



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

October 13, 2016

Uncertainty for producers as Labor delays backpacker tax outcome: David Littleproud MP

PRODUCERS are in limbo as the Opposition toys with financial security by deciding to delay legislation that would resolve the backpacker tax, Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said today.

“The Coalition Government listened to industry concern in the Maranoa and outlined a new plan for the backpacker tax, but now Labor’s stalling this pathway forward so I call on the cross benchers to step-up in the Senate and pass the amendments since Labor won’t,” Mr Littleproud said.

Labor is threatening to delay the backpacker tax outcome by referring the legislation to the Senate Committee, which won’t report back until November.

“This is an unnecessary delay, negatively impacting on industry and financial security because we’re coming up to peak harvest and tourism season in my electorate,” Mr Littleproud said.

“The agriculture and tourism industries make a fundamental contribution to the local economy and often rely on working backpackers, in everything from picking fruit to manning the bar at the local pub.

“I’m calling on the Opposition to stop playing politics with this important reform and provide much-needed certainty for producers.”

The Coalition Government sought comment on the backpacker tax. More than 1700 stakeholders made submissions to reach a new outcome, cutting the tax rate from 32.5% to 19%.

“Labor still had a 32.5% backpacker tax rate in its official election costings and is still using this as its official policy,” Mr Littleproud said.

“The Coalition’s consulted and worked with the agriculture, horticulture and tourism sectors to bring this issue to a resolution but now Labor’s full of inaction and uncertainty.”

-- ENDS --

Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
