



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Dalby Herald contribution

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MORDERN telecommunications infrastructure is essential as it provides the platform we need to connect us not only with friends and family but also with limitless possibilities worldwide.

Breaks in our communications hinder emergency services, tourism, education and business growth and that's why telecommunications will continue to be a major focus for me in the coming year.

This month marked an excited millstone in the Federal Coalition Government's rural communications investment as Dalby was the first town in Maranoa to connect to the NBN's fibre to the node technology.

More than 6000 homes and business premises are now able to access the NBN through this technology with the rollout now moving to Chinchilla and Miles.

Efficient connections through our transportation links is also a government commitment as we're delivering a safer and more effective highway network.

That's why I'm proud to be part of a Coalition Government that has made a \$635 million investment into the Warrego Highway Upgrade Programme with more detailed projects between Miles and Oakey to be announced soon.

In August last year, I was truly humbled to be elected your Federal Member for Maranoa and some of my biggest wins for you in the Western Downs include:

- Strengthening our communications network by targeting mobile phone black spots at Hannaford Rd, The Gums, and on the Wondai Rd near Jandowae.
- Start work to build eight new Warrego Highway overtaking lanes, at four locations, providing vital improvements to driver safety and travel times between Dalby and Oakey.
- Secured \$237,000 for CCTV cameras to make the Chinchilla CBD safer.
- Securing the continuation of funding to boost the McGrath Breast Care Nurse who offers vital care and support to the Western Downs region.
- Funding to assist and mentor young women in Dalby and Chinchilla study Certificate II in Engineering as women are underrepresented in this field.

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