



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Letter to the Editor: Balonne Beacon

November 4, 2016

Dear Editor,

In response to the Shadow Tourism Minister Anthony Albanese's comments (BB, 03/11/16) I think he got a bit too hot and disorientated in sunny Queensland and was garbling when talking in Roma about NBN.

The NBN rollout in Maranoa is happening faster when compared to his outer-Sydney electorate of Grayndler – and that's the way it should be – with NBN to be rolled out in St George early next year and to commence in Roma before Christmas.

The Coalition Government's NBN program is all about connecting areas with the least service first. That's why our plan is a boom for bush communities because we must not forget that rural and remote Australia was consigned to the never-never under Labor.

At 731,297 square kilometres, Maranoa is nearly 23,000 times larger than Mr Albanese's 32sqm Sydney electorate. So I won't be lectured by someone who doesn't understand what's being delivered in Maranoa for business, health, tourism or education – which is access to internet that never would have happened anywhere near as quickly under Labor.

With fibre-to-the-node, NBN's rapidly building its fixed line network — saving billions in construction costs and making the connection process easy for residents. This technology will deliver fast broadband to 68,000 addresses across Maranoa over the next two years.

Compare this to Labor's shocking record of just 51,000 paying customers connected to the NBN fixed network between July 2010 and September 2013 across Australia.

Rollout progress under Labor was slow and costly but the Coalition Government understands the majority of Queensland's agricultural wealth is generated in rural areas and that's why we're committed to growing the regions and closing the digital divide.

Yours sincerely,

David Littleproud MP  
Federal Member for Maranoa

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### Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: [eloise.handley@aph.gov.au](mailto:eloise.handley@aph.gov.au)

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