



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Central NSW Councils remain hopeful about a safe swift connection into Sydney

Yesterday's announcements regarding the upgrade of the Great Western Highway as the safe swift connection between Sydney and Central NSW have been received cautiously by the Chair of Centroc.

"On 26 March we jumped for joy after a decade of planning with successive State Governments when a corridor from M7 to Kurrajong went to public consultation looking for a future upgrade along the Bells Line. Last Friday the Government effectively stepped away from a corridor extending to Kurrajong and it now ends in the Nepean. This is not a transport solution. This is not planning for the future," Cr Medcalf said.

"As of yesterday the solution is 100kph Lithgow to Penrith along the Great Western Highway. While we welcome any improvements to our transport constrained region, this is a completely different approach and we will need to look very closely at it. In our experience the Great Western Highway serves as, among other things, an important local road for the ribbon of communities going in and out of school zones in the Blue Mountains. We have been working closely with the Councils of Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury and will continue to do so for the best possible solution," Cr Medcalf said.

"We need to be taken seriously as the connection between Central NSW will also help take the pressure of the Sydney Basin. Right now we are unable to get BDoubles bigger than 19m over the mountains. As the freight task in our region grows, so does our need to get freight into Sydney where putting it on rail through the passenger network does not work," Cr Medcalf said.

"We just want a real, costed solution and a strategy we can get behind. We are hopeful that Lt Gen Ken Gillespie and his Taskforce also announced yesterday will deliver this for us and we would like the opportunity to work with him on terms of reference and personnel to support his efforts. We need a seat at the table," Cr Medcalf said.

"Finally, for any change to happen, the respective Ministers and Transport for NSW will need to embrace the ideas developed and have them funded. Infrastructure Australia says this region is slated to be in the top 7 in the nation for GRP in 2031 and we need to be working with all levels of government and industry that recognises our role in the economy," Cr Medcalf said.

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For comment please contact Cr John Medcalf 0429 937 248