



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

12 July, 2018

Regional boost of \$20,000 for Goondiwindi through Building Better Regions Fund – Community Stream

Goondiwindi producers and industries are set for their time in the spotlight thanks to a \$20,000 boost to the Discover Farming Festival from the Coalition Government.

“This funding of \$20,000 – through the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) – will showcase local producers and industries in Goondiwindi and the surrounding regions,” Mr Littleproud said.

Discover Farming is a new tourism project which includes unique agricultural experiences for the broader Australian and international communities.

“Goondiwindi and the surrounding areas span over a total land area of around 19,300 square kilometres. The region makes a huge agricultural contribution to industries such as cotton, grain growing, sheep and cattle grazing,” he said.

“Discover Farming is an interactive tourism project as it allows people to taste, feel and experience local products.

“A big attraction to the event is the interactive displays, including a tractor simulator which allows visitors to get behind the wheel.”

Mr Littleproud said he hoped the new round of funding would stimulate more tourism in Maranoa both domestically and internationally.

“Attracting tourists is a great way to keep our communities alive,” he said.

“Our local producers and industries support the development of Australia’s most innovative and exciting technology. We anticipate that the Discover Farming event will generate some international interest.

“Recent studies reveal that 97% of visitors are domestic. Figures from last year showed the number of domestic visitors to the region increased by more than 20%. This means Aussies are keen to explore their back yard and the Discover Farming Festival is just another great reason to visit the Goondiwindi region.

“The figures are good news for many bush towns hit by drought that now rely heavily on tourism to supplement their income.

“I think the wider international market is yet to appreciate the scale and quality of produce coming out of the region.”

Mr Littleproud said under round two of the Community Projects stream – through the Building Better Regions Fund – the Coalition Government will invest more than \$107,000 into Maranoa.

The Coalition Government will invest more than \$4 million in BBRF projects worth over \$7 million nationwide.

Discover Farming is hosted annually and will next take place in 2019. To find out more, visit <https://www.discoverfarming.com.au/>

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