

Joint Organisations

Getting the boundaries right

October 2016



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

21 October 2016

Reference bw:vp 101621
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Mr Tim Hurst
Acting Chief Executive
Joint Organisations - Office of Local Government
Locked Bag 3015
Nowra NSW 2541

<mailto:jointorganisations@olg.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Mr Hurst,

Re: Joint Organisations: Getting the boundaries right

Central NSW Councils (Centroc) represents over 243,000 people covering an area of more than 72,500sq kms comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Hilltops, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western¹, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, and Central Tablelands Water.

It is about the same size as Tasmania with half the population and a similar GDP.

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 core objectives:

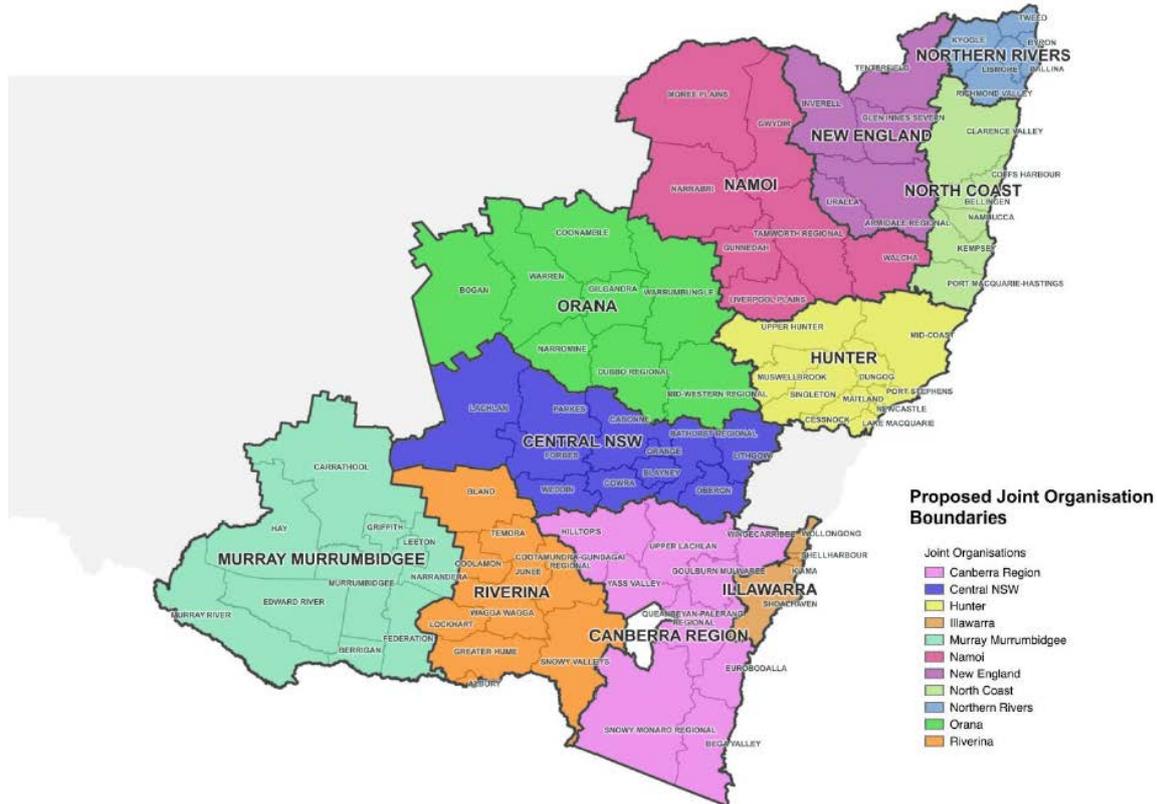
1. Regional Sustainability - Encourage and nurture suitable investment and infrastructure development throughout the region and support members in their action to seek from Governments financial assistance, legislative and/or policy changes and additional resources required by the Region.
2. Regional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



¹ Membership of Centroc is under negotiation.

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 <http://www.centroc.com.au>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further feedback to the Joint Organisations boundaries.



This region supports having the boundaries for a future Central NSW JO nest within the planning boundary and the membership to be consistent with RDA Central West. It is our intention to work with neighbouring JOs on operational support programming, for example procurement, training, and best practice programming.

We note that Mid Western is no longer within our boundary where it was for the Pilot period. While staff at Mid Western have found Centroc has recently saved them \$155,000pa on fuel procurement and it is arguable that the pattern of settlement and economic drivers of tourism, mining and agriculture have a good fit with Centroc, our Board's view has always been that relationships and collaboration are most successful where partners are willing participants. There are also good linkages for Mid Western with Dubbo along the Golden Highway . We therefore support any decision Mid Western and Orana makes regarding their preferences for Council partners in a future JO.

The transfer of Mid Western (MW) to Orana and other changes to our membership will have financial and other resourcing implications for our JO. We will need to:

- Reconstruct our prioritisation matrix and delete MW from this work – this is a substantial piece of work.
- Amend all our documentation, websites, contracts and programming to reflect the new entity and its membership.
- Undertake a new round of strategic work.
- Restructure the organisation to optimise the delivery of the core programming and optional support activities for Councils.
- Seek legal and other advice to facilitate the transition above.

Where Centroc has expended the monies it was awarded as a Pilot during the Pilot period, we believe we will be at a significant disadvantage to other regions who have gained from our efforts and can expend \$300K on setting up a JO in line with the new legislation.

We therefore would like to take this opportunity to **request that the JO Pilots be awarded monies to help them manage transition so we are not disadvantaged** by having undertaken the work to inform what we believe has the potential for substantial improvement to regional governance.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Bill West
Chair

Central NSW Councils (Centroc)