



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **For immediate release**

Approved for release by: Cr Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc

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### **Efficient Delivery of Quality Drinking Water by Central NSW Councils is OUR BUSINESS**

“The efficient delivery of high quality drinking water to our communities is the highest priority for Central NSW Councils,” said Councillor Ken Keith, Chair of Centroc speaking about the NSW Government’s response to the Infrastructure NSW First Things First Strategy released on 13 December.

“We are very pleased that the NSW Government has indicated that it will consult with local councils on a preferred model to improve the efficient delivery of high quality drinking water in regional areas,” said Cr Keith.

“The Central NSW council’s Water Utilities Alliance comprising 16 councils is already working together to ensure efficient compliance based delivery of critical water and sewer services across the region. Our local government water utilities are best practice compliant and water quality in the region is of a very high standard. We believe this is a demonstrably effective Alliance that the Local Government Review Panel will be very interested in as it effectively facilitates joint planning, resource sharing and most importantly cost effective quality drinking water,” said Cr Keith.

“Regional communities are already feeling the impacts of losing local management of our electricity. The last thing we want to see is our local water utilities taken down the same path as the electricity industry, with resources ultimately going out of the region and into the State Government coffers,” said Cr Keith.

“Recognition by the State Government of the continuing need to upgrade water and sewerage systems in regional towns to meet the ever changing national water quality and environmental standards are indeed welcomed. Also the investigation of options for the augmentation of current water storages and proposed new storages is an initiative that regions have been suggesting for decades.” said Cr Keith.

“In the past the State Government has contributed 50% to the cost of upgrades to local water utilities infrastructure through the Country Towns Water and Sewer Program, but with this program no longer in operation, any assistance to upgrade essential water utilities infrastructure, will be highly beneficial,” said Cr Keith.

“Water is our most valuable resource. Investment in essential and new regional infrastructure that secures this resource is a good investment in the future of Central NSW communities,” said Cr Keith.

**ENDS**

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