



Darren Chester

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
A/g Minister for Regional Development
A/g Minister for Local Government and Territories

Richard Marsh

Mayor of Balonne Shire Council

David Littleproud

Federal Member for Maranoa

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Dirranbandi's public pool re-opens after major upgrade

- **Re-surfaced Dirranbandi pool will substantially improve safety and reduce maintenance**
- **Project will help maintain social and cultural bonds within the remote community**
- **Coalition Government invested \$120,000 into the project**

Dirranbandi's public swimming pool was officially re-opened today following the completion of significant resurfacing.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said since the pool opened in 2007 the effects of ground movements and corrosion caused some of its tiles to dislodge and break.

"The pool's surface has now been renewed and further work completed on replacing its original pair of two-step ladders with four-step units," Mr Chester said.

Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said replacing the pool's tiled surface with fibreglass has improved swimmer safety and substantially reduced the need to undertake regular maintenance work to keep it open.

"In addition to the benefits that will flow to the community – particularly local school children involved in learn-to-swim programs, swimming carnivals and offering relief during sweltering summer days – this project also created six jobs during the construction phase," Mr Littleproud said.

"This \$120,000 investment by the Coalition Government, together with much of the funding being spent locally to source materials, has resulted in a welcome boost to the Dirranbandi economy. That in turn has helped maintain the social and cultural bonds which are so important to the survival of small remote communities when hard times prevail."

Mayor of Balonne Shire Council Richard Marsh said that the new fibreglass surface has made a huge improvement to swimmer safety and access.

"Before the upgrade tiles were continually falling off or cracking, as the glue could not handle the chlorine," Cr Marsh said.

"As a result, during several recent swimming seasons the pool has had to be closed earlier than normal for repairs. This upgrade will ensure Dirranbandi residents have access to a key social centre throughout the year, and it's great to see the opening officially marked."

This project was jointly funded with the Coalition Government providing \$120,000 and the Balonne Shire Council providing \$12,000.

The Federal Coalition Government is investing \$35 million over four years in the Drought Communities Programme.

Media Contacts

For Mr Chester:	Les White	0409 805 122
For Mr Littleproud:	Eloise Handley	0411 095 860
For Cr Marsh:	Julie Davies	07 4620 8804