



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

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Building Better Regions Fund set to grow Maranoa communities: David Littleproud MP

THE entire Maranoa electorate is set to benefit from new Federal Government funding, announced today, specifically targeted to improve and increase liveability in regional communities.

Maranoa MP David Littleproud – whose vast rural electorate covers about 42% of Queensland – said the \$297 million Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) program would provide a huge boost.

“I’ve advocated for rural communities across Maranoa and I believe we’re represented in the Coalition Government’s new BBRF as major capital cities have been excluded in the funding’s guidelines,” Mr Littleproud said.

“The BBRF has been divided into two streams. The Infrastructure Projects Stream will invest in new infrastructure construction or project to upgrade the extension of existing infrastructure; and the Community Investments Stream is about strengthening liveability.

“This government understands our nation is made of more than steel and roads – that’s why the Community Investments Stream might help expand a local festival, attract a theatre production or major sporting event to boost local tourism, or it might be leadership or business training for young locals.

“A new social benefit criteria will also allow applicants to demonstrate how a project will make their region a more attractive place to live or improve community connections.

“These changes recognise the valuable contribution our rural communities make to our national economy.

“With three regional councils in Maranoa alone contributing more per capita than Brisbane City Council, it makes sense our regions should be supported.

“Whether it’s the food you eat, the fibre you’re wearing or the gas and coal used to power your home or business – Maranoa has produced the lot and we’re the ones who keep our cities ticking too.”

Regional Development Minister Fiona Nash – the BBRF architect – said our regional communities in Maranoa allowed cities to exist.

“Our capital cities would grind to a halt within an hour if these investments ended. Of course these investments in the city are not seen as “bailouts” – they’re sensible ongoing investments, and this is the mindset which must be adopted to government investment in rural, regional and remote Australia,” Minister Nash said.

“Projects in remote and very remote areas will receive a loading on their project score, and also will not need to produce 1:1 matching funding. The Government will provide up to 75% of the investment for remote and very remote projects.

“Also, projects will now be assessed against projects of similar size, so small community projects are not competing against huge projects worth tens of millions, for example.”

The BBRF opens from January 18, 2017. To access the BBRF guidelines and to lodge an application visit: www.business.gov.au/bbrf

FACT BOX:

Funding under the BBRF will be available in two streams:

- **Infrastructure Projects Stream:** Investment into the construction of new infrastructure, or upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure. Applications close on February 28, 2017.
- **Community Investments Stream:** Interment in local events and activities, strategic regional plans and leadership and capability building activities. Applications close March 31, 2017.

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