



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS



REPORT



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Preamble

With funding from the NSW Environmental Trust and generous sponsorship from Bathurst Regional Council, Centroc members organised a Summit for 29-30 July 2010 to build on the successes of the 2009 Summit and recharge the region.

Key note speakers were:

- Mr Jon Dee, Australian of the Year
- Prof David Karoly, eminent climate scientist
- Prof Ian Acworth, ground water scientist
- Mr Allan Jones, implementing change in reducing carbon emissions in local government

All presentations are available from centroc.com.au.

Young people gave their point of view. Mr Glenn Holdstock of the National Broadband Company explained the status of the national broadband roll out.

There were a variety of presentations from the electric car industry and practitioners of better environmental practice in Central NSW. An Expo had on display innovative technology in delivering resilience to Central NSW.

The awards night celebrated Robert Wilson OAM and the winners of the Country Energy Shiny Halo Awards.

Both the Opposition and Government at the Federal and State levels had opportunities to present their case for a vision for Central NSW responding to Centroc's priorities.



Bob Debus, retiring member for Macquarie and The Hon Steve Hutchins provided advice from a Federal perspective.

The Hon Christine Robertson on behalf of Country Labor led a panel session and provided commitments to follow-up on the issues Councils raised in the plenary session. She was ably supported by The Hon Tony Kelly.

Priorities of the Region

Speech by Cr Neville Castle, Chair of Centroc

Welcome to members from all levels of government and leaders of community organisations to our second Centroc Summit, again generously hosted by Bathurst Regional Council.

This year our theme is Recharging the Region. We hope to recharge our spirits and give consideration to ways in which we recharge the region through inspiration, innovation and perspiration. Those of you who were here yesterday will have enjoyed the first Electric Vehicle Challenge at Mount Panorama as well as a showcase of sustainable practice for the region. I would like to thank the NSW Environmental Trust for its sponsorship of the event.

Centroc represents 17 local government organisations across 16 local government areas, from Lithgow to Lake Cargelligo, Crookwell to Condobolin, Wellington to Harden and everywhere in between. Our area is slightly bigger than Tasmania with a population about half the size of the Apple Isle and a bigger GDP.

Today local government is taking the initiative to build relationships in Central NSW to meet the challenges that face the region. We hope to build on our successes from our Summit last year where we established strong relationships with government at both the State and Federal level, leading to outcomes like the Bells Line Long Term Strategic Corridor Plan where Centroc is on the steering committee.

We hope to grow our resilience and are putting our hands up as a region that looks positively for opportunity in a globe facing the impacts associated with a rapidly growing population.

We want to walk away this evening having had a good look at our priorities and ensuring all in attendance have had an opportunity to have a say about them.

Here in Central NSW, local government provides a broad range of services, broader than in metropolitan centres, over greater distances. It is a challenge but one we rise to strategically.

This year our priorities are first and foremost the Bells Line of Expressway. A safe road that allows fast access from Sydney to the West is essential. With a GDP bigger than Tasmania, freight transport to and from Central NSW is essential to the nation. Tourism is our third largest industry.

We say to all levels of government that the access from Sydney to the West is special.

While we welcome the upgrades to the Great Western Highway and the bypass around Orange, Centroc received commitment for before the last Federal election, no amount of upgrade can resolve the topographical issues for the communities over the Blue Mountains. The Great Western Highway will always be a local road for the citizens of Blue Mountains City Council. This is not the case for the expressways to the north and south of Sydney.

Subsequent to our requests at the Summit last year where we had good advice from Country Labor and further support from Bob Debus, Centroc, represented by me, is now on the steering committee for the Long Term Strategic Corridor Plan. I must say that this has been



a learning curve. It has come as both a shock and a disappointment to discover that this Plan will not identify the corridor. Indeed we understand a ballpark further \$5m and several years will need to be spent just to ascertain the Corridor. This is of great concern to the Centroc Board as the securing of the M7 to Kurrajong corridor is time critical given the growth in north west Sydney.

Given this, the Board have resolved to pursue funding for the suite of strategic work to identify the corridor.

Water and transport infrastructure are our next priorities. We thank the State Government for its support, backing our award winning Water Security Study. We hope to work with both the State and Federal Governments on how to improve water security for our townships, mining, industry and agricultural pursuits.

We seek to be on the one page with the State and Federal Governments about transport for this region. The inland corridor for the North South Rail Line is a case in point. We hope to see some real expenditure on nation building infrastructure in this region like the North South rail line in up and coming Federal budgets. Given the Federal Government's support for rail, the suggestion by the State that the five grain rail lines in the region may close is a mystery to me. Again Local Government is stepping up to the plate where member Councils are engaging in strategic work with a view to ensuring this rail infrastructure remains viable, particularly the Blayney Demondrille line which forms part of the north south link across the state. Local Government bears the brunt of managing roads in Central NSW and the ongoing dismantling of rail has a terrible toll on our budgets. We would like to see all levels of government work to backing a sensible, sustainable intermodal transport capability in Central NSW.

When it comes to broadband, we believe the Federal Government has had a real challenge, but has got it right. The Fibre to the Premises programming under the National Broadband Network is exactly what Australia needs. Central NSW Councils have put a lot of effort into understanding our broadband needs and capability and are keen to work with the Federal and State Governments on getting metro-comparable and scalable broadband into the region as soon as possible, as we are, after all a little bigger than Tasmania. At the recent meeting between Centroc and NBNC Co we were very encouraged by their recognition of our work and the subsequent commitment to engaging with us into the future.

We would like to thank the State Government for its support of sustainability programming in the region. Our members are working to reduce our environmental impacts and develop ways to adapt to climate change. We are working with schools, business chambers, Catchment Management Authorities and agriculture across the region to develop local strategies to help with the global problem.

Health and particularly health workforce is another burning issue for us at a Local Government level. We do not believe we should be in the game of health provision, but as our communities call for our support, we find ourselves building medical centres, putting in place attract and retention programming and working with our communities to build patient accommodation and the like. We thank the Federal Government for its funding of Cancer Care West.

Recognising our calls for support at the last Summit, the NSW Department of Industry and Investment has funded our health workforce attraction and retention marketing strategy. The recent Centroc Board meeting received advice on stage 2 of the project - implementation.

It is a well known fact that people in regional Australia are resilient. The efforts they go to privately funding what our metropolitan brethren take for granted attest to this. We want to get two clear messages across to State and Federal Government and our communities, while we are resilient and we punch well above our weight given our resourcing, we all need to back the region. Local Government cannot do it on our own. In fact we receive less than 5% of total public revenue. That is 5 cents in every tax payer's dollar that goes to roads, rubbish and all the other services we provide here in regional NSW where we provide more here than our city cousins who have greater rate revenue. Quite frankly, some recharging of the till is in order.

My second point is directed at our peak community groups. We want work with you for our regional benefit and ask your understanding regarding our resourcing. No one more than your Mayor and Councillors wants to spend more money in our communities. By working regionally and collaboratively, I believe we can put a better case to both State and Federal Governments for recharging our resources in Central NSW.

Once again welcome to one and all and I look forward to working with you both today and into the future.



Speeches from the young people at the Summit

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen.

My name's **Melinda Nancarrow** and I am Youth Mayor of the Bathurst Regional Council, representing All Saints College.

It is wonderful to see you all attending this Summit, collaborating and working towards recharging the region.

We have been presented with a great range of new technology and innovative ideas which gives us the opportunity to further our knowledge whilst planning for the future and transforming communities.

This will not only effect our generation but many more to come, so I would like to thank you all for participating in working towards creating a more environmentally resilient region.



Melinda Nancarrow, Mitchell Dwyer and Nathan Inwood deliver speeches on behalf of young people

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name's **Nathan Inwood**. I am Deputy Youth Mayor of the Bathurst Regional Youth Council and also represent Bathurst High Campus.

I have a passion for climate change, as a young member of society, it is myself, my generation and future generations that will be affected by what is or isn't done right now. It is great to see that all of you people here today are taking an interest in our future and in ensuring an environment for the future.

Recharging the region is such an excellent concept, the only way to start change is in our own backyard, every individual helps. Education is a key, we must learn to live greener, and it seems some of the greener living options shown here can help dramatically with the beginning of this. As a young member of society I am grateful that such technologies and innovations are being developed.



Once again I would like to thank each of you for attending something that is looking after the future, our future, my future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am **Mitchell Dwyer**, a year 10 student at St Stanislaus College, Bathurst and a member of the Bathurst Regional Youth Council.

Bathurst and the surrounding areas have a huge potential to further integrate the use of various renewable resources to meet the growing need for power in the area. The Blayney wind farm was one initiative that has become a huge success producing over 9.9 mega watts of power, it is estimated that it will save four hundred thousand tonnes of power during its 20 year life.

There has been little information about the benefits of renewable energy. This conference so far has enlightened me, and showed different aspects of renewable energy, I encourage and support the organisers of this summit to continue these conferences so that there will be a greener future.



Centroc's priorities for the 2010 Summit

Bells Line of Expressway



The Centroc Board is pleased to be included as a member of the steering committee of the Bells Line of Expressway Long Term Corridor Plan.

Members have consistently called for an Expressway standard connection between Sydney and the west.

The Bells Line of Road and Great Western Highway are the two most dangerous roads in Australia. Members want safe, fast access between Central NSW and Sydney.

Members have also been concerned with the studies undertaken to date, in that the studies do not recognise the growth that would happen as a result of the Bells Line of Expressway; the studies instead make decisions based on the constrained transport options currently available.

Members also contend that the topography of the Blue Mountains is special, ensuring that the Great Western Highway will always need to be a local road. Therefore there will always be congestion issues that impact our industry particularly our tourism industry, the third largest industry in Central NSW and growing.

Members seek to have the corridor preserved in the first instance particularly the section between the M7 and Kurrajong.

At the meeting of the Board May 2010, it was resolved that Centroc seek the monies required for the preservation of the corridor where advice provided to the meeting was that this would be in the order of \$5m.

As the Federal Government has \$3.5m committed to transport studies for the region, support at this level is being sought in the first instance.

Call to action

Centroc is seeking assurance of the requisite funding for the strategic works to identify the corridor for the Bells Line

Centroc Water Security Study

Centroc has been successful in accessing funding for a water security study. The study has been developed in response to the worst drought on record in the region and local communities seeking a higher level of water security. From the advice within this Study, Centroc will work on ways to improve water security in the region including seeking funding for appropriate infrastructure solutions.

This study is the first of its kind in the nation as it considers a regional approach to water security as a result of climate change for urban communities in the context of other water users such as irrigators, the environment and industry such as mining.

All Central NSW Council's members form part of the Murray Darling basin and have been experiencing the exigencies associated with the combination of over allocation of water and the worst drought on record. The study considers the risks to water security including climate change and it is anticipated that the findings will be news to the region, State and nation. This new advice will have impacts on strategic work including funding. Therefore assistance will be sought from other levels of government.

The study provides advice regarding policy and infrastructure augmentation in Central NSW to improve water security for the communities served by 17 member local government authorities.

Centroc seeks support from the State and Federal governments to assure an adequate level of water security.

On 2 February Minister Costa agreed to come to Canberra with Centroc members to seek funding for the infrastructure required to deliver water security to the communities of Central NSW.

At the Board meeting on 25 February it was resolved that Centroc seek funding for securing water supplies in Central NSW as a federal pre-election commitment. Centroc is seeking \$30m for the preconstruction strategic works for the augmentation of Lake Rowlands and associated piping as well as the building of minor storages at Cumnock, Yeoval and Condobolin.

Call to action
Centroc is seeking funding for the feasibility and other pre-construction works for the upgrade of Lake Rowlands and associated infrastructure.

Growing Health Workforce Beyond the Range

Centroc members believe they should not be in the role of health provision, yet as communities call for this type of support, Centroc member Councils are building medical centres and working on attracting and retaining health work-force.

Centroc members are interested in developing flexible workforce options tailored to the needs of this region where Centroc's audit of the region suggests that what is in place to date needs to change.

Regarding attracting and retaining the health workforce, Centroc is developing a website and other tools to facilitate this. The brand for the concept is 'Beyond the Range' and looks to welcome health workforce to work, life and a rural experience in Central NSW beyond the range of what they are currently experiencing in metropolitan areas. This project has been funded 50% by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment.

Where stage 1 provided the branding and marketing advice, Stage 2 builds the website itself. Centroc is seeking support at both the State and Federal levels for Stage 2.

Call to action
Centroc is seeking interested funding partners in developing the Beyond the Range concept



Telecommunications

Centroc has audited the broadband needs for this region and has responded to all calls from both the State and Federal Government regarding the regional position on telephony. Centroc seeks to ensure that landline, mobile and data services are constantly improving and to ensure that the region is internationally competitive.

Digital Television is raised as an issue where members are keen to hear how the switch over will affect free to air for satellite service users. Centroc's position on broadband is that:

- a. any upgrades be affordable and will scale into the future with the growth of broadband needs
- b. there be wholesale access to infrastructure
- c. there be price parity
- d. there be no overbuild
- e. the regulatory environment be amended to enable the above
- f. that the Centroc region be considered early in the roll out as it is broadband ready and is an area of need



It should be noted that the policy of Centroc to date fits well with the new direction taken by the Federal Government.

Centroc seeks support from the State and Federal Governments to take advantage of significant work undertaken in the region in auditing its broadband needs and capability and prioritise Central NSW for the National Broadband Network roll out. Centroc seeks to ensure that landline, mobile and data services are constantly improving and to assure that the region is internationally competitive.

Call to action
Centroc is seeking to be early on the roll out of the National Broadband Network.

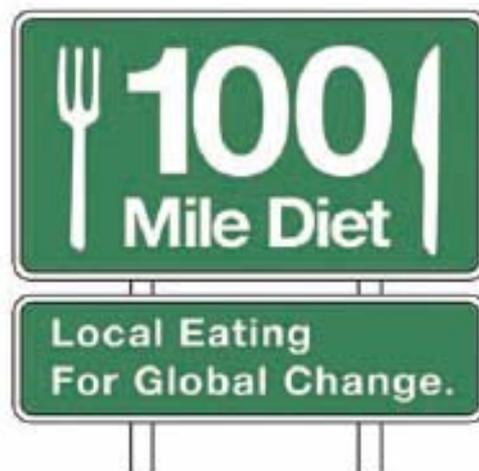
Village Revitalisation Strategy

While cities in Central NSW are experiencing growth, there are challenges facing many small villages. There are a range of opportunities to revitalise these villages, which include attracting cultural and IT industries to the region. Tourism is another sector which offers good potential.

In Central NSW there may also be potential to build similar programming like that of Evocities, perhaps on the back of this program.

The development of a strategic and co-ordinated regional approach working on the strengths of the smaller communities with the added regional overlay of possible networks and clusters between them will offer greater resilience to Central NSW.

Some communities in Central NSW are well into tackling such strategies with a minimum of support for example the Cumnock rent-a-farmhouse initiative. There may be opportunities for collaboration between communities to grow capacity in this sector as well as building regional opportunities.



State and Federal funding have provided resource for similar renewal programming, for example in Newcastle. There is also funding for smaller communities though the gap seems to be for communities of a medium size, in our region including Wellington, Parkes, Forbes, Cowra and the like.

There are a broad range of ideas under discussion in the region ranging from the 100 Mile concept, building on our museums and heritage, through to smaller communities becoming destinations through the inclusion of innovative architectural refits on a grand scale through collaboration with universities – modelled on the Rural Studio concept from Auburn University in Alabama. Centroc members are seeking State and Federal interest in working together to revitalise villages in the region.

Call to action

Centroc members are seeking State and Federal interest in working together to revitalise villages in the region

EV Recharge Station Network

Transport infrastructure is the second priority of the Centroc Board. Future transport options for Australia are likely to include electric vehicle (EV) transportation as a response to oil supply issues, greenhouse gas emissions and air quality concerns as well as problems related to energy storage. EV Trials are happening around in the world and in Western Australia and Victoria. The NSW Government has an EV Taskforce.

Currently discussions around EV recharging networks revolve around Charging Networks being built in major cities, with the first battery swapping network planned for Canberra in 2011. A pilot recharge station has been built in Sydney and it is expected that an EV recharge rollout will happen there in the near future.

Centroc members suggest that trials for EV Trials should occur in Central NSW so that issues pertinent to regional areas are ironed out early.

By setting up a low cost trial of EV Recharging Stations throughout Central NSW the region can demonstrate the highway readiness of electric vehicles and the capacity of electric vehicles to offer a serious transport option to all Australians. City drivers are more likely to invest in the high initial cost of electric vehicles if it can be shown that they can be used for long distance travel as well.



Centroc proposes a Trial Recharging Network that links Sydney to Canberra via all 16 member local government areas. It is envisaged that the network can be used initially as part of a tourism campaign, "Come to Central NSW to recharge your batteries". This offers a low cost way of offering recharge stations, alongside existing caravan parks and accommodation venues that can meet the needs of the first generation of early adapters wanting to test their vehicles on long journeys. The network would also support local drivers and involve the community and business in exploring innovative and entrepreneurial options for the future.

The region has begun this network by working with the Western Institute of TAFE, who as a result of the Summit are currently installing recharge stations in Lithgow, Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo. Centroc is involving the education sector in building a new Green industry and servicing capacity for the region. Great news is that the electric vehicle manufacturers Tesla and The Electric Car Company are working with TAFE on programming in electric vehicle manufacture and maintenance.

Call to action

Centroc seeks to have discussions at the State and Federal level about opportunities to foster "recharging the region" including a network of electric vehicle recharge network.

Synopsis of the speakers

Day One

Electric Vehicles – Session 1

The electric vehicle challenge made available the best possible information to the region to support and encourage local innovation and industry development.

The focus on electric vehicles at Mt Panorama provided local government, community, training organisations and businesses with access to the leading players in this field to be able to form partnerships and collaborations to act on opportunities like:



- the potential tourism campaign “Come to Central NSW to Recharge Your Batteries”
- lobbying for Central NSW to be included in any future State and Federal Government and Industry decision making in the rollout of electric vehicles
- accessing State and Federal government and industry support to run a pilot program testing the highway readiness of electric vehicles
- creating new industry and training opportunities
- setting up and attracting new industries to the region, particularly ones that might be more attractive to younger people

Session one speakers drew attention to Australian innovation in the development of electric vehicles.

Michael Inwood in his session *Brave New Farming* focussed on how electric vehicles could be part of a much bigger picture that tackles the possibility of zero emissions agriculture - both from an environmental perspective and also to build resilience in the farming sector by reducing future overheads.

Kearon de Clouet from the Electric Car Company demonstrated how any vehicle, from a Ford Capris to a formula green racing vehicle, can be retrofitted with an electric motor. The Australian Electric Vehicle Association has been a leader in educating and supporting the development of this technology in Australia.

Michael Gutteridge from Deep Green in Queensland is part of a team who are leaders in research and development globally. He provided advice on his team’s Australian developed motor and controller, which offers Australia the opportunity to innovate and lead the world, creating local industry and opportunity.

Ross Blade from Blade Electric Vehicles in Victoria is producing Australia’s first commercially available plug-in electric vehicles. The Electron was able to demonstrate that it could carry four adults at a time easily over the testing steep mountain and down the long straight picking up valuable regenerative energy at the same time. Ross Blade also demonstrated that vehicles are now available in this country and that small businesses can easily become involved in providing recharging options for such tourism strategies as have been suggested by Centroc.

Session two

Session two was designed to showcase the international companies who see Australia as a market opportunity.

These are the companies working on trials with State and Federal Government with both vehicles and recharging stations and should Central NSW wish to be at the forefront of this industry and included in all policy making, it is critical to understand the state of play in this area. This session offered Centroc advice on the opportunity to develop partnerships with a view to setting up a pilot that trials all options to showcase the potential of electric vehicles for rural Australia.

Ashley Sanders, Mitsubishi's project manager for i-miEV, drew attention to plans by one of the leaders in Electric Vehicle development and deployment internationally. The i-Miev has 40 vehicles being trialled in Australia and Mitsubishi is partnering globally to trial electric taxis in Japan, recharging opportunities etc. It is the first more affordable international vehicle company (other than Tesla) to bring 100% electric vehicles into this country and their vehicles are being trialled by all levels of government.



Kevin Campbell presented Ecotality as a world leader in building recharging facilities and the company's American arm is being funded by the Obama administration to build recharging stations down the west coast of the US. Ecotality is working with large industry partners such as Qantas, to include recharging facilities for industry as well as domestic vehicles.

Luke Grana presented Chargepoint who specialise in networked recharging stations and has installed the first recharging facility for City of Sydney in Glebe. They are part of a larger international company called Coulomb Technologies who've set up a range of models for recharging facilities, including recharging at McDonalds restaurants in Caroline, U.S.

Luke Prosser presented Better Place which has had global attention for its battery swapping infrastructure which will start to be rolled out in Canberra and Newcastle, and possibly Sydney, next year. Central NSW is in an ideal position to capitalise on its location between these centres to pick up on the tourism potential of providing recharging stations or facilities for electric vehicle owners to feel secure in having weekend getaways.

100 Mile Dinner

Mr Jon Dee, founder of National Tree Day and Planet Ark is NSW Australian of the Year and Manager of Do Something! He is also author of “Sustainable Growth”, published by Sensis. Mr Jon Dee spoke of his entrepreneurial ability to achieve social and environmental action utilising business partnerships.



Day two

Professor Karoly gave a presentation analysing the most recent climate information available and addressed the confusion surrounding information presented by the media. Professor Karoly is also co-ordinating the SEARCH programme in which his team at the University of Melbourne is seeking early climate records from the Centroc region. Centroc has summarised Professor Karoly’s advice in its Weather Report for August 2010. For this and other regionally specific advice on weather in Central NSW, please go to <http://centroc.com.au/environment/weather-report>



Professor Acworth highlighted that, in a warming world, storing water underground is far more efficient than storing it above ground and exposing it to evaporation. He is the Director of the Connected Waters Initiative and the Program Leader for the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training in Wellington which officially opens later this year and will be exploring the relationship between surface water and groundwater under a range of different conditions along the Macquarie River.



Allan Jones, MBE spoke of ways energy can be transferred and used more efficiently and the legislative change needed to allow for decentralised power generation which reduces transmission costs and losses. He highlighted that many of the technologies that are perceived as 'new' have actually been operational internationally for over 100 years. He described what he achieved in Woking in the UK (creating the Island of Woking), for City of London and now what he's doing in the City of Sydney.



Awards Presentation

LGP sponsored the inaugural **Robert Wilson OAM Award** for Services in Progressing Local Government Regional Cooperation. This is an annual award, which is in memory of long standing Councillor Robert Wilson OAM who died tragically in 2009.

The award is for an individual councillor or council staff member for their efforts in Regional Cooperation Initiatives, where they have been nominated by their council.

The successful nominee was Cr Terry Hogan AM, Mayor of Jerilderie Shire Council. Cr Paul Braybrooks OAM, Chairperson LGP Board presented the plaque to Cr Hogan. A \$1,000 donation has been made to Can Assist of Coleambally. Cr Terry Hogan is pictured with Vicky Wilson and Cr Paul Braybrooks of Local Government Procurement who sponsored the award.



Winners of the Country Energy Shiny Halo Awards

Shiny Halo – Organisation

TAFE Western - with their Green Skills Development program and associated community outreach. Building resilience by teaching green skills to tomorrow's tradies.



Shiny Halo – Schools

e2 Education Innovation at Blayney, Orange and Molong High Schools using web conferencing to deliver education outcomes. Building resilience through partnership and collaboration.



Shiny Halo – Business

Michael Inwood and Zero Emissions Agriculture. Building resilience through improved agricultural practice.



Shiny Halo – Community Group

Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway for innovative partnerships and promotion of the rail region. Building resilience through strong community partnerships and networks.



Shiny Halo – Individual

Mikla Lewis and her outstanding contribution to biodiversity around Grenfell. Building resilience by supporting biodiversity conservation and sharing her knowledge with others.



Shiny Halo – Council

Central Tablelands Water for taking on the Go Tap Initiative. Building resilience by supporting tap water consumption, reducing waste and carbon miles.



Shiny Halo – Most Frequent Blogger

Helen Deane and her diverse contributions to the Shiny Halo blog. Building resilience through communication, networking and sharing of knowledge via the Shiny Halo blog.



The Collaboration Board

A collaborations board identifying options for priority for regional resilience action.

This advice will form part of the forward strategic program for Centroc.

Preliminary results for the most favoured options are as follows:



Resilience Area	Issue	Count of Stickers
Energy	Establish renewable energy generation and decentralised power systems utilising solar and solar thermal, windpower, geothermal and trigeneration	34
Transport	Support and advocate for rail in the region	31
Water	Implement the Centroc Water Security Study	31
Ag and Food	Develop more localised food producing systems in the community	29
Health	Support strategies for attracting and retaining health workforce in the region	27
Health	Work on village revitalisation projects	22
Financial	Utilise the combined buying power of the region to bring down the cost of water and energy efficient new and alternative technologies - electric vehicles, recharge stations, solar panels, solar hot water etc	20
Transport	Set up an Electric Vehicle Recharge Network linking all our local government regions to Sydney and Canberra. Support this with education in EV and support local entrepreneurialism and manufacturing options	20
Ecosystem	Support Netwaste and encourage innovation in waste management	19
Ag and Food	Explore capabilities in the region for Carbon sequestration	16

The Way Forward

Already some interesting and profitable outcomes have occurred as a result of the Summit. The way forward will be managed strategically by Centroc with a view to resourcing and ensuring the “best bang for our buck”.

The Centroc position on the Environmental Sustainability was supported at the Summit by:

- Including a range of important issues to Centroc (such as Bells Line of Road and Water Security) in an environmental agenda allowing integration of issues in the longer term.
- Directing substantial media including to ABC television on the issue
- Having the first fully electric car to cross the Blue Mountains specifically for our event.
- Having the first Electric vehicle and Mayoral Bike challenge at Mount Panorama and the national media attention it attracted.

In terms of outcomes besides the significant media from the Summit

- TAFE Western and their Greenskills Program are looking to team up with some of the electric vehicle retailers from the Summit to start developing an electric vehicle maintenance course at TAFE.



- A number of those attending the Summit, particularly the electric vehicle aficionados were enthusiastic about growing some type of annual electric vehicle event at Mt Panorama. Mr Michael Inwood of “Toulon” Bathurst in particular is keen to be involved in an annual event at Mt Panorama which would build on this year’s Summit - suggesting that there may be corporate interest and sponsorship opportunities because prototypes are big “publicity getters” and this is the premier racing track in Australia (an offer of sponsorship from Shannon’s Insurance has been received). All vehicle manufacturers have something on the drawing board and he also suggested that there are not really any motor shows in regional Australia and certainly not for cars of the future so he sees real scope for the region in developing this concept. Certainly no other motor show has the ability to take people for test drives on the best track in Australia.
- Michael Gutteridge, another electric car manufacturer, is working with investors and developing a proposal for Centroc to provide much lower cost fleet vehicles to local government.
- Ross Blade of Blade Electron has suggested that if there was enough interest in the region for electric vehicles he would consider relocating his business to Central NSW.

- Jon Dee, Australian of the Year has provided background information on the 10% challenge and this is attached where it is commended it be forwarded as a report to members for their Council's consideration. Centroc has ordered 300 of his books free of charge for dissemination among members. A review is being undertaken by the Centroc Compliance and Cost Savings Program Manager of the suggestions by Jon Dee for cost savings and sustainability purposes.
- Regional interest in the Allan Jones presentation for ongoing collaboration with regards to regional energy master planning and the exciting opportunities for energy self reliance.

Thank you for your participation and please contact Centroc staff at anytime to see how your support of the Summit is being progressed.