

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Approved by: Cr Phyllis Miller, Chair of Centroc

Freight over the Blue Mountains needs to be resolved

“With the recent deaths from accidents involving trucks on the Great Western Highway, it is well past time for freight over the Blue Mountains to be resolved,” said Cr Phyllis Miller, Chair of Centroc and Mayor of Forbes.

“Two nasty accidents highlighting the dangers of the road have occurred involving trucks since the beginning of the month. One killed two people, the other involved hospitalisation and surgery,” said Cr Miller.

“The Great Western Highway was closed for hours on both occasions which is really challenging as the topography in the region does not allow much by way of an easy alternative,” said Cr Miller.

“This is why the Mayors of Central NSW support the Bells Line of Expressway. I was very pleased to hear the Hon Duncan Gay saying we would see the answer in his lifetime to a reliable freight link between Sydney and the region,” said Cr Miller.

“I wish the Minister good health and at the same time suggest we need to resolve short term issues around safety right now. The Bells Line needs upgrading and there needs to be some changes to RTA rules to allow the larger and safer freight vehicles access across the mountains,” said Cr Miller.

“Fewer truck movements with the more regulated bigger vehicles mean safer roads. I am all for safer roads. This is not to suggest trucks or their professional drivers are the cause of these accidents, they are not over represented in the accident statistics, but when trucks are involved in an accident it is often severe, accordingly we should be looking for solutions to reduce accidents.” said Cr Miller.

“Central NSW already has a bigger GDP than Tasmania and the trucking industry will only grow,” said Cr Miller.

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For media enquiry contact: Jenny Bennett 0428 690 935