

## CENTROC MEDIA RELEASE

**Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, Mayor of Forbes  
Monday, 22 August 2011**

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### FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

### **A truck friendly road over the Blue Mountains NOW**

Forbes Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM has expressed her concern over the high number of accidents that continue to occur on the roads between Sydney and the Central West. “These truck accidents just keep happening – including on the so called “safer corners” recently upgraded on the Great Western Highway as it climbs from Lithgow up to Mount Victoria. How many deaths will it take for the penny to drop that a safer road needs to be built?” asked Mayor Miller.

“Another two nasty accidents on the same day last week closed both the Great Western Highway and the Bells Line. I guess you would not want a patient in an ambulance wanting to get to Sydney that afternoon. The fact is that both the Bells Line and the Great Western Highway are not cutting it as a safe swift freight linkage between Sydney and the Central West,” said Mayor Miller.

“There needs to be a safe, truck friendly road up the western escarpment sooner rather than later. There is tinkering around with the Great Western Highway but the accidents just continue”

“Central NSW already has a bigger GDP than Tasmania and the trucking industry will only grow”

“We also need to think about tourists and the people in our communities who have to either run the gauntlet of these dangerous roads or wait for hours while the roads are clogged or closed and then run the gauntlet. The statistics show that it is the people of Central NSW how are being killed more often on these two most dangerous roads in NSW,”

“Four serious accidents in a fortnight is just too much,” said Mayor Miller.

“The Centroc Board meeting is this Thursday in Lithgow and I know that the Mayors in the region are hopping mad about this issue. We will be talking about a new push to get this as top of mind for the State and Federal Governments,” said Mayor Miller.

**ENDS**

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