



CENTRAL NSW
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MEDIA RELEASE

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

Let's skip Sydney?

Cr John Medcalf, Chair of Centroc is horrified at the implications of the recently announced NSW Government Future Transport 2056 Regional Services and Infrastructure Plan seeking comment from communities across regional NSW.

"We live in the forgotten country and it's up to all of us to shout out loud and clear that this draft plan is not acceptable," said Cr John Medcalf, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

"Infrastructure Australia recognise this region as being the 7th largest for Gross Regional Product in 2033 in the nation and yet we still can't get a solution from the State for efficient freight to port. Transport links, particularly freight into Sydney from our region are our biggest constraint. So much for a decade of decentralisation," said Cr Medcalf.

"Ironically the plan touts that it is adopting a new approach of connecting NSW east to west. Bad luck if we live in Central NSW and want to connect to Sydney – this is not the plan for us. What we want is the REAL WestConnex – connecting greater Sydney especially the rapidly growing western Sydney region – to Central NSW," said Cr Medcalf

"The current draft plan says *The Blue Mountains will continue to challenge transport access to Greater Sydney* from our region. This is after the millions of dollars of expenditure to secure a corridor for a future upgrade of the Bells Line," said Cr Medcalf

"The plan also aims for safer roads. This region worked in good faith with the people of western Sydney and over the mountains and identified safety as our biggest issue. That led to big safety upgrades on the Bells Line. This has also been dumped," said Cr Medcalf

"With all the technology being touted in this plan you would think that in this day and age getting freight from Central NSW to Port of Botany by either road or rail would be achievable," said Cr Medcalf

"Unfortunately Central NSW has gone 20 years backwards in this plan. There is no mention of securing the corridor for a future upgrade of the Bells Line. There is no recognition of our pattern of settlement. There is no recognition of the growing need for a link between our communities and western Sydney or into other ports or Canberra. Its not just about links to international ports though, whether you are delivering food to Sydney, or visiting our beautiful region, there is no solution offered in this draft plan," said Cr Medcalf

"It is a great pity that our powerhouse growth, vision and liveability are not recognised in this plan. At this rate we will just plan for being the 7th largest contributor to the nation's GRP by skipping Sydney," said Cr Medcalf

"I encourage every business and family in Central NSW to respond. <https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/react-feedback/regional-nsw-services-infrastructure-plan/> " said Cr Medcalf.

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