



Australian Government

The Hon Darren Chester
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

David Littleproud MP
Federal Member for Maranoa

Joint Media Release

October 24, 2016

Suite of roads funding set to strengthen Maranoa's transport network

MARANOA growth is firmly set in the Federal Government's sights with raft of funding released today to better connect Northern Australia by upgrading roads in the region.

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Darren Chester was in Longreach today with Maranoa MP David Littleproud for the announcement which will see about 24km of the Landsborough Highway – from Longreach to Winton – widened and strengthened.

"The Landsborough Highway was named one of four Queensland roads set to be upgraded under the Federal Government's \$600 million Northern Australia Roads Programme (NARP)," Mr Littleproud said.

"Whether its tourism or transporting cattle, there's been a lot of consultation and modelling completed and this investment will deliver the best outcomes and maximise economic growth in our communities."

Minister Chester said the total regional roads investment in Queensland, under the NARP, was more than \$200 million.

"The Turnbull-Joyce Coalition Government is committed to supporting rural industries and unlocking the economic capacity of Northern Australia through target roads investment," Minister Chester said.

"The objective of the NARP was to fund high-priority projects, essential to Northern Australia's economic development."

The Queensland projects to be funded are:

- Landsborough Highway (Longreach – Winton): Pavement widening and strengthening of around 24 kilometres;
- Bowen Developmental Road: progressive sealing;
- Peak Downs Highway (Clermont – Nebo): Logan Creek to Nine Mile Creek – Pavement widening and strengthening; and
- Bajool – Port Alma Road: upgrades to the port access road.

The Minister also used his time in Longreach to outline how the Coalition Government is supporting the Queensland cattle industry by undertaking targeted road upgrades, under the Northern Australia Beef Roads Programme.

"The Federal Government has committed more than \$56 million towards targeted road upgrades and improvement for 15 projects to boost the Queensland cattle industry," Minister Chester said.

Mr Littleproud welcomed the funding which is set to strengthen transportation routes and grow his sprawling electorate which covers more than 42% of Queensland.

“This programme recognises moving cattle from the farm gate to market involves some of the longest and most challenging land transport distances of any industry,” he said.

“The best thing about this funding is that all road users will benefit, including tourism and other agricultural freight.”

The 15 projects to be funded under the Northern Australia Beef Roads Programme are:

Project name	Project description	Federal Govt contribution
Rockhampton Road Network - Road Train Access (Stage 2)	Upgrading between Gracemere saleyards and the Rockhampton abattoirs to provide access for Type 1 Road Trains.	\$20 million
Burke Developmental Road - Chillagoe to Almaden (Package 1)	Progressive sealing works.	\$4.31 million
Burke Developmental Road - Chillagoe to Almaden (Package 2)	Progressive sealing works.	\$1.66 million
Clermont - Alpha Road (Package 1)	Progressive sealing works.	\$ 2 million
Clermont - Alpha Road (Package 2)	Progressive sealing works.	\$ 4.01 million
Clermont - Alpha Road (Package 3)	Progressive sealing works.	\$0.96 million
Ootann Rd - Almaden to Kennedy Hwy (Gunnawarra) (Package 1)	Progressive sealing works.	\$0.66 million
Ootann Rd - Almaden to Kennedy Hwy (Gunnawarra) (Package 2)	Progressive sealing works.	\$4.10 million
Gregory Developmental Road (South of Charter Towers)	Progressive sealing works.	\$4.63 million
Richmond-Croydon Road (Package 1)	Progressive sealing works.	\$3.20 million
Richmond-Croydon Road (Package 2)	Progressive sealing works.	\$0.96 million
Cloncurry - Dajarra Road	Progressive sealing works.	\$2.58 million
Diamantina Developmental Road (Boulia - Dajarra)	Progressive sealing works.	\$4.03 million
Richmond - Winton Road (Package 1)	Progressive sealing works.	\$2.97 million
Richmond - Winton Road (Package 2)	Progressive sealing works.	\$0.80 million

–ENDS–

Media Contacts

**For Minister Chester:
For Mr Littleproud:**

**Kate Barwick
Eloise Handley**

**0408 072 809
0411 095 860**