

CENTROC SUMMIT 2012
THE SPACE TO BE

7-8
NOV 2012
BATHURST



Centroc Summit 2012 Report



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS



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Centroc's Mission is to be recognised as the lead organisation advocating on agreed regional positions and priorities for Central NSW whilst providing a forum for facilitating regional co-operation and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources; effectively nurturing sustainable investment and infrastructure development.

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Preamble

With funding from the NSW Environmental Trust, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency as part of its Community Energy Efficiency Program and generous sponsorship from Bathurst Regional Council, Centroc members organised a Summit for 7/8 November 2012 to build on the successes of the 2010 Summit.

Key note speakers were:

- Roy Ramage, Victor Harbour Renewable Energy Program
- Brad Byrnes Parkes Shire Council
- Jay Rutovitz, University of Technology
- Louise Kelly Hearts and Minds
- Christopher Warren of Responsible Tourism
- A panel of tourism industry leaders
- Vaughan Felton Organisational Change Consultant

There were a variety of presentations and these are available on the Centroc Website <http://www.centroc.com.au/publications/publications>, please see Summit presentations for the following presentations Louise Kelly of Hearts and Minds, Vaughan Felton Organisational change consultant, Roy Ramage of the Victor Harbour Renewable Energy Program and Christopher Warren of Responsible Tourism

The 100 Mile Dinner on Wednesday evening showcased the regions fine food and wine.

State representatives in attendance, Mr Don Page Minister for Local Government, Ms Melinda Pavey, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, Mr Andrew Gee Member for Orange and Mr Paul Toole Member for Bathurst were invited to provide feedback on Centroc priorities.



Centroc Summit 2012, Andrew Gee, Member for Orange,
Cr Phyllis Miller Chair of Centroc, Don Page Minister for Local Government, Paul Toole
Member for Bathurst

Priorities of the Region

Speech by Cr Phyllis Miller Chair of Centroc



Chair of Centroc Cr Phyllis Miller addressing the Summit attendees

Welcome to State and local representatives, members of industry and community and Council staff to our third Centroc Summit, again generously hosted by Bathurst Regional Council. I would like to especially thank the NSW Environmental Trust and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency as part of its Community Energy Efficiency Program for providing funding for this event.

This year our theme is Central NSW the Space to Be. We hope to give you space to think, to plan for our future with a view to rolling up our sleeves and getting on with making Central the Space to be. We have room here to grow and to deliver on a decade of decentralisation. We also provide a great space for people who need a break, to get away from the pressure of the city and appreciate the changing view around every corner and every rolling hill of the region. An unknown gem about this region is its value as a space to look into space – you will hear more about that this afternoon.

Centroc represents 17 local government organisations across 16 local government areas, from Lithgow to Lake Cargelligo, Crookwell to Condobolin, Wellington to Harden and everywhere in between. Our area is slightly bigger than Tasmania with a population about half the size of the Apple Isle and a bigger GDP.

Today local government is taking the initiative to build relationships in Central NSW to meet the challenges that face the region. We hope to build on our successes from our



Cr Monica Morse Mayor of Bathurst Welcoming attendees to Bathurst

Summit in 2010 year where we set direction for the region particularly in energy. We Local Government is going through a period of rapid change as a result of the Destination 2036 process and we have a space tomorrow morning to develop some ideas as a region in this regard.

We want to walk away tomorrow having had a good look at our priorities and ensuring all in attendance have had an opportunity to have a say about them.

Here in Central NSW, local government provides a broad range of services, broader than in metropolitan centres, over greater distances.

It is a challenge but one we rise to strategically.



Ms Gloria Rogers welcoming attendees to Country

We seek to be on the one page with the State Government about priorities for this region. For example transport, and commend the State for tackling a transport strategy both for the State and for this region. We have a lot to say, and know a lot about our region, particularly its transport needs and working WITH local government is imperative to ensure best value when we all know that despite the \$1bn being found by the auditor general, there is not a lot of money to go around for infrastructure.

We also know a lot and are delivering best practice in water supply and sewerage services. The work being undertaken collaboratively by the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance is cutting edge and national award winning. It has also had recognition from the Productivity Commission.

We would like to thank the State Government for its support of sustainability programming in the region. Our members are working to reduce our environmental impacts. Besides being good corporate citizens, our members are finding we are saving money as a result of our efforts especially in reducing energy consumption.

Health and particularly health workforce is another burning issue for us at a Local Government level. We do not believe we should be in the game of health provision, but as our communities call for our support, we find ourselves building medical centres, putting in place attract and retention programming and working with our communities to build patient accommodation and the like. We are keen to hear an update on the helicopter issue.



Ms Melinda Pavey, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health provided an update for members on current health issues

It is a well known fact that people in regional Australia are resilient. The efforts they go to privately funding what our metropolitan brethren take for granted attest to this. We want to get two clear messages across to State Government and our communities, while we are resilient and we punch well above our weight given our resourcing, we all need to back the region. Local Government cannot do it on our own. In fact we receive less than 5% of total public revenue. That is 5 cents in every tax payer's dollar that goes to roads, rubbish and all the other services we provide here in regional NSW where we provide more here than our city cousins who have greater rate revenue. Quite frankly, some filling of

the space in the till is in order.

My second point is directed at industry in the room. We want work with you for our regional benefit and ask your understanding regarding our resourcing. No one more than your Mayor and Councillors wants to spend more money in our communities. By working regionally and collaboratively, I believe we can put a better case to both State and Federal Governments for more resources for Central NSW.

Once again welcome to one and all and I look forward to working with you both today and into the future.

Energy Resilience for Central NSW

Background

At the last Centroc Summit the region voted hands down for action to be undertaken to tackle escalating electricity charges and look at renewable energy.

Subsequently the region has:

- Collectively procured electricity at well below anticipated prices.
- Completed the Carbon+ Project identifying renewable energy options for the Centroc Water Security Project.
- Continued its journey of community action in reducing energy bills and taking action on sustainability.
- Received over \$1m funding from the Federal Government to increase energy efficiency through upgrading 51 sites across Central NSW.
- Trialled a community solar panel bulk procure in Parkes with great success.
- Completed to a Regional Distributed Energy Plan including a tool for assessing energy efficiency and renewable energy options. The plan is yet to be approved by the Board.

The Agenda and speakers for the energy resilience component

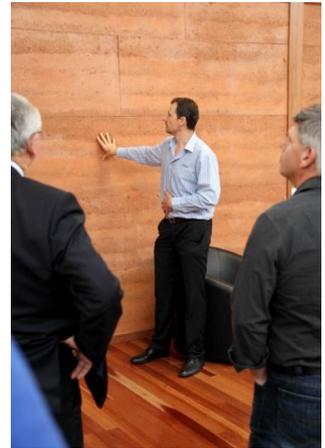
- Industry Breakfast at the Flannery Centre
- Roy Ramage
- Brad Byrnes
- Jay Ruotvitch
- Panel session including members from local industry

Presentations from speakers are available from the Centroc website.

Key Achievements of the morning session:

The Summit was successful in:

- increasing awareness of options for renewable energy and energy efficiency for all survey respondents and encouraging respondents (96%) to investigate actions to improve their management of energy, water and waste;



Day one breakfast at the Flannery Centre Bathurst

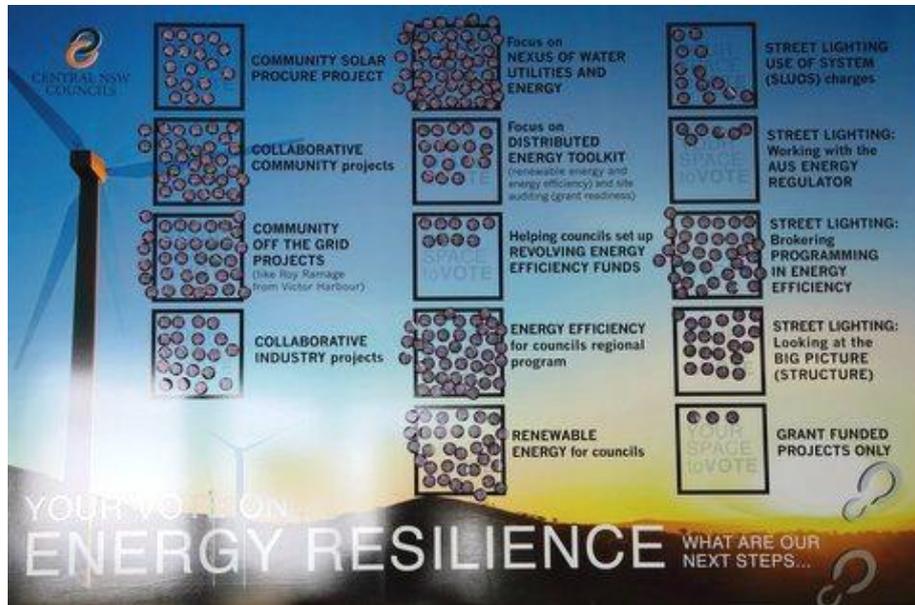


Mr Roy Ramage from Victor Harbour presenting their Renewable Energy Program



Mr Brad Byrnes from Parkes Shire Council

- securing clear direction for Centroc’s future work in the area of energy resilience in the region, with exploration around the link between water utilities and energy, and regional programming around energy efficiency for councils overwhelmingly nominated as priority areas.



Number of people purchasing tickets for the Wednesday morning (Energy Resilience) session and attending- **58**

Percentage of Centroc councils with representative at Summit **94%**

Percentage of attendees participating in placing their information on the Issues Board **335 stickers in Total where each attendee s received 10 stickers. 57% of all stickers went onto the Board.**

Percentage of respondents encouraged to investigate actions to improve their management of energy due to Summit events **92%**

Percentage of respondents with increased awareness of options for renewable energy and energy efficiency due to Summit events **100%**

Preliminary results for the most favoured options are as follows:

Community Solar Procure Project	18
Collaborative Community projects	32
Community off the Grid Projects	35
Collaborative Industry Projects	21
Focus on Nexus of Water Utilities and Energy	50
Focus on Distributed Energy Toolkit	17
Helping Councils set up Revolving Energy Efficiency Funds	9
Energy Efficiency for councils regional program	42
Renewable Energy for councils	33
Street lighting use of System (Slous) Charges	13

Street lighting Working with the Australian Energy Regulation	6
Street lighting brokering Programming in energy Efficiency	35
Street lighting :looking at the big picture(structure)	21
Grant funded projects only	3

Discussion

Members were clearly engaged with this session and have progressed in both understanding and action on energy since the Summit in 2010. The complexity of the options on the Energy Resilience Board enabled a clear direction for action for the region going forward.

Interestingly, the presentations from industry showed that there is plenty of scope for both cost and carbon savings in this sector, particularly with small to medium sized enterprises. At present, this has not been progressed. Centroc member may like to give thought to providing support in this area where Centroc has developed some tools which could aid members should they wish to go down this track.

Priorities for regional action are as follows, where members may wish to engage or lead in any of these initiatives:

- The Nexus between Water and Energy – Centroc will progress through the Centroc Water Utilities Alliance and will be applying for a grant early February.
- Using advice provided in a regional tool regarding energy consumption for all billable sites
- Participating in community bulk solar panel procurement projects.
- Scoping work in street lighting – watch this space.

Implications for members

1. Grant funding is dependent on grant readiness including a high degree of sophistication of energy audit data.
2. Members should keep an eye open for Centroc opportunities and participate as they can given the apparent success of regional applications.
3. There is a clear gap in uptake by small to medium sized businesses in energy efficiency and members could give consideration to providing support in this area.

Village Revitalisation Through Tourism

At the Summit 2010 it was identified that while cities in Central NSW are experiencing growth, there are challenges facing many small villages. There are a range of opportunities to revitalise these villages, which include attracting cultural and IT industries to the region. Tourism is another sector which offers good potential.

The development of a strategic and co-ordinated regional approach working on the strengths of the smaller communities with the added regional overlay of possible networks and clusters between them will offer greater resilience to Central NSW.

The 100 Mile Diet concept was mooted with a request for advice to come to the next Summit regarding resilience for smaller communities.

This evolved through the efforts of the tourism managers of the region and Central NSW Tourism to the 100,000 Hands project which seeks to grow tourism through a grass roots campaign of telling our own stories and regional cross promotion:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/100000-Hands/183111718492193#!/pages/100000-Hands/183111718492193>

and the 100 Mile Diet brochure both launched at the Summit.

Subsequently the Summit attendees requested this be progressed through a joint application by CNSW Tourism and Centroc to the Federal Tourism Industry Regional Fund.

This has occurred and copies are available on request.

The following speaker's presentations are available from the Centroc website.



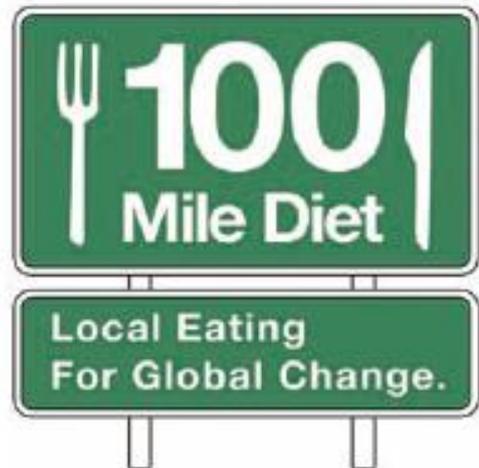
Chris Warren - Centre for Responsible Tourism - Australia

Louise Kelly - Hearts and Minds

Ms Kelly explained the need to change the way we market for tourism based on experience for the tourist traveller

Chris Warren - Centre for Responsible Tourism - Australia

Building the 100 Mile Trail experience.



Louise Kelly of Heart and Minds

100 Mile Dinner in the Pits

Dinner on Wednesday night was held in the Pits of Mount Panorama, the food and wine was sourced locally within a 100 Mile radius.



Minister Don Page presenting
at the 100 Mile Dinner

Minister Page was the Key Note speaker and provided advice regarding the Local Government reform process.



Day Two - Morning Session

A very well received session on organisational change through the leadership team was presented by Mr Vaughan Felton.



Vaughan Felton presenting on
change management

Members have expressed interest in having further work undertaken at a regional workshop. This is being progressed. Contact Jenny Bennett for more details on 0428 690 935.

Thank you for your participation and please contact Centroc staff at anytime to see how your support of the Summit is being progressed.