



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

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Need a job? Need a house? Go west and live in Maranoa: Littleproud MP

AS QUEENSLAND hits a population of 5 million – 33 years ahead of predictions – concerns about housing affordability and infrastructure already struggling to cope with demand in the city has prompted a tree-change call from Maranoa MP David Littleproud for a better quality of life by moving out to west.

“If you’re struggling to afford your first house, you might just be living in the wrong place. If you’ve always dreamed of living in the country, there’s no moment like the present to leave the city grind behind,” Mr Littleproud said.

Moving out to the country was once thought of as a retirement dream; it was a goal that many people would work towards after urban life was no longer a financial necessity. But as real estate prices in the big cities continue to rise, a move to the country is worth considering.

“Lots of people in the cities are finding themselves faced with a difficult trade-off between free time, disposable income, cost of living and simply getting on the property ladder,” Mr Littleproud said.

Never mind attempting to get into the property game in the first place. With the median house price just shy of \$1 million in Sydney and around \$600,000 in Brisbane, people who are shut out of the property market must accept absurd rents, or move out of the city.

“There are huge opportunities in rural Queensland – take Dalby for example where the median house price is \$230,000, or Roma, where it’s \$200,000,” Mr Littleproud said.

Mr Littleproud is drawing attention to our region’s affordable housing market and the employment opportunities in regional areas after a recent *Worldwide Cost of Living* survey rated Sydney in the top ten most unaffordable cities in the world and Melbourne tallied closely behind.

“If you decide to move out west you’re going to have a very affordable home. Not only do we offer a better lifestyle, we offer genuine opportunities – especially in the agricultural sector as a result of strong commodity prices,” Mr Littleproud said.

“In Maranoa, the job market has countless positions on offer from teaching, nursing, truck-driving – and everything in between – stretching right across the region. Young workers can make a real start for themselves in their desired industry if they choose to move to areas such as Dalby, Roma, Warwick or Stanthorpe, just to mention a few great communities in my electorate.

“A simple job search online returns significantly higher amount of jobs in Maranoa towns than Brisbane – often paying at higher rates as an extra incentive.”

Mr Littleproud also said targeted tax relief to low and middle income earners would encourage and reward working Australians and reduce cost pressures on households. New workers can enjoy the benefits of the tax relief, which starts from 1 July.

“Whether you’re out here working as a doctor, technician or FIFO – tax relief is a great incentive to get skilled and qualified workers out in the regions,” he said.

“If you’re thinking about swapping the urban jungle in for an affordable home, secure job with a very good quality of life, there’s no better time than now to make the move.”

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