

OUR SAY:

Bathurst the envy of all regional centres

THE announcement of a planned \$100 million road-rail freight terminal at Kelso is one of the more exciting developments mooted for Bathurst for some years.

It is the brainchild of local entrepreneurs Bruce Bolam and Garry Sloane, and John Baxter from Sydney-based Abax Contracting.

They say, once completed, the freight terminal will create about 300 jobs, surely making Bathurst the envy of every regional centre.

Every town and city west of the Great Dividing Range is always hungry for jobs and workers, and an ambitious project such as this will hand them to Bathurst on a platter.

The project has been three years in the planning, and the developers hope to turn the first sod in January.

Not surprisingly, Bathurst mayor Norm Mann and state member Gerard Martin

off the highway between here and Sydney.

And it's a safe bet that there will be plenty of pressure on the RTA to improve and maintain the roads in the terminal's immediate vicinity.

One possible hurdle for developers might be the existence of a small creek on the site, but those issues will be covered in the Environment Impact Statement.

It would be a tragedy if such an issue was allowed to stand in the way of a \$100 million injection into the local economy.

While it's still very early days, this is a project that has the potential to bring a great change to our city.

It already seems to have support in high places, and we look forward to seeing it come to fruition.

Western Advocate

were quick to praise the proposal.

Council will have little control over the development as it has been deemed state significant, meaning planning controls will be handed to planning minister Craig Knowles.

But the whole region stands to benefit greatly from it.

Apart from the huge economic boost, the terminal will also improve safety on our roads by taking many semi-trailers