

CASE STUDY

Bridge Assessments in Central NSW

What happened

At the request of member Councils this region applied through the Fixing Country Roads program for bridges to be assessed. Advice and support from Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils enabled the funding request. This program was 100% funded by the State and administered through Centroc now known as Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO). This led to cost savings on the aggregated procure, the State only having to deal with one entity instead of 10 and Councils only needing to deal with the ROC rather than the funding entity. CNSWJO gained a small income stream from the provider as it managed the contract on behalf of eleven Councils.

What was achieved

Where the project will be completed in September 2019 from CNSWJOS perspective the aggregated procure has led to 164 bridges being assessed at a lower price than anticipated, one contact for Councils, the provider and the State. There will also be a regional learning and next steps for members to consider with regards to this asset class.

Shared value

Value to the State

- One entity to deal with, CNSWJO, experienced in regional projects and offering a compliant procurement and contract management framework. This region estimates the State spends 3 hours per month managing this contract. The life of the contract including variations is 12 months. Instead of 36 hours in administration, or one week, it would have been 10 weeks assuming each Council were as easy to deal with as CNSWJO.



- Aggregated procurement delivers cheaper pricing and a better ROI to the State – quite simply, more bridges being assessed for the same price.
- CNSWJO manages Council staff turnover and other risks that lead to slippage. With their deep knowledge of Council personnel CNSWJO is able to assure project delivery including altering internal timeframes in the project to manage Councils' capacity to engage.
- Regional learnings from the project inform further action. In an ideal world the State would be party to these conversations to help optimise the program going forward.
- Councils with staffing challenges are taken on the journey, deliver outcomes, and give consideration to future engagement.
- Road safety outcomes as bridges are closed or in other ways managed depending on their status.

Value to members

- Councils with staffing challenges are taken on the journey, deliver outcomes, and give consideration to future engagement.
- Cheaper pricing for bridges being assessed outside the grant using the same provider as a contract extension.
- Councils deal with CNSWJO staff using known CNSWJO processes which offer compliance and with which they are comfortable rather than unknown grant administrators.
- Regional management means less staff time and costs dedicated to the project, for example reporting to Councils and the funding entity, the procurement process and contact management are all delivered by CNSWJO.
- Road safety outcomes.
- Asset management outcomes.

Value to contractor

- One entity to deal with rather than 11.
- Experienced at regional programming, CNSWJO smooths the way for the contractor with member Councils and provides
- The contractor recognises this value by paying a management fee.

Value to JO

- Regional advice leads to further regional programming embedding the value to members of CNSWJO.
- Success of project leads to further regional programming embedding the value to members of CNSWJO.
- Income stream from management fee from the contractor helps with financial sustainability.

