



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

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Backpacker tax renegotiated to 15% gives agricultural and tourism sectors certainty: Maranoa MP David Littleproud

IN A mature move to end the backpacker tax stalemate and give certainty to the agricultural and tourism sectors, before Parliament rises on Thursday, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said the Coalition Government has today amended the tax rate to 15%.

“More than 5000 backpackers have just arrived in the southern part of my electorate to pick and pack fruit. That’s why I’ve been pushing to get this tax rate rectified so Maranoa producers and businesses, which rely on tourism, have the certainty to move forward with their operations,” Mr Littleproud said.

“I’m in constant contact with producers and they’re telling me this is a time-critical issue as we’re in peak harvest and they viewed Labor’s toying with the Working Holiday Makers tax as chaos and a mere political stunt.

“That’s why the Coalition Government has today put forward a bill which will propose Working Holiday Makers pay 15% on their earnings, which is an 80% compromise of what we were trying to achieve.

“I can tell you I’ve been in the thick of it, trying to get this tax rate sorted so the agricultural and tourism sectors in Maranoa weren’t left in limbo as this is the last week of Parliamentary sittings for 2016.

“I’m pleased this issue will be soon resolved as the Coalition and the Senate crossbenchers have reached a 15% agreement.

“However, to resolve Labor’s inflicted chaos, this resolution will cost taxpayers \$120 million which the Government will be seeking to pay for through measures in the mid-year budget update and we’ll be calling on the Parliament to support.

“The Coalition Government consulted widely with industry and previously came up with a tax rate but Labor has demonstrated, once again, they’re more interested in playing base political games, seeking to create chaos and uncertainty for farmers and undermining the Budget, rather than deliver real outcomes in the best interests of Australians.”

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Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: Eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
