David Littleproud MP

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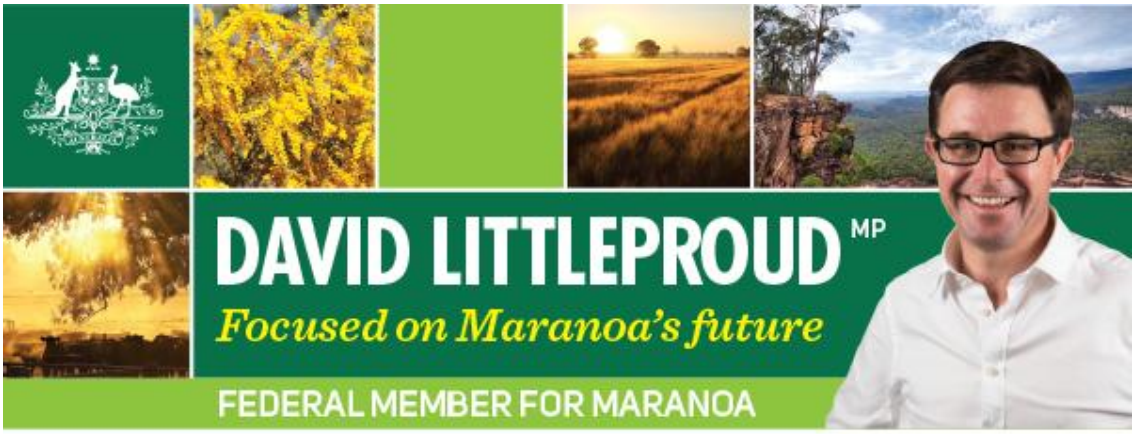

MARANOA MAIL

A Federal Budget that's focused on the regions

Our region and rural communities are at the forefront of the Federal Coalition Government's **Budget**, delivered Tuesday night.

As the Treasurer said, this **2017-18 Budget** is honest and is about ensuring fairness, opportunity and security and I believe it's focused on the regions because, let's face it, the majority our nation's wealth is generated outside the capital cities.

Regional Australia is a key driver of the Australian economy, responsible for 67% of our exports and 45% of the domestic tourism market. Most food production and all production of the gas and electricity that powers our households, occurs in regional Australia. Our cities rely on Maranoa to support their way of life.

Maranoa is critical in this government's plan to drive economic growth to secure more and better paying jobs which will encourage investment, facilitate innovation and provide vital infrastructure.

Better targeted education funding – through the **Quality Schools** reform package – was a highlight with 167 primary and secondary schools and the more than 25,000 students in his electorate.

Over the next 10 years, Maranoa will receive **$391 million to help our kids get the education they rightly deserve** by supporting our teachers and schools to improve student outcomes.

As a father, I know how important education is to unlocking our children's full potential. My Dad was a teacher and I believe teachers are crucial to the future of our kids – great teachers are the difference between a life of opportunity and one without options.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
On Wednesday, during Question Time,
I asked Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce what the 2017-18 Budget means for the regional, rural and remote communities in Maranoa.

Click here to see what happened next...

$8 million top-up to support Great Artesian Basin water management

It was great to host Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Barnaby Joyce at the Roma Show today to announce an $8 million top-up to support water management in the Great Artesian Basin.

The Great Artesian Basin is of vital economic and environmental importance as it directly supports more than 180,000 people in more than 120 towns and 7600 businesses in regional and remote Australia, many of which are located in Maranoa.

Uncontrolled bores continue to threaten secure access to water across for not only communities, pastoralists, irrigators and mining industries but also the health of important ecosystems dependent on groundwater.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Inland Rail

In one of the biggest investments ever seen in regional Australia, the Federal Coalition Government will fund the Melbourne to Brisbane **Inland Rail** project with an additional $8.4 billion and this nation-building project is set to snake it's way though the south-east corner Maranoa.
Inland Rail has been a century-old dream but this government is committed to getting this economy-building

infrastructure completed.

Economic analysis found this project would create 16,000 jobs during construction and, once completed, it's projected this infrastructure would allow freight companies and producers to transport goods from Brisbane to Melbourne in less than 24 hours. Inland Rail has the capacity to take thousands of trucks off our highways daily and will offer primary producers massive cuts in transport costs.

Regional Investment to support our producers

This Budget delivers on our election commitment to establish a **$4 billion Regional Investment Corporation**, a national body to streamline and speed up the approval of farm concessional loans and administer the **National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility**

Affordable and reliable water supplies are key to growth in regional Australia. This Government is already making the most significant investment in water infrastructure in Australian history to drive regional investment, agricultural production and jobs.

The **$500 million National Water Infrastructure Development Fund** and the **$2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility** are in place to incentivise the state government to fast track priority projects that will support the growth of our agricultural industries and regional communities.

Under the **Regional Growth Fund**, $200 million in additional funding will increase the government's commitment to the **Building Better Regions Fund** to almost $500 million, supporting more projects across rural, regional and remote Australia. In addition, a $272 million fund will be established to drive major transformational projects of more than $10 million to unlock opportunity and potential in the regions.

Rural Health

A $9 million investment will see rural and remote Australians, for the first time, be able to access psychology services covered by Medicare through teleconferencing.

Stronger Bush Communities

Regional communities will also receive investment through a third round of the **Stronger Communities Program** which helps fund small capital projects in local communities.

Supporting the 17 Local Government Areas in Maranoa

The Government has also resumed the indexation of **Financial Assistance Grants** to councils, which results in an extra $836.5 million provided over the forward estimates.

Making our local Roads Safer

The **Roads to Recovery Program** has been secured with $4.4 billion from 2013-14 to 2020-21 committed to the construction, repair and upgrade of local roads. The Coalition Government will also continue to fund the **Black Spot Program** with $685 million committed from 2013-14 to 2020-21 to deliver improvements such as safety barriers and street lighting to sections of dangerous road that have a crash history.

Better Telecommunications

The Coalition's **Mobile Black Spot Program** continues to roll out with over 140 new base stations already live and almost 250 due to be live by June 30, 2017. The Budget allocates $155.9 million towards the program over the forward estimates, for a total program spend of $220 million from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

The **regional NBN roll out**, already 75% completed or under construction, continues in 2017-18 and the fixed wireless rollout due to be completed by the end of 2018.

THE COALITION GOVERNMENT | BUDGET 2017
The Coalition Government is making the right choices to secure better days ahead.
COALITION
Fully funding the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Fair needs based funding for schools
Strong border protection
Affordable and reliable gas and electricity
Lower business taxes for stronger economic growth, more jobs and higher wages
More affordable and accessible child care with the greatest level of support for low and middle income households
LABOR
Leaving the NDIS with a multi billion dollar funding gap
Unfunded school promises and 27 secret and special deals
Weak border policies that led to 50,000 unauthorised arrivals
Blackouts, higher power prices and a brand new carbon tax
Higher taxes and lower wages - denying a tax cut to 3.2 million small and medium businesses, employing 6.5 million Australians
No child care reform - the same old system
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If you use illegal drugs and claim welfare, the government will intervene to help you kick addiction in a new approach to target welfare-fuelled drug use

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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