



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

December 20, 2017

Stanthorpe Chamber of Commerce receives \$10,000 in Federal Government funding to make the big thermometer project a reality

QUEENSLAND is known for big attractions and soon Stanthorpe will have a large-scale drawcard in the big thermometer thanks to Federal Government funding, announced today by Maranoa MP David Littleproud.

“Under the Stronger Communities Programme, the Stanthorpe Chamber of Commerce will receive \$10,000 for the big thermometer project which is set to not only become an icon but also help tourists navigate the dropping mercury during a winter’s visit to the Granite Belt,” Mr Littleproud said.

“This project has been discussed for many years and I’m excited to announce that this Federal Government funding will help make the big thermometer dream into a reality.

“Under the funding guidelines, projects had to deliver social benefits and the Stanthorpe Chamber of Commerce’s community vision will not only provide a proud icon for the community but also add another tourism attraction to the vibrant Granite Belt.

“As Queensland’s coolest region, where a temperature drop is celebrated, the Snowflakes at Stanthorpe winter festival already attract a growing number of tourists to the area each year.

“A band of local volunteers currently take twice daily official readings to supply to the Bureau of Meteorology and this project will support the community in its efforts to encourage further tourism opportunities.”

In July, Mr Littleproud put out a call to community groups asking, “What would you do with \$20,000?” and was overwhelmed by the calibre and array of projects nominated for Stronger Communities Programme funding.

“Locals know their community best and have innovative ideas on how to support their region so when it comes to advocating for funding, Maranoa is ahead of the game,” he said.

“Whether it was community hall upgrades, armature shooting to polocrosse and rodeo associations – and everything in-between – project nominations were of a high standard and I received more than 50 applications seeking more than \$500,000 in funding.

“I represent 42% of rural and remote Queensland and I wanted our bush communities to get the most out of this great funding initiative so I’d like to thank all the groups that put forward such wonderful projects.”

All federal electorates, including Maranoa, were allocated \$150,000 under the Stronger Communities Programme, with up to 20 projects being able to be funded.

An Independent Assessment Panel reviewed all funding applications and successful projects were then invited to progress to the next phase, where projects were then reviewed by the Industry Department for final approval.

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