

Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road proposed upgrade

November 2016



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS



Centroc's Mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional co-operation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources; effectively nurturing sustainable investment and infrastructure development.

www.centroc.com.au

2 November 2016

Reference bw:vp 111602
Enquiries: Ms J Bennett: 0428 690 935

Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road Upgrade Project Team
Roads and Maritime Services
PO Box 973
Parramatta NSW 2124

ChifleyRoadUpgrade@rms.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

Re: Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road Upgrade project

Central NSW Councils (Centroc) represents over 243,000 people covering an area of more than 72,500sq kms comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Hilltops, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, and Central Tablelands Water.

It is about the same size as Tasmania with half the population and a similar GDP.

Centroc's vision is to be recognised as vital to the sustainable future of NSW and Australia.

Its mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional cooperation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources.

The Centroc Board is made up of the 30 Mayors and General Managers of its member Councils who determine priority for the region. These priorities are then progressed via sponsoring Councils. For more advice on Centroc programming and priorities, please go to our website <http://www.centroc.com.au>

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Bells Line of Road/Chifley Road Upgrade project.

The region is very pleased to see the continuing upgrade of the Bells Line of Road. Where safety improvements are paramount, was ask Roads and Maritime Services to give greater weight to enabling higher mass vehicles access over the mountains to and from Central NSW and Sydney.

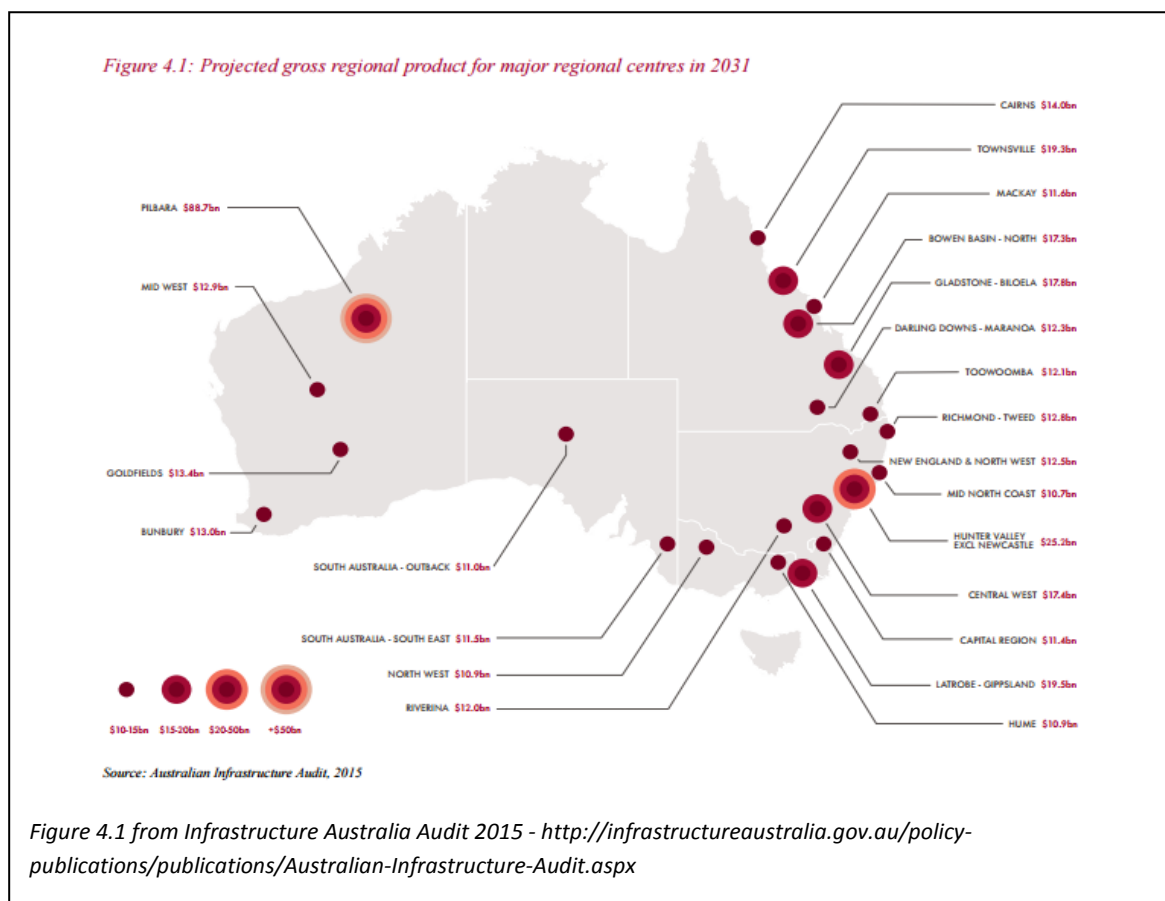
We see these improvements as being part of a bigger picture which includes the securing the Corridor between the M7 and Kurrajong for future significant upgrades.



Centroc was selected as one of five regional pilot Joint Organisations to assist the NSW Government strengthen and reform local government.

As you are no doubt aware, this region is significantly transport constrained for freight with B Doubles not being able to traverse the Blue Mountains to Sydney on either the Bells Line or Great Western Highway alignments. While this is to some extent a matter of permit, the transport industry provides feedback that some of the gradients up and down the escarpment east and west of the divide are not conducive for higher mass vehicles.

Infrastructure Australia, in their 2015 Audit, provided advice that Central NSW will be on of 7 top contributors to GRP in 2031. Our region will be producing \$5bn pa more Gross Regional Product than the Darling Downs in Queensland. Queensland is able to deliver two direct, safe and swift High



Productivity Vehicle links between Toowoomba and Brisbane. Our region can only imagine the induced demand and growth generated by a shorter travel time to and from Sydney that is designed for higher mass vehicles.

We are therefore very thankful for the work being undertaken upgrading the Bells Line of Road but suggest that the road design enables use by a wide range of higher mass and high productivity vehicles.

Please contact Executive Officer Jennifer Bennett on 0428 690 935 if you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Bill West

Chair

Central NSW Councils (Centroc)