



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

November 10, 2016

Common-sense prevails: Blackall-Tambo Regional Council part of Northern Australia

Maranoa MP David Littleproud has ensured the Blackall-Tambo region will now be able to apply for crucial funding under the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) because of the local council's economic connection through the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) to Northern Australia.

"I'd like to thank Minister Canavan for confirming the Blackall-Tambo region will be eligible to submit projects that have a benefit to Northern Australia under the NAIF," Mr Littleproud said.

"It just makes sense that the Blackall-Tambo region be included in this key infrastructure program, which will help unlock large-scale infrastructure funding opportunities for not only Blackall-Tambo but also all councils in the RAPAD group.

"RAPAD works extremely hard to coordinate worthwhile projects for not only its collective region but also for our country more broadly. I believe enabling RAPAD to continue its collective approach in facilitating infrastructure projects will result in better outcomes.

"The NAIF is about helping to build the transport, energy, water and communications infrastructure so desperately needed in our part of the world."

The NAIF offers up to \$5 billion, over five years, in concessional finance to encourage and complement private-sector investment in infrastructure that benefits Northern Australia.

"Only the Coalition Government understands the potential in our country's north – particularly given our proximity to Asia. We are the only government to take this opportunity and make sure Northern Australia becomes an economic powerhouse through our Northern Australia White Paper and Infrastructure Facility," Mr Littleproud said.

"Our north's future will be built by its people, their ingenuity and their ability to collaborate – and I know the Blackall-Tambo region will play an important part in this."

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