



DAVID LITTLEPROUD^{MP}
Focused on Maranoa's future
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOA

MARANOA MAIL



Bilbies NOT bunnies

When you're buying Easter chocolates, please support Charleville's Save the Bilby Fund by buying bilbies – not bunnies – to help raise much-needed conservation funds. Rabbits are an introduced pest, destroying farming and grazing country and also compete with bilbies for habitat and burrows.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Easter in Maranoa

THIS Easter, please don't forget the true meaning of the holiday and also be sure to drive safely if you're going to be travelling on our roads.

Road safety and strengthening our transport network are major priorities for me. I've done a fair few kilometres and recently encountered roadworks on my travels. While I understand roadwork delays can be frustrating, please keep your cool and just remember this Coalition Government is investing in Maranoa to make our road network better and safer.

So you can plan your road trip this Easter, visit QLDTraffic.qld.gov.au or phone 13 14 90 for the latest traffic and travel information.

I'll be in Roma for the [Easter in the Country Festival](#) and look forward to seeing you there!

Out and About in Maranoa



Hosting Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull at the 59th Bell Show last month.



I invited local small business to meet and discuss opportunities with Small Business Ombudsman Kate Carnell, Federal Small Business Minister Michael McCormack, ATO's Small Business Experience Director David Colahan and ACCC's Small Business and Industry Codes Senior Projects Officer Agata Evans in Dalby.

A CUT in the company tax rate – to its lowest level in 50 years – will enable Maranoa small businesses to expand, hire more people and pursue their dreams.

This week I hosted Small Business Roundtables in Roma, Dalby, Warwick and Stanthorpe with local small businesspeople and Small Business Minimiser Michael McCormack.

There are more than 25,500 small businesses in Maranoa and I'd like to see that number to grow because when small businesses doing well, we have more jobs in our region.

Our tax cut to 27.5% backs small business and I'm proud this government's delivering simpler paperwork and the instant asset write-off to more small businesses to help them pursue their dreams.

Click [here](#) for more.



Social Services and Disability Services Assistant Minister Jane Prentice and I toured SunPork Farm's Tong Park Piggery, Warra, to see first-hand how the *Autism and Agriculture* program is changing lives.

IN a world-first, innovative job recruitment process right here on the Western Downs – Assistant Minister Prentice and I met with the newest employees recruited through *Autism and Agriculture*.

SunPork Group has a long and proud connection with Maranoa and I was inspired by the piggery's foresight to join forces with Autism CRC to create employment opportunities for those with a disability in our rural community.

Isn't it amazing that this world-first initiative – of tailoring employment to a someone's ability through the *Autism and Agriculture* program – is happening right here in this small rural community of Warra.

IN BRIEF: Federal Parliament

Life gold pass cut

THE Federal Parliament has passed legislation which abolishes free domestic travel for all former parliamentarians.

The life gold pass for parliamentarians is a relic of a bygone era and Australians rightly expect former and current parliamentarians to be efficient, effective and ethical.

The abolition of the life gold pass is one part of an extensive package of reforms to parliamentarians' work expenses and this government's implementing the most comprehensive reform of parliamentarians' work expenses in a generation.

Tough stance on international tax avoidance

MULTINATIONAL tax dodgers have been targeted by the Coalition Government, ensuring big business pay their fair share to safeguard the crucial government services we rely on are sustainably delivered.

About \$2 billion in tax is expected to be clawed back this financial year under the government's crackdown on multinational tax avoidance – sending a strong message that when you operate in Australia, you must comply with our tax laws.

This government continues to deliver on our commitment to keep our tax system strong and – while we believe in lower tax rates for families and local business – multinationals must pay their fair share because the government then responsibly uses this money deliver important services and support for Australians.

Riders wanted for commemorative Ride to Beersheba

OCTOBER 31 will mark 100 years since the 4th and 12th Australian Light Horse headed the world's largest cavalry charge, capturing the wells of Beersheba for the Allied forces during World War One.

Many of the young men who enlisted were from Western Queensland and at least 100 riders are needed for a commemorative *Ride to Beersheba* planned for Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Longreach and Winton during September.

If you'd like to participate, please email Debbie Nichols at Bendemeerstn@activ8.net.au or Jed Millen on jsmillen@bigpond.com

New childcare reforms

BALANCING work or study and raising a family can be tough, especially as the increasing cost of childcare strains the household budget – that's why the system needed a total overhaul and a new model to better support families has just been passed by the Federal Parliament.

To better support those who want to re-enter the workforce or study after becoming a parent, the childcare overhaul – known as the Jobs for Families Package – is a game-changer for families.

This package will inject an additional \$1.5 billion in childcare funding and will provide genuine reform for a simpler, more affordable, accessible and flexible childcare system.

The Jobs for Families Package will not only provide the greatest hours of childcare support to families who work the longest hours but also deliver the highest rate of subsidy to those who most need it most. For example, a family who earns about \$60,000 a year – and whose childcare centre charges \$100 per day – would pay around \$15 a day per child for care.

Not only has the government set an hourly rate cap, as a benchmark price, to ensure families are protected from unscrupulous providers but also introduced an activity test to provide support to those who are working, training, studying or volunteering.

FACT BOX

- Abolishing the current \$7500 Child Care Rebate cap to ensure parents on a family income of less than \$185,000 aren't limited by a cap on the amount of childcare they can access.
- Reforms give hardworking, lower income families an 85% subsidy, which tapers down to 20% for higher income families.
- Introduction of an activity test which aligns hours of subsidised care with the combined amount of work, training, study or volunteering.

To keep up-to-date with what's happening in Maranoa, don't forget to check out my Facebook and Twitter!

Until next time!
David



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