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MEDIA RELEASE

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World Water Day 2016- Recognises Water Treatment Operators – the unsung heroes

When you turn on your tap to drink, wash, prepare food or flush your toilet today spare a thought for the people who make the standard of water quality and sanitation that we take for granted in this country possible. Water and waste water treatment plant operators are the unsung heroes of our communities.

The theme for this year's United Nations World Water Day on 22 March is *Water and Jobs*, specifically how enough quantity and quality of water can change workers' lives and livelihoods - and even transform societies and economies.

"According to the UN almost half of the world's workers - 1.5 billion people - work in water related sectors and nearly all jobs depend on water and those that ensure its safe delivery," said Councillor Bill West, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Cowra.

"Ensuring that the urban communities of the Central NSW region have a secure water supply and safe drinking water is of the highest priority for the Centroc Board," said Cr West.

"With the water industry working towards the implementation of a national certification program for operators of drinking water treatment systems, the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance has initiated a pilot training program that will see water treatment plant operators from across 4 members Councils, Orange, Parkes, Cowra and Forbes among the first to be certified in NSW with others to follow."

"Having Water Treatment Operators trained to meet industry standards is crucial to providing assurance to regulators, communities and consumers that they are competent to manage drinking water quality and respond to water quality risks and incidents."

"Supplying safe, quality drinking water to our communities is a huge responsibility that Councils and water treatment operators take very seriously," said Cr West.

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