



## John McVeigh

Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government



## Gavin Baskett

Mayor of Winton

## David Littleproud

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
Federal Member for Maranoa

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Friday 20 April 2018

# Now you can ‘come a waltzing Matilda’ again, in Winton

- **New Waltzing Matilda Centre officially opens in Winton, Queensland**
- **The Centre is part of the Winton Shire Council Tourism & Economic Development Strategy**
- **The Coalition Government invested \$8 million in the project**

The new Waltzing Matilda Centre will provide an enhanced cultural, tourism and educational asset for the community of Winton after the original Centre was destroyed by fire in 2015.

Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government John McVeigh said the new Centre will again re-establish its self as a major tourism drawcard for Western Queensland, and a major economic driver for the local economy.

“The Coalition Government is proud to have backed the Winton community after the devastating impacts of the 2015 fire,” Dr McVeigh said.

“The Centre also created 40 vital jobs during construction for the local economy, and will support 10 ongoing roles which means more families spending more, investing more and driving more jobs and confidence in the local community.”

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Federal Member for Maranoa David Littleproud said the Centre preserves important elements of Australia’s cultural heritage.

“The Waltzing Matilda centre is an incredible tribute to Banjo Patterson – an icon in Australian history. Ask any Australian to hum a national tune and I bet ‘Waltzing Matilda’ will be the ballad you’ll hear. It’s more than a song – this is about preserving our bush heritage and identity,” Mr Littleproud said.

“He is a man that is held in such high regard that his face, and the words from ‘The Man from Snowy River’, appear on our \$10 note.

“Butch Lenton and the community worked tirelessly towards raising funds after the devastation. I’m glad that we can finally see his dream and vision come to life.

“Just like many other tourism icons in the Outback, the Waltzing Matilda Centre was frequented by many visitors – attracting around 20,000 visitors a year prior to the fire.

“We’re hopeful that the new centre will have the potential to produce direct revenue of more than \$1.7 million in its second year of trading, as well as generating \$3.1 million in direct economic activity in the region.”

Mayor of Winton Gavin Basket said the opening of the Waltzing Matilda Centre represented a great achievement for the Shire.

“A lot of people have put their heart and soul into raising this iconic building from the ashes, so it will be a great day not only for Winton but also for Australia when the doors are officially opened on 20 April,” Cr Baskett said.

The Waltzing Matilda Centre was jointly funded with the Coalition Government investing \$8 million, the Queensland Government \$1.2 million and Winton Shire Council \$13.9 million.

“To help build on this fantastic investment, the Coalition also committed \$46,350 under the Building Better Regions Fund to the Winton Shire Council to help develop a Tourism and Economic Development Strategy to help capitalise on the newly rebuilt Waltzing Matilda Centre and the benefits it will bring. Winton Shire Council also contributed \$15,450 and an additional \$15,000 of in-kind support to the strategy,” Dr McVeigh said.

#### **Media Contacts**

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