



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

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MEDIA RELEASE

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

CENTRAL NSW COUNCILS WELCOMES RELOCATION PLANS

Centroc members are more than enthusiastic about outcomes focussed policy for decentralisation adopted by the Federal Government.

The relocation of Government agencies to regional locations can result in agencies being more synergistically located to their portfolio area and additionally lead to a significant increase in employment opportunities. Communities such as Orange, Lithgow and Bathurst have benefitted in the past from the decentralisation of Government Agencies.

“These past relocations have not only provided opportunities for local job creation but have also encouraged the relocation of families from metropolitan areas with the flow on benefits to these communities” said Cr Medcalf, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council and Acting Chair of Centroc.

There is good reason to move in a more focussed and strategic direction leveraging a place based approach to regional development as outlined in the recent Regional Australia Institute Report, Deal or No Deal:

For every additional 100,000 Australians who choose to live in small cities rather than the capital cities, the RAI estimates that around \$42 billion dollars is be released into the economy over the next 30 years through reduced interest payments on mortgages alone. Released back into the consumption economy, this is would represent a considerable national economic stimulus. Small city growth can also play a role in reducing congestion problems in Australia's major cities. The avoidable cost of congestion in Australia's capital cities was \$16.1 billion in 2010. This takes into account both the value of private and business time, as well as vehicle operating costs and air pollution costs.

Centroc members see the relocation of government agencies as a good step forward for a wider solution that can add value to the nation and its people.

“Bringing businesses not just government agencies but the private sector to regional communities and creating jobs that our adult children would normally leave home for, just makes sense” said Cr Medcalf.

“There is plenty of affordable housing in Central NSW” said Cr Medcalf.

“We are calling on all levels of government, industry and key peak bodies to support growing workforce in our regions, and commend the regional Ministerial taskforce ” said Cr Medcalf.

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