



MARANOA MAIL

Building Better Regions Fund GROWING MARANOA

What is the BBRF?

The Federal Government will provide almost \$500 million, over four years from 2016-17, to foster economic growth in rural, regional and remote communities.

To find out more, check out: www.business.gov.au/bbrf

What does the BBRF mean for Maranoa?

Three successful projects were announced, on July 31, worth more than **\$9.36 million** for infrastructure and job-creation in everything from:

1

\$4.97m funding injection to beef up the Southern Downs



(Back, from left) John Dee chief executive officer Warren Stiff, John Dee director John Hart, Southern Downs Council chief executive officer David Keenan, (front) Southern Downs mayor Tracy Dobie and I celebrate the \$4.97m funding for John Dee through the Building Better Regions fund.

I was excited to secure more than \$4.97 million to construct a new Regional Cold Store facility at Warwick's John Dee Abattoir to overcome processing restraints in the Darling Downs' beef supply chain.

This investment is an enormous step forward for the Southern Downs as it will not only expand John Dee and enable 50,000 more cattle to be processed in Warwick, but also will:

- **Secure the existing 630 jobs at John Dee;**
- **Create 143 new full-time jobs;**
- **Create 138 new full-time jobs within the beef supply chain;**
- **Create 80 new full-time jobs during the construction phase; and**
- **Create additional international export opportunities worth about \$111 million.**

2

\$4.18m for a new Morven Rail Hub to improve livestock transportation

More than \$4.18 million in Federal Government funding will be the catalyst for jobs and economic growth in the Murweh region, earmarked for an exciting infrastructure project to build a new rail hub at Morven.

This funding will make it easier to transport livestock from Western Queensland for processing in the Darling Downs and will include road-train loading and unloading facilities, rail loading and unloading facilities, cattle yards for spelling and drafting, a live-weight livestock weighing facility and associated storage and amenities.

The Murweh region has been hit hard by the ongoing drought so this investment not only will stimulate the local economy but also create much-needed jobs in this remote community.

	\$204,740 in funding to build affordable units for seniors in Blackbutt
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This is a much-needed and exciting new project to increase affordable accommodation for seniors and will be available for those who are from a rural or remote region or are financially or socially disadvantaged.

Blackbutt and Benarkin Aged Care Association will use this Federal Government funding to build two new, two-bedroom independent living units to meet demand for affordable accommodation for seniors in our community.

There was a need for this capital works project to provide secure, stable and affordable housing for seniors who don't own their own home – that's why this funding is so special as it's going to help our seniors stay in the region they love.



Securing \$1 million for the Heart of Australia

This has to be one of the best announcements for rural Queensland health as Senator Barry O'Sullivan and I have secured \$1 million to keep the Heart Bus rolling!

We're a stoic mob in the bush so a doctor's appointment is often put at the end of the 'to do list', but the Heart of Australia's 8000km journey around country Qld each month means we have local access to world-class specialists.

I know people who've gone to the Heart Bus for a check-up, because it was in town so the visit was convenient, not realising they were ill and were referred for surgery. If they'd waited to see a doctor during their next city visit, it could've been too late so this service really does save lives and is so important for health in Maranoa.

Thank you to Federal Health Assistant Minister Dr David Gillespie who made sure this funding came through and to Heart of Australia founder Dr Rolf Gomes on his vision to help save lives in the bush!



Great to have Heart of Australia founder Dr Rolf Gomes and Health Assistant Minister Dr David Gillespie in Dalby last week to announce \$1m in Federal Government funding.

FAST FACTS

The truck's travelled more than 150,000km and Dr Gomes and his team have made over 850 visits to regional and remote towns.

They've seen more than 3300 people, saving patients on average 860km of travel per visit.

Click [here](#) to see the Heart of Australia's schedule to see when it will visit a town near you.

Community ice forum coming to Roma and St George

How would you tackle ice in our community? I want to hear from you!

The Federal Coalition Government will invest \$298 million to combat illicit drug and alcohol use in Australia.

To ensure our community is represented and receives tailored support, preventative measures and treatment outcomes – I'm hosting an ice forum in your town:

ST GEORGE

Monday 28 August 2017

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Location: St George
Cultural Centre
112 Victoria Street

ROMA

Tuesday 29 August 2017

Time: 9:30am - 11am

Location: Auditorium,
Roma Cultural Centre,
57 Bungil Street



Australia Day is January 26

January 26 is more than a public holiday marked with a barbecue, beer and sun – it's a day where we recognise the remarkable nation we've become, welcome new Australians into our community and it's a date that will not change.

We all recognise our history's challenges but on Australia Day, we also recognise the greatness of our achievements.

Reconciliation is about changing attitudes, not trying to bury our history with a date change.

**Australia Day is a day
which unites us.**

Each community in Maranoa acknowledges Australia Day – whether it's a thong throwing competition, lamington making classes and citizenship of new Australians, it's a day which brings the community together.

I represent wonderful communities, large and small, across more than 42% of Queensland and each Australia Day event commences with an acknowledgement or welcome to country because we respect our First Australians – the oldest human civilisation in the world.

Australia Day isn't trying to forget about the past – it remembers where we've come from, celebrates our achievements and looks towards a future of who we would like to become.

WHERE DOES YOUR FOOD COME FROM?



Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister Luke Hartsuyker, Goondiwindi Co-op FoodWorks general manager Paul Pettit and I show how easy it is to use the new Country of Origin Labelling so you know you're supporting Australian businesses and producers when doing your next grocery shop.

Country of Origin Labelling making the choice easier

It's exciting to see a wide range of products already displaying the Country of Origin Labelling available at local shoppers' fingertips, making it easier to buy local.

The new labels are easy to identify, meaningful and clear – telling consumers where their food was grown, made or packed and how much was sourced from Australian farmers.

Country of Origin Labelling will become mandatory and must be displayed before the July 1, 2018, deadline.

Luke and I were in Goondiwindi last month to meet Co-op manager Paul Pettit as this FoodWorks is the nation's flagship store in the labelling rollout.



Want to know more?

- For shoppers: www.foodlabels.industry.gov.au
- For business: www.business.gov.au/foodlabels

Until next time
All the very best,
David



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