

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr Bill West, Portfolio Mayor for Regional Development for Centroc

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## **Funding for Velocity Park set to put Central NSW in the tourism driver's seat**

"Councils in Central NSW spend more than \$20m between them every year on tourism," said Cr Bill West, Portfolio Mayor for Regional Development for Centroc.

"It was great to see this region's role in tourism recognised by the announcement of an additional \$10 million for a second international motorsport racing track at Mount Panorama by the Treasurer, the Hon Dominic Perrottet, the Deputy Premier, the Hon John Barilaro and the member for Bathurst and Minister for Gaming and Racing and for Lands, the Hon Paul Toole," said Cr Bill West.

Adding to the \$5 million previously committed by the NSW Office of Sport, the NSW Government has now set aside \$15 million towards the \$52 million Velocity Park project, adding to the \$10 million already committed by Bathurst Regional Council.

"A review of data provided by Tourism Research Australia has shown that our region is already punching above its weight. Central NSW is delivering more than double the increase in the visitor economy on ABS related data than the balance of regional NSW," said Cr West.

Central NSW is rich with natural and cultural heritage. From the Jenolan Caves in Oberon through to Lake Cargelligo in Lachlan the region abounds with nationally significant natural heritage. There are national parks; important river systems and waterways; significant agricultural production including wool, wheat and wine; unique Wiradjuri culture; historic villages and nationally valuable architecture and folklore; all of which makes Central NSW a treasure trove of attractions.

"Notably the National Trust has 1130 items listed in this region. The region also has the only Chinese Bushranger, Sam Poo, hanged at Bathurst Goal!" said Cr West.

Catering for up to 50,000 racegoers, Velocity Park will include a second circuit able to accommodate V8 Supercar racing as well as MotoGP and Superbike world championship events and an accommodation and hospitality precinct. It will be an outstanding addition to Central NSW attractions bringing new motorsport fans and tourists to the region with the added potential to generate up to 220 jobs state-wide.

"Only a fortnight ago the Centroc Board resolved to take on a greater role in the tourism space with the discussion by the Mayors and General Managers of the region being about building on the great work of Central NSW Tourism and leveraging opportunities like this announcement of an additional \$10 million for Velocity Park by the NSW Government," said Cr West.

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