



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

February 8, 2018

Yaraka's Claire Jackson named a winner in ABC Heywire competition: Maranoa MP

IN THE bush, family isn't about a link forged by blood and this is exactly what Claire Jackson experienced and captured in her ABC's Heywire competition winning entry, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said today after meeting this plucky governess who now calls Yaraka home.

"Claire moved 12 hours from Toowoomba to Yaraka, in my electorate, on a journey of self-discovery and what an adventure she's had! Please, do yourself a favour and listen to her colourful and vivid recollection of life in the Outback," Mr Littleproud said.

Claire was one of 30 young regional Australians who were in Canberra this week to share their stories about challenges they've faced in rural areas as part of the ABC's Heywire Regional Youth Summit 2018.

"When listening to Claire's story, you can visualise her transformation from life in the city to one of remote community connection," he said.

"After meeting Claire and listening to her story, I've definitely learned some important life lessons – like not washing your underpants with burr-ridden socks!"

The ABC Heywire competition provides a great opportunity for young people, aged 16-22, who live in rural and remote areas, to publicise and address issues affecting their community.

"This competition is springboard that provokes action – all you have to do is just listen to what these inspirational young winners are doing to improve their communities," Mr Littleproud said.

Winning stories are professionally produced and featured on ABC radio, TV and online and the winners also receive a trip to come together at the Heywire Regional Youth Summit in Canberra.

The summit culminates in a public forum in Parliament House during the first Parliamentary sitting week of 2018, where winners pitch ideas to politicians, policy makers and funding bodies.

To hear Claire Jackson's winning piece, check out: <http://www.abc.net.au/heywire/heywire-winner-2018-claire-jackson-quilpie-qld/9130590>

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Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
