



MEDIA RELEASE

Date of Release: 8 July 2024

Approved by: Cr Kevin Beatty, Chair of Central NSW Joint Organisation, Mayor of Cabonne Council

Local leaders develop policy on water management

We know that to move the dial and get the change that we need, research, industry and government must work together.

“That is why the collaboration between Charles Sturt University and Central NSW Councils on Policy Labs to inform policy development is so important,” said Cr Beatty, Mayor of Cabonne Council and Chair of Central NSW Councils.

At the end of July, the second Policy Lab for the region will be held in Orange and will focus on productive water.

“Given the review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, this is a critical time to influence policy particularly in terms of bringing localism back into the discussion of how we achieve outcomes on the ground,” said Professor Mark Evans, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) of Charles Sturt University.

Decision makers of the region will come together and hear from irrigators, scientists, community leaders and economists. “It is important that as many perspectives as possible be considered,” said Cr Beatty.

“We know that with climate change there will be longer hotter droughts interspersed with more intense rain events. At the same time, we also know that the value of urban water and the productivity of our towns is poorly considered from the Murray Darling Basin Plan down to Regional Water Strategies,” said Cr Beatty.

“Clive Hamilton Professor of Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University and co-author of the recently published book *Living Hot* and Professor Ross Thompson Director of the Centre for Applied Water Science will set the scene for robust panel sessions and workshops reflecting on the Murray Basin Plan and what needs to change this time around,” said Professor Evans.

“We also have international experts attending including Liliane Geerling, from the Partners for Water programme in the Netherlands which will provide us with insights into how localism can strengthen local catchment management,” said Professor Evans.

ENDS

For media enquiry contact CNSWJO Chair, Cr Kevin Beatty 0439 506 596