

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW GOVERNMENT COMES TO THE AID OF JUNEE

29 July 2009

The NSW Government is providing \$40,000 in assistance to Junee Council to help the town recover from job losses stemming from the downsizing of Pacific National, the Minister for Regional Development Phil Costa announced today.

Mr Costa said Junee could lose up to 42 jobs as the result of the redeployment of Pacific National's train drivers.

"The NSW Government is working with Junee Council and Pacific National to try to cushion the impact of this job loss.

"The first step is to engage a financial counsellor to offer one-on-one advice to those needing help.

"This will be followed by a skills matching process which could link displaced Pacific National staff with other local employers, which may include the jail, the abattoir, local steel fabricators or other rail related jobs.

"The NSW Government will consult with the local Chamber of Commerce to seek opportunities to provide expert advice on how to manage their business in these challenging economic times.

"We will also work with Junee Council to develop a promotional campaign to attract new businesses and residents to the town.

"The best way to meet these challenges is to work together to make Junee's businesses as attractive and inviting as possible to visitors and local residents alike, which rely on them for their goods and services," he said.

Mr Costa urged businesses in Junee to learn more about the business services provided by the NSW Government by contacting the Wagga Wagga Office of the Department of State and Regional Development.

"We're committed to supporting businesses to invest in regional communities across the State and funding for our \$7 million Regional Business Employment Fund is now open to small and medium business in the Riverina," Mr Costa said.

"The Regional Business Employment Fund will help small and medium sized businesses to offset costs that would otherwise stop them from establishing, relocating or expanding in country NSW.

"Under the fund, businesses can get assistance with relocation costs and other charges as well as payroll tax exemptions.

"More than 1,200 jobs are expected to be created by projects assisted by this fund.

"Local State and Regional Development officers are located across the State to help businesses and councils apply for funding and I urge anyone with investment proposals to contact their local State and Regional Development office."

For more information on the Department's programs, visit www.business.nsw.gov.au/region