



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **STRATEGIC ALLIANCE TO ENTER NEW ERA**

The WBC strategic alliance formed in 2003 between three Central West councils is poised to enter a new era as a body representing rural councils in the region.

The Blayney and Cabonne Shire Councils with Central Tablelands Water County Council have reaffirmed their commitment to remain in the very successful alliance, which has contributed to the \$6.8 million worth of savings attained during the past 14 years. This was via the economies of scale achieved by joint purchasing and collaborative arrangements led by the Executive Manager role appointed by the Alliance in 2008.

At the Board meeting held this week, it was unanimously agreed that now the proposed council mergers are off the table that a new model and approach would take this organisation into the future.

The current Chairman and Blayney Shire Mayor, Scott Ferguson said the Alliance will remain as an important group that has a significant role in strengthening connections with like-minded rural councils in the Central West.

“The existing members have reaffirmed their commitment and benefits of being part of this organisation and the Board will engage with potential new partners as it investigates the advancement of the Alliance,” Cr Ferguson said.

Formed in 2003 by Wellington, Cabonne and Blayney Councils, the Alliance has delivered average savings of \$523,000 a year to its member councils and completed more than 65 joint projects across most areas of council service delivery and local government business.

Its largest project, undertaken in 2010-11, involved the joint tender, purchase and implementation of corporate information technology systems, saving \$470,000.

The Alliance has received eight major awards for excellence and innovation, including the Australian Local Government Award for Excellence in its inaugural year and runner-up in the same award in 2009.

Following the decision to take the Alliance in this new direction, the Board and Executive Manager, Donna Galvin agreed the Executive Manager's role had achieved the alliance's objectives and would not be required past 30 June 2017.

Cr Ferguson said Mrs Galvin had done an outstanding job since her appointment in 2008.

"Donna's exceptional contribution to the success of the Alliance during the past nine years has been amazing, taking the organisation to a new level where it was able to deliver millions of dollars in savings to the member councils and their ratepayers," he said.

Cr Ferguson said the Board was planning a celebration to acknowledge Mrs Galvin's achievements.

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