



Regional Submission to NSW Government Restart NSW Water Security for Regions Funding

25 June 2014

Reference: kk:jb 140624
Enquiries: Ms J Bennett: 0428 690 935

Ms Jenny Davis
Executive Director
Infrastructure NSW
Level 15, Macquarie House
167 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Davis,

Regional Submission to Restart NSW – Water Security for Regions 2013-2014 Funding

I write in support of projects being submitted to Infrastructure NSW and the NSW Office of Water from six Central NSW Regional Organisation of Council's (Centroc) members those being, Boorowa, Cabonne, Central Tablelands Water, Parkes, Lachlan and Upper Lachlan.

The priority water security infrastructure projects submitted are all considered critical in addressing urgent water security needs for the urban communities in these Local Government Areas and form part of a broader strategic infrastructure program as detailed in the national award winning Centroc Water Security Study which investigated and recommended solutions to improve water security across the Central NSW region.

Central NSW Councils would like to offer support to these applications not only with advice to regarding their priority, but to assist in their delivery where possible. Further, there is great potential for projects in this region to add value regarding building partnerships, collaboration and a new way of delivering water services. Further detail in this regard will be provided further into the application.

Therefore the Centroc project it is applying for is to provide assistance to both INSW and member Councils through lending support from a regional perspective.

The Central NSW Regional Organisation of Council's (Centroc) Water Utilities Alliance (CWUA) is a voluntary collaborative Alliance between fifteen Local Government Authorities in the Central NSW region including the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Young and Central Tablelands Water. It represents a population of around 236,000 and covers an area of more than 70,000 square kilometres.



The need for the region to work co-operatively was identified in the national award winning Centroc Water Security Study 2010. Adapting the successful Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA) model, Centroc Councils have planned for and resourced a growing program of regional support activities.

The aim of the CWUA is for Local Government to be recognised as national leaders in the delivery of secure and quality water supplies and sewerage services to grow Central NSW to 2059 and beyond. The key objectives of the CWUA include to:

1. deliver cost savings and other efficiencies;
2. grow staff skills and ensure workforce are adequately trained for compliance based service delivery;
3. support members in assuring sustainable workforce;
4. promote Local Government as the agency of choice delivering Local Water Utilities management in regional NSW and further afield;
5. advise the Centroc Board regarding Local Water Utilities Management;
6. deliver full compliance with Best Practice requirements;
7. implement Regional Best Practice strategies;
8. support Councils as they manage their Local Water Utilities assets; and
9. promote the CWUA as an example of Councils working collaboratively.

2. Centroc Region Projects seeking Restart NSW – Water Security for Regions Funding

The following projects submitted for funding under the Restart NSW –Water Security for Regions 2013-2014 program are supported by the Centroc Board as building on the recommended priority projects identified in the national award winning Centroc Water Security Study (CWSS) to provide water security for the region’s urban centres.

Advice regarding the CWSS and its findings and recommendations are provided later in this submission.

Applicants	Priority Water Security Projects for the Centroc Region
Boorowa Shire Council	Construction of a pipeline to a neighbouring supply - undertake detailed investigations and designs to connect the Boorowa Water Supply System to the Goldenfields Water County Council bulk water supply, with the closest connection point at Harden.
Cabonne Council	Construction of two water treatment plants which will be located in Cumnock and Yeoval.
Central Tablelands Water	Priority 1- Safety Upgrade Lake Rowlands Priority 2- Water Supply Pipeline linkage with Lake Rowlands and Carcoar Dams and the Urban reticulation network in Central NSW
Lachlan Shire Council	
Parkes Shire Council	Replacement of existing river intake constructed during the last drought as interim infrastructure - involves a new intake chamber, 2 submersible pumps and associated electrical work, the off take pipe and trash rack as well as scour and flow diversion structures, with new pipe work to increase

	capacity to pump station. And possible connecting pipework to an additional bore. Estimated total cost \$2m
Upper Lachlan Shire Council	<p>Shovel ready \$7m integrated water security project on the basis of NSW Public Works advice that can commence 1 July 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new outlet pump station at Crookwell Dam to access additional storage capacity at low levels; • A new 4 ML/d water treatment plant; • Substituting treated drinking water with fit-for-purpose bore water for parks and gardens watering; and <p>Subsidy on water efficient household devices to reduce household potable water consumption.</p>

3. What Centroc can offer in support of Restart NSW projects

Through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance (CWUA), comprising Engineers from each of the fifteen participating member councils, Restart NSW funding applicants are supported in project delivery including with technical and engineering advice and mentoring.

The CWUA reports to the General Manager’s Advisory Committee (GMAC) and the Centroc Board comprising Mayors and General Manager from participating Councils providing advice and receiving recommendations regarding programming.

The CWUA Program Manager works across these committees providing reports, facilitating collaboration and shared learning, undertaking collective procurement, implementing communication plans, facilitating program risk management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation.

Project	Regional Support
<p>Boorowa Construction of a pipeline to a neighbouring supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional procurement- if more than 3 projects are funded • Mentoring and technical assistance through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee. • Pipeline Taskforce- including relevant Government stakeholders with mentoring advice from Orange City Council. • Project Communications to achieve embedment within the community. • Advocacy to leverage funding
<p>Cabonne Construction of two water treatment plants which will be located in Cumnock and Yeoval</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional procurement- if more than 3 projects are funded • Mentoring and technical assistance through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee. • Project Communications to achieve

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> embedment within the community. • Advocacy to leverage funding
<p>Central Tablelands Water Priority 1- Safety Upgrade Lake Rowlands</p> <p>Priority 2- Water Supply Pipeline linkage with Lake Rowlands and Carcoar Dams and the Urban reticulation network in Central NSW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional procurement- if more than 3 projects are funded • Mentoring and technical assistance through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee. • Pipeline Taskforce- including relevant Government stakeholders with mentoring advice from Orange City Council. • Project Communications to achieve embedment within the community. • Advocacy to leverage funding
<p>Lachlan Option 1 - Construct new production bores and refurbish the filtration plant. Option 2 - Construct new production bores only. Option 3 - Construction of in-river storage facility.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional procurement- if more than 3 projects are funded • Mentoring and technical assistance through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee. • Pipeline Taskforce- including relevant Government stakeholders with mentoring advice from Orange City Council. • Project Management assistance. • Project Communications to achieve embedment within the community. • Advocacy to leverage funding.
<p>Parkes Replacement of existing river intake constructed during the last drought as interim infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional procurement- if more than 3 projects are funded • Mentoring and technical assistance through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee. • Project Management assistance. • Project Communications to achieve embedment within the community. • Advocacy to leverage funding.
<p>Upper Lachlan Shovel ready \$7m integrated water security project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional procurement- if more than 3 projects are funded • Mentoring and technical assistance through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance Technical Committee. • Project Communications to achieve embedment within the community. • Advocacy to leverage funding.

4. Compliance with Restart Program Objectives

Criterion	Centroc Response in summary
RESTART NSW	
Ready to proceed	Centroc is ready to proceed with providing regional support to the Restart Applications listed above. Please see below for more detail on this support.
Involve partnerships between local councils, ROCs and regional water bodies	<p>The projects are aligned with regional IWCM, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, and the Centroc Water Security Study. It is supported by Centroc Board.</p> <p>The advice from the project will be shared across the region to grow capacity. This includes to a variety of regional teams, most particularly the Centroc Water Utilities' Alliance.</p> <p>There is also scope for regional mentoring support where larger and more resourced Councils in the region such Orange have offered to provide mentoring and other support to smaller Councils. Notable here is the offer to support Boorowa in their pipeline project where Orange is near completion of this type of work.</p> <p>Centroc can also facilitate working with State agencies through the Department of Premier and Cabinet where required, similar to the approach used in the delivery of the Macquarie Pipeline.</p> <p>Procurement can be facilitated through Centroc.</p> <p>Centroc can also bundle projects into a program and become the reporting entity to INSW.</p>
Proponents and projects should leverage Restart funds	The attached Centroc member submissions show differing leveraging on a project by project basis. Centroc is not seeking any Restart funding for its support.
The total project funding should come from users as well as governments	All projects include a component of user pays. Centroc resource is a function of Council water and sewer rates and so is also user pays.
Restart contribution may help to build a partnership, a collaboration or a new way of delivering water services	<p>By bundling up these projects regionally it is anticipated that the following contributions will help build partnerships, collaboration and new ways of delivering water services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSW works with a region the size of Tasmania with the about half the population and a bigger GDP instead of a number of LGAs • Governance arrangements of Centroc facilitate innovation, information sharing, effectiveness and efficiency • Use of formal mentoring grows capacity across the

	<p>region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWUA structure is relatively new (less than 10 yrs old) and constantly evolving its service delivery in response to member and their communities' needs.
Water Security for Regions Fund	
Enable strategic investment in water infrastructure	Projects are aligned with regional IWCM, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, and the Centroc Water Security Study.
A proactive rather than reactive approach	<p>Projects are aligned with regional IWCM, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, and the Centroc Water Security Study.</p> <p>Further, all projects have a fit with longer term solutions for networking pipes and storages around the region.</p>
Build more drought resilience	<p>Projects are aligned with regional IWCM, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, and the Centroc Water Security Study.</p> <p>Further, all projects have a fit with longer term solutions for networking pipes and storages around the region.</p>
Flow on effects- towns attract more residents, businesses, industries	<p>The Centroc Water Security Study (CWSS) has completed and seeks to continue will achieve water security for our urban communities, for the industrial sectors that support our livelihoods and for our unique and precious natural environment.</p> <p>The three sectors that underpin the region's economy – mining, manufacturing and agriculture are all heavily reliant on water for their economic viability.</p> <p>CWSS identified potential to achieve security improvements for towns through partnering with local irrigation operations. It was recommended that improvements in irrigation efficiency be considered primarily as an offsetting mechanism for new infrastructure, particularly where that infrastructure will inherently remove additional water from river systems.</p> <p>Further, it identified that there may be mutual benefit in considering the provision of some of the region's mining related water demands in association with the recommended water security strategy for the towns. There are 25 mines slated for development in the next 25 years in this region.</p> <p>Central NSW anticipates some growth before the NSW Government policy implementation of Decentralisation. Our investigation included sophisticated modelling to forecast urban demand from the dozens of towns within our remit, for a 50-year horizon through to 2059. These forecasts took into</p>

	<p>account projected population growth tempered by the necessity that we become more efficient in our urban water usage. The region also modelled our surface and groundwater resources and considered the impact of both the current climate sequence and a climate change scenario.</p> <p>The region’s business plan highlights the necessary growth in skilled and flexible labour in order to support projected industry expansion. Meeting these labour needs means an increase in the urban population and subsequently results in more demand for water.</p>
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5. Strategic Context

The Centroc project to provide assistance to both INSW and member Councils in the delivery of the priority water security projects from this region is aligned with the regional Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, and the Centroc Water Security Study. It is supported by Centroc Board.

The project is aligned with the national award winning Centroc Water Security Study (CWSS) undertaken in 2009 in response to the worst drought on record for the region. Investigating and recommending solutions to improve water supply security across the region, the CWSS recommended an integrated program of water conservation and demand management measures, coupled with new and upgraded water supply and storage infrastructure.

Most importantly it identified the need for the region to work co-operatively in the delivery of secure and quality water supplies. Adapting the successful Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA) model, Centroc Councils have planned for and resourced a growing program of regional support activities through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance which aims to deliver secure and quality water supplies and sewerage services to grow Central NSW to 2059 and beyond.

Following is detail regarding the work that Centroc has done to date to investigate and recommend solutions to improve water security across the region.

5.1 Centroc Regional Water Security Project (CRWSP)

Where water does not recognise lga or other non-catchment boundaries, secure water supplies are critical to the development of regional areas. The Centroc region has very good water resources, however to ensure water is available for consumptive use when required further investment is required.

Winter rains in 2010 relieved the Centroc (Central NSW Councils) region from the worst drought in living memory and indeed the worst drought on record. While local government water utilities all maintained water supplies to their communities, many were required to implement stringent water restrictions for extended periods and implement a range of contingency water supply projects. The vulnerability of urban water supplies in extreme low rainfall events, which had not previously been experienced, was therefore revealed. The local government engineers of the Centroc region observed that Australia's relatively short (statistically) history of weather events does not facilitate the simple identification of low

rainfall vulnerability on water utilities. It was also recognised that the implications of such things as climate change, source contamination or catastrophic infrastructure damage may also result in a restricted water supply resource.

It was postulated that a rigorous hydrological analysis based on a large range of statistically possible extreme events would identify communities that need to improve the security of their water supplies. This was the genesis of the Centroc Water Security Study (CWSS).

The CWSS simply sought to investigate and recommend solutions to improve water supply security across the Centroc region. The study had two components:

- 1: An audit of existing infrastructure for bulk water supply; and
- 2: An options paper for improving water supply security.

The Component 1 report characterised the current bulk water supply assets and infrastructure of the region, while the Component 2 report documents the options for improving town water supply security across the region.

The approach to the CWSS was built on extensive stakeholder engagement, analysis using triple bottom line principles and the integration of the management of water resources, recognising the need for holistic approaches to water management

Three main steps were taken to establish the need for water security improvement:

1. Forecasts of the expected demands for water from each of the towns for the next 50 years (until 2059) were developed. Forecasts took into account expected growth in each town but relied on utilities to improve the efficiency of urban water use;
2. A mathematical model of the surface and groundwater resources of the region was developed. The model was designed to be able to determine the likely water resources available under both the current climate sequence and the changes in this sequence that may come about as a result of climate change.
3. The integration of the demand for water and the availability of water in the model to assess the level of water supply security for each town under both current climate and a climate change impacted sequence.

As a result of this assessment, it was determined that over the 50 year planning horizon, the following towns require a water security improvement to cater for the new range of statistically generated extreme climatic events:

- Condobolin
- Bendick Murrell
- Mogongong
- Yeoval
- Tottenham
- Lake Cargelligo
- Lithgow
- Orange
- Peak Hill
- Mumbil
- Cowra
- Brundah
- Wattamondara
- Forbes
- Trundle
- Murrin Bridge
- Portland
- Clifton Grove
- Wellington
- Nanima
- Koorawatha
- Greenethorpe
- Cumnock
- Bogan Gate
- Tullamore
- Tullibigeal
- Oberon
- Parkes
- Geurie

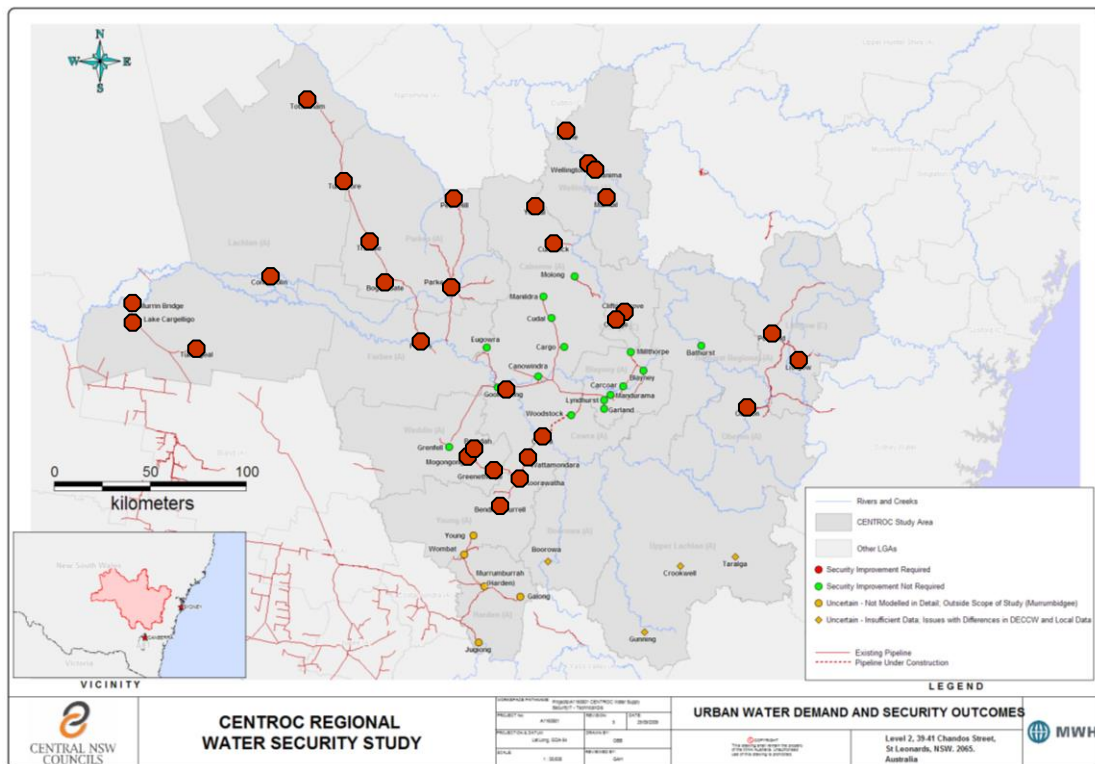


Figure 4.1 - Communities where water security improvements are required for extreme events

Identifying and assessing the relative performance of options to improve water security for the next 50 years was the second step necessary to develop an effective long term, region-wide town water security strategy for the Centroc region. Five main steps were taken to establish the most appropriate options for water security improvement:

1. A long-list of potential options was identified with stakeholder input. In consultation with stakeholders, over 80 individual options were developed for consideration. Options considered included demand management programs as well as infrastructure options including dams, pipelines and pumps. In addition, options that had mutual benefit to other water users, such as the irrigation and mining industries, were also identified.
2. A short-list of options for further investigation was determined utilising the TBL criteria, and the input of stakeholders.
3. Scenarios (themed groupings of short-listed options) were developed to allow comparisons between approaches for water security improvement to be made.
4. Developing region-wide strategies based on the outcomes of each of the preceding steps.
5. Sensitivity testing the preferred region-wide strategy to understand the impact of climate change, potential increases in the cost of energy, potentially greater populations, potential differences in infrastructure costs and the potential of demands from other sectors (such as mining) on the preferred strategy.

Water Conservation and Demand Management

Underpinning each of the strategies developed was the need for efficient town water demands. The following program of water conservation measures was recommended as the basis for a region-wide water conservation and demand management strategy:

- Residential retrofit of inefficient water fixtures, including providing customer support for
- replacements;
- Continuation of the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme (WELS);
- Implementation of Permanent Low Level Restrictions on outdoor water use;
- Continuation of the BASIX program for new residential developments;
- Continuation or expansion of Water Conservation Education programs to improve efficient water use;
- Audit of Non-Residential Water Users to identify leaks and potential areas for improvement in efficiency;
- System Water Loss Management which aims to identify and repair leaks in water supply
- and distribution system; and
- Review of water supply and sewerage services pricing structure to follow the best-practice guideline of 25:75 Fixed to Variable Charge Ratio.

In addition, it was recommended that a program of uniform (across-connected supplies) water restrictions be put in place. For the river towns, restrictions will be triggered when the storages of Wyangala or Burrendong reach a set trigger level (i.e. that level representing the lowest 10% of years). In this way, the towns will enter restriction regimes in manner that is sympathetic with allocation reductions on other water users but is consistent with best drought management practice in urban areas.

Recommended Infrastructure

As a consequence of detailed analysis the security study recommended a region-wide strategy identified in the report at option 2a, which included an augmented Lake Rowlands (from current capacity of 4,500 ML to 26,500 ML) on the following basis:

- Lake Rowlands is high in the catchment, thus reducing the energy and greenhouse gas emissions associated with moving water to points of need in the region.
- If population growth is greater than assumed, the augmented Lake Rowlands supply is better placed to support the greater associated demands;
- Assessments of the costs of augmenting Lake Rowlands vary. The costs adopted in the TBL assessment are higher than some existing estimates. The adoption of the existing estimates in the sensitivity testing supports the adoption of Strategy 2a.
- This strategy has greater social acceptability.

The recommended region-wide strategy (2a) now dubbed the "Centroc Regional Water Security Project" (CRWSP) includes:

- Lake Rowlands Augmentation;
- Lake Rowlands-Millthorpe Pipeline (CTW Trunk Mains D and F duplication) 2;
- CTW-Orange Pipeline via Millthorpe;
- Lake Rowlands to Gooloogong Pipeline (CTW Trunk Mains P and C duplication);
- Gooloogong-Forbes Pipeline (including connection to Parkes);
- Woodstock-Cowra Pipeline (presently in planning);
- Orange-Molong Creek Dam pipeline (lower priority action resulting from the level of surety around the security of Molong. There is an existing pipeline from Molong Creek
- Dam into which this new pipeline would connect);
- New minor storage and water treatment facilities at Cumnock;
- New minor storage water treatment facilities at Yeoval;
- New minor storage at Condobolin (off-stream from Lachlan River);
- New pipeline replacing existing channel and minor storage at Lake Cargelligo;
- Burrendong-Wellington Pipeline;
- Chifley-Bathurst Pipeline;
- Chifley-Oberon Pipeline; and
- Belubula Creek-Cadia Hill pipeline (already available).

5.1.1 Subsequent to the CWSS

Continued Best-Practice Management

The implementation of the recommended region-wide strategy includes:

- The ongoing management and maintenance of the existing water supplies of each town;
- The ongoing implementation of the best-practice demand management programs of each council; and
- The ongoing development and implementation of the existing Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategies completed by a number of the member councils including Bathurst, CTW, Orange and Parkes.

Councils in Central NSW are well into this work as members of the Centroc Water Utilities' Alliance.

Impact of Climate Change including the mooted NSW Government Climate Change modelling for secure yield

When examining the impact of climate change on water supply security, there needs to be consideration of the change in rainfall, temperature and evaporation regimes. These changes are forecast and then the impact on streamflows and demand sequences are inputs to supply security estimates.

The expected impacts of climate change in the Lachlan and Macquarie catchments includes increases in temperature from 0.7°C to 5.6°C and changes in rainfall from +20% to -40% by 2070¹.

Climate change is expected to result in decreased water availability and increased water demands. The impact of these forecasts has been incorporated into the CRWSP.

The NSW Government is soon to release mandatory climate change modelling for urban water utilities. Estimations from the region show that this will have an impact of between 20% and 50% on secure yield in this region. Preliminary investigations at Lake Rowlands and Orange are more detailed and in the case of Lake Rowlands suggest as follows:

Allowing for Climate Change using NOWs draft policy leads to greater reduction in expected secure yield than simply reducing inflows by 25% as was done for the 2010 study. For the existing storage of 4500 ML the secure yield reduced from 1900 ML/a (Run R04) to 1750 ML/a (Run R06) with the 25% inflow reduction but using the NOWs draft policy the secure yield reduced to 1410 ML/a. For the proposed 26310 ML storage the secure yield reduced from 6200 ML/a (Run Rs4) to 5000 ML/a (Run Rs6) with the 25% inflow reduction but using the NOWs draft policy the secure yield reduced to 2640 ML/a.²

This reduction in secure yields, in the context of other new opportunities in the region such as the mooted storage on the Belubula has led the region to revisiting the Centroc Water Security Study with a view to increasing diversity of sources.

Centroc Water Security Study- Summary Document

<http://dev.centroc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/watersecurity.pdf>

<http://dev.centroc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/centroc-water-security-study-component-2-options-paper-rev-1-291009.pdf>

<http://dev.centroc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Centroc-Water-Security-Study-Component-2-Options-Paper-Rev-1-Appendix-D.pdf>

5.2 Centroc Regional Drought Management Plan

Centroc Regional Drought Management Plan- HydroScience Consulting-A345 was completed in January 2012.

The Plan builds on the outcomes of the CWSS and the individual Centroc member Council's drought management plans. Citing the high probability of failure, the plan includes a restriction regime and supply options, including water carting that can be implemented in the case of drought in each Local government area.

The plan recommends that a range of supply options for the region's towns be investigated which may involve constructing pipeline connection to existing water sources and/or developing new emergency water sources. It also recommends that Centroc investigate the need for short and long term urban water allocation transfers and trading between members of the Centroc council group.

¹ CSIRO (2007) Climate change in the Lachlan and Central West Catchments.

² Cloke et al, Draft Lake Rowlands Dam Yield Study Summary Discussion Paper, Public Works NSW p3

<http://www.centroc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/A345-Centroc-Regional-Drought-Management-Plan-Rev31.pdf>

5.3 Centroc Regional Demand Management Plan

Centroc Regional Water Demand Management Plan- MWH A1295600 was completed in January 2013. The plan reiterates the recommendations of the CWSS to increase bulk water supply storage across the region.

The Plan seeks to define opportunities for regional collaboration to facilitate each member Local Water Utilities efficient use of water resources and provides a review of the water security assessment of member Councils in relation to NOW security assessment guidelines and other updated climate change and water resource data.

It also details connection between the management of urban water supplies and the key economic pursuits of the region.

<http://dev.centroc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Centroc-Regional-Demand-Report-Rev-3.pdf>

5.4 Centroc Regional Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

Centroc Regional Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan- MWH – completed in November 2013 identifies regional water cycle management issues, highlighting security of supply as a high priority. The Plan outlines objectives to address this including working collaboratively as a region and developing a partnership approach with State Water to update the water security assessment in relation to new NOW security assessment guidelines and other updated climate change and water resource data to ensure on-going commitment to the regional supply augmentation.

<http://www.centroc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Centroc-Regional-IWCM-Report-FINAL.pdf>

6. Why investing in projects managed by Centroc is a good value decision

The Centroc project to provide assistance to both INSW and member Councils in the delivery of the priority water security projects from this region is aligned with the regional Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan, Drought Management Plan, Demand Management Plan, and the Centroc Water Security Study. It is supported by Centroc Board.

The advice from the project will be shared across the region to grow capacity. This includes to a variety of regional teams, most particularly the Centroc Water Utilities' Alliance.

There is also scope for regional mentoring support where larger and more resourced Councils in the region such Orange have offered to provide mentoring and other support to smaller Councils. Notable here is the offer to support Boorowa in their pipeline project where Orange is near completion of this type of work.

Centroc can also facilitate working with State agencies through the Department of Premier and Cabinet where required, similar to the approach used in the delivery of the Macquarie Pipeline.

Procurement can be facilitated through Centroc.

Centroc can also bundle projects into a program and become the reporting entity to INSW.

Centroc Programming is QBL and award winning. See for example the Centroc Water Security Study which, as a result of its careful structure and embedment in community, received unanimous support from the Centroc Board of delegates from Councils across Central NSW, but was also received well by the community,

Centroc programs are structured to ensure both sound governance and success in delivering outcomes across multiple Councils. To facilitate program certainty and future embedment progress is considered at the highest level of decision making in Local Government in the region.

As with all Centroc projects, the Board receive advice and provide recommendations to members regarding programming. This advice is developed through the Project Technical Committee (in this case the CWUA), Program Steering Committee (PSC) and the General Managers Advisory Council (GMAC).

To facilitate the program, a program manager works across these committees. The program manager's role includes providing reports, facilitating collaboration and shared learning, undertaking collective procurement, implementing the Communication Plan, facilitating program risk management quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation.

Please see the structure for typical Centroc programs below where the roles for each of the program committees and teams are:

Centroc Board

Role: Receive advice regarding the program and make recommendations to members. The Board is made up of the 30 Mayors and General Managers of the region. The Board meets quarterly and a report from GMAC would be considered.

General Managers' Advisory Committee

Role: Receive advice from varying programs in the region, analyse and synthesise for opportunities and risks and provide advice to the Board accordingly. GMAC meets quarterly and a report on this program would be provided by the Steering Committee.

Program Steering Committee

The Program Steering Committee (PSC) consists of up to five member Councils engaging in the program and the Sponsoring General Manager for the program. Meetings are typically via webex (a web based conferencing tool).

Role: Responsible for the oversight of the program including advice to GMAC, members and funding entity regarding:

- program quality;
- program communications;

- program risk management;
- reporting including against milestones and KPI's;
- shared learnings and opportunities;
- budgeting and
- procurement

The PSC will be determined by the Board from the PTC should this application be successful.

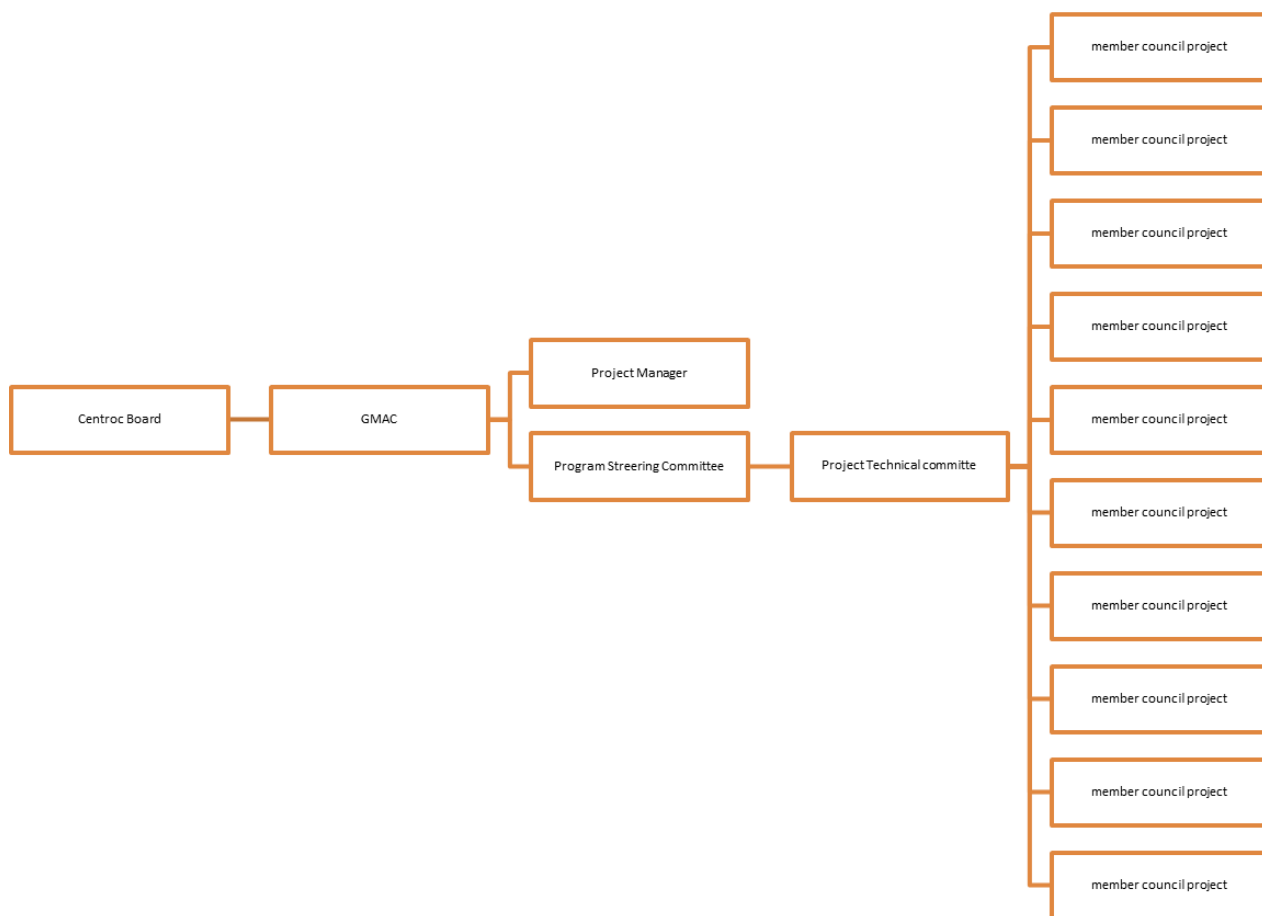
Project Technical Committee

The Program Technical Committee (PTC) consists of one Council officer for each of the participating members.

Role: The PTC is responsible for:

- assuring project delivery in individual councils;
- sharing information including on media monitoring in their LGA and
- providing advice to the Project Steering Committee on implementation, risk management and opportunities.

The PTC meets on an as needs basis, typically monthly and via webex.



Management strategies for group programming

Centroc has had years of experience in managing complex projects across its LGAs - an area the same size as Tasmania with a bigger GDP and about half the population.

Its work is award winning and innovative, see for example the Centroc Water Security Study and the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance³.

In order to deliver on the outcomes, objectives and outputs described above the following Centroc strategies apply:

- use of tried and true Centroc project delivery structure Board, GMAC, PSC and PTC to assure good program understanding and engagement;
- solid, factual reporting including the use of proforma reports to minimise members having to reinvent the wheel;
- web based advice and toolkits for members;
- building on existing regionally administered programming such as E21 energy management systems;

³ <http://www.centroc.com.au/>

- use of webex meeting room facility to minimise travel;
- use of well understood and adhered to policy for example in communications and procurement;
- centralising procurement and financial administration to enable an auditable trail of activities and control over onground and other works;
- going the extra mile and making it easy for our members;
- solid and strategic use of communication with our members including presentations and
- constant follow-up.

7. Benefits for the Centroc Local Government Areas, the Central NSW Region and the NSW Economy

The work that Centroc has completed and seeks to continue will achieve water security for our urban communities, for the industrial sectors that support our livelihoods and for our unique and precious natural environment.

Achieving water security for Central NSW will require significant investment in both infrastructure and demand management programs.

Through Centroc the 15 local government councils within the region have demonstrated their capability to unite, collaborate and work towards a common goal. Our collective efforts have successfully developed a long-term sustainable water supply strategy which significantly improves the water supply strategy which significantly improves the water supply security of our region whilst balancing social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Funding Request

That Infrastructure NSW and the NSW Office of Water consider the Centroc application to provide regional support to Centroc member councils Restart NSW – Water Security for Regions applications at no cost to INSW.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Bennett
Executive Officer
Central NSW Councils (Centroc)

Contact:

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Attachments:

Restart NSW- Water Security for Regions Applications

1. Boorowa Shire Council
2. Cabonne Council
3. Central Tablelands Water
4. Parkes Shire Council
5. Lachlan Shire Council
6. Upper Lachlan Shire Council