



CENTROC

MEDIA RELEASE

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

Centroc Welcomes Funding for Road Infrastructure

“Central NSW Councils (Centroc) welcomes the commitment by the NSW Government of much needed funding for improvements to road crossings over the Blue Mountains and upgrades to a number of the region’s roads including, the Great Western, Mitchell and Newell Highways,” said Councillor Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc.

“A horror week on the region’s roads has highlighted the need for safety improvements on some of the region’s major transport routes,” said Cr Keith.

“The \$16 million dollars allocated for stage one of the Bells Line of Road corridor improvement program and \$37 million of state and federal money allocated for safety improvements on the Great Western Highway at Forty Bends and Hartley are a good step towards improving the safety of road access to the state’s heartland and connecting the region to Sydney and the major freight hubs,” said Cr Keith.

“This funding, in addition to \$22 million to be spent this year to upgrade the Great Western Highway at Kelso, \$2.5 million for the initial sealing of the Crookwell to Bathurst road and funding for a notorious black spot on the Mitchell Highway near Molong, all contribute to improved safety on the region’s roads,” said Cr Keith.

“As Chair of Centroc and the Newell Highway Taskforce the announcement of \$2 million for planning of a bypass of the Newell Highway at Parkes and dollars for additional overtaking lanes is great news,” said Cr Keith.

“With regional freight studies looking at opportunities to address network constraints, funding for upgrades to our road and rail networks including the \$44 million earmarked for maintenance and upgrade of country grain lines stand to have a significant impact on the growth of the region’s economy,” said Cr Keith.

“Central NSW with its diverse economy and strategic location has huge potential for economic growth but we need good road and rail infrastructure to unlock this potential,” said Cr Keith.

ENDS:

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