



**Greg Aplin MP**  
Member for Albury

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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15 May 2018

### **RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOINT ORGANISATION ESTABLISHED TO BENEFIT OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**

Member for Albury Greg Aplin and Member for Murray Austin Evans today welcomed the establishment of the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation which will strengthen collaboration between local councils and the NSW Government on regional initiatives.

Mr Aplin and Mr Evans said the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation has been formally proclaimed with nine member councils – Albury, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River, and Murrumbidgee.

The NSW Government has also provided \$300,000 in seed funding to help establish the new regional body.

“The NSW Government introduced an Australian first for regional communities when Parliament passed legislation late last year to establish a network of Joint Organisations across regional NSW,” Mr Aplin said.

“I commend our local councils for recognising the many benefits the new regional body will offer our local communities and deciding to join the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation.

“By coming together and joining forces, these local councils put themselves in a stronger position to deliver bigger picture projects.”

Mr Evans said the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation will comprise member councils, State Government agencies and other key stakeholders to plan and prioritise important regional projects across traditional council boundaries.

“The new regional body will look at the issues that matter most to our local communities such as building strong economies, creating jobs, and improving regional infrastructure, services and facilities,” Mr Evans said.

“Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation will now undertake a number of tasks to prepare to become operational by July 1 including electing a chairperson, employing an executive officer, adopting a code of conduct, and developing a charter.”

Albury Mayor Kevin Mack said he was delighted the new Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation has come to fruition.

“RAMROC has been a very successful organisation working for the communities of the Murray and Western Riverina for more than 25 years,” he said.

“During that time, our ROC has consistently advocated for the development of strong intergovernmental relationships with both the NSW and Commonwealth governments and it is extremely pleasing that the establishment of this new Joint Organisation for

the Riverina Murray region will ensure the ongoing success of that important collaborative partnership.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation is one of 11 Joint Organisations comprising more than 70 councils in regional NSW.

“It’s extremely pleasing that more than 90 per cent of eligible councils in NSW have formally resolved to form a Joint Organisation,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The formal proclamation of 11 Joint Organisations is a landmark day for regional NSW and will change the way local councils and the State Government work together to deliver important projects.”

Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton said the Government had allocated a total of \$3.3 million in seed funding for the Joint Organisation network in regional NSW.

“A number of regions across NSW had a 100 per cent take up by councils with full Joint Organisation membership in the Illawarra, Hunter, and Canberra Region. These councils are showing strong civic leadership by signalling their intention to work together and with the NSW Government on regional initiatives,” Ms Upton said.

The Office of Local Government is continuing to work with a small number of councils to finalise Joint Organisation membership. It is also providing a comprehensive range of support and guidance materials to assist Joint Organisations to become operational from July.

## Network of Joint Organisations in regional NSW

| Joint Organisation                      | Member councils   |
|---|---|
| Canberra Region Joint Organisation      | Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Goulburn Mulwaree, Hilltops, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy Monaro, Upper Lachlan, Wingecarribee, Yass Valley |
| Central NSW Joint Organisation          | Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Weddin  |
| Hunter Joint Organisation               | Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter              |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation | Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wollongong   |
| Mid North Coast Joint Organisation      | Bellingen, Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings   |
| Namoi Joint Organisation                | Gunnedah, Gwydir, Liverpool Plains, Tamworth, Walcha  |
| New England Joint Organisation          | Armidale, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Moree Plains, Tenterfield, Uralla  |
| Northern Rivers Joint Organisation      | Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tweed   |
| Orana Joint Organisation                | Cobar, Gilgandra, Mid-Western, Narromine, Warrumbungle  |

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| Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation | Albury, Berrigan, Edward River, Federation, Griffith, Hay, Leeton, Murray River, Murrumbidgee |
| Riverina Joint Organisation            | Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, Temora                  |

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