



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

LONGREACH LEADER EDITORIAL – July 27th Edition, 2018

Wearing the title ‘heart of the Outback’, Longreach showcases some of the best features of western Queensland including stockmen, shearers and aviation. The region is rich in history and has a lot on offer when it comes to things to see and do.

The Coalition Government has consistently invested in major projects in Longreach to boost local tourism and generate alternate income during drought. Most recently, we have invested \$15 million for display upgrades at the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame, \$11.3 million for Qantas Founders Museum upgrades and \$300,000 to help the historic Super Constellation aircraft make the 5000km journey from an aeroplane graveyard in the Philippines to the Qantas Founders Museum.

Qantas celebrates its centenary in 2020 so we anticipate that investments at the Qantas Founders Museum will encourage visitors to fly back in time and explore the cultural display of the airline’s beginnings. The Super Constellation aircraft – nicknamed “Connie” – once flew the “kangaroo route” from Sydney to London in the late 1940s, the longest flying leg in the world, at about 17,000km. We have a proud history in aviation and it is an incredible feat to have Connie back home in Longreach.

Few attractions show off Australian agricultural life better than Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame. Themed galleries display a range of artefacts and audio-visual presentations and allow visitors to delve into the lives of Australian explorers, stockmen and Aboriginal people from the local area. Since opening in 1988, the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame has hosted more than one million people, highlighting the importance of this facility to local businesses. Our last round of funding also created thirty-nine new ongoing and part-time jobs in hospitality, administration, catering, digital & information technologies event management, environment, marketing and art curating.

While agriculture remains an important pillar of our national economy, the Coalition Federal Government recognises tourism does play a part in our region’s economic diversification, especially during prolonged drought. It is important we continue to showcase Longreach in the best possible light and encourage visitors to the region to support the Outback’s communities and economies.

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