

Draft Regions for Growth Planning NSW July 2014



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS



Centroc's Mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional co-operation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources; effectively nurturing sustainable investment and infrastructure development.

www.centroc.com.au

25 July 2014

Reference: kk:vp 071425
Enquiries: Ms J Bennett: 0428 690 935

Mr Ashley Albury
Regional Director for the Western Region
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 58
Dubbo NSW 2830

Dear Mr Albury,

Re: Draft Regions for Growth Planning NSW

Central NSW Councils (Centroc) represents over 220,000 people covering an area of more than 64,000sq kms comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Young and Central Tablelands Water.

Centroc's vision is to be recognised as vital to the sustainable future of NSW and Australia.

Its mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional cooperation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources.

Centroc has two objectives:

Regional Sustainability - Encourage and nurture suitable investment and infrastructure development throughout the region and support members in their action to seek from Governments financial assistance, legislative and/or policy changes and additional resources required by the Region.

Regional Cooperation and Resource Sharing – Contribute to measurable improvement in the operational efficiency and effectiveness of Member Councils through facilitation of the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources and, where appropriate, the aggregation of demand and buying power.

The Centroc Board is made up of the 30 Mayors and General Managers of its member Councils who determine priority for the region. These priorities are then progressed via sponsoring Councils.

For more advice on Centroc programming and priorities, please go to our website and download our annual report at <http://www.centroc.com.au/resources/centroc-publications/>

With reference to the proposed boundaries including members of Centroc Councils:

1. They are too big, there should be more regions. The big picture for Central NSW is markedly different to the big picture for Dubbo and Orana. Dubbo has a significant service delivery role to the west which Central NSW Councils do not have. Landscapes, industry, retail and social communities of interest such as retail and medical are distinct.

Chairman: Cr Ken Keith, Mayor, Parkes Shire Council

2. They should try to align with other boundaries for this region.
3. ROC boundaries have grown around regional communities of interest and should generally be followed.
4. The Orana community looks east and west whereas the Centroc community looks to itself and east in terms of community of interest.

This region is very supportive of a devolved collaborative model where your good self would work with the planners and sponsoring General Managers of Central NSW Councils. This approach has not been considered by Orana Councils to our knowledge and they may wish to follow some alternative process.

The Board believes that the devolved collaborative model has a greater likelihood of encouraging communities to become more involved in regional planning where an imposed meaningless boundary will only turn communities away from engagement.

The Centroc Board therefore requests the boundaries be reviewed to have a better fit with existing ROC boundaries.

Please contact Executive Office Jenny Bennett on 0428 690 935 or via email on jenny.bennett@centroc.com.au

Yours sincerely,



Cr Ken Keith OAM
Chair
Central NSW Councils (Centroc)