



**Greg Aplin MP**  
Member for Albury

---

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

5 February 2019

### **ALMOST \$700,000 FOR RIVERINA EASTERN & RIVERINA AND MURRAY JOC**

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin today announced two grants for Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) & Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation of Councils (RAMJO) totalling \$699,380 through the NSW Government's \$4 million Council Regional Capacity Building Program.

"These grants will enable REROC & RAMJO to each employ a skilled contaminated land professional for two and three years respectively," Mr Aplin said.

"Throughout that time, they will develop a contaminated land management policy framework, a register of contaminated sites and provide training on contaminated land management issues to local councils."

"Their expertise will assist councils when they are dealing with land contaminations issues arising from historical underground fuel tank leaks or land which was formerly used for industrial activities, for example."

"Bringing this expertise to our region and upskilling councils through training will help to protect our community and environment," Mr Aplin said.

This funding is part of a NSW Government commitment of \$23.5 million over the next four years to improve the management of contaminated land in New South Wales.

"The officers can also help with planning the handover of responsibilities for Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) from the EPA to councils," Mr Aplin said.

Under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act), the EPA regulates contaminated land where the contamination is significant enough to warrant regulation. Contaminated land that is not regulated by the EPA is managed by local councils through land-use planning processes.

The EPA will continue as the appropriate regulatory authority for UPSS matters up to 31 August 2019, after which councils will take over this role. The EPA will continue to work with councils to ensure integrated management and regulatory oversight of fuel handling and storage systems.

**Media Contact: Greg Aplin 6021 3042 or 0428 600 343**