



# MEDIA RELEASE

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

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## **Freight and Ports Plan delivers kilos of studies and no roads**

Mayors of Centroc are deeply concerned by the recently announced NSW Freight and Ports Plan.

“While the devil will be in the detail, on the face of it there is not much headway in terms of a better connection by road to Sydney,” said Cr Ken Keith of Parkes, who heads up various transport committees for the Central NSW region.

“Great Western Highway improvements will be due for investigation in more than eleven years’ time. Bells Line of Road improvements to deliver better freight capacity and safety will be investigated in the medium term, which is 5-11 years,” said Cr Medcalf, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Lachlan.

“This translates as ‘some time in the distant future Transport for NSW will add to the 13 kilos of studies already undertaken for the Bells Line,’ Cr Bill West, Mayor of Cowra said.

“These strategies talk about safer roads and separating people from trucks, which we absolutely support. Then they “implement” an investigation in 5 years’ time at the earliest,” said Cr Medcalf. “This is not making safety a priority.”

“Meanwhile there are a variety of other transport plans and strategies going on right now in this region. We are the transport planning capital of NSW and it looks like we will continue to be for the next 20 years and 30 kilos of studies,” said Cr Ferguson, Mayor of Blayney.

“Infrastructure Australia in its 2015 Audit identified Central NSW as the 7th largest region for Gross Regional Product in Australia. Recently announced Tourism Research Australia has visitation in this region higher than Canberra and the Central Coast. Imagine what this region would be like if we had safe swift road links like these two destinations,” said Cr Keith.

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**For comment please contact Cr John Medcalf 0429 937 248**