



CENTROC

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 14 January 2014

Approved by: Cr Ken Keith Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Parkes Shire Council

Centroc Welcomes Support for Local Government Retaining Responsibility for Regional Water Utilities

“The Centroc Water Utilities Alliance (CWUA) welcomes positive comments made by the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel in its Final Report, *Revitalising Local Government on Regional Water Alliances*,” said Councillor Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc.

“In particular we are pleased to see support by the Panel for the good work being done by Regional Water Utilities and for local government retaining responsibility for water supply and sewerage services,” said Cr Keith.

“In its Report, the Panel acknowledges the latest assessment by the NSW Office of Water that shows that overwhelmingly local government water utilities are performing very well, delivering services efficiently and effectively and providing rural local government critical financial mass and the capacity to recruit and retain professional staff,” said Cr Keith.

“Since its formation in 2009 the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance has achieved cost savings in excess of \$350k through supporting its member Councils in procurement, best practice compliance, strategic and workforce planning, training and mentoring, enabling member Councils to achieve greater efficiencies in service delivery to their communities through regional collaboration,” said Cr Keith.

“Evidence of the success of the CWUA’s collaborative efforts is the securing of over \$3M in government funding with its latest program of works focussed on achieving greater energy efficiencies and cost savings for member Councils and their rate payers,” said Cr Keith.

“The Centroc Board is currently considering its response to the Panel’s recommendations and their workability on the ground. Local government retaining control over its water utility assets will be a key consideration,” said Cr Keith.

ENDS

For comment please contact Ken Keith 0428 669 482 or Jenny Bennett 0428 690 935