



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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### Media statement

May 24, 2017

#### **Postcode campaign successful: Yaraka's postcode will change to 4731**

MARANOA MP David Littleproud has today secured a postcode change for Yaraka, answering the small community and local council's calls for Australia Post to finally recognise the Outback town and Rockhampton – 850km away – have nothing in common.

"I've had many discussions with Australia Post on this issue affecting Yaraka and, in a massive win for this community, today they've told me it will change Yaraka's postcode from 4702 to 4731," Mr Littleproud said.

"Australia Post has advised me it will notify Yaraka residents, by the end of June, of the postcode change and – it has assured me –the community will have ample time to prepare accordingly."

In a postcode quirk, Yaraka shared 4702 with Rockhampton/ Gracemere – a metropolitan region more than seven hours' drive away. The two don't even share a boundary but, after some serious discussions, Mr Littleproud said he was proud to have persuaded Australia Post to finally give this Outback gem a new four-digit mailing identity.

"When I was elected in September last year, one of the first phone calls I took as the new Maranoa MP was from the Longreach Regional Council and Yaraka community members, who'd been campaigning for a new mail code for years," he said.

"For Australia Post, the issue is all about mail delivery efficiency.

"I've been in constant contact with the community on this and mail was delivery delays was definitely an issue but Yaraka was often tarred with metropolitan woes in relation to crime data – used to calculate insurance premiums – and that 4702 is recognised as a coastal postcode affected by natural disasters, in particular cyclones.

"This inequity was a joke, quite frankly and I'm glad Australia Post has listened to Yaraka and we've been successful in getting this remote town's postcode changed."

It seems change – for the better – is in the air at Yaraka. After constant intervention, Mr Littleproud also persuaded Telstra to stop dragging its feet and turn on the Yaraka tower, after the project was delayed for over 18 months, to address mobile phone black spots.

"I hope the Yaraka pub will one day name a beer after me," he said.

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