



CENTRAL NSW  
COUNCILS

# CENTROC

## MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 30 August 2011

Approved by Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, Mayor of Forbes

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### **Chair of Centroc Cr Phyllis Miller calls for parliament to debate 24 Hour Helicopter Service**

“At the Centroc Board meeting last Thursday the Mayors discussed the petition for a 24 Hour Helicopter service,” said Cr Phyllis Miller Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Forbes.

“The petition has been everywhere, over 30,000 people have signed it and signatures are still rolling in. It has been a fantastic effort by the region and a great demonstration of how co-operatively and effectively our communities work together,” said Cr Miller.

“The petition is being considered by parliament on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September and I look forward to hearing about robust discussion and the next steps towards getting this service for our region,” said Cr Miller

“The current contract CHC Helicopters has with Ambulance NSW for medical retrieval services by helicopter is for 12 hours a day and only during the day,” said Cr Miller.

“The medical fraternity tell us that the best chance of a good outcome from a medical emergency is to get the requisite care in the “golden hour,” or within an hour of the emergency,” said Cr Miller.

“A chopper out of Sydney, if it is available, is not going to get anyone Central NSW to the treatment they need within the golden hour. If the chopper is not available, the patient must be transported by road,” said Cr Miller.

“When you think about how only a fortnight ago both the Bells Line and the Great Western Highway were closed at the same time, it really brings home how we need a helicopter service for emergency retrievals,” said Cr Miller.

“I can’t imagine that it is a huge cost when compared to the number of people living in Central NSW. This is an area the same size as Tasmania with about half the population and a bigger GDP. You would think we would have a 24 hour emergency medical retrieval service. I was really shocked to hear that we did not have one,” said Cr Miller.

“Mayors of the region will be meeting with the Minister for Health on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. The Mayors at the Board meeting last week were keen to impress on the Minister the importance of the service for the region,” said Cr Miller.

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**For comment please contact** Cr Phyllis Miller on 0419 600 877