



## CENTROC

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc

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### **Calling on all Federal candidates to back the regions**

Centroc represents 14 Local Government areas in Central NSW. It exists to advocate for and provide operational support to our member Councils and their communities. Regional development is a priority for the Centroc Board made up of Mayors, General Managers and elected representatives of every Council across the region.

"I have noted the pre-election debate across the media regarding funding for Council projects for regional development. Firstly, it is great to be discussing funding for the regions and I commend the candidates in the upcoming election for putting this on the agenda," said Cr Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Parkes Shire Council.

"When thinking about investing in Councils the Federal Government knows it can invest in confidence. Councils are transparent and accountable organisations embedded in our communities and here for the long haul. We work with our communities on what are our priorities and provide advice to funding programs," said Cr Keith.

"That is why we call on the existing commitments under the Regional Development Australia Fund Rounds 4 and 5A in the region totalling over \$9m to be funded post the election, win lose or draw," said Cr Keith.

"These monies are for a variety of projects from plans across the region that identify priorities to help support and grow communities in Central NSW. They include a museum, an airport upgrade, playgrounds, cycle ways, lighting, pool upgrades, roads of significance from a regional development perspective and even a television tower for communities unable to get reception," said Cr Keith.

"The process to identify projects suitable for funding under the RDAF program is arduous. Significant monies are at stake and our members have been meticulous in ensuring transparency, accountability and a good strategic fit," said Cr Keith.

"We also call on all candidates to put a halt on the spin on what regional funding involves. Under the current scheme we have seen an increasing trend to spend monies in major metropolitan areas rather than in regional Australia. I can't think of anyone who would describe say "Fairfield" as regional. I am not saying our capital cities should not have access to funding, but it should be from a different and more transparently named fund. Funding for regional Australia should go to regional Australia," said Cr Keith.

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For comment please contact Cr Ken Keith on 0428 669 482

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