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MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr Neville Castle, Chair of Centroc

Centroc calls for the next steps to be taken to secure the Bells Line Corridor

Cr Neville Castle, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Lithgow will be meeting with Federal representatives this Friday to discuss the next steps in bringing the Bells Line of Expressway into reality.

“The Centroc Board recently wrote to Minister Albanese seeking support to ensure the next steps are taken to secure the corridor for a safe and swift journey between Sydney and Central NSW,” said Cr Castle.

“His office contracted us and have arranged to meet during the Australian Council of Local Government,” said Cr Castle.

“The Board understands that this will not happen overnight and before a shovel can go into the soil a lot of strategic work needs to be undertaken,” said Cr Castle.

“At the recent Centroc Board meeting in Cowra on 27 May we received advice that the work to secure the corridor could cost in the order of \$5 million and take several years,” said Cr Castle.

“With the increasing population pressure in Sydney, we need to secure the corridor as soon as possible. Anyone driving over the Great Western Highway will tell you that despite the significant upgrades, it is still a slow and dangerous journey. The topography of the communities along the Great Western Highway will only slow and congest the road further,” said Cr Castle.

“Before the last Federal election Centroc secured \$5 million of Federal monies for transport studies for the area. \$1.5 million has been expended and I will seek to ensure the remaining dollars and more go to securing the corridor for the Bells Line,” said Cr Castle.

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For media enquiry contact: Ms Jennifer Bennett 0428 690 935