



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

September 13, 2017

Apply now for Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme funding

FULLY functioning airstrips help to stem the tyranny of distance and that's why Maranoa MP David Littleproud has encouraged communities to apply for Federal Government funding as Round Five of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme is now open.

"This Coalition Government is delivering practical, sensible improvements to make our rural runways safe and more efficient and I encourage owners and operators of any remote community airstrip to make an application before Round Five closes on October 20," Mr Littleproud said.

"For many communities in Maranoa, air services provide essential services and upgrading this infrastructure will help the community be assured aviation safety obligations are up to scratch and air services – such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Australia Post, freight and other air transport services – can continue to service local needs.

"Projects for airstrip upgrades can include building animal-proof fencing, pavement repairs, levelling and upgraded lighting. These upgrades are imperative, particularly when it comes to medical evacuations at night and the hazards that livestock and native animals pose.

"During the previous round of Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme – announced in February this year – 91 projects were funded across Australia, including a Federal Government investment of almost \$650,000 to upgrade 11 airstrips in my electorate."

The Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme is just one example of the Coalition's commitment to regional and remote communities and to improve our nation's infrastructure. The 2015-16 Federal Budget allocated \$33.7 million, over four years, to fund five rounds of works to improve the safety and capacity of remote airstrips.

For more information on the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme, please visit:

<http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/regional/index.aspx>

Fact box:

- Round Five of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Programme is now open until October 20, 2017.
- Funding available for improving the accessibility and safety of airstrips in remote communities.

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