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MEDIA RELEASE

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

Water Security Crucial to secure Region's Future

Chair of Centroc, Cr Bill West, has welcomed the release of a preliminary study by Water NSW recommending Cranky Rock as the most suitable site for further analysis for a new dam in the Central West as well as the commitment by the State Government of \$38 million to the construction of two new pipelines in the region.

"These are major initiatives in securing water for the future prosperity of the Central NSW region," said Cr West.

Cranky Rock was chosen from 15 sites investigated through a scoping study *Water Security for Regions: Belubula and Lachlan River Dam Investigation* undertaken by Water NSW as having the potential to increase water security for a number of Central NSW towns and other users throughout the Lachlan Valley.

"The need for an increased storage in the Central NSW region has been a priority for this region for many years now with water security currently limiting economic development in the towns, industry, mining and agricultural sectors of the Lachlan Valley," said Cr West.

"It's great that the State Government has now committed funding for investigation into a new storage as well as to the construction of two pipelines that will provide a means to flow water in both directions between the Macquarie and Lachlan catchments to offset dry localised conditions."

Central NSW Councils have been working collaboratively for many years to identify a range of water security solutions completing its National award winning Centroc Water Security Study in 2009.

"Options that offer substantive improvements for both urban water security and agricultural water security as well as other users in the Lachlan Valley are supported by Centroc Councils," said Cr West.

"Failure of urban water supplies is socially unacceptable and as such Centroc Councils supports investment in additional water storage providing it addresses urban and agricultural water needs."

"Central NSW Councils look forward to collaborating with the State Government on the delivery of these initiatives."

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