

MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr John Medcalf, Chair Centroc

Central NSW Councils - leaders in innovation in water security

Faced with hotter, drier conditions over recent years, Central NSW Councils have had to turn their engineering expertise to more innovative ways to not only save water but find alternate sources for their communities.

Chair of Centroc, Cr John Medcalf said that Central NSW Councils are recognised nationally for their award winning Centroc Water Security Study which identified measures to improve urban water security.

“Councils such as Orange are considered national leaders with their award winning state-of-the-art work in stormwater harvesting, while members of the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance have committed to a water-loss management program to save water and reduce energy cost,” said Cr Medcalf.

“While our Councils continue to be at the pinnacle of innovation looking at alternate water sources and savings measures we know from the extensive work done in this region that security of water supply cannot be achieved in the Lachlan catchment through demand management initiatives alone. What we need is an integrated program of water conservation and demand management, together with a new storage high in the catchment for the Lachlan valley,” said Cr Medcalf.

Speaking after the recent Parliamentary Inquiry into water storages held in the region, Cr Medcalf welcomed the public debate about a proposed new dam generated by the inquiry.

“Centroc is supportive of a new storage on the Belubula River subject to rigorous empirical evidence from the feasibility study underway by WaterNSW,” said Cr Medcalf.

“At the end of the day, Councils have a responsibility to ensure secure, quality drinking water for their communities and to grow the economy.”

“There is significant evidence that points to the need for additional stored water for the Lachlan valley not only for urban supplies but to provide secure and reliable raw water supplies for the key sectors of agriculture and mining - we can't step away from this evidence,” said Cr Medcalf.

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