

Restructuring of Local Land
Services
SUBMISSION
March 2013



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS



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.

www.centroc.com.au

22 March 2013

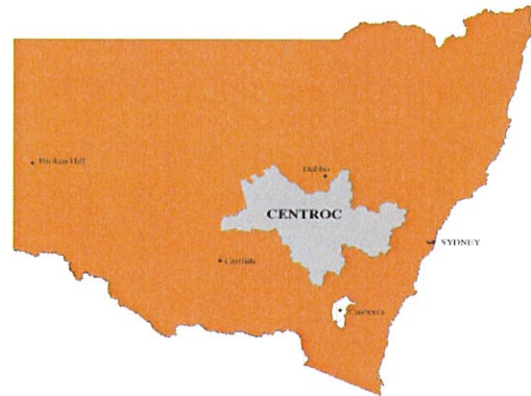
Reference: kk:vp 0313
Enquiries: Ms J Bennett: 0428 690 935

Dr John Keniry AM
Chair
Local Land Services Stakeholder Reference Panel
PO Box 865
Dubbo NSW 2830

Dear Dr Keniry,

Re: Restructuring of Local Land Services

Central NSW Councils (Centroc) represents over 236,000 people covering an area of more than 70,000sq kms comprising the Local Government Areas of Bathurst, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Harden, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Wellington, Young and Central Tablelands Water.



Centroc has two objectives:

Regional Sustainability - Encourage and nurture suitable investment and infrastructure development throughout the region and support members in their action to seek from Governments financial assistance, legislative and/or policy changes and additional resources required by the Region.

Regional Cooperation and Resource Sharing - Contribute to measurable improvement in the operational efficiency and effectiveness of Member Councils through facilitation of the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources and, where appropriate, the aggregation of demand and buying power.

The Centroc Board is made up of the 34 Mayors and General Managers of its member Councils who determine priority for the region. These priorities are then progressed via sponsoring Councils.



For more detailed advice on Centroc activities please find the recent Annual Report 2011/2012 on the Centroc website at www.centroc.com.au/publication

Centroc has decades of experience developing and administering programming across a large geographical area and draws the following commentary from lessons learnt.

Central NSW Councils is writing this submission in relation to the Department of Primary Industry, Catchment Management Authorities and the Livestock Health and Pest Authority that are being restructured into the one Local Land Services organisation. The Centroc Board would like to point out that a notable feature of this reform is the absence of a Lachlan based region.

Centroc Board members have also expressed concern regarding the lack of detail on the service provision and that Local Councils will become the rates collectors for the new entities. While members appreciate that Councils may be the logical entities to do this administration, it will have impacts on our customer service and rating resource and this should be factored in when considering compensation for Local Government assuming this role.

The Centroc Board met 28 February and broad discussions were held including consideration of boundary options. The Board subsequently resolved to lodge a submission commending that:

- Boundaries for inland NSW should be broadly on local government areas referencing agricultural sectoral activity;
- Boundaries should not be limited by the concept of “fewer is better” as currently appears to be the case, but rather that determinants including catchment, lga boundary, community of interest and agricultural sectoral activity should be the drivers. This will lead to a greater number of LLS’ which the Centroc Board suggests is more appropriate to their operations than the mooted eleven;
- Boundaries and other matters regarding the development of LLS should be considered using Triple Bottom Line principles and
- The State should canvas member Councils of Centroc for their views on which LLS they would more naturally fall into.

Please find over the page mapping that shows some suggested sizing for LLS’ in this region.

Please contact Executive Officer Jenny Bennett on 0428 690 935 for further information.

Kind regards,



Ken Keith
Chairman
Central NSW Councils (Centroc)

Local Land Services Reference Panel's proposed Local Land Services' boundaries

Local government area

