



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

---

# Media Statement

November 13, 2014

### **Building Better Regions Fund now open: David Littleproud MP**

THE entire Maranoa electorate is set to benefit from a new round of Federal Government funding, specifically targeted to improve and increase liveability in regional communities.

Maranoa MP David Littleproud – whose vast electorate covers about 42% of rural Queensland – said the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) would provide a huge boost.

“Round Two of the BBRF is now open, until December 19, to help address the challenges faced by regional, rural, and remote communities,” Mr Littleproud said.

“I’ve advocated for rural communities across Maranoa and I believe we’re represented in the Coalition Government’s BBRF as major capital cities have been excluded in the funding’s guidelines,” Mr Littleproud said.

“With three regional councils in my electorate contributing more per capita than Brisbane City Council, it makes sense our regions should be supported and that’s why the Coalition Government introduced this funding.

“The BBRF is divided into two streams. The Infrastructure Projects Stream will invest in new infrastructure construction or existing project upgrades; and the Community Investments Stream is about strengthening liveability.”

During the previous BBRF round, Mr Littleproud was able to secure more than \$9.36 million for exciting infrastructure and job-creation projects in his electorate.

“The great thing about this funding is communities drive the projects and, last time, we were able to fund affordable housing for seniors in Blackbutt, improve livestock transportation at Morven; and support the construction of a new regional beef cold storage facility in Warwick to overcome processing restraints in the Darling Downs,” he said.

“I also secured \$168,525 for six community investment projects – under Round One in the Community Investments Stream – to help cement this electorate as a go-to tourism destination.

“Projects ranged from fishing in the Condamine River; future tourism plans for Winton, the Diamantina and Southern Downs; and a multicultural fashion parade and food and fibre festival on the Western Downs.”

Under the former National Stronger Regions Fund, Mr Littleproud secured more than \$17 million for projects in Maranoa and is keen for as many projects as possible to taken advantage of the BBRF.

“Under Labor’s National Stronger Regions Fund, major cities were awarded funding – it was ‘region’ in name only and it wasn’t an even playing field.

“The Coalition’s BBRF puts our bush communities first and is tailored to support rural electorates like Maranoa as major centres and cities don’t qualify for this funding.”

To access the BBRF guidelines and to lodge an application visit:

<https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/building-better-regions-fund>

#### **FACT BOX:**

Funding under the BBRF is available in two streams:

- **Infrastructure Projects Stream:** Investment into the construction of new infrastructure, or upgrade or extension of existing infrastructure. Applications close December 19, 2017.
- **Community Investments Stream:** Interment in local events and activities, strategic regional plans and leadership and capability building activities. Applications close December 19, 2017.

-- ENDS --

#### **Media Contact:**

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

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

---