



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

November 11, 2016

Wellcamp Airport officially named an international gateway means better access to overseas markets: Maranoa MP

WHETHER its organic chickens from Inglewood, Granite Belt grown fruit and vegetables or beef produced and sold at one of the saleyards around Maranoa, David Littleproud MP said products from his electorate would have easier access to overseas markets thanks to today's announcement the Wellcamp Airport was now officially an international gateway.

"Today, Federal Infrastructure Minister Darren Chester officially announced the Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport, Toowoomba, is now classified as a regional international gateway under Australia's air services arrangements and this is great news for Maranoa," Mr Littleproud said.

"Now we've got an official international airport just down the road, opening up huge potential for expansion as Maranoa products can go directly from the Darling Downs across to Asia.

"Just last month, Cathay Pacific announced it would commence regular freight services from Toowoomba to Hong Kong – which is a great first step – but this announcement now means international airlines will be able to service Wellcamp without restrictions applying to the number of frequencies that can be operated between the airport and overseas destinations.

"This decision means producers, manufacturers and other businesses in my electorate can reap the rewards of a localised freight service, opening the door to more easily sell fresh produce in the growing Asian market.

"Maranoa businesses could also benefit from greater opportunities in tourism and trade and I'm just so excited as to what this means for the prosperity for our region.

"This announcement delivers on the Coalition Government's 2016 election commitment to support the airport in attracting increased international services as part of the regional package and proves our commitment to growing regional communities like Maranoa."

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