

Media Release

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

Centroc meets with a top line up of Federal parliamentarians next week in Canberra

Centroc will hold its quarterly meeting with Federal parliamentarians in Canberra next week.

Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council, Cr John Medcalf said the delegation of 14 Mayors will meet with key Federal Government Ministers at Parliament House on Thursday 10 August. This will be the fourth visit to Parliament House. "An impressive line up of Ministers key to our current issues are meeting with us, this would not be possible without the help of our Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack and his staff, who have coordinated this day on our behalf." said Cr Medcalf, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

Mr McCormack said he was delighted to host Centroc's quarterly meeting and bring the voices of its communities to Canberra.

"The Councils will discuss issues I am passionate about and have fought for vigorously, such as the exciting inland rail project and improved health services, including the Grenfell health hub which The Nationals in Government have delivered through a Building Better Regions Fund grant announced only this week," said Mr McCormack, Member for Riverina and Minister for Small Business

The meeting gives the Centroc Member Councils an opportunity to be briefed on the Government's priorities for regional Australia, and present as a group the items at the top of the Centroc Councils' advocacy list. "The Board started this process in 2014 and have received great feedback from the Ministers, so we continue to meet this way." said Cr Medcalf

Support from all our four Federal MPs who represent the Centroc area; Member for Riverina and Minister for Small Business Michael McCormack, Member for Hume and Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation Angus Taylor, Member for Calare Andrew Gee, Member for Parkes Mark Coulton along with Senator Fiona Nash, the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories and Regional Communications.

"I am pleased to have arranged for eight other Federal Ministers, as well as myself as Minister for Small Business, and two local Members to address the Centroc meeting." said Mr McCormack

"Centroc Councils are given a great opportunity with the Ministers in Canberra we feel it is invaluable in helping Councils gain a better understanding of the priorities of the Federal Government and for the Government to hear what the issues are in regional NSW." said Cr Medcalf.

"Energy is of particular concern to all Australians currently, so we are very interested to speak with Ministers in this regard." said Cr Medcalf.



“It will also be an opportunity to discuss the Murray Darling Medical School, and the regions feedback on NBN ” said Cr Medcalf.

Transport links and water security are also priorities top on the Agenda. “We have been very lucky in the Centroc region with the Government’s announcement for funding for the Inland rail, and state funding for community infrastructure” said Cr Medcalf.

“We still have more challenges and constraints that we would like to tackle, to achieve the best possible outcomes for our communities” said Cr Medcalf.

“Centroc meets annually at both State and Federal level because we feel it is vital that we work collectively with all levels of government in our efforts to grow and develop our region,” Cr Medcalf.

ENDS

For media comment please contact Ms Jenny Bennett 0428 690 935

Who is Centroc? Centroc is a voluntary collaboration of councils in Central NSW. The organisation exists to advocate for and improve operational efficiencies of its member councils - Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Hilltops, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin and Central Tablelands Water.