



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

CENTROC

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of Release: 9 March 2017

Approved by: Cr John Medcalf, Acting Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

CENTRAL NSW COUNCILS WELCOME THE PUSH FOR PROJECTS IN THE BUSH

Centroc Acting Chair Cr John Medcalf welcomes the news announced by Premier the Hon Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier the Hon John Barilaro this week naming Lieutenant General Gillespie as the NSW government's first Regional Infrastructure Coordinator.

"This is great news for Central NSW, ensuring that communities have the right infrastructure to attract and retain services is every councils priority," said Cr John Medcalf, Acting Chair of Central NSW Councils, (Centroc) and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council.

"We need to unlock the poles and wires monies from the State Government and will meet with Mr Gillespie in the near future," said Cr Medcalf

Centroc, in association with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central West and industry professionals, have developed a sophisticated decision making matrix informed by current thinking at both State and Federal levels, designed to prioritise regional projects in water, transport and community infrastructure (sporting, cultural, health and education).

"We have a good working knowledge of the priorities in our region and sound experience in dealing with the challenges of the funding framework," said Cr Medcalf

"Councils in our region have very different roles in the provision of infrastructure to those in metropolitan Sydney. We are responsible for airports, water, museums, tourism and community services. The smaller the community, the bigger the task. We have Councils building medical centres and every town needs a swimming pool" said Cr Medcalf

"The Centroc Mayors are concerned that there is a significant amount of time and effort to make the case for investment in our region which is then disregarded at assessment because at the end of the day it will always be impossible to get a benefit cost ratio for a water supply to a small community but everyone needs quality drinking water. Something has to give!" said Cr Medcalf

"Undertaking an intergovernmental, cross sectoral effort on alignment to optimise the funding framework in NSW to unlock the funding we need is paramount and Centroc members welcome Lieutenant General Gillespie with open arms to the region to showcase our work and share our ideas." said Cr Medcalf.

ENDS

For media enquiry: For comment please contact Jenny Bennett 0428 690 935