

Memorandum of Understanding

Between



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

and



Regional
Development
Australia
CENTRAL WEST

PLACE HOLDER FOR HANDSHAKE IMAGE

This Memorandum of Understanding

Dated

Is between

Central NSW Councils (referred to as Centroc)

AND

Regional Development Australia Central West (RDACW)

[Collectively referred to as "the parties"]

1. PRINCIPLES

1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is to record the determination of Centroc and RDACW to cooperate to progress identified priorities and challenges, in the areas of;

- Transport and logistics
- Quality and secure water supply
- Health
- Telecommunications
- Regional Development
- Employment & Education
- Planning
- Energy and
- Culture and Arts

to achieve better economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Councils, communities, industries and organisations within Centroc and RDACW boundaries.

1.2 This Memorandum of Understanding will streamline the governance process and endeavor to reduce duplication by both parties to support initiatives of common identified priorities and challenges.

1.3 The parties intend to work together on common priorities and challenges as identified in their respective strategic plans.

1.4 The parties intend to work together, at the same time respecting differing priorities and needs of both organisations.

1.5 The parties recognise the importance of strengthening the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the communities in which they operate.

- 1.6 The parties acknowledge that at times they will:-
(a) Disagree
(b) Hold different priorities
(c) Have priorities that are irrelevant to the other party.
- In such circumstances the individual party is free to pursue its own priority, respecting the view of the other party and not act to undermine the other party.
- 1.7 It is intended that matters of mutual interest will be matters for the parties, but not all matters of mutual interest will be developed jointly.
- 1.8 The parties agree that there are operational areas or categories, where there should be:
(a) Dialogue
(b) Co-operation
(c) Information sharing
(d) Formal Agreement
- 1.9 The parties agree that there are operational processes which will provide structure around matters involving;
(a) Advocacy
(b) Regional boundaries
(c) Funding
(d) Meeting attendance & reporting
(e) Collaborative regional projects
- 1.10 The parties recognise substantial opportunities exist for the development of the Central West.

2. PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- 2.1 The priorities and challenges identified through both individual and collaborative strategic planning processes by the parties include;
- The development and sustainability of transport and logistics (including public transport) and water infrastructure for the region
 - Retention and growth of health services including aged care services
 - Improved telecommunications for future sustainability
 - The need for infrastructure and services to sustain communities
 - Regional development and investment
 - Employment, education, youth development and skill shortages
 - Planning sustainable urban, industrial and environmental development
 - Energy supply (including renewable energy) and pricing stability
 - Improved funding and support for culture and the arts
 - Developing further capacity to achieve successful outcomes for the region through Commonwealth and State funding programmes
 - Industry development, with a focus on key contributing industries including, but not limited to, agriculture

3. CATEGORIES

3.1 MATTERS FOR DIALOGUE

- Advocating for the region
- Identification and development of strategies to address the identified priorities and challenges of the region
- Inter-regional activities & projects

3.2 MATTERS FOR COOPERATION

- Advocating for the region
- Grant acquisition
- Regional projects
- Information and knowledge sharing
- Inter-regional activities and projects

3.3 MATTERS FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT

- Advocating for the region
- Grant acquisition
- Information and knowledge
- Sharing of resources
- Development of resources
- Regional projects
- Inter-regional activities and projects

4. OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

4.1 ADVOCACY

- 4.1.1 The parties agree to provide background information to the Executive Officer of the other party prior to lobbying activities which may impact on the other party.
- 4.1.2 The parties agree to provide support to the other for advocacy purposes by way of media releases, social media and or letters of support to progress common identified priorities.
- 4.1.3 One party will not act to undermine the other party.
- 4.1.4 The parties agree to following either party's branding and support guidelines.

4.2 REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

- 4.2.1 The parties are free to work with members of the other party individually or collectively.
- 4.2.2 Where Centroc's members and activities involve RDAs other than CW, Centroc is to advise RDACW first of activities to be undertaken with another RDA.

4.3 FUNDING

4.3.1 The parties agree to provide support in a timely manner to the other for grant acquisition by way of letters of support where funding is sort to progress common priorities.

4.3.1 The parties will agree to share information that may assist in the development of grant applications.

4.4 MEETINGS & REPORTING

4.4.1 The Chair of RDACW is invited to attend the meeting of the Board of Centroc on an ongoing basis.

4.4.2 The RDACW Executive Officer is invited to attend the General Managers Advisory Meetings (GMAC) on an ongoing basis.

4.4.3 The Executive Officer of Centroc and/or other Centroc members may be invited to attend RDACW committee meetings to discuss regional matters from time to time.

4.4.4 RDACW updates on its activities, provided to Centroc from time to time, may be used in part or in full by Centroc in its Annual Report should it elect to do so.

4.5 COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL PROJECTS

4.5.1 The parties agree to work collaboratively on projects of common interest, to reduce duplication and expand benefits of funded projects.

4.5.2 The parties' involvement in each project will be determined by their available resources.

4.5.3 A work plan outlining collaborative projects at Appendix A will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure its relevance.

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1 This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute a partnership between the parties, nor a joint venture.

5.2 This Memorandum of Understanding does not authorise one party to represent or act as an agent or speak on the behalf of the other party.

5.3 This Memorandum does not authorise one party to incur a debt on behalf of or the other party.

- 5.4 Where one party has obtained sensitive information for joint purposes, it will not misuse that information for its own benefit or to the detriment of the other party.
- 5.5 With regards to intellectual property;
- 5.5.1 Neither party may use the logo or corporate image of the other unless agreed in writing by the parties for joint marketing, sponsorship or grant acquisition purposes.
- 5.5.2 If a party develops or makes available any intellectual property in the course of or for the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding:
- (a) All proprietary rights to that intellectual property will remain the sole property of that party;
- And
- (b) That intellectual property may only be used by the other party for the purposes of this Memorandum of Understanding and with the prior consent of the first party.
- 5.6 One party will not attempt to actively mislead the other party.
- 5.7 This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at any time, however separate agreements may continue and be dealt with on their own terms.
- 5.8 There shall be no variation to this Memorandum of Understanding unless such variation is in writing and signed by both parties.

6. TERM OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 6.1 It is intended this Memorandum of Understanding is ongoing.
- 6.2 This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at any time by either party by giving written notice to the other party.
- 6.3 This Memorandum of Understanding and its effectiveness will be reviewed annually.

Signed by

Central NSW Councils

.....
Chair

.....
Secretary

Signed by

Regional Development Australia – Central West

Chair

.....
Secretary

Witnessed by

Minister for Regional NSW

Date:.....25th of May.....2017

Appendix A – the Work Plan for Collaborative Projects for RDA Central West and Centroc

Last Updated: 11 January 2017

| Project Name | Description | Commitments | Timeframe |
|--|--|--|---|
| Regional Tertiary Education Plan | Assessment of threats and opportunities in the regional vocational and tertiary education services sector across the Central West. | Parties will work together, and with other stakeholders as necessary, to identify strategies to address threats and challenges across the region from reform in the tertiary education sector. | June 2017 |
| VA Agriculture opportunities | Further development of agriculture sector opportunities | Joint review of RDA report on VA to agriculture to identify best opportunities and how to progress. More broadly, both parties agree to provide information and support on opportunities to increase the economic contribution to the region from agriculture. | April 2017 |
| Telecommunications Infrastructure Prioritisation | Regional Infrastructure Prioritisation – including telecommunications | Allocation of telecommunications priorities into MCA format. Develop a joint advocacy strategy. Facilitate input for Round 3 MBSP. | Matrix: End March Advocacy: Ongoing Round 3 MBSP : depending on programme timeframe |
| Regional Collaboration | Demonstration project on JO and RDA collaboration | Identify opportunities to propose pilot initiatives that demonstrate regional development leadership and outcomes, with the support of NSW Government. | First quarter 2017 |
| Data Co-design | Regional data co-design project aligned to funding framework for regional areas. | Centroc to take the lead on a collaborative project currently being co-designed with a theme "What are the data requirements for making the case for investment in our region." | December 2017 |

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|------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| | | RDA to support project through supporting the activities of the EDOs | |
| Strategic Transport Infrastructure | Regional transport infrastructure prioritisation, including Strategic Roads Working Group (a cross-agency group focusing on optimizing roads in the region) | RDA Central West to continue to work closely with Centroc on freight drivers and priorities, building upon our combined evidence base and stakeholder network to inform direction and deliver superior results for the region | Ongoing |
| Regional governance and engagement | Pursuing opportunities for improved engagement with State and Commonwealth Government in the region | Centroc and RDA Central West to identify, advocate for, support and encourage new methods of effective engagement with regional stakeholders through the Regional Development Framework, RLG/ RLN etc. | First quarter 2017 |