



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

CENTROC

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of Release: 15 May 2015

Approved by: Centroc Chair, Cr Bill West, and Centroc Deputy Chair, Cr Gary Rush

We won't give up on rail

Blayney-Demondrille line suffers blow

Despite disappointing news from the State Government last week of the failed tender process for the Blayney to Demondrille rail line, there remains hope that the project may still proceed with future funding.



Duncan Gay, the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, met with stakeholders in Cowra last week to deliver the bad news that the reopening of the line may not go ahead in the foreseeable future.

“We are, of course, very disappointed in this latest development,” said Cr Gary Rush, Deputy Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council.

“Rail is critical infrastructure when it comes to moving freight over the Blue Mountains and into and out of Sydney and the ports. As a region, and indeed as a State and Nation, we are serious about the



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

CENTROC

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

continued prosperity of agriculture and mining and, importantly, of long term strategic planning in regional economic development. We have to support our regional rail infrastructure.”

The State Government withdrew the operational status for the Blayney-Demondrille Line and other country railway lines in November 2008, resulting in more freight on roads and a reduced capacity to effectively move freight in, out and through the region.

Currently, a growing proportion freight moves on an ever deteriorating, high maintenance country road network.

“We believe the Government could make good use of the Blayney-Demondrille Line project as an excellent example of intergovernmental collaboration providing workable solutions to upgrading infrastructure and incorporating private investment,” said Cr Rush.

The recent Central NSW Freight Study by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Central West supported the development of the Blayney-Demondrille Line.

“This is a set-back,” said Cr Rush “But the Minister did indicate he believed the project still had potential and there may be funding opportunities in the future.”

The Government has committed \$400 million to NSW’s Fixing Country Rail program, with \$153 million set aside to be invested in upgrading 996 km of grain line across the state over three years.

“We appreciate the State Government and Minister Gay supporting the concept of reopening rail freight lines. We just have to keep working collaboratively with them to find solutions.”

ENDS

For media enquiry: Contact Jenny Bennett, Executive Officer, Central NSW Councils 0428 690 935