricity is one way to do this. The region is very happy with what we’ve been able to achieve through this process. We are now buying locally generated renewable electricity”, said Cr Beatty.

“It gets better – we now know that region has saved around \$2.3m in the first six months of the contract compared to what councils could have been paying with an alternate contract, and we have included renewables. It’s a win, win for the region,” said Cr Beatty.

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