



MARANOA MAIL

I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and health, happiness and prosperity for 2017.

When I lifted the final page on my calendar to reveal the month of December, I really stopped to think about all that's happened this year.

This year I was truly humbled to be elected your Federal Member for Maranoa. This vast and wonderful electorate covers more than 730,000 square kilometres. That's why I'm doing my best to visit your community so I know what matters to you, your family and business, enabling me to be your representative in Federal Parliament.

My biggest wins for you in Maranoa during my first few months include:

- Secured a review into the Inland Rail to explore alternatives that could benefit Maranoa.
- Having Blackall/Tambo added to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund.
- Secured 19 new mobile phone towers approved under the Mobile Phone Blackspot Program.
- Fibre to the node NBN switched on in Dalby with the rollout continuing throughout Maranoa.
- Secured \$8 million to help rebuild the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton.
- Secured new over taking lanes on the Warrego Highway between Oakey and Dalby.
- Secured \$21 million for road upgrades between Longreach and Winton.

There's still much to be done and I'll continue to fight and work hard for you and our community. So, if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

By phone: 07 4662 2715 or email david.littleproud.mp@aph.gov.au

This year, I held the *Merry Christmas in Maranoa* photo competition to celebrate our beautiful landscapes – please enjoy some of the wonderful contributions submitted from all over the electorate.



Targeting mobile phone black spots:

Earlier this month, it was exciting to announce Round 2 of the Coalition Government's Mobile Black Spots Program will deliver 19 new or upgraded towers – including 10 in Western Queensland – to increase connectivity across my electorate.

Breaks in our communications hinder emergency services, tourism and business – that's why this program is so important for Maranoa and why I've been advocating so hard on this issue.

The former Labor government didn't even invest \$1 to address mobile phone black spots or help build a single tower so I'm proud to be delivering better mobile coverage across Maranoa as this was a key election issue.

More information about the Mobile Black Spot Program, check out: www.communications.gov.au/mbbsp

THE COALITION GOVERNMENT

MOBILE BLACK SPOT PROGRAM



- ✓ 266 new & upgraded base stations
- ✓ \$213 million investment pool
- ✓ 17,700 sq km of handheld coverage
- ✓ 6,300 premises will receive new handheld coverage

Base stations to be rolled out in Maranoa under the Mobile Black Spots Program:

- Brucedale (Roma/ Surat)
- Bullo Development Rd (Cunnamulla/ Eulo)
- Bundoran Rd (near St George)
- Castlereach Highway (St George/ Dirranbandi)
- Diamantina Development Rd (near Quilpie)
- Goomburra (Southern Downs)
- Gordonbrook (South Burnett)
- Hampton (Toowoomba region)
- Hannaford Rd (at The Gums)
- Landsborough Highway A (between Longreach and Barcaldine)
- Landsborough Highway B (Augathella/ Tambo)
- Maidenwell (South Burnett)
- Mirrabooka (near Cunnamulla)
- Mitchell Highway (between Charleville and Cunnamulla)
- Ravensbourne (Toowoomba region)
- The Summit (Southern Downs)

- Warrego Highway (Morven/ Charleville)
- Wondai Rd (Jandowae)
- Yangan (Southern Downs)

NBN Update:

Better access to communications infrastructure was one of my key election commitments and the National Broadband Network (NBN) rollout sets out a clear message – NBN's superfast broadband will be soon coming to a location near you.

Earlier this month, the Coalition Government's multi-technology NBN rollout hit another milestone, with more than one million fibre-to-the-node (FTTN) connections ready-for-service.

We promised to speed up the rollout, deliver the NBN to households sooner and more affordably and this promise is being upheld. Rolling out FTTN not only saves time but also avoids damage and disruption outside and inside homes and businesses.

- Superfast broadband is set to be available in **Dalby** as residents will be able to connect to the NBN's FTTN technology from January next year.
- If you see NBN trucks around **Roma**, that's because the NBN has started its fixed-line construction in the region for the first time this month to connect 4600 premises.
- Survey and design work is underway to connect **Barcaldine** to NBN's FTTN network for about 800 premises. Construction work is set to get underway during mid-2017.

HEALTH UPDATE

McGrath Breast Care Nurses:

Vital care and support offered by McGrath Breast Care Nurses in regional Queensland will receive a boost with the Coalition Government announcing \$20.5 million in new funding.

In Maranoa, this funding will bolster the valuable work carried out by the McGrath Breast Care Nurses in **Dalby, Kingaroy, Warwick** and **Roma** to support these regions and broader communities.

The tyranny of distance between home and treatment is acutely felt for rural patients and this funding will go a long way to support and care for women fighting breast cancer across Maranoa.

McGrath Breast Care Nurses are specially trained and their support extends from patient care to their families and carers – starting from diagnosis and continuing throughout treatment.



(Left) I met with McGrath Breast Care Nurse Maree Wylie, who offers vital care and support for the Western Downs region.

Men's Shed funding:

The Dalby Men's Shed is a hub of activity in need of an update and, thanks to \$4000 in Federal Government funding, volunteers can continue with their fantastic community work.

Research suggests many men from the bush don't feel comfortable using structured health and support services, so Men's Shed helps them connect with local services to improve mental and general health as well as being involved in the community.

(Right) Here I am with Geoff McIntyre, Graham Holmes, Greg Nye and Terry Crank chatting about what this much-needed \$4000 grant will mean for the community organisation. Thanks for having me!



EDUCATION UPDATE

Breaking down barriers:

I was pleased to announce \$55,441 in Federal Government funding will be targeted to encourage young women in the **Western Downs** to break down barriers and enter into 'traditional blokey' fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Funding has been offered to Golden West Apprenticeships – specifically in the Dalby and Chinchilla regions – towards its *Engineering Girls on the Downs* program which aims to provide school-based engineering traineeships for young women.

Women are currently underrepresented in STEM related studies and professions, with only one in four IT graduates and fewer than one in 10 in engineering. So this announcement is a step in the right direction in addressing this imbalance.

STEM fields are often based on innovation so this area's in great need of professionals who bring a different

perspective or look at a problem in a new way. That's why a lab or a male-only office is missing out and, as a nation, we can't be left behind and need to encourage and incentivise women to enter into these types of occupations.

Capital Grants Programme funding for schools in Goondiwindi & Warwick:



I'm here with Warwick's Assumption College Principal Kort Goodman, checking out the proposed area where new learning spaces will be constructed thanks to more than \$1.27 million in Federal Government funding.



Goondiwindi's Border Rivers Christian College Board Member/Treasurer Julie Hoffmann, Board Chairman Ivan Waldock and I explore the area where a new administration building and sporting facility will be constructed as a result of \$615,000 in federal funding.

Something to put a smile on your dial



Outback Kids is an action-packed music video spanning hundreds of kilometres and starring local kids from Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka. The song captures the highs and lows of Outback life and the fighting spirit of families facing extreme weather events of drought and flood. This production was created by Small Town Culture and proudly supported by the Longreach Regional Council and RACQ as part of the *Get Ready* awareness campaign helping communities in Queensland be prepared for natural disasters.

Support small business and shop local this Christmas

I've been on the road in Maranoa visiting you in your community so I've done all my Christmas shopping along the way to support small business.

Last week I was in Barcaldine, Longreach, Isisford, Yaraka, Blackall, Tambo, Augathella, Charleville, Morven, Mitchell, St George, Dirranbandi, Thallon, Talwood, Goondiwindi, Warwick (and in Kingaroy on Friday) so I've picked up some great gifts.

However please don't show my family this email as they'll all know what will be under the tree!

Here's a sneak peek into the swag of goodies I've picked up along the way:



(Left) Small businesses are some of the biggest employers in our communities, and even our young people looking for holiday work like Tom at the Barcaldine Newsagency, rely on your support this Christmas.



(Above) Left to right: Morven News and Country Store, Cottage Flowers and Gardens in Charleville, Leather craft from the Lost Arts in Blackall.

I wish you a very merry Christmas
and please be safe this festive season.
All the very best,
David



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