

## DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL POSITION ON JOINT ORGANISATIONS

**DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL HAS DETERMINED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROPOSED JOINT ORGANISATION (JO) DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANT UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE LIKELY SUCCESS AND THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL BURDENS ON THE RATE PAYER IN ENTERING AND PROGRESSING IN THE JO. THERE ARE ISSUES WITH NOT BEING ABLE TO CHANGE THE DECISION TO JOIN A JO, ONCE ESTABLISHED.**

### **The NSW Government announced Regional Joint Organisations as part of the Fit For the Future reforms.**

The Fit for the Future reforms of Local Government started in September 2014.

Among a raft of reforms regional Joint Organisations were proposed with a pilot to be conducted to develop the final model.

Unfortunately, our attempts to be included in a pilot for an Orana JO were not successful.

The boundaries of the proposed Orana JO included the Council areas of:

Bogan	Bourke
Brewarrina	Cobar
Coonamble	Dubbo Regional
Gilgandra	Mid-Western Regional
Narromine	Walgett
Warren	Warrumbungle

One of the purposes for the State Government to establish Joint Organisations is to assist State authorities to channel regional and sub-regional strategic planning, coordination and infrastructure delivery through Joint Organisations in preference to dealing with multiple or individual Councils.

The Fit for the Future reforms led to the creation of 20 new Councils through the amalgamation of over 40 separate Councils including the former Dubbo City and Wellington Councils.

Dubbo Regional Council was proclaimed on 12 May 2016 and was placed under Administration until new Council elections were held in September 2017.

In February 2017 the NSW Government announced it would not be proceeding with additional mergers in regional areas and in July 2017 the NSW Government withdrew all remaining merger proposals and effectively ceased the structural reforms to Local Government.

Dubbo Regional Council has determined that, given the uncertainty under which the JO model was developed and the significant merger related projects still continuing, it would not join a JO.

At present, only Mid-Western, Warrumbungle, Gilgandra, Narromine and Cobar Councils have decided to join a JO, to be formed by 1 July 2018.

Council will monitor the formation of Joint Organisations and continue to pressure for more funding to lessen any burden on Dubbo Regional Council, if and when a further decision is required.