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For immediate release

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Approved by: Cr Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Parkes Shire Council

Joint Organisations

Journey towards strong local government reform begins this week

The workshop to build the pilot for Joint Organisations to assist the NSW Government strengthen and reform local government will be held in Blayney this Thursday.

“We are getting very positive responses from around the region,” said Chair of Centroc, Cr Ken Keith. “Everyone is very enthusiastic about this opportunity.”

All Centroc members will attend the meeting in Blayney, as well as prospective members and representatives from key State agencies and regional entities such as Regional Development Australia and Central NSW Tourism.

“This is the first step in designing the future for better and stronger regions in a better and stronger NSW,” said Cr Keith. “Our region has significant challenges and opportunities, not the least of which is agriculture. We need to ensure that this new venture brings together all the right people in the right way so we can get in and make a difference.”

“It is very important to ensure that the new organisation is informed by our member Councils and has a fit with the opportunities presented by all stakeholders. This Pilot must involve work across the region meeting the needs of all of our communities,” said Cr Keith.

“While the question of how can we do business better seems simple enough, there are many views on the answer across the region. There is no blueprint. We have an opportunity here to determine the future for our region building on our existing strengths and successes,” he said.

Centroc represents over 220,000 people across an area of more than 70,000 square kilometres comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Young and Central Tablelands Water. Centroc is the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional priorities, facilitating regional co-operation and sharing knowledge, expertise and resources.

Over the years, Centroc has won many awards and achieved considerable success in regional collaboration, procurement and advocacy, including the creation of Netwaste and the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance. In the past financial year, Centroc’s return on investment in grant funding was ten to one.

“From Centroc’s perspective, Joint Organisations are all about collaborating with all of our members and with the State in an informed way to bring change that has a net benefit to our communities,” said Cr Keith.



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For media enquiry: For comment please contact Jenny Bennett 0428 690 935