



**Greg Aplin MP**  
Member for Albury

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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

Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire, Member for Albury Greg Aplin and Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke today welcomed the establishment of the Riverina Joint Organisation which will strengthen collaboration between local councils and the NSW Government on regional initiatives.

Mr Maguire, Mr Aplin and Ms Cooke said the Riverina Joint Organisation has been formally proclaimed with seven member councils – Bland, Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Junee, Lockhart, and Temora.

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

“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 Maguire 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 Joint Organisation.”

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

“Riverina Joint Organisation will comprise member councils, State Government agencies and other key stakeholders to plan and prioritise important regional projects across traditional council boundaries.”

Ms Cooke said the new regional body will look at the issues that matter most to local communities such as building strong economies, creating jobs, and improving regional infrastructure, services and facilities.

“Riverina 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,” Ms Cooke said.

Temora Mayor Rick Firman welcomed the formalisation of the Riverina Joint Organisation.

“Our region and the REROC member councils have a strong and successful history of working collaboratively, not just at the local government level but across agencies and the non-government sector,” he said.

“Joint Organisations will offer new opportunities to increase that collaboration for the benefit of our communities.

“The Riverina Joint Organisation members are committed to establishing a successful Joint Organisation that delivers tangible benefits for our member councils and our communities.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the Riverina 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 including the Riverina 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
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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