



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Approved by: Cr Bill West, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Cowra Shire Council

New Executive and New Era for Central NSW Councils

Cowra Mayor, Cr Bill West, and Bathurst Mayor, Cr Gary Rush, have been elected unopposed as Centroc's new Chair and Deputy Chair at the Annual General Meeting in Blayney.

Cr West, a fifth generation farmer with over a decade of local government experience, replaces Parkes Mayor, Cr Ken Keith who has worked tirelessly in the role of Centroc Chair for the past two years. Cr West was previously Deputy Chair of Centroc.

"Cr Keith is to be congratulated for his dedication and professionalism as Chair of Centroc," said Cr West. "His are certainly big shoes to fill!"

New Deputy Chair of Centroc and current Mayor of Bathurst, Cr Gary Rush, brings years of private sector experience to the table.

The historic first Joint Organisation Pilot Workshop for the Central West region was held immediately after the AGM, attended by mayors and General Managers from across the region, Regional Development Australia Central West, Central Tablelands Water, various State agencies including Public Works, Trade and Investment and Planning, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Local Government.

"The new Central West Joint Organisation has great potential to provide strength and security to local government in our region," said Cr West. "However, we still have a way to go to ensure we have the best model for regional collaboration and have managed any potential risks and heard any concerns."

"The workshop was the first step towards understanding what this new collaboration will look like and how it will work in practical terms," said Cr West.

Over the coming months, Centroc will embark on an assertive advocacy campaign on issues including regional infrastructure and agriculture in the lead up to the state election on 28th March next year.

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