



## **Darren Chester**

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
A/g Minister For Regional Development  
A/g Minister for Local Government and Territories

## **Annie Liston**

Mayor of Murweh Shire Council

## **David Littleproud**

Federal Member for Maranoa

Tuesday, 12 December 2017

### **Charleville Cosmos Centre shows beauty of the Milky Way**

- **Charleville Cosmos Centre upgrades now complete**
- **The upgrades will help boost visitor numbers in the Shire**
- **The Coalition Government invested \$498,691 to deliver the upgrades**

Star gazers and travellers to Australia's outback have received a boost today following the official re-opening of the Charleville Cosmos Centre.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said the Drought Communities Programme funding continues the Coalition Government's commitment to rebuild communities impacted by drought.

"This programme is providing \$35 million to local infrastructure initiatives that provide employment for people whose work opportunities have been impacted by drought," Mr Chester said.

"This project created eight jobs during construction, another 25 ongoing seasonal jobs will be created through the use of guides, accommodation, food and beverage outlets and other retail shops."

Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said the Coalition Government's almost \$500,000 investment had provided an economic boost to the region.

"When I lived Charleville, the Cosmos Centre was just kicking off and was run from a paddock at the airport. Now it's grown into a landmark tourism hotspot for the region and this upgrade will further the centre's relevance in today's visitor market, ensuring the local tourism industry remains sustainable for years to come," Mr Littleproud said.

"The local economy will see increasing visitors to the region, with the upgrade expected to increase the number of visitors from 75,000 in 2016-17, to 80,000 this year."

Mayor of Murweh Shire Council Annie Liston said intrigued travellers have already begun visiting the Centre to experience the outback night sky.

"The Cosmos Centre is the major feature of the town's tourist industry and was opened at the beginning of the tourist season this year. The upgrade has rejuvenated the whole experience," Cr Liston said.

"The Centre has received so many positive reviews since this year's upgrade that it has been awarded a 'Certificate of Excellence' by Trip Advisor."

This project was jointly funded with the Coalition Government providing \$498,691 and the Murweh Shire Council providing \$12,560.

#### **Media Contacts**

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